

The combined meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 6:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Jennings presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Medio, and Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Mr. Pagano.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, press and public. Absent: Mr. Frey, Assistant, Superintendent.

Mr. Jennings 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 Petway Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 discussion is labor negotiations with School Psychologists. 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 Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes.”

Special Presentations: Dr. Gruccio thanked and honored the Vineland Board of Education members for their service and commitment.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Adaliz Dejesus, VHS World Language teacher, to acknowledge students that have been awarded the Global Navigator Scholarship for 2017 summer abroad programs.

Ms. Dejesus explained the process and recognized each of the award winners of the Global Navigator Scholarship.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Geoff Ashton, Director of Camelot Education, to present an update on the Cunningham Academy.

Mr. Ashton congratulated all the Board members on their newly elected positions along with Dr. Gruccio on being nominated “Woman of the Year.” He recognized Dr. McCann, administration, and the guidance counselors for working together to make sure the partnership with the Cunningham Academy continues to flourish. Mr. Ashton thanked Ms. Godlewski, Director of Special Education, along with the Child Study Team for all their work. He also thanked Assistant Superintendents Mr. Frangipani and Mr. Frey for believing in students. Mr. Ashton recognized the students present tonight along with Mr. Lundy and Mr. Cerana. He updated the Board on the Cunningham Academy at the Alternative School.

Ms. Codispoti said she is really impressed with the students and staff at the Cunningham Academy and the respect between them. She encouraged her fellow Board members to visit the Cunningham Academy.

Mr. Jennings said he visited the program last year and it was incredible to see the transition of these students.

Mr. Sbrana said the personal reflections that are in the newsletter are extraordinary and it shows the program that is going on over there.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Anti-Bullying Coordinator, to present the September 2016 through January 2017 semi-annual HIB Report.

Mr. Frangipani thanked Mr. Ashton and the students who came out tonight from the Cunningham Academy for the work they are doing.

Mr. Frangipani said twice a year an update has to be given on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB). He explained that a HIB is any kind of gesture, written, physical or electronic communication that is motivated by a characteristic such as race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability or any distinguishing or non-distinguishing characteristic. Mr. Frangipani said a HIB is a disruption to the learning process. He presented a couple examples of HIB incidents. Mr. Frangipani reviewed the data and HIB reporting, which is new this year.

Student Liaison  
Report:

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

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

Mr. Jennings announced that Dr. Gruccio was inducted into the Cumberland County Women's Hall of Fame. He said that he is extremely privileged to be working beside her and they have a long history. Mr. Jennings presented Dr. Gruccio with a certificate of recognition for being inducted into the Cumberland County Women's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Gruccio thanked everyone for the recognition.

HIB Report:

No comments.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Acosta, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the minutes were approved from December 7, 2016 and December 14, 2016. All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Medio who "abstained" on all minutes and Ms. Rios and Ms. Acosta who "abstained" on December 22, 2016 minutes. All minutes passed except December 22, 2016, which will be presented again next week for a vote.

Recommendations:

Comments by

Board Solicitor:

Mr. DeSanto said generally each month the Board has a work session and a regular meeting. He said the work session and regular meeting has its own agenda and protocols. Mr. DeSanto said when we have these combined meetings occasionally not all of the outline is covered. He apologized because the Public Comment on Agenda Items was not on tonight's agenda outline. Mr. DeSanto has several yellow sheets in his possession for public members who would like to speak on 1.1a. Transfer of Nurses from the High School. Mr. DeSanto respectfully requested that the Board entertains a motion to rescind their vote on 1.1a. Nurses only. He said the public comment can be heard and considered for Dr. Gruccio to make a recommendation.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, to rescind the vote on the transfer of nurses 1.1a. All Members voted "yes."

Public Comments

On Agenda Items:

Sandra Arsenault

Ms. Arsenault expressed her concern in regards to being transferred.

Jayden Kearney

Mr. Kearney expressed his concern in regards to nurses being transferred out of the high school.

Paula Naigle

Ms. Naigle expressed her concern in regards to nurses being transferred out of the high school.

Michele Ogren

Ms. Ogren expressed her concern in regards to nurses being transferred out of the high school.

Ellen Sager

Ms. Sager expressed her concern in regards to nurses being transferred out of the high school.

Dr. Gruccio asked Mr. DeSanto if he has had discussions with Mr. Frey regarding these transfers and the legality of them.

