

The Annual Organization meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland New Jersey, on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Flag Salute:

Temporary Chairman: Dr. Guccio, serving as temporary chairperson, announced that in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law commonly referred to as "The Sunshine Law," the Vineland Board of Education has caused notice of and posting of this Annual Organization meeting of the Board of Education.

Members Sworn In: Mr. DeSanto said Ms. Acosta could not attend tonight's meeting due to illness and will be sworn in when she recovers. Mr. DeSanto administered the oath of office to Jeffrey Bordley and Christopher Jennings who took their seats on the Board for a term of three years and F. John Sbrana who took his seat for a term of one year.

Roll Call: The following members were present: Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pagano, Mr. Sbrana and Ms. Rios. Absent: Ms. Acosta due to illness.

Mr. DeSanto reviewed the procedures for the election of Board President and Vice President. He said Dr. Guccio will entertain nominations for the office. A nomination will be made from the floor and no second is necessary. Mr. DeSanto said if more than one person is nominated Dr. Guccio will take a vote on the first nominee. In the event that the first nominee receives five or more votes that nominee becomes President or Vice President. If the nominee does not receive five or more votes the next nominee is voted on.

Dr. Guccio called for nominations for the office of President of the Board.

President: Mr. DeWinne nominated Mr. English for Board President.

Mr. Jennings nominated Ms. Rios for Board President.

Dr. Guccio closed nominations for President of the Board and asked for a vote to be taken for the first nominee, Mr. English.

All Members voted "yes" for Mr. DeWinne's nomination of Mr. English for President of the Board of Education except Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pagano, and Ms. Rios who voted "no." The motion carried.

Mr. English won the nomination of President of the Board of Education.

Mr. English requested nominations for Vice President of the Board of Education.

Vice-President:

Ms. Rios nominated Mr. Jennings for Vice President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Sbrana nominated Mr. DeWinne for Vice President of the Board of Education.

There were no other nominations for Vice President of the Board of Education.

Mr. English closed nominations for Vice President of the Board and asked for a vote to be taken for the first nominee, Mr. Jennings.

All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. English, and Mr. Sbrana who voted “no.” The motion did not carry.

Mr. English asked for a vote to be taken for the second nominee, Mr. DeWinne.

All Members voted “yes” except for Ms. Rios who voted “no.”

Mr. DeWinne won the nomination for Vice President of the Board of Education.

Public Comments on
Agenda Items:

None.

Recommendations:

Public Comments:

None.

Board Member
Comments:

Mr. Bordley extended his gratitude to the City of Vineland voters. He said he is deeply humbled and honored to be able to sit up here and represent the citizens for our children. Mr. Bordley thanked everyone and wished Vineland wrestling good luck on their match.

Mr. Jennings said as usual his vote is all business, nothing personal. He wished Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne good luck this year and will continue to serve this Board in the same fashion as he has during the past three years.

Mr. Pagano welcomed back Mr. Jennings along with Mr. Sbrana and Mr. Bordley. He congratulated Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne and looks forward to a productive year. Mr. Pagano hopes we can continue to move the district forward as well as we have done last year.

Ms. Codispoti welcomed Mr. Bordley and Mr. Sbrana and welcomed back Ms. Acosta and Mr. Jennings. She hopes Ms. Acosta is feeling better. Ms. Codispoti congratulated Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne and looks forward to working with this Board.

Mr. Sbrana said he considers it a great honor and privilege to serve as a member of the Vineland Board of Education. He is very grateful for the love of his family during the campaign. Mr. Sbrana said that over the last two decades he has watched over 400 board meetings in the Board room. He witnessed men and women demonstrating great passion and commitment while making decisions with the sole purpose of improving the quality of education for the well-being of every child in our district. Mr. Sbrana said he will do his best to work with his fellow Board members to continue that effort.

Ms. Rios welcomed the new Board members and urged them to be prepared to work very hard. She said that she looks forward to doing what is best for the district, students, and staff as usual.

Mr. DeWinne welcomed the new Board members and wished Ms. Acosta a speedy recovery. He thanked Ms. Rios for her service as Vice President and for chairing several Board committees. Mr. DeWinne said this is his sixth year of service as a Board member and he understands that the President and Vice President have no more power over this Board than anyone sitting here tonight. He believes that parents have a lot more power than any Board member. Mr. DeWinne said over the next few months one of the big topics will be finances and if he could be of any help, please feel free to call him.

Dr. Gruccio wished Ms. Acosta a quick recovery and congratulated her on her reelection. She welcomed Mr. Bordley and Mr. Sbrana to the Board and congratulated Mr. English and Mr. DeWinne on their positions. Dr. Gruccio thanked Ms. Rios for all the work she did as Vice President of this Board. She wished everyone a healthy, happy new year and said she looks forward to working with all of you.

Mr. English wished Ms. Acosta well. He pledged to continue his goal of leadership by communication, collaboration and transparency. He said every problem has a solution and believes in giving the Superintendent the tools and support to run the district. Mr. English encouraged the new Board members to “hug the book” and urged them to follow policies and ask questions. He welcomed Mr. Jennings back for three more years of hard work and commitment. Mr. English thanked Ms. Rios for being by his side as Vice President for the past year. He said the election of Board President and Vice President should be a seamless and natural process. Mr. English said it really is not about a winner or loser we are all in this together. He said work on the budget began in October and it is important to keep the Board’s finance committee of Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Pagano and Mr. Jennings together for continuity.

A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary