

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, November 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Ms. Codisoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Mr. Bordley arrived at 7:02 p.m. and Mr. Pagano arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. English 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, the Grapevine, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute:

Students along with Sergeant Roary O'Rourke, School Mascot, from Veterans Memorial Middle School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Dorothy Burke, Assistant Principal of Veterans Memorial Middle School, explained how students and staff members formed a flag formation in the parking lot in support of all the veterans.

Resolution:

Mrs. Haley 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 contract is labor negotiations with non-certificated supervisors, school psychologists and UAW. Any matter involving the proposed, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matter disclosed; discussion of acquisition of property. 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 Superintendent's evaluation. 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. **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. Bordley, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio welcomed Mr. Michael Garcia, CPA, Audit Partner of Ford-Scott Associates, LLC, to present the 2015-2016 audit report.

Mr. Garcia said it is a pleasure to be here tonight. He said the audit is for the year that ended June 30, 2016 and he is happy to report that it is clean. Mr. Garcia said this is the second year in a row there have been no findings or recommendations, which is a credit to the Business Administrator and her staff. He said each and every year the state and federal government impose more and more regulations on school districts so it becomes increasingly difficult each year to produce a clean audit.

Mr. Jennings thanked Mrs. Haley.

Mrs. Haley thanked her staff because they are behind this 100 percent.

Mr. Garcia said he will highlight several areas that are most important to the Board of Education members. He said on page 70 of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), in the Actual column is the district's fund balance as of June 30, 2016, which is \$20,671,044.68. Mr. Garcia said by statute that amount is broken down into several components, which he explained. He said page 28 of the CAFR shows the revenues and expenses for the food service fund along with the bottom line net position or fund balance. Mr. Garcia said the deficit for the food service is \$155.08 and has gone down from \$235,000 last year.

Mr. Garcia said it is important to realize that your food service management company charges a management fee for running the food service and in their contract they guarantee a profit of \$150,000. Mr. Garcia said without the Board contribution the district did not make \$150,000 but around \$90,000. He said the food service management company will be refunding the district around \$57,000. Mrs. Haley said we have already been paid and the amount was about \$66,000. Mr. Garcia said he is hoping next year the deficit is completely gone and we are creating some profit for use in this program in future years.

Mr. DeWinne asked Mr. Garcia if he has heard anything from Trenton in regards to the funding plan and the comments made by the Governor several months ago. Mr. Garcia said he is an independent auditor and will find out the state aid amount the day after the district knows. He said the hope is that you receive level funding without a decrease.

Mr. Jennings said this is two years in a row that our finance department, headed by Mrs. Haley, has done this and it is just incredible. He said it shows what can be accomplished in a short time with a lot of hard work and people coming together.

Mr. DeWinne echoed the comments made by Mr. Jennings. He said Mrs. Haley along with her team of accountants and staff do a good job. Mr. DeWinne said Mrs. Haley has been a wonderful asset for this district.

Mrs. Haley thanked Mr. Jennings and Mr. DeWinne for their comments and appreciates their support. She said that she is very proud of the excellent staff she has who work very hard.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Gracie Galan to present the Student Liaison Report.

Student Liaison
Report:

Miss Galan said many events have been happening at Vineland High School. She said the Homecoming Game was held on October 22nd and the senior class won for “Best Float.” Miss Galan said our football team has ended their season with a record of 7-2. She said the Marching Band received a score of 92 at the home band competition held on November 5th. Miss Galan announced that the Polaris Players will be putting on *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown* on November 17, 18 and 19th. She said the Roo Store has opened on both campuses and is raising money for Project Graduation.

Miss Galan said winter sports has begun and we are looking forward to having a great second marking period.

Mr. Jennings asked if the Roo Store has any extra-large black rooster shirts. Miss Galan said we have various sizes.

Mr. English announced that there is one more football game on Thanksgiving against Millville.

Ms. Acosta suggested having students model the Vineland High School logo attire at a Board meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, the minutes were approved from October 5, 2016 and October 12, 2016. All Members voted “yes.”

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

Lisa Arena, Principal Mennies Elementary School

Mrs. Arena said as a Principal of an elementary school she feels very safe in her building. She said that her security guard does an excellent job and we have 14 monitors that monitor the building continuously. Mrs. Arena expressed her concern on how having Retired Police Officers in the building will affect her budget. She feels if an intruder wants to do harm they will find a way to do harm.

Domenic Barsotti, Vineland Resident

Mr. Barsotti expressed his concern in regards to the fee charged to use Dane Barse Elementary School for the Boy Scout meetings.

Mr. English said he will speak with Dr. Gruccio concerning this group.

Peter Coccaro, Retired Police Officer

Mr. Coccaro spoke in support of armed security guards in the schools.

Dolores Dean, Vineland Security Guard

Ms. Dean expressed her concern in regards to armed security guards in the schools.

Vicky Miller, Vineland Resident

Ms. Miller spoke in support of armed security guards in the schools.

John Provenzano, Director of Security

Mr. Provenzano expressed his concern in regards to not being involved in any of the discussion regarding armed security guards in the schools.

Bob Romano, Retired Police Officer

Mr. Romano congratulated Mr. Fanucci on being elected Mayor along with his council. He spoke in support of armed security guards in the schools.

Melissa Exton, PTO President of Wallace Middle School

Ms. Exton spoke in support of armed security guards in the schools.

The Board retired to executive session at 7:57 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:51 p.m.

Recommendations:

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$9,433,698.19).

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

Public: Lee Burke
Mr. Burke said he is curious as to what the Charter Schools offer in the way of technology that Vineland does not. He said on October 22, 2014 the NJ School Boards Association released a 111 page final report with 45 recommendations on “What Makes Schools Safe.” He said the website to review this report is www.njsba.org. Mr. Burke said he looks forward to seeing the QSAC Report and recommended putting it on the district website. He said that he has been very proud of this Board over the last couple of years with their willingness to have a good decision making process. Mr. Burke said his opinion of the armed guards is that teaching and learning is the product we have to deal with. He said the extra level of safety is a nice approach but more time should be spent on teaching and learning. Mr. Burke feels the resolution on tonight’s agenda should be reintroduced later.

Pete Coccaro
Mr. Coccaro said “Go Vineland” and urged everyone to support our students on Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. DeSanto reminded the Board that with respect to the public comments on agenda items as well as at the end of the meeting, the providing of addresses is not required but discouraged. He said public citizens have a right to speak and a right to privacy.

Board Member
Remarks: Mr. Jennings apologized for requesting an address from a speaker and thought it was a requirement. He said that he is trying to do the best for the district, taxpayers and students. Mr. Jennings wished everyone a great Thanksgiving and said “Go Vineland”.

Mr. Bordley wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Pagano wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Codispoti thanked the Veterans Memorial students and likes the mascot Sergeant Roary. She wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and said “Go Vineland.”

Ms. Acosta echoed the remarks made by Ms. Codispoti in regards to Veterans Memorial School. She believes that our school security officers do a wonderful job however despite that she thinks armed security is an extra effort on being proactive. Ms. Acosta wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. She congratulated and thanked Mrs. Haley and her staff on a job well done.

Mr. Sbrana echoed the comments made by his colleagues on the Veterans Memorial School presentation. He congratulated Mrs. Haley. Mr. Sbrana wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. He thinks Coach Russo and his staff have done a great job regardless of the outcome.

Ms. Rios thanked the Veterans Memorial School students for the flag salute. She congratulated Mrs. Haley and her staff for an awesome audit the second year in a row. Ms. Rios said as the chair of the Policy & Personnel Committee she is glad that the discussion of the special law enforcement officer did not stay within the committee. She wanted the public to be aware as to what the outcome is on this position. Ms. Rios said she is excited about the groundbreaking ceremony that is taking place tomorrow for the new middle school. She wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. DeWinne asked Dr. Guccio to reach out to Mr. Barsotti on his request. He said the Boy Scouts of America is a great organization and produce many of our countries leaders. Mr. DeWinne said the UAW group and their leadership has been the best to work with in negotiations and he thanked them. He also thanked all the students who try out and participate in sports. Mr. DeWinne said it is good to see our football program doing well on all levels. He wished everyone a wonderful, blessed and happy Thanksgiving.

Dr. Guccio congratulated and thanked Veterans Memorial School for doing the flag salute. She thanked Mr. Caterina who has donated \$1,000 to Veterans Memorial School and \$1,000 to Gifts for Giving in honor of Mennies Elementary School. Dr. Guccio wished everyone a very healthy, happy, blessed Thanksgiving.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. English saluted and thanked Mr. Barsotti for 40 years of service to the Boy Scouts. He said that Mr. Jennings will address Mr. Barsotti's issue at a facilities committee meeting and the Board will try to put something in place. Mr. English thanked Mr. Coccaro for using the word deterrent when he spoke. He said the thought of a Retired Police Officer (RPO) who can carry a weapon is only something that will make everyone safer. Mr. English said we are trying to give the best safety piece to our students and staff. He said it is nothing personal. Mr. English thanked Ms. Dean for what she said about security guards and training. He also thanked Ms. Exton for speaking. Mr. English thanked Ms. Burke, Ms. Marko, the Vineland Police and Fire Department for what they did for the Veterans Memorial School Celebration held this Monday. He congratulated the fall sports program and marching band for a successful year. Mr. English wished the football team the best of luck on Thanksgiving. He also wished the academic team the best of luck. Mr. English thanked Mrs. Haley and her staff for a clean audit report. He congratulated and welcomed back Mr. Sbrana along with Mr. Fiocchi and Mr. Medio. Mr. English wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

