

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, January 20, 2016 at 7:10 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 Winslow Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio introduced Ms. Vicky Yeager, VHS Science Teacher, to honor a student.

Ms. Yeager recognized Billie Mattioli who won first place in the American Chemical Society's South Jersey Chemistry Colors Our World Poem Contest.

Dr. Guccio introduced Dr. McCann, Principal of Vineland High School, to present a report on the discipline data at the high school.

Dr. McCann thanked the Board and said it is a pleasure to be here to report the many great things happening at Vineland High School and to answer questions in regards to concerns about discipline. He discussed some of the outstanding things happening at Vineland High School. Dr. McCann addressed the issue of breakfast being moved into the classroom. He said this eliminates problems in the cafeteria and puts all students where they need to be. Dr. McCann said they decided remove the long tables and chairs in the cafeteria and put circle tables with attached chairs in their place. He said they have implemented maps to some students so they do not cross paths with other students.

Dr. McCann said the school store, which is called the Roostore was started in order to sustain Project Graduation and all proceeds from the store go to the student activity account. He discussed the process of trying to have Vineland High School re-accredited. Dr. McCann said our customers are our students and when a student has a concern we drop everything to have a meeting with the student.

Mr. English said if you are a good student at Vineland High School you are going to get the best education. He said that he sees that discipline referrals are increasing and at least we are reporting that we are disciplining students. Mr. English asked if there is conversation to make our policies better. Dr. McCann said yes there have been many conversations. Mr. English asked if it is time to make the dress code policy tighter. Dr. McCann said his personal opinion is that it would take five years to get everyone wearing uniforms. He said students need to be in uniform because it is part of the educational process. Dr. McCann said it is going to happen but as a district we need to stand firm and stay with it no matter how difficult the battle is.

Mr. DeWinne asked Dr. McCann how much time his assistants are spending on uniform infractions. Dr. McCann said a huge amount of time. Mr. DeWinne asked if at some point in time the Board allows cell phones do you think middle school students are responsible enough to handle it. Dr. McCann said it is easier at the middle school level to say no because they listen better than high school students. He said a lot of students use their cell phones for math. Dr. McCann said he thinks this is a question the middle school principals could answer better than him.

Ms. Rios complimented Dr. McCann on his presentation. She said that she attended the re-accreditation meeting and it was wonderful. Ms. Rios asked Dr. McCann if he would attend a Policy & Personnel meeting to discuss the technology and uniform issues.

Mr. English said through good communication and collaboration he thinks these numbers will decrease.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. John Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, to present Report One of the September 2015 through January 2016 HIB (Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying) Report, that we are required to give an overview on twice a year.

Mr. Frangipani said tonight he is reviewing the September 2015 through January 2016 HIB Report, which is required twice a year. He explained the definition of HIB and said it can be one incident or multiple incidents. Mr. Frangipani said a HIB is a single or series of events that disrupts the learning process and must cause physical or emotional harm. He explained the difference between a HIB and a conflict. Mr. Frangipani presented a few examples of HIB incidents. He reviewed the results of the HIB Report with the Board.

Mr. Jennings said it appears that we are moving in the right direction. He asked if there is professional development that addresses these issues. Mr. Frangipani said training and being proactive is what we are doing to move in the right direction.

Mr. English said we are running our district the way it should be run every day.

Student Liaison
Report:

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Jeff Martine, VHS Student Representative, to present the Student Liaison Report.

Mr. Martine discussed the various events held at Vineland High School. He said it is great that Project Graduation will be funded by the Roostore. Mr. Martine said the class of 2015 donated their class gift to the school, which is a bronze plaque with the Alma Mater on it. He said Dr. McCann and Ms. Morris took a proactive step in making sure that the students have a regular place to meet. Mr. Martine said the class of 2016 welcomed their newest officer Mya Lopez, Vineland High School's first class historian. He said she keeps detailed notes on the events of the year and maintains a scrapbook to preserve the history of our class.

Mr. English said maybe in the future thoughts could be given to having online sales at the Roostore to increase the revenue. He complimented Mr. Martine on the remarkable job he is doing as class of 2016 President.

Ms. Acosta said Mr. Martine is doing an amazing job and it is great to see how involved he is.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the minutes were approved from December 2, 2015 and December 9, 2015. All Members voted “yes.”

Solicitor’s Report: Mr. DeSanto gave his report later in the evening.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: Tom Ulrich
Mr. Ulrich welcomed and congratulated the new Board members. He thanked Joe and Mr. Frey on repurposing computers to be used in the community policing office.

Recommendations:

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the November 2015 bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$5,868,471.34).

Emergent Item(s)
(with prior approval) Mr. English congratulated all the community members that were honored on Monday at the annual Martin Luther King breakfast. He said that he received a few phone calls questioning why the Board of Education members were not at the breakfast. Mr. English said he wants everyone to understand that as Board members we do our best to attend everything. He said he never received an invitation, which is why he did not attend.

