

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 10, 2012 at 5:36 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios. Absent: None.

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

Mr. Ulrich 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.

Resolution: Ms. Ludy read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, October 10, 2012** regarding student disciplinary matters and **Wednesday, November 7, 2012** and **Wednesday, November 14, 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 Resolutions. All Members voted "yes."

The Board recessed to executive session at 5:38 p.m.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:10 p.m.

Flag Salute: Kayla Cleary, Nora Cleary, Elisabeth DiGiorgio, Nikita Logan, Dominic Mercado, Sebastian Mercado, Destinee Nelson, Angelica Rivera and Anthony Tramontana, students from Petway Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance were Mrs. Frederico, Principal and Mrs. Malatesta, Vice Principal.

Special Presentations (s): Dr. Guccio introduced, Dr. McCann, VHS Principal, Mr. Olsen, VHN Principal and Mr. Goodwin, Systems Analysis, to present a follow-up on the scheduling and conflicts at Vineland High School.

Dr. McCann thanked the board on behalf of Vineland High School South for giving him the opportunity to explain the schedules and assumed conflicts that our students are having at VHS South.

Dr. McCann distributed binders to the board that lists the breakdown of what did or did not happen at Vineland High School. He said there is a list of 154 students that are believed to be hanging in the hallways, hiding in the restrooms, in the auditorium or anywhere but their classroom. Dr. McCann said Mr. Panas interviewed every student that is on this list. He reviewed the questions that each student was asked and not one of these students had a schedule problem. Mr. Ulrich said the questions were about a computer printout that was generated that said there were scheduling conflicts in the system. Dr. McCann said that is not how it was portrayed. He wanted to make it clear to the board that not one student suffered at Vineland High School South. Dr. McCann expressed his concern on how poorly Vineland High School was portrayed at the last board meeting. Mr. English asked if currently all bilingual students are scheduled in health. Dr. McCann said all the students are completely scheduled. Mr. English asked Dr. McCann what his definition is of a complete schedule. He said that Dr. McCann has requested an additional physical education/health teacher for the bilingual students because they currently are not scheduled for health. Dr. McCann said this past year he assigned an assistant principal just for the bilingual students. He said his overall goal was to have a bilingual teacher in the physical education department. Dr. McCann said we have many students who do not speak English and Mr. Guzman is coming from Cunningham School to our building. Mr. English asked if the bilingual administration was involved in the bilingual scheduling.

Dr. McCann said no. Dr. McCann reviewed the number of students traveling between buildings during each period. Mr. English said Dr. McCann guaranteed more instructional time and less movement between buildings. He asked Dr. McCann if he feels that he accomplished that. Dr. McCann responded yes. Ms. Rios asked how the students are making up the five to seven minutes of instructional that they are losing due to the traveling between buildings. Dr. McCann said we encourage the teachers to give the students work that is connected to the lesson that the students can do on their own until all the students have arrived. Mr. English asked if all BD, bilingual and regular education students are scheduled as of today. Dr. McCann said yes the issues they have are 100% computer issues. Mr. Medio said last week's presentation and this week's discussion is much ado about nothing. He said we had somebody come up to the podium from Coney Island to tell us about a problem at a school at Chestnut & Brewster that he had no firsthand knowledge of. Mr. Medio said Dr. McCann explained the so called conflicts that do not exist. He commended the administration in both buildings on doing a great job.

Mr. Ulrich suggested that the two senior officials within our high school need to communicate with each other along with our data processing people. He feels this is an issue due to poor communication.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Nathan Frey, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction and Mr. Carey Savage, Supervisor of Title I and No Child Left Behind to present the 2011-2012 NJ Assessment results. Mr. Frey said there are two main components. The first is the state averages compared to schools like us, which is called the District Factor Group (DFG) and the second is the comparison of students by group over multiple years. Mr. Frey introduced Mr. Savage to present the 2011-2012 test results. Mr. Savage said this is our annual report and there have been a lot of changes made that will impact what we have done and what we are going to do. He reviewed the changes along with the district test results.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by, seconded by, the minutes were approved from September 5, 2012 and September 12, 2012. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Ulrich who “abstained” on both dates.

Solicitor’s Report: Mr. DeSanto said last week Mr. Mercado raised a question regarding the procedure we have for public comment at the end of the board meeting. He said the practice was that somewhere around 9:00 p.m. the board president would suspend the order of business to allow the public to speak. Mr. DeSanto said that Mr. Mercado felt that 9:00 p.m. was still too late. He said that he reviewed the Bylaws and they are silent with respect to this. Mr. DeSanto said he circulated to the board his suggestion in terms of what should be done about this. He said there can be a very modest Bylaw change, which does not require reference to the policy committee. Mr. DeSanto suggested adding the following language to Bylaw #0164 “Be it Resolved by the Vineland Board of Education that Bylaw 0164 is hereby amended to provide that public comment under item 8 of the work session agenda and item 12 of the regular meeting agenda shall be permitted by the Board President no later than one and one half hours after the scheduled start of any work session, regular meeting or special meeting.” He said this minor change will take care of this issue. Mr. DeSanto said the board should entertain a motion to provide for the amendment of the Bylaw providing for a start time for public comments at 8:30 p.m. in accordance with the revision of Policy #0164.

Mr. Ulrich asked for the chair to entertain a motion for the revision of Board Bylaw 0164 for an amendment that allows the Board President to suspend the regular meeting at an hour and a half after the start.

Motion: Upon motion by Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, to amend Bylaw 0164. All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. DeSanto said because we do not vote at our work sessions we are not able to pass a resolution at the start of the work session to convene into executive session. He said things happen from one month to another and there are many times the board and administration do not know what is going to be discussed until the night of the work session. Mr. DeSanto said his recommendation is that in the Annual Notice there should be an insert that says the following “No official action shall be taken at work sessions except for the adoption of a resolution to convene into executive session.” He said this should be put in the newspaper as part of the annual notice and at each work session there can be a vote to go into executive session. Mr. DeSanto said this would streamline the process and make the resolution to executive session more meaningful. He urged the board president to request a motion to adopt a resolution to amend the annual notice to provide for voting at work sessions only with respect to executive session.

Mr. Ulrich entertained a motion to change the Annual Notice of Public Meetings to allow for an amendment to go into executive session while in a work session.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to amend the Annual Notice of Public Meetings to permit voting at work sessions only for the adoption of a Resolution to convene into executive session. All Members voted “yes.”

Public Comment on  
Agenda Items:

Eddie Thomas, Student

Mr. Thomas spoke in support of Travis Amstutz as the boys’ basketball coach.

Dalton Sterling, Student

Mr. Sterling spoke in support of Travis Amstutz as the boys’ basketball coach.

Jola Babaloa, Student

Mr. Babaloa spoke in support of Travis Amstutz as the Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach.

Haashim Wallace, Student

Mr. Wallace spoke in support of Travis Amstutz as the Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach.

Isiah Cross, Student

Mr. Cross spoke in support of Travis Amstutz as the Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach.

Travis Amstutz, Teacher

Mr. Amstutz apologized to the board for the method that he delivered a message to the basketball team. He was led to believe that the punishment for his mistake was he would have to re-interview for his job, which he accepted and was proven overwhelmingly to be the best applicant again. Mr. Amstutz asked if a simple mistake as the power to wipe away twelve years of hard work as a teacher and coach in this district. He said that a person who is directly involved with this said to his face that he was doing a great job and this is completely political. Mr. Amstutz said it is not too late because basketball season does not begin until the last week in November. He urged the board to postpone this vote so this can be further investigated.

Public

Comments:

Debra Cornatzer, Parent

Ms. Cornatzer expressed her concern in regards to cars continuing to go past the buses red lights on Chestnut Avenue and disregarding the school zones. She publicly thanked Mr. English, Board Member, Ms. Bechtel, Winslow Principal, Mr. Callavini, Transportation Supervisor, Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Debbie Marko, *Daily Journal* reporter along with her photographer, the Vineland Police Department, Ernie Castellini, Bus Driver and Tina Holt, Bus Aide.

Harry Silverstein, Tennis Coach

Mr. Silverstein thanked the board and Mr. Weaver on the magnificent tennis facility at Vineland High School. He asked if the board could approve all coaches in a timely fashion as a professional courtesy to our coaching staff.

Joe Camardo, Veterans Memorial School Coach

Mr. Camardo said he has the utmost confidence in the abilities of the assistant principal who was to remain at the Cunningham Alternative School. He feels with the situation at Cunningham and the high school both a male and female administrator would be in the best interest.

Troy Galarza, Cunningham Alt. School Teacher

Mr. Galarza urged the board to consider the teachers that work at the Cunningham Alternative school who choose to be there.

Mr. DeSanto said a rare mistake was made by Ms. Marko in the *Daily Journal*. He said last week at the agenda meeting there was a first reading on the master policy for uniforms. Mr. DeSanto said our policy practice is the first reading is at the work session with a full discussion and adoption is at the next month's regular meeting. He said it was reported that we would be voting tonight on the master policy. Mr. DeSanto wanted to make this correction on the record that the adoption and vote is scheduled for the November regular meeting.

Recommendations:

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

1. Motion to direct the Superintendent to discontinue any further dialogue regarding outsourcing the Alternative School Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to direct the Superintendent to discontinue any further dialogue regarding outsourcing the Alternative School Program. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich who voted “no.” The motion did not pass.

Mr. Mercado said a student at the Alternative School expressed to him how much he enjoyed attending the Alternative School because the high school was not for him. He said that he has visited the Alternative School and thinks it is a good school. Mr. Mercado said rather than spending so much time looking for other alternatives time should be spent making the alternative school a better school.

Mr. DiGiorgio believes it is in the best interest of our district to have the Superintendent evaluate any opportunity that is presented.

Mr. English thinks we should be on a time table with the Alternative Program. He expressed his concern on the amount of students that are in the Cunningham Alternative School building for the size that it is.

Dr. Guccio said the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant was submitted today and we will not know for a while whether or not we are in the next round. She knows that we are under a time line but wants to do what is right. Dr. Guccio said this grant will give us the opportunity to take the program we have and make it a very viable program.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$8,547,812.79).

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

Board Member  
Remarks: Mrs. Phillips thanked the Petway students for the flag salute.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he does not have an issue with any of the individuals for the coaching positions. He would like to see the interview process improved and will be abstaining from any coaching decisions.

Mr. English commended and thanked the young men who spoke tonight and said they were definitely heard. He also thanked Mr. Sbrana for contacting the press in regards to the transportation issue. Mr. English sends his thoughts and prayers to Ruben Bermudez on the passing of his wife Vicky. He said that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and he urged everyone to get checked. Mr. English thanked Diamaris Rios on the outstanding job that she did on Mr. Ulrich's absence.

Mr. Mercado thanked his boys along with the students from Petway School for the flag salute. He congratulated the Vineland High School Band on their successful year with competitions. Mr. Mercado also thanked the North Italy Club for donating the hats and gloves. He sends his condolences to Ruben Bermudez on the passing of his wife Vicky and to the family of Jeff Weber on his passing. Mr. Mercado reminded everyone that the School Board Candidate Debate will be held on October 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Wallace Middle School.

Ms. Rios thanked the Petway students for the flag salute and popcorn. She also thanked the basketball players who expressed their concerns and support for their coach along with the coach for voicing his concerns.

Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich said there will be a dedication coming up in regards to the tennis courts. He thanked Mr. English along with Mr. Weaver for their persistence with the tennis courts project. Mr. Ulrich sends his condolences to Ruben Bermudez and family. He said it is always good to hear from students and wished we heard from them more often. Mr. Ulrich said he still has an issue in regards to text messaging students and will have the social media policy reviewed. He feels that mentoring is a big piece of what we have to be concerned about in our district and thanked the students for coming forward to speak about their coach. Mr. Ulrich announced that Petway School will be having a Fall Festival on October 20, 2012 and on November 13, 2012 they will be having a Community Block meeting.

Adjournment:           The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherie Ludy  
Board Secretary

CL:df



