

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Auditorium at Vineland High School North, 3010 E. Chestnut Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Medio presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Dr. Mounier, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Bongiovanni.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Polof, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Schectman, Board Secretary, Mrs. Barber, Temporary Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. Medio announced that in compliance with the New Jersey meeting law commonly referred to as "The Sunshine Law," the Vineland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be sent to the following, announcing time and place thereof, agenda, etc.: The Daily Journal, the Atlantic City Press, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

A moment of silence was observed for all the victims of the September 11, 2001 tragedy.

Flag Salute:

Resolution:

Ms. Barber read a resolution to convene into executive session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10-4-12. Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body (Specify contract: UAW Collective Bargaining. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity or person with respect to said discussion.

Motion:

Upon motion by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentation (s): None.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. English, seconded by Ms. Morello, the minutes were approved from August 7, 2013, August 14, 2013 and August 28, 2013. All Members voted "yes."

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

None.

Solicitor's Report:

None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

None.

Recommendations:

- B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: None.

Regular Agenda

- a. Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. English, seconded by Ms. Morello, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$4,237,640.58).

- b. Approval of the contract for Nathan Frey, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, for a term of one (1) year commencing July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

A motion was made by Mr. English, seconded by Ms. Morello, to approve the contract for Nathan Frey, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, for a term of one (1) year commencing July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. All Members voted “yes” except Dr. Mounier who voted “no.”

- c. Approval of the contract for Herbert Schectman, Business Administrator/Board Secretary for a term of one (1) year commencing September 12, 2013 to June 14, 2014.

A motion was made by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to approve the contract for Herbert Schectman, Business Administrator/Board Secretary for a term of one (1) year commencing September 12, 2013 to June 14, 2014. All Members voted “yes” except for Dr. Mounier who voted “no.”

Ms. Morello voted “yes” as long as the term of the contract reflects that a year is not September to June.

- d. Approval of the consulting agreement with Dr. Buzz Mingin for the 2013-2014 school year in a form acceptable to the Board Solicitor and Superintendent, which will be funded through IDEA within the Coordinated Early Intervention Services, to work with students at the high school level that have been identified to be at risk and in need of behavioral supports and interventions.

A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Ms. Morello, to approve the consulting agreement with Dr. Buzz Mingin for the 2013-2014 school year in a form acceptable to the Board Solicitor and Superintendent, which will be funded through IDEA within the Coordinated Early Intervention Services, to work with students at the high school level that have been identified to be at risk and in need of behavioral supports and interventions. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. DiGiorgio, Dr. Mounier and Mr. Medio who voted “no.” The motion carried.

Ms. Morello said she will be voting “yes” on (d) but fully expects that in support of this contract our in-house staff will receive training that is available through the Department of Education and this will be used as a one year turnkey. She feels we should not need a consultant on an ongoing basis for a program that we can train our professional staff to deliver with fidelity and consistency.

Mr. DiGiorgio said this individual has been in our district with previous contracts and he will be voting “no” on (d). He said that he is reluctant to support this contract until it is completely demonstrated that the goals and objectives identified in the contract cannot be achieved with our in-house resources and personnel.

Dr. Mounier said that he agrees with Mr. DiGiorgio’s comments. He is distressed that administration has not forwarded to the board the names of people who are already employed in this district who could carry on Dr. Mingin’s work.

Mr. English said he agrees with all of the comments made by Ms. Morello, Mr. DiGiorgio and Dr. Mounier and will be supporting this grant funded position, which will touch an area that we are in need of improvement. He asked if Dr. Mingin can attend a work session to give the board data showing that we are going in the right direction and the program is working.

Ms. Morello said it is her plan, at the Curriculum Committee meeting, to have a thorough briefing on how the program is going to be put in place so the board has a deep understanding of what is going on and where the program will lead. Mr. English said he will be satisfied with that.

Mr. Jennings said he would like to see if this program is working and is hoping that our staff learns some of Dr. Mingin’s ideas.