Public: Tom Ulrich
Mr. Ulrich said Dr. McCann was right we need to stick with the uniform policy. He said if giving more choices is not working then maybe we need to tighten up the policy.

Vicky Miller
Ms. Miller welcomed the new Board members. She thanked Mr. Frey for helping the children who were removed from the electrical course at the Cumberland County Vo-Tech School.

Keesia Jackson
Ms. Jackson expressed her concern in regards to the lunch policy and her child given a cheese sandwich for lunch.

Dr. Guccio told Ms. Jackson that she will contact her tomorrow to discuss this.

Ronald Walker
Mr. Walker asked if the Board and Central Administration have a public relations person.

Solicitors Report: Mr. DeSanto said the Board of Freeholders must accept the terms of the easement that was adopted tonight. He said the resolution states that the easement does not become effective and cannot be recorded until the freeholders accept it. Mr. DeSanto said when that happens you will have an agreement by both sides. He said the Freeholder Board is meeting early next week.

Mr. English said as a Board we work tireless hours doing what is best for the tax payers for today and the future. He said the language in the easement agreement is to the Board's satisfaction and it is just a matter of the Freeholders making this happen. Mr. English thanked everyone involved.

Board Member
Remarks:

Ms. Acosta thanked Mr. Martine for a wonderful presentation. She also thanked Dr. McCann and Mr. Frangipani for their presentations. She said that she is very happy to hear about the various programs that are being implemented along with the positive behavior supports.

Mr. Sbrana said he thinks that the results we have seen from Mr. Frangipani's report shows that the things we are doing are working and the results are dramatic. He congratulated Billie Mattioli and all the candidates in the Mr. Vineland pageant along with Jacob Kell the winner. Mr. Sbrana said he is looking forward to seeing the high school play *Mary Poppins* that is being held March 10 through March 13 at Vineland High School. He said our students continue to perform well at the Poetry Out Loud Competition and this year's winner was Katherine Slusarczyk. Mr. Sbrana announced that our second annual Future Chef Competition will be held on March 16th at Wallace Middle School. He congratulated Mr. Salerno on his promotion.

Ms. Rios thanked the Winslow School students for the flag salute. She congratulated Billie Mattioli on her contest win. Ms. Rios wished a speedy recovery to everyone who is ill in our community. She urged the community to be safe and warm with the winter storm that is coming. Ms. Rios said if the community or an organization is having an event the Board members could be reached via email, which is first initial, last name at Vineland.org. She said if a parent or community member has a concern to please follow the chain of command and if you do not receive the outcome you were looking for then please contact the Board with your concern.

Mr. Jennings commented on all of the retirees, their years of service and dedication. He congratulated Mr. Salerno on his promotion. Mr. Jennings said the HIB presentation was very well done and he believes we are moving in the right direction. He congratulated all the newly elected Board members.

Mr. Bordley said on Monday he attended the African American Cultural Club presentation at Vineland High School North, which was excellent. He said the Central Administration staff and Superintendent work very hard and if you have a problem please reach out to them. Mr. Bordley congratulated Mr. Salerno on his promotion. He said Mr. Martine did a great job on this presentation.

Mr. Pagano said what makes our district great is the people in it. He said we have a great school system and he commended everyone that makes this district great. Mr. Pagano congratulated Mr. Salerno on his promotion.

Ms. Codispoti congratulated Mr. Salerno on his promotion. She thanked everyone for coming out and voicing their opinions. Ms. Codispoti said what is important in the HIB report is that the major infractions have gone down.

Dr. Gruccio thanked the students who were honored tonight. She said due to the upcoming weather a decision will be made Friday as to whether or not the SAT's will be cancelled. Dr. Gruccio said we are very excited for Mr. Salerno and we know he will do a great job. She said sometimes the timeliness of paper invitations to the Board are difficult because we meet the first two Wednesdays of the month. Dr. Gruccio said to please email her any time if there is something you want shared with the Board. She reminded the Board that on February 3rd the Board picture will be taken. Dr. Gruccio said we are very excited about our new school and August 12th is the date that Mr. Weaver was given from the School Development Authority (SDA) for the groundbreaking.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. English apologized to the mother whose child was given a cheese sandwich for lunch, went through the ranks and hit a wall. He said Dr. Gruccio will definitely call her. Mr. English believes that a good purchasing agent is one of the most important positions in our district. He said Mr. Salerno is from Vineland and has roots here, which is what he likes to see. Mr. English said this is a gigantic district and the next three months will be the most stressful for Board Members and employees because tough decisions have to be made. He said tomorrow there is a 2:00 p.m. Finance Committee meeting and we are going to iron out some serious budget issues.

Mr. English said he hopes when we have the public meeting on the budget it is packed with people with solutions not complaints.

Mr. Sbrana said this is a huge district with a lot of things going on. He thinks at times people assume that the Board members automatically know what is going on. Mr. Sbrana said it is important that the earlier people reach out about an event the greater the likelihood the event will be successful.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

