

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 5:40 p.m., pursuant to notice with Ms. Rios presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier and Mrs. Phillips. Absent: Mr. Ulrich.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Figgs, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Ludy, Board Secretary, Ms. Godlewski, Special Education Supervisor, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director.

Ms. Rios 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.

Flag Salute:

The board recessed to executive session at 5:44 p.m. for a disciplinary hearing.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m.

Special

Presentation (s): None.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from August 29, 2012. All Members voted "yes."

Report of the  
Secretary/Custodian  
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of June 2012, which are in agreement were approved as submitted and on file in the Minute Book, and the Board approved its monthly certification of budgetary major account fund status and the Board Secretary's monthly certification as on file with the Secretary. All Members voted "yes."

Solicitor's Report: None.

Public Comment on  
Agenda Items:

Sam Irizarry

Mr. Irizarry expressed his concern that the agenda is not posted in advance for the public. He also expressed his concern about the authorization of the Vineland Police Department to access the district's surveillance camera systems.

Mr. Medio asked if any parents or students would like to address the board about scheduling conflicts at the high school.

Mr. English said parents can attend the PTSO meeting being held tomorrow night with administration at Vineland High School South.

Recommendations:

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

Mr. Medio said he would like to make a motion that the Vineland Board of Education does not pursue any out of district contracts concerning the Alternative School.

Mr. DeSanto said under the district bylaws, matters that are under Section B of the agenda are brought up at the regular meeting after discussion at the work session. He suggested putting this under B. on the October work session agenda. Mr. DeSanto said there should be an executive discussion on points that may impact that issue.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same August 14 to August 23, 2012 (\$1,044,621.20) August 23, to August 31, 2012 (\$552,538.83). All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if there was a software issue because the total for accounts does not agree. Ms. Ludy explained if there is more than one line item on a purchase order it will total.

Emergent Item(s)  
(with prior approval) None.

Public: Mario Olsen, Principal of VHN  
Mr. Olsen said he does not believe the board wishes to put the option out there that every time a parent or community member has a complaint they voice it to the board in a public forum. He said most of the concerns are handled through the high school administration with better results. Mr. Olsen also said that he is available for any questions or concerns the board may have in regards to scheduling.

Mr. English asked how many students are moving back and forth between classes. Mr. Olsen said there are more students moving back and forth between classes than we anticipated and currently we have two buses. He said we may have to look at possibly allowing students to walk between the buildings, which is not a decision he would make alone. Mr. Olsen said there are certain periods that may take three to four buses to shuttle the students back and forth, which is about 200 students.

Ms. Rios noted for the record that this portion of the meeting is for public comments and not questions.

Mr. Olsen said unfortunately there have been some board members who are not supportive of his move to the North building. He said there were a lot of things that were put out there that are not true and he believes that we should deal in facts.

Ms. Rios asked Mr. Olsen if he can stay after the meeting to answer any questions board members may have.

Mr. Medio said if we are going to have this discussion there should be a time at the end of the meeting to have it publicly. Mr. Olsen said he would welcome that opportunity.

Gina Irizarry, VHS Student.

Ms. Irizarry said it is very hard to go to an administrator because they are very busy, which is why people speak to the board. She expressed her concern in regards to the shuttle buses and arriving late everyday to class. Ms. Irizarry said she can arrive at her class more rapidly by walking.

Travis Amstutz, Boys Head Basketball Coach 2011-2012

Mr. Amstutz said he along with Kyle Cerana, JV Basketball Coach and Larry Simonini, Freshman Basketball Coach are available after the meeting to answer any questions board members may have about last year's boys basketball program.

Sergeant Fulcher, Vineland Police Department

Sergeant Fulcher thanked the board for their time and consideration in passing the surveillance camera resolution.

John Provenzano, Director of Security

Mr. Provenzano thanked the board for approving the surveillance camera resolution.

Ms. Rios said Mr. Medio's request to have the student movement between buildings discussed in public is a good idea. She would like this discussed at the October work session so Mr. Olsen and Dr. McCann can be present to answer questions.

Mr. Medio said he would like Dr. Gruccio to explain what she did the last three days at the high school in regards to an email he received stating that there were 461 conflicts in student schedules.

Dr. Guccio said she received the email from Mr. Olsen and forwarded it to the board for their information. She said that she did not go to the high school and does not deal with conflicts. Dr. Guccio said the principals would be the appropriate people to answer Mr. Medio's questions. Mr. Medio said with all the scheduling problems we have had in the past he respectfully disagrees with Dr. Guccio's comment that it is not her problem. Dr. Guccio said conflicts take place at the high school. Mr. Medio said it becomes the superintendent's problem when there are 461 scheduling conflicts and the board is being told there are very few if any. Mr. Medio asked if any of the conflicts have to do with the way Genesis prints the schedules.

Mrs. Phillips said the board is hearing that there are no conflicts. Dr. Guccio said there are a lot of things being said and she does not think we have accurate answers.

Ms. Rios said this will be discussed in October when we have both principals present.

Resolution:

Ms. Ludy read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, October 3, 2012** and **Wednesday, October 10, 2012** regarding personnel matters, contract negotiations, property negotiations and/or property contracts and pending or anticipated litigation.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to approve the resolution. All Members voted "yes."

