

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, October 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Medio presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bongiovanni, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Dr. Mounier, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mrs. Polof, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Schectman, 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.

Flag Salute: Students from D'Ippolito Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: Mr. Schectman read a resolution to convene into executive session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10-4-12. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If pending litigation the matter is litigation being handled by the NJ School Boards Association Insurance Group and the Vineland Board of Education vs. Green Lane Construction. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. The nature of discussion is performance of administrative employees. **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 Dr. Mounier, seconded by Mr. English, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Joanne Negrin, the World Language Supervisor, to introduce Juliana Frankenfield, American Sign Language Teacher.

Ms. Negrin said Ms. Juliana Frankenfield has found innovative ways to deliver American Sign Language (ASL) instruction to all students who want it. She said the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) has selected Ms. Frankenfield to appear in its Classroom Close-Up Program. She said Classroom Close-Up is an Emmy award winning program that celebrates the best teaching New Jersey has to offer. Ms. Negrin said it is an honor for Ms. Frankenfield and our district for her work to be highlighted on this show. She congratulated Ms. Frankenfield for her hard work and dedication and Vineland Public Schools for supporting excellence in world languages.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Dr. Mounier, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from August 28, 2013, September 4, 2013 and September 11, 2013. All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Rios who voted “yes” for all minutes except September 11, 2013 executive session she “abstained” and Mr. Ulrich who voted “yes” for all minutes except the September 4, 2013 and September 11, 2013 executive session minutes he “abstained.”

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by, seconded by, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month July of 2013, 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: None.

Recommendations:

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Dr. Mounier, seconded by Mr. English, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$6,758,920.85).

Mr. DiGiorgio said unfortunately we have to pay the Inspira bill because it is for completed services. He said that he is going to have a tough time approving anything from this vendor for the 2014-2015 fiscal year that relates to this program unless it is mandated by the state or proven to us that it is absolutely our responsibility to pay.

Ms. Morello voted “yes” with the same concerns voiced by Mr. DiGiorgio.

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

Mr. Medio said at last week’s executive session there were some items that spilled over that were not executive session items. He said on October 2, 2013 the Board adopted a resolution to retire into executive session to discuss a number of matters. Included within that language of the resolution was a proposed discussion related to the performance of administrators. Mr. Medio said central office administrators were given Rice notices and discussion took place in executive session. During the course of discussion, regarding how these administrators performed their duties in connection with the development of the disciplinary code for Vineland High School, the discussion inadvertently spilled over into discussion of the merits of several provisions of the code itself. Mr. Medio said any future discussion regarding the enforcement of student discipline and the effectiveness of the code will be discussed in public session. He said this is in adherence with “The Sunshine Law” which provides that a public body can cure a non-conforming act by taking corrective action at a public meeting.

Public: Keila Montanez, Parent
Ms. Montanez expressed her concern in regards to the park adjacent to Sabater Elementary School and school parking.

Matthew & Shannon Cleary, Parents

Mr. Cleary said they are here tonight to appeal a decision that was made to separate their children in two different elementary schools.

Mr. Medio said they will look into this issue for Mr. & Mrs. Cleary and Ms. Montanez.

Board Member

Remarks:

Dr. Mounier said he applauds people for standing up and giving testimony. He congratulated Ms. Frankenfield on her accomplishment. Dr. Mounier said the new band uniforms look spectacular and their choreography is wonderful. He enjoyed the cheerleaders who are all wonderful athletes. Dr. Mounier said we should not judge the football team by the scores and thinks they are making improvement.

Mr. Ulrich thanked all the people who spoke tonight. He said the park and parking situation near Sabater Elementary School has been an on-going concern when the school was engineered. Mr. Ulrich said he attended a meeting with the United Way and they are doing a public employees push. He said the Police Athletic League (PAL) is a worthwhile effort and the Vineland Board of Education as donated materials and time to that cause. Mr. Ulrich said the United Way of Cumberland County has designated the Vineland PAL as one of the benefactors of that donation. He urged employees to consider the Vineland PAL when they make their choice on where to send their money. Mr. Ulrich announced that on October 29, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. a Community Block Meeting will be held at D'Ippolito Elementary School.

Ms. Rios thanked Ms. Montanez for speaking and said that she would be more than happy to attend a city council meeting in support of Ms. Montanez and also speak on the park issue. She feels it is very dangerous having all of these people around the school property.

Mr. DiGiorgio said there are on-going concerns at the Sabater School and hopefully in conjunction with the city we can improve that situation. He hopes the school district will address the concerns of Mr. & Mrs. Cleary. Mr. DiGiorgio thanked the flag salute students. He recognized D'Ippolito Elementary School for winning the 2013 Partnership School Award from a division of Johns Hopkins.

Mr. Jennings announced that today the Vineland soccer team beat Egg Harbor Township and is currently at 7-2-1. He said as Dr. Mounier stated you cannot judge the football team by their scores. Mr. Jennings said the students are focused and energized throughout the entire game. He expressed his concern in regards to the park near Sabater School and said the board will act on this very quickly.

Mr. English said he and Mr. DiGiorgio toured the Sabater building and noticed there was activity around 10:00 a.m. on the basketball court. He said we are not here to close the park down but it would be nice to see the park open at 4:30 p.m. Mr. English said this issue will be addressed. He thanked the students at D'Ippolito Elementary School for the flag salute. Mr. English said October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and encouraged everyone to get an exam. He wished everyone the best of luck in the school board elections and encouraged everyone to vote.

Mr. Bongiovanni said one of his platforms in the board elections was safety, which is paramount to him. He said this is a big community and the police department is stretched very thin. Mr. Bongiovanni said there are things we can do that just require a little planning and show. He thanked the people who came before the board to address their concerns. Mr. Bongiovanni said we have a lot of schools and every school has their own individual issue that hopefully can all be resolved.

Ms. Morello thanked the parents who spoke tonight. She urged all parents to attend board meetings to know what is going on in the schools and community. Ms. Morello said she is hopeful something can be done to address the issue of the siblings that are attending two different elementary schools. She said each child is different with different needs and we all try to keep those concerns uppermost. Ms. Morello thanked the Vineland teaching staff for doing wonderful things with parents. She said we need to do what is right for students, which is not always testing. Ms. Morello asked everyone to please vote and be heard.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

None.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote to executive session at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Herbert G. Schectman
Board Secretary

HGS:df