Emergent Item(s)

(with prior approval)

- a. Personnel Items: Transfers & Athletics
- b. Personnel Items: Extra Pay Form

A motion was made by Mr. English, seconded by Ms. Morello, to approve emergent items (a) Transfers & Athletics and (b) Extra Pay Form. All Members voted “yes.”

Public:

Lee Burke, 4331 Juniper Street

Mr. Burke said that the board does best when they stick to policy and oversee operations. He commented on how well dressed the students were at the high school. Mr. Burke said he is very pleased to see the new website. He said Mr. Frey invited him to give advice on the Erate application and hopes more members of the public are given the opportunity to have input into the process. Mr. Burke said that he is very pleased with the city and district's cooperation with the sidewalks. He offered his services to work with all sports in fund raising.

Joshua Lynam, Student

Mr. Lynam expressed his concern in regards to the uniform policy that was implemented last February.

Michelle Lynam, Parent

Ms. Lynam expressed her concern in regards to her son, Joshua Lynam, being taken home by a security guard because he was not wearing a uniform. She said since this happened she has received numerous calls from attorneys.

Mr. Medio cautioned the board to exercise prudence on the comments made by Ms. Lynam.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Jennings said the uniform policy has been two years in the making and since he has been on the board one person has discussed having negativity with the uniforms.

Mr. English said in his opinion the dress code regulation is very liberal and still enables students to express themselves. He said that he respects the students who stood up and decided that they were going to voice their opinion. Mr. English said there is a regulation in place and he expects it to be followed. He thanked Ms. Rios for fighting hard for this regulation to be put in place. Mr. English also thanked former board member, Carlos Mercado, for his generous donation of school uniforms. He said if you are struggling and cannot afford the uniforms the proper channels to purchase uniforms are in place.

Dr. Gruccio thanked administration, staff, parents and students for a wonderful beginning with the school uniforms. She hopes it continues and wished everyone the very best.

Mr. Ulrich thanked the men and women of our armed services who put themselves in harm's way every day to protect our democracy. He said a group of students protesting a cause is what our country is about but consequences will happen. Mr. Ulrich expects that the uniform policy will be enforced by the rules and regulations. He expressed his concern in regards to an article in the newspaper and what transpired. Mr. Ulrich said he supports the uniform policy wholeheartedly and feels it is valuable from a law enforcement perspective.

Dr. Mounier applauded everyone who spoke tonight. He said in regards to the issue of not wearing a uniform the discipline that followed was in excess of anything that needed to be done. Dr. Mounier said the Board of Education serves to make policy and provide guidance.

Ms. Rios said she does support freedom of expression whether pro or con. She said the article in the newspaper did bring up concerns. Ms. Rios said the uniform policy was approved before the beginning of the school year and it has taken two years for uniforms to be in place, which should be followed. Ms. Rios said those who cannot afford uniforms are welcome to see the principal of each school for guidance. She said that she visited a few schools on the first day of school and the atmosphere was positive.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he assumes the comments expressed tonight by the student and his mother will be addressed by the superintendent. He said that he visited several schools on the first day and it appeared that things went very well. Mr. DiGiorgio said he is grateful for all the efforts of our staff, parents and students for making it a successful opening day.

Ms. Morello thanked the young man who spoke tonight and appreciated the comments made by his mother. She said those concerns will be handled by administration. Ms. Morello said as her colleagues have stated the board sets policy and oversees the general running of the school district. She said nobody can hide their light under a uniform bushel, you are who you are and your creativity will come out. Ms. Morello said as she was driving through Vineland it was wonderful to see the students out in their colors. She hopes there is a very positive adjustment for the entire year with a lot of change coming.

Ms. Morello hopes the new teacher assessment will help staff focus on student achievement, students will focus on their work and administration works cooperatively with staff/students. She wished everyone a great year.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Medio said it was twelve years ago that Mr. Adams son, Donald, and Mr. Ottinger's nephew lost their lives at the World Trade Center. He sent his condolences to them and everyone who lost family on September 11th.

The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 8:05 p.m.

Adjournment:

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Barber
Temporary Board Secretary