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Medio said if students do not have enough buses at the high school by Friday the superintendent will assign another bus. He does not know why we are going to wait until October for the answers to these questions. Mr. Medio said within the next three days the superintendent should send the board an explanation as to what the email was about in regards to the 461 conflicts.

Dr. Mounier said it seems that the board is receiving conflicting information and we need to determine what conflicts really exist. He said if there is a shortage of buses then that should be addressed immediately. Dr. Mounier said he does not think it is a good idea to have the students walk between buildings. He would like to see more people express their opinions before the board.

Mrs. Phillips said she agrees with Mr. Medio and if we had over 400 conflicts the board room would be packed like last year. She thanked Gina Irizarry on the great job she did speaking before the board. Mrs. Phillips also thanked all teachers, staff and administrators for getting their schools ready. She wished everyone a great school year.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked Ms. Irizarry for speaking. He said we are taking measures to become proactive in regards to safety and response. Mr. DiGiorgio said he thought the move back to the 9/10 11/12 configuration would reduce movement and help the situation improve. He is looking forward to hearing from the parents about the movement

Mr. English announced that all board members and administration are invited to attend tomorrow night's PTSO meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the VHS South auditorium to address any questions they may have with the high school administration.

Mr. DeSanto cautioned the board that if five or more board members attend this meeting and ask questions with dialogue you are in effect having a meeting. He advised that no more than four members participate at any given time.

Mr. English said he will be attending as a parent with concerns. Mr. English said a couple of months ago there was a guarantee made for more instructional time and less movement. He said his daughter is involved in the transportation between buildings and for the last three days she has had only a half hour of instructional time in that class, which is not acceptable. Mr. English said he has been trying to address this issue. He agrees with Mr. Medio about hearing from both principals and a month ago he sent Dr. Gruccio several questions that he wanted both principals to answer. Mr. English said he received the answers from one principal but not the other.

Mr. Mercado welcomed the staff and students back to school. He thanked Mr. DeSanto for assuring him that teachers are covered under workmen's' compensation when preparing their classes for the upcoming school year. Mr. Mercado congratulated and thanked the retirees for their years of service. He expressed his concern as to why the board agenda is not on the district web site and requested for it to be put online. Mr. Mercado thanked the high school and Cunningham staff for showing him the buildings. He agrees with his colleagues that an additional bus needs to be at the high school tomorrow morning.

Mr. DeSanto mentioned that we have written confirmation from Mr. Biondi our insurance broker that the teachers are covered when preparing their classrooms.

Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

Ms. Rios thanked everyone who attended and spoke at tonight's meeting. She said for months board members have been asking if there are scheduling conflicts. Ms. Rios said although everyone would like to discuss this tonight she strongly believes that we should have both principals present for input. She feels there should be additional buses at the high school if they are short. Ms. Rios said she agrees with some of Mr. Medio's comments. She said the timeline for the interim superintendent, out of district alternative school contract and scheduling will be discussed at the October meeting. Ms. Rios urged everyone to please go through the proper chain of command if they have an issue.

Dr. Guccio said when she was appointed superintendent she was told repeatedly by board members that there was no communication with them. She said she has tried very hard to do the exact opposite of that. Dr. Guccio said the last time she did not forward an email sent by Mr. Olsen to the board she was disrespected by the audience and a couple of board members because they did not receive that email in a timely fashion. Therefore, when she receives an email concerning issues she makes sure that she shares it with the board. Dr. Guccio said Mr. Frey has been working very hard with the technology staff to revise and update our website for the district and schools. She said one of Mr. Frey's goals is to put our agendas online. Dr. Guccio said we are aware of the busing issue and addressing it. She said the board needs to understand that we will not have a bus by Friday. Dr. Guccio said funding that was not spent on Zonar will be used for the additional bus but please keep in mind there is a process.

Mr. Medio said if the superintendent feels there is a need for a bus tomorrow why can we not assign a bus and driver. Dr. Guccio said we do not have an extra bus and driver. Mr. Medio asked why we cannot use the spare buses that we have.

Mr. Mercado said if we need a bus at the high school tomorrow then we should call up Sheppard Bus Service and order one. He said we spend money on the most ridiculous things. Mr. Mercado said we should give Dr. Figgs off for the rest of the week and call a taxi.

Dr. Guccio said there is a process that you have to go through to get another bus. She said according to Mr. Callavini we do not have an extra bus available to be the third bus at the high school.

Mr. English asked what happens if a bus breaks down in the morning would there be students who could not go to school. Dr. Guccio said that would be one route that another driver could do. She said this would be a bus that needs to be available the entire day. Mr. English asked how we know that we do not need two or three additional buses.

Mr. Medio said he does not see why this priority is not being taken care of with 190 buses.

Dr. Mounier said it is hard to believe that every single bus that this district has is occupied and busy every single moment of the day.

Mr. Fanucci said we need to get solid answers first from both buildings as to exactly what is needed.

Dr. Guccio said Mr. Callavini scheduled the buses based on the numbers he was given. She said when this problem was brought to her attention she contacted Mr. Callavini last week and asked if there was anything we can do. Dr. Guccio said the information that she got was it would cost us a minimum of \$50,000 to acquire another shuttle bus and at that time we did not have the money. She said with a suggestion from Mr. DiGiorgio we were able to find the money to fund the bus. Dr. Guccio said we have been working all week in trying to resolve this issue.

Mr. Mercado said a bus and substitute should be called for tomorrow morning.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherie Ludy  
Board Secretary

CL:df





