

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, December 14, 2016, at 6:16 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pagano, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Guccio, 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 from Vineland High School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio introduced Miss Grace Galan to present the Student Liaison Report.

Miss Galan presented an update on the various activities happening at Vineland High School.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Ernie Bernhardt, VHS North Guidance Chairperson, to recognize athletes on their achievements in various sports.

Mr. Bernhardt introduced each of the coaches to discuss and introduce each of the student athletes who will be receiving awards.

Mr. Bordley read a letter from Congressman Frank LoBiondo in regards to Tess Fisher's accomplishments in Tennis.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. English presented a certificate to the Vineland High School football coach, Dan Russo, for being named 2016-2017 High School Coach of the Year.

Mr. Bordley read a letter on behalf of Congressman Frank LoBiondo in regards to Coach Russo's accomplishment.

Mr. Russo said Vineland Football is back. He said he is very proud of his team and introduced each of his coaches.

All the players and coaches were recognized by the Board and presented with certificates.

Dr. Gruccio congratulated all the coaches and athletes who were recognized tonight and thanked them for being part of Vineland Public Schools.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Kim Kell, Music Teacher at Durand Elementary School, to present the Durand Choir to perform holiday songs.

At this time the Durand Choir sang a few holiday selections.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, the minutes were approved from November 2, 2016, November 16, 2016 and November 28, 2016. All Members voted "yes" except for Ms. Rios who "abstained" on November 28, 2016 minutes.

Upon motion by Ms. Acosta, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the executive minutes were approved from October 12, 2016 and November 16, 2016 by the following non-conflicted Board members Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pagano, Ms. Rios and Mr. DeWinne 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 Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, the October 2016 bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$7,011,131.57).

Emergent Item(s)
(with prior approval) The Board approve a resolution for the withdrawal of \$400,000 from the Maintenance Reserve Account and appropriate into the required maintenance account for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A-4.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to approve a resolution for the withdrawal of \$400,000 in funds from the Maintenance Reserve Account and appropriate into the required maintenance account for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A-4. All Members voted “yes.”

Public: Celeste Olivo
Miss Olivo along with several high school students spoke in support of naming the Vineland High School North building after Dennis Tanner, Vice Principal in 1979, who drowned saving a student’s life on a class trip.

Mr. English thanked the students for speaking and said he believes this is something that will be addressed in 2017.

Mr. DeWinne thanked Debbie Marko, *Daily Journal* reporter, for publishing a story on Dennis Tanner and putting the focus back on what type of man he was. He said when he is off the Board he will lead the charge to name the school after Dennis Tanner. Mr. DeWinne said in his opinion Mr. Tanner is a hero and he will be happy to lead the way for the Board to make an informed vote.

Vickie Miller
Ms. Miller read a statement thanking Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne for everything that they have done on the Board.

Frank DiGiorgio

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne for their service to the Vineland Public School District.

Board Member

Remarks:

Ms. Acosta wished all the Vineland Public School District parents, students, friends, teachers and administration a very safe happy Christmas holiday season. She acknowledged the contribution of all of our staff members and coaches. Ms. Acosta wished her colleagues a very happy New Year and merry Christmas. She said that she is very proud to be serving with all of them. Ms. Acosta said she appreciates the dedication, commitment, and passion that Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne have shown for our children.

Mr. Sbrana echoed Ms. Acosta's comments in regards to the holidays. He wished everyone in the district a very safe happy holiday season and great new year. Mr. Sbrana said Mr. English's passion, dedication and commitment to the students, staff and parents in this district was always clear and apparent. He said Mr. DeWinne's financial expertise was very much needed and will be missed. Mr. Sbrana wished Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne the best.

Ms. Rios congratulated the Vineland High School athletes and coaches. She thanked the Durand Elementary School Choir for a wonderful performance. Ms. Rios congratulated all of the honorees along with the flag salute students for doing such a great job each month. She thanked the administrators, educators, staff, students, parents and community members for making the district and community better. Ms. Rios said throughout the years she feels that she has built a relationship with Mr. DeWinne and believes he is honest and transparent. She said Mr. DeWinne has never failed on any of the district's financial predictions. Ms. Rios said Mr. DeWinne has the same characteristics as her older brother and they are good hardworking people. Ms. Rios said Mr. English was always very active and visible throughout the district. She said that she and Mr. English have gotten along well. Ms. Rios thanked Mr. English for his ongoing support in her life. She wished Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne the best of luck and said they will be missed. Ms. Rios wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Mr. Jennings said Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne are the hardest working Board members that he has seen. He spoke in support of football Coach Russo.

