

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 5:41 p.m. in the Vineland High School South Auditorium, 2880 E. Chestnut Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. Bordley presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Medio, Mr. Sbrana, Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Jennings

Also present: Dr. Guccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frangipani and Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendents and Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary and Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor. Absent: None.

Mr. Bordley 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, SNJ Today, the Press of Atlantic City, Nuestra Comunidad, Visto Bueno, the Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

#### Flag Salute:

Mr. Bordley reviewed the procedures for the naming of the Lincoln Avenue Middle School.

Mr. DeSanto said after the hearing is closed he will review the selection process.

#### Public Comments

##### On Agenda Item:

Jill Baruffi

Ms. Baruffi read a letter that her husband, Joe Baruffi, wrote in support of nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Art Baruffi

Mr. Baruffi read a letter that he wrote in support of nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak

Assemblyman Andrzejczak spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Beth Bergamo

Ms. Bergamo read letters on behalf of Vera Sharp and Michael Palau in support of nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Christina Brunini

Ms. Brunini spoke in support of her grandfather and nominee Harry Mazzochi. She also spoke on behalf of Joe Trapani in support of nominee Harry Mazzochi.

Cynthia Brunini

Ms. Brunini spoke in support of her father and nominee Harry Mazzochi.

Lee Burke

Mr. Burke spoke in support of not changing the name of the Lincoln Avenue Middle School.

Barbara Carman

Ms. Carman spoke in support of her father and nominee Carlo A. Ricci.

Danielle Carroll

Ms. Carroll spoke in support of her mother and nominee Michele Morgen.

Roberta Caudill

Ms. Caudill spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Angela D'Ottavio

Ms. D'Ottavio read a letter on behalf of Connie Wozunk in support of nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Steve Eisenman

Mr. Eisenman spoke in support of nominee Miles Lerman.

M. Jay Einstein

Mr. Einstein spoke in support of nominee Miles Lerman.

Sam Fiocchi

Mr. Fiocchi spoke in support of his father and nominee Lee Fiocchi.

Harry Furman

Mr. Furman spoke in support of nominee Miles Lerman.

Joe F. Griffies

Mr. Griffies spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Mr. Holmes left the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and returned at 6:41 p.m.

At 6:41 p.m. the Board took a 5 minute recess.

The meeting resumed at 6:58 p.m.

Marilyn Jourdan Hill

Ms. Hill spoke in support of nominee Edgar Hill.

Mary Price Hill

Ms. Hill spoke in support of her father and nominee Edgar Hill.

William Jannarone

Mr. Jannarone spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Terry Kuhnreich

Ms. Kuhnreich spoke in support of nominee Miles Lerman.

Carole LoGuidice

Ms. LoGuidice spoke in support of nominee Mark Melamed.

Jeff Martine

Mr. Martine spoke in support of nominee Miles Lerman.

Lisa Mazzochi

Dr. Mazzochi spoke in support of her uncle and nominee Harry Mazzochi.

Danny R. McKnight

Mr. McKnight spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Vicky Miller

Ms. Miller spoke in support of nominee Miles Lerman.

Jason Moore

Mr. Moore spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Susanne Morello

Ms. Morello spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Lorna Murray

Ms. Murray read letters on behalf of Patrick Simmons a former Vineland High School football player and Pana Papamihalakis a former student in support of nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Charles Peale

Mr. Peale spoke in support of his brother in law nominee Frank Giordano. He also suggested naming different parts of the school after many of these individuals.

Ryan Peters

Mr. Peters spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Frank Pilla

Mr. Pilla read a letter on behalf of Army Colonel James Martin Akers in support of nominee Dominick Pilla.

Carl Pinto

Mr. Pinto spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Tina Crudele-Pontari

Ms. Crudele-Pontari spoke in support of nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Robert Scarpa

Mr. Scarpa read a letter on behalf of Dr. Jeffrey Struecker, Sergeant Dominick Pilla's commanding officer, in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Kathleen Speranza

Ms. Speranza spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Jenna Baruffi-Talarico

Ms. Baruffi-Talarico spoke in support of nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Jeff Talarico

Mr. Talarico spoke in support of his father in-law nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Judith Ciarlante Talarico

Ms. Ciarlante Talarico spoke in support of her father nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Justen Talarico

Mr. Talarico spoke in support of his grandfather nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Joe Testa

Mr. Testa spoke in support of nominee Sergeant Dominick Pilla.