Mr. DeSanto said the transfers are a matter of managerial prerogative. He said a school district administration can recommend that CSN's be in each school. Mr. DeSanto said the case law that Mr. Frey had consulted indicated that CSN's do not have to be in every school. He said a RN that is not certified must be supervised by a CSN. Mr. DeSanto said the Superintendent's recommendation is not illegal but is what the Superintendent believes is in the best interest to the district.

Dr. Guccio said a fellow nurse brought to our attention that this should be revisited, which is how this all came about. She said Mr. Frey has been communicating with Dr. Rossi and Mr. Salerno throughout this entire process as to what should happen and the steps to take. Dr. Guccio said no one has been blindsided and Dr. McCann has been informed about this the entire time.

Dr. Guccio recommended the approval of 1.1a under Personnel with respect to the transfer of the nurses.

Ms. Rios said because this is a combined Board meeting there is no time to do research after hearing public comments. She said tonight the Board votes based on the information that was provided on the agenda. Ms. Rios asked what would happen if one of the CSN's at the high school is not there. Dr. Guccio said in case of an emergency there is a CSN in the other high school building that would get a directive from the nurse that is being transferred. Dr. Rossi said we would hope that a substitute CSN is available when called. Ms. Rios said if the nurse is not available what would be step #2. Dr. Rossi said we would go to the contracted service to fill the need. Ms. Rios asked if RN's can perform the same tasks as CSN's. Dr. Rossi said he has no reason to doubt the nurses who spoke this evening about their concerns. He said we are trying to deal with the budget, anticipation of buildings closing, and the avoidance of hiring someone today to lay them off in June. Ms. Rios asked if it is legal for the district to this. Dr. Guccio responded yes Mr. Frey conferred with Mr. DeSanto before doing any of this. Ms. Rios asked if the CSN's have in their contract that they can supervise RN's and are they paid for it. Dr. Rossi said they coordinate with the RN to make sure they are doing the work. He said it is not a personnel supervision and there will not be an evaluation or discipline. Ms. Rios asked if the RN's cover field trips. Dr. Rossi said ideally field trips are covered by CSN's, which we do our best to cover.

Ms. Codispoti asked how things will be handled by RN's when they cannot administer EPI pens. Dr. Guccio said they can perform those responsibilities but the law states that in a school you should have a CSN. She said as long as there is one on site you can then put an RN with the CSN and they can still perform the duties.

Ms. Acosta said she would feel more comfortable if this was "tabled" to get more information.

Mr. DeSanto said Dr. Guccio has made the recommendation and there is no motion on the floor so there is nothing to "table." He said if there is no motion and second this matter will not be voted on tonight.

Dr. Gruccio said we tried to put CSN's everywhere but when that was not possible we felt this was the best option to cover our schools in the most appropriate way until June. She said in no way do we mean to disrespect anyone but we are trying to do what is best to provide the proper services for our district.

Mr. Medio said he does not see how he can support this at this time. He asked why we are worried about putting a CSN at Cunningham. Mr. Medio said Sabater is close and that school nurse can cover a problem at Cunningham.

Mrs. Haley said it was brought to our attention by another nurse that her interpretation was that we had to have a CSN in each school. She said Mr. DeSanto researched this and advised us of the same. Mrs. Haley said that is why we decided to move our own employees around and put the substitutes in spots where there will be a CSN on the premises. She said as Dr. Rossi stated we do not want to hire someone full time now to lay them off in June. Mrs. Haley said the substitute nurse will fill that spot until the other two can move into them at a later date.

Mr. Medio expressed his concern that we are disrupting the high school and sending someone to Cunningham when we have someone a half a mile away at Sabater School.

Mr. DeSanto said the court case that he and Mr. Frey reviewed had indicated that it was not mandated that there be a CSN in every building. He said the desire was to have one because it is the optimum situation but they are not required in every school. Mr. DeSanto said you must have an RN who is alone in a school supervised by a CSN.

Ms. Rios asked how many students are at Sabater Elementary School. Dr. Gruccio said about 800. Ms. Rios asked how many students are at Vineland High School North. Dr. Gruccio said about 1,200. She said there needs to be a guarantee that if there is a substitute nurse at the high school they must have the certification.

Mr. Sbrana asked if we are obligated to provide the nursing services in the Cunningham building for Camelot. Mr. DeSanto said yes we have to provide the nursing services but we cannot contract for a CSN.

Dr. Gruccio said we are going to need someone for the remainder of the year in the buildings where there are openings. She said if the Board is inclined to not move the individuals on 1.1a. then we need to approve the Delta-T Group and those people will fill the slots until the end of the year with a CSN overseeing them.

There was no motion on 1.1a.

## 2. REGULAR AGENDA

- b. Items proposed by the Board President or an individual Board Member: Mr. Medio said next month he would like discussion on the return of computer classes to the elementary schools.

Mr. DeSanto said if the Board agrees it can go on the February 1<sup>st</sup> agenda for discussion.

Mr. Sbrana asked where would a proposal to have a committee of the whole for the budget review fall under.

Mr. DeSanto said old or new business is the area where these suggestions should be made.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Ms. Acosta, the November 2016 bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Fiocchi and Mr. Medio who “abstained.” (\$23,716,759.19)

Public Comments: Vicky Miller  
Ms. Miller asked if anything has happened yet with the Retired Police Officer (RPO) job.

Dr. Gruccio said the first round interviews have been done and it has been narrowed down to two or three people. She said we want to discuss this with the Personnel & Policy Committee to make sure they want to continue and if they do we will proceed with second round interviews.

Committee Reports: Ms. Codispoti said the Curriculum Committee did not meet in December but we are scheduled for the new committee to meet January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business: Mr. Sbrana proposed discussion on having a committee of the whole for the budget review.

Mr. DeSanto said this could be placed on the February 1<sup>st</sup> work session agenda under Board member recommendations.

New Business: Mr. Medio would like to discuss the return of computer classes to the elementary schools next month.

Board Member

Comments:

Mr. Fiocchi said he is looking forward to getting started and will lean on the expertise of his colleagues.

Ms. Acosta congratulated Dr. Gruccio on a much deserved honor being inducted in to the Women's Hall of Fame. She thanked Dr. Gruccio for many years of service and for what she has given our community.

Ms. Codispoti thanked everyone who came out tonight. She said that she was a judge in this year's Mr. Vineland Pageant and congratulated Thomas Burgess for being crowned Mr. Vineland 2017. Ms. Codispoti said every one of the contestants did a great job and the show was very entertaining. She echoed the comments made by Ms. Acosta in regards to Dr. Gruccio. Ms. Codispoti announced that Dallago Preschool is having their Snowball Friday night at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Medio congratulated Danny Russo and the Vineland Football Team on one of the biggest victories Vineland has ever had beating Millville on Thanksgiving. He said as far as his meeting about the budget with the Superintendent he did not receive any particulars but found that we have a \$5 million dollar shortfall in next year's projected budget. Mr. Medio said as he heard tonight there is hope for flat funding. He said he cannot imagine how any of his fellow Board members can look at creating new positions when we will have trouble filling the positions we have.

Ms. Rios thanked the flag salute students for a wonderful job. She congratulated Dr. Gruccio and the VHS students who were awarded the Global Navigator Scholarships for 2017. Ms. Rios said it is amazing to witness how a private sector such as Camelot Education can assist, guide and lead the district in making a positive change at Cunningham Academy. She congratulated the students who are enrolled in the Cunningham Academy program and hopes they take advantage of all the benefits that this program has to offer.

Mr. Sbrana congratulated the Petway flag salute students. He thanked Mr. Ashton from Camelot Education for the very encouraging report. Mr. Sbrana said it is further evidence that funds spent on programs like this offer hopes and promises for young lives. He congratulated the VHS students who were awarded the Global Navigator Scholarship along with Dr. Gruccio for the recognition that she received.



Mr. Bordley concurs with the comments made by his colleagues. He thanked Mr. Frangipani for all his work with the HIB. Mr. Bordley said his mother in law was inducted into the Cumberland County Hall of Fame last year, which is a great honor. He congratulated Dr. Guccio and said very few people can match what she has done.

Board President

Comments:

Mr. Jennings said he had the privilege to attend Poetry Out Loud on Tuesday. He said these students have a natural ability to express what they are saying. Mr. Jennings said there were many great contenders and every one of them was as good as the other. He thanked everyone for being patient with him tonight. Mr. Jennings said the administration in this district work very hard. He said we need to be patient and with the budget every year is tougher than the last. Mr. Jennings congratulated Dr. Guccio.

Dr. Guccio thanked everyone for their kindness. She welcomed Mr. Fiocchi and Mr. Medio to our Board and welcomed back Mr. Sbrana. Dr. Guccio said that she looks forward to working with everyone to have a productive year. She said Mr. Frey had a family function this evening, which is why he is not present tonight. Dr. Guccio thanked the flag salute students, Camelot Education and the summer abroad recipients. She said there is so much to be proud of in this district and our students continue to amaze us.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