Mr. Bordley said he appreciates Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne's service to the Board. He thanked them for guiding him along during his first year on the Board. Mr. Bordley said he has had the pleasure of knowing Coach Russo's family for many years and he knows the qualities that he has. He said that Coach Russo is extremely active with youth sports below the high school level. Mr. Bordley said all of our student athletes have brought our community back together and have instilled Vineland pride. He wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Mr. Pagano thanked Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne for the time and commitment they have put in over the years for the betterment of our district, community, and children. He said as Board members Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne would challenge our thinking always striving for the best possible outcome. Mr. Pagano thanked them both for bringing passion, insight, experience and all their hard work to the Board. He said it was a pleasure working with them and an honor to call the both of them friends. Mr. Pagano wished them the best in all their future endeavors. He wished everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Ms. Codispoti thanked all of the class presidents for doing a great job with the flag salute tonight. She congratulated all the student athletes and Coach Russo. Ms. Codispoti thanked and commended all the students who spoke tonight. She said Mr. DeWinne always had a good explanation for everything he said. Ms. Codispoti said Mr. English has been a great mentor and has been there for all of us when we needed it. She thanked Mrs. English and Mrs. DeWinne for sacrificing their husbands for us because without them we could not have been the Board that we are. She said they both will be missed but knows they will still be involved. Ms. Codispoti wished everyone a blessed Christmas and happy, healthy, safe 2017.

Mr. DeSanto said over the years that he has had the privilege of serving as Solicitor. He said that he has seen Board members who are friends serving on the Board but he has never seen two friends as different as Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne.

Mr. DeSanto said Mr. DeWinne is analytical and deliberative and Mr. English is visceral and passionate. He said it was a privilege working with them and he thanked them.

Dr. Gruccio said that Max Leuchter Elementary School has started a Giving Tree and are hanging scarfs, hats and gloves on trees throughout the neighborhood for those who are in need. She thanked Jane Sheppard from Crafters for Christ for donating 60 crocheted hats to Max Leuchter School for their project. Dr. Gruccio said tonight was just another prime example of why she is so proud to be part of the Vineland Public Schools. She thanked all of our students and staff. Dr. Gruccio wished all of our families, staff and community a very happy Christmas and Hanukkah. Dr. Gruccio said it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne. She said over the past few years we have had a Board that has been open and honest with one another. Dr. Gruccio said we may not always have agreed but have always been able to be upfront. She thanked Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne for their passion for students and their time. Dr. Gruccio wished them both the best. She presented Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne with their name plate, plaque and Board picture.

Mr. DeWinne thanked everyone and wished them a merry Christmas. He said he came on the Board in 2008 and left 2011 returning 2013 through 2016. Mr. DeWinne said there are a lot of personnel sacrifices you make when you are on a Board and thanked his family for sharing. He said that he did his best in trying to hold down real estate taxes for the residents of Vineland. Mr. DeWinne said he tried to show what we can do different than just raise the taxes. He said that Mrs. Haley is a jewel and true professional and he wished her well. Mr. DeWinne said he is happy to say he led the charge for the Memorial School auditorium that was in dire need of repairs, new tennis courts with lights and lights on the baseball field. He commended Coach Russo and said he was a great choice. Mr. DeWinne said it is great to see the football team back on top. He urged everyone to make a difference and be involved. Mr. DeWinne thinks Mr. English is the best Board President he has served under and the hardest working. He said as for himself he is fair and calm.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. English said this evening was probably the best way to go out. He said that he along with Mr. DeWinne are avid athletic lovers and fight for all students. Mr. English said in four years we have seen what Coach Russo has built. He said it has been a fast 6 years and 9 months. Mr. English said we have been through many peaks and valleys. He said it is definitely not the easiest job being a Vineland Board of Education member. Mr. English thanked the taxpayers for putting him in the Board seat for two terms. He thanked the Vineland Board of Education regulars who attend each meeting and express their thoughts. Mr. English thanked all the district employees for allowing him into their departments and buildings over the years. He thanked all the teachers past and present for setting the bar high for future teachers that come into our district. Mr. English also thanked Ms. Marko, Mr. DeSanto, Mrs. Salerno, Ms. Burke, Ms. Quinn, Central Administration, Mr. Weaver, Board Members past and present, and his family. He came up with the following Vineland Board of Education 10 Commandments: 1. Fight for what is best for all students and be fair for all taxpayers, 2. Never me always we remember there is no "I" in VBOE, 3. Listen to what someone has to say, but never assume or commit your answer until you do the homework and know all the facts, 4. Treat people the way you like to be treated, 5. Never leave a Board meeting wishing you would have said or should have said something, 6. Be an independent thinker vs a rubber stamper, 7. Be part of the solution not part of the problem, 8. Lead by example, 9. When making decisions it should never be personal so leave your agenda and personality in the parking lot, 10. C-C-T Communication, Collaboration and Transparency continue to practice this and you cannot go wrong. Mr. English said it has truly been an honor and he thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Vineland Board of Education.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