Amanda Trionfo

Ms. Trionfo read a letter on behalf of Peter Cifaloglio and Salvatore Ciarlante's sister Ann Marie Ciarlante Santilli in support of nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Mr. Holmes left the meeting at 6:35 and returned at 6:41 p.m.

Barbara Wainwright

Ms. Wainwright spoke in support of nominee Salvatore Ciarlante.

Mr. DeSanto summarized the selection procedure.

At this time Mrs. Haley distributed the ballots to the Board.

Mr. DeSanto said in addition to the individuals named there were nominations to keep the school as the Lincoln Avenue Middle School or Lincoln Avenue Middle School Dedicated to Outstanding Citizens of Vineland. Mr. DeSanto said our policy is directed to individuals. He said these names will not be considered as part of this process. Mr. DeSanto said in the event no one is elected the school name will remain the same.

The Ballots were given to Scott Musterel, Assistant Business Administrator, to tally.

Mr. Musterel provided Mr. DeSanto the tally sheet with the certified finalists.

Mrs. Haley read the following finalists names:

Salvatore C. Ciarlante  
Miles Lerman  
Sergeant Dominick Pilla

Mr. Bordley entertained a motion to name the school in honor of one of the finalist.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, to rename the Lincoln Avenue Middle School after Miles Lerman. All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Medio, Mr. Sbrana, Ms. Spinelli, Mr. Ulrich, and Ms. Acosta who voted "no." The motion did not carry.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, to rename the Lincoln Avenue Middle School after Sergeant Dominick Pilla. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Holmes who voted “no.” The motion carried.

Mr. Bordley congratulated the Pilla family and all the nominees.

Board Member  
Comments:

Mr. Fiocchi congratulated the Pilla Family as well as all the other nominees.

Mr. Holmes thanked everyone who spoke tonight and congratulated the Pilla Family on this momentous occasion.

Mr. Ulrich thanked everyone who supported their loved ones tonight. He said it was a tough decision in one respect but an easy decision in the other respect.

Mr. Ulrich congratulated the Pilla Family and said it is an honor as a law enforcement officer to support a military member.

Ms. Spinelli thanked everyone for coming out tonight and congratulated the Pilla Family.

Mr. Medio thanked everyone who came out tonight to speak.

Mr. Sbrana said there was truly some inspiring stories tonight. He said all of the candidates are heroes in his book. Mr. Sbrana congratulated the Pilla Family. He said he is grateful to the people who have reached out to him over the last couple of weeks. Mr. Sbrana said we were elected to serve and make decisions, which we have all done with a good heart.

Ms. Acosta echoed what her fellow Board members have said. She said it truly was inspiring to be able to learn about all of the heroes that were spoken about tonight. Ms. Acosta truly feels inspired that so many people in our community have given so selflessly. She said what will be most important for middle school students is the quality and traits that Sergeant Pilla portrayed during his short life. Ms. Acosta said Sergeant Pilla had a dream, fulfilled that dream and did everything to the best of his abilities. She said Sergeant Pilla is someone that our children will look up to for a very long time. Ms. Acosta thanked everyone for sharing their family stories.

Dr. Guccio congratulated the Pilla Family and knows that this has consumed their life for the past several months. She truly hopes it brings them the joy they are wishing for. Dr. Guccio said the other candidates were all phenomenal. She hopes that everyone can walk away with their head held high because putting a name on a building does not keep a loved one's memory alive. Dr. Guccio said it is the stories you tell to your children and grandchildren. She said the respect that you show one another is how a name lives on not necessarily by being placed on a building. Dr. Guccio urged everyone to hold their head high because there is not one person here tonight that was not deserving of this. She is proud of everyone and her heart hurts for their stories because she knows what it is like to lose a loved one especially at a young age. Dr. Guccio said remember that your loved one is not forgotten you can keep their memory alive.

Board President

Comments:

Mr. Bordley thanked everyone who came out to speak and said it was truly inspirational to hear all of the stories. He congratulated everyone and hopes there is something down the road that we can do to honor some of the nominees who did not get their name on a building. Mr. Bordley congratulated the Pilla Family.

Mr. Medio volunteered to be involved in the ceremony to name the school.

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Acosta, seconded by Mr. Bordley to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary