

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Auditorium, at Vineland High School North, 3010 E. Chestnut Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 6:00 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, and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mrs. Phillips.

Also present: Dr. Guccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Figgs, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Ludy, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director, press and public. Absent: None.

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.

Flag Salute: Shane Todd, Jared Todd and Tyler Ravior, students from the Skills USA Program led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Guccio introduced the Vineland High School Madrigal Singers under the direction of Lori Cummines to present musical selections.

Resolution: Ms. Ludy 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 become a party. 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 (If pending or anticipated litigation, the matter is proposed resolution of litigation filed by Robert Miller). 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 tenure charges against a teacher; suspension of teachers; recommendation for position of Assistant Superintendent of Administration.

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. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

The Board recessed to executive session at 6:25 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:56 p.m.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Mark Melamed to discuss “The Gabriel Project” Fundraiser.

Mr. Melamed introduced and recognized Samantha Rodriguez and Christopher Abreu 8th grade students who are selling rubber bracelets for \$1.00 to raise money for the Gabriel Project.

Dr. Guccio said these students are the kind of students that set examples for others and we are very proud to have both of these students in our school district. She said Mr. Melamed has always been a wonderful example for all of our students.

Mr. Ulrich recognized and presented a plaque to Mr. Anthony Fanucci for his 6 ½ years of service on the Vineland Board of Education.

Mr. Ulrich also recognized and congratulated Mrs. Phillips for her years of service on the Vineland Board of Education.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from November 14, 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 months of June (amended), July, August and September of 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" except for Mr. Ulrich who voted "yes" on June and "abstained" on July, August and September.

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 Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$17,975,848.02).

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

Public: Tony Rizzo
Mr. Rizzo thanked Mrs. Pat Phillips for all that she has done as an educator, administrator and board member with the Vineland Board of Education. He said his children have fond memories of Mrs. Phillips when they attended Cunningham Elementary School. Mr. Rizzo said as a board member Mrs. Phillips always put the students first while giving the teachers the tools they needed to be effective and innovative. He also thanked Mr. Anthony Fanucci for all of the dedicated time and knowledge that he has given to the district and city as a member of this board. He wished Mr. Fanucci good luck on his bid for a seat on city council as a part of Team Bermudez. Mr. Rizzo congratulated newly elected board members Susanne Morello and Christopher Jennings as well as Frank DiGiorgio on his re-election.

Board Member
Remarks: Mr. Medio wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year.

Dr. Mounier thanked the Madrigal singers for a stunning performance. He also thanked Mrs. Phillips and Mr. Fanucci for their service on the board.

Mr. DiGiorgio congratulated Mrs. Polof on her promotion to Assistant Superintendent of Administration. He said over the last several months Dr. Gruccio has outlined some opportunities for the district to pull some resources and combine duties/ responsibilities that will benefit our district in the future. He saw an opportunity to stabilize our executive team so that we do not have an operational deficiency in the district. Mr. DiGiorgio thanked Dr. Figgs for substituting over the last several months. He also thanked the outgoing board members for their service to the board and community.

Mr. DiGiorgio said the Madrigal singers gave an excellent performance as always. He acknowledged singer Leilani Bishop who also played the harp at the honors society event. Mr. DiGiorgio wished everyone a happy safe holiday season and new year.

Mr. Fanucci thanked Mr. Ulrich and Dr. Gruccio for allowing Mr. Sbrana to send an email from him today thanking the district and staff. He thanked those that elected him and appreciated the kind words this evening. Mr. Fanucci thanked his colleagues for all their support. He encouraged the present and new board members to support the school events as much as possible. Mr. Fanucci wished everyone a happy safe healthy holiday season. He thanked his family for putting up with the long hours along with his son who gave him a different vision and helped him become the man he is today. Mr. Fanucci pledged that he will always be in Vineland to support the staff, students, parents and this board in any way that he can to move in the right direction.

Mr. English congratulated Mrs. Polof and feels she is the right person for the job. He sends his thoughts and prayers to Mr. Larry Pepper on the passing of his sister. Mr. English thanked Ms. Rios for her hard work and dedication the last year. He said Mr. Ulrich is a strong leader, excellent role model and advocate for all students and employees in this district. Mr. English said he will be nominating Mr. Ulrich for a second year of presidency on this board in January because of his no-nonsense attitude and non-controversial style. He said Mrs. Phillips will always be his ambassador for education. Mr. English said he has so much respect for Mrs. Phillips and he is proud to call her his friend. He thanked Mr. Fanucci for his years of service to the Vineland School District and wished him good luck in the future. Mr. English wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Mercado thanked Mr. Melamed for his student recognition tonight. He congratulated Mr. Fanucci for making the run-off in the city election and thanked him for taking the extra time at the Finance Committee meeting to explain things he did not understand. He also thanked Mrs. Phillips for her service and the pride she brings to the Vineland Public School System. Mr. Mercado congratulated the teachers who are retiring. He thanked Ms. Cummines for bringing her students out this evening to sing. Mr. Mercado wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ms. Rios thanked the Madrigal singers for their performance and the Skills USA students for the flag salute. She also thanked Samantha Rodriguez and Christopher Abreu for “The Gabriel Project” fundraiser. Ms. Rios thanked everyone in the district for all their hard work this year. She thanked Mrs. Phillips and Mr. Fanucci for volunteering their time to the Vineland Board of Education. She wished everyone a happy safe holiday.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich said what is important is Mark Melamed who is facing a tough road ahead. He said the students from “The Gabriel Project” get it and care about others because there are a lot of less fortunate people. Mr. Ulrich said whatever course of life we are in we need to appreciate that we are blessed to have jobs and continued health. He said this is the time of year for reflection to see if we can improve ourselves and be thankful for the paths that have been chosen for us. Mr. Ulrich said we pay the people who run this district millions of dollars and as a board we have to let them do their job. He said if we do not let them do their jobs we cannot hold them accountable. Mr. Ulrich said the board needs to send a message that we will support our employees. He said Dr. Guccio has a plan, knows the district and needs to get the support of the board. Mr. Ulrich congratulated Mrs. Polof and thinks she is going to do a great job. He wished everyone a happy safe holiday.

Dr. Guccio thanked the firefighters for taking the time to cook for the football team prior to the thanksgiving game. She also thanked Ms. Cummines and the Madrigal singers. Dr. Guccio thanked Mr. Melamed, Samantha Rodriguez, Christopher Abreu and the Skills USA students. She thanked Mrs. Phillips and Mr. Fanucci for all their time and effort on the board. Dr. Guccio thanked Dr. Figs for all his help. She welcomed Mrs. Polof to our team and looks forward to what she brings to the table. Dr. Guccio wished everyone a very healthy happy holiday season.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherie Ludy
Board Secretary

CL:df

