

The combined meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Landis Administration Building, 61 W. Landis Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 5:35 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Medio, Mr. Sbrana (skyped in), Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

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

Mr. English 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 and posting of this meeting to be sent to the following, announcing time and place thereof, agenda, etc.: The Daily Journal, SNJ Today, the Press of Atlantic City, Nuestra Comunidad, Visto Bueno, the Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute:

Mr. English asked for a moment of silence for Daniel Spatafore an employee of the district and retired police officer who passed away.

Resolution:

Mr. Musterel 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 of the public body. VEA Negotiations update. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If contract negotiation the nature of the contract and interested party is the Oak & Main property, Max Leuchter property and 17 W. Landis Avenue property. Any matter 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 Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes."

The Board recessed to executive session at 5:39 p.m.

The combined meeting resumed at 6:02 p.m.

Flag Salute: Students from Veterans Memorial Middle School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Gruccio introduced Mrs. Nancy Hollenweger, Curriculum Supervisor for Language Arts K-12, to acknowledge 2018-2019 Poetry Out Loud winners.

Mrs. Hollenweger honored Jeremy Rasmussen and James Virtucio for their first and second place win in the Poetry Out Loud Competition. She introduced Jeremy and James to recite their poems.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mrs. Natalie Reynolds, VHS Librarian, to acknowledge the VHS South Library Bookmark winners.

Mrs. Reynolds said this was the second year we had students design their own bookmark for a contest we held at Vineland High School. She announced that Cassidy Layman won third place, Elisabeth Baranovskaya won second and Jakob Vasquez won first place.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Dr. JoAnne Negrin, World Language Supervisor, to acknowledge the Fulbright Award winner.

Dr. Negrin introduced Marquis Strickland, Bilingual 5th Grade Teacher at Sabater Elementary School, who won the Fulbright Award, which will allow him to spend 5 weeks this summer studying language and culture in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Dr. Shelly Schneider, from Cumberland County College, to explain a pending merger and its potential impact on Vineland Public School students.

Dr. Schneider introduced Dr. Robert Clark who has been a faculty member and professor for over 25 years at Cumberland County College. She said currently Dr. Clark is the Executive Director of our Institutional Research Department as well as our merger liaison.

Dr. Clark discussed the merger and its potential impact on Vineland Public School students.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. John Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Anti-Bullying Coordinator, to present the July 2018 through January 2019 HIB Report in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 17-46.

Mr. Frangipani said twice a year by law an update is given on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB). He said the definition of a HIB is anything written, electronic or said to a student. Mr. Frangipani said HIB's can only be against students not adults. He said a HIB must be motivated by the person who is committing the act and there must be a characteristic of the victim such as race, color, religion, national origin, gender or sexual orientation. Mr. Frangipani said a HIB can happen on or off school property. He said HIB incidents have to disrupt the operation of the school and the rights of the student. Mr. Frangipani said the two important pieces of a HIB are the motivation and characteristics. He reviewed an unfounded HIB case from Hunterdon Valley Central Regional High School against the baseball coach. Mr. Frangipani reviewed the HIB Report from February to July with the Board.

HIB: No discussion.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Spinelli, the minutes were approved from January 9, 2019 Executive Session and Combined Meeting. All Members voted "yes" except Ms. Acosta who "abstained."

Solicitor's Report: None.

Public Comments
on Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

A C O S T A	E N G L I S H	F I O C H I	H O L M E S	J E N N I N G S	M E D I O	S B R A N A	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

PERSONNEL (1.1-1.2)

- 1.1 The Board approve the personnel items in accordance with the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.
- a. Retirements, Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Employment, Transfers
 - b. Students
 - c. Substitutes
 - d. Extracurricular Activities
 - e. Volunteers

All Members voted "yes."
(9-0-0)

Dr. Guccio pulled 1.1(d.) employee numbers #12839 and #5390 from the agenda.

- 1.2 The Board approve the employment contract for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Gene Mercoli for the period of March 15, 2019 through June 30, 2019. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8 (j), the contract was approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools on January 24, 2019 and is on file in the Vineland Board of Education Office.

All Members voted "yes."
(9-0-0)

PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS (2.1-2.2)

- 2.1 The Board approve trips, district travel and Spring Schedule.

All Members voted "yes."
(9-0-0)

- 2.2 The Board approve an update to the Memorandum of Agreement with the Air Force Junior reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) effective July 2019.

All Members voted "yes."
(9-0-0)

A C O S T A	E N G L I S H	F I O C H I	H O L M E S	J E N N I N G S	M E D I O	S B R A N A	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (3.1-3.4)

3.1 The Board approve a resolution declaring that Max Leuchter School is no longer needed for school purposes and authorizing and directing the Superintendent to apply for permission to sell the Max Leuchter School property.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

3.2 The Board approve a resolution authorizing solicitation of sealed bids for the purchase of Max Leuchter School Property not needed for school purposes at a minimum of \$550,000.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

3.3 The Board approve a Boundary Line Agreement with the City of Vineland to fix the boundary line between city property and district property at Oak and Main Roads.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

3.4 The Board approve a resolution authorizing solicitation of sealed bids for the purchase of Oak and Main School not needed for school purposes at a minimum of \$500,000.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

FINANCE (4.1-4.9)

4.1 The Board approve budgetary transfers for General, School-Based and ECPA for December 2018.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

A C O S T A	E N G L I S H	F I O C H I	H O L M E S	J E N N I N G S	M E D I O	S B R A N A	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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4.2 The Board approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for December 2018.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

4.3 The Board approve submission of the following grant applications:

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

- a. Field Trip New Jersey Grant 2018-2019 for Vineland High School in the maximum amount of \$700.
- b. 2018-2019 Teacher Mini-Grant Program for Vineland High School in the maximum amount of \$500.
- c. FY 2019 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Amendment to the State of New Jersey Department of Education, which includes the Carryover Funds from FY 2018.
 - July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019
 - Basic Allocation (3-21) ----- \$3,005,702
 - Preschool Allocation (3-5) ---\$ 137,939

Mr. Jennings thanked everyone who applied for these grants.

4.4 The Board approve the acceptance of the following funding:

All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Medio who "abstained" on (b). (9-0-0)

- a. 21st Century Community Learning Center – Addendums to the Contract for Wallace Middle School
 - Addendum Three: CEZC Additional Funding From: January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 In the amount of: \$4,000
 - Addendum Four: CEZC Additional Funding & IDEA Project Activity Plan From: January 2019 – August 2019 In the amount of: \$5,339

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- b. New Jersey Youth Corps Program (2018-2019) Department of Labor and Workforce Development through the Vineland Public Schools in the amount of \$400,000.
- c. Wetlands Institute Environmental Education Field Trip Program for Mennies Elementary School. Wetlands Ecology Program attendance for 96 students and 6 chaperones.

4.5 The Board approve the Master Service Inter-Local Contract between Education Service Center-Region 19 (ESC) Allied States Cooperative (ASC) and the Vineland Board of Education authorizing the use of the cooperative (JMT Associates for Technology, Hardware, Software and Related Goods and Services).

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

4.6 The Board approve the transportation contract between Millville Public Schools and the Vineland Board of Education for two students in the amount of \$30,600 from September 4, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

4.7 The Board approve the transportation contract between Pine Hill Board of Education and Vineland Board of Education for one student in the amount of \$5,209.50 from October 10, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

4.8 The Board approve petty cash for the 2018-2019 fiscal year for the Transportation Department – Michael Hall in the amount of \$300.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

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A C O S T A	E N G L I S H	F I O C H I	H O L M E S	J E N N I N G S	M E D I O	S B R A N A	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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- 4.9 The Board approve the following Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation initiatives:
- a. 2018-2019 Transportation Quoted Contracts
 - b. 2018-2019 Transportation Addendum
 - c. 2018-2019 Bid #7 Student Transportation Services
 – Record & Award

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

Approval of

Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the bills for December 2018 were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted "yes." (\$12,881,272.70)

Committee

Reports: Mr. Ulrich said the Policy & Personnel Committee met tonight and the following items were discussed: 18 mandated policies, minor bylaw changes, hiring of senior staff in the district bylaws, proposal for a shared service agreement with the City of Vineland for school bus maintenance, split duties for new stage director, and hiring freeze.

Ms. Acosta said Curriculum, Instruction & Technology Committee met on January 28th and we discussed embedding financial literacy in the Social Studies Curriculum, a potential policy for retakes for student testing, ESL and CTE Course progression.

Mr. Medio asked for an explanation on embedding financial literacy in the Social Studies Curriculum. Mr. Frey said there are three curricula that support financial literacy which are history, mathematics and business. He said either of those components can satisfy the financial literacy content standards.

Item (s) proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board members:

Scott English, Board President, requested discussion regarding a hiring freeze. He said the thought process behind this is that we are in the middle of a 14 million dollar shortfall and there are things that a Board member may see on the agenda that they will question. Mr. English said any new position would go before our Policy & Personnel Committee so they can hear the logic as to why this is a needed position.

Mr. Fiocchi asked Mr. English if he was planning a timetable for this or is it indefinitely. Mr. English said he would like to see where we are at as we get through this budget process over the next 3 months. He said the days of positions being available in the Vineland Public School District are going to be questioned a lot more by Board members. Mr. Fiocchi asked Mr. English if he discussed with Dr. Rossi any impacts this may have. Mr. English said yes and Dr. Rossi shared his concerns.

Mr. Ulrich said we had a very collaborative discussion with Dr. Gruccio and Dr. Rossi looking to see how it could be a ripple effect on some positions and how other positions may save us money. He feels confident, based on what was discussed tonight, that administration is being carefully prudent and we as the Board are exercising our duties to look at the students and taxpayers.

Mr. Medio said next year we will be facing probably in the range of a 8 to 9 million dollar shortfall in the Superintendent's budget if nothing else changes. He said somewhere along the line this Board and the Superintendent will have to look at making some kind of cuts to address these shortfalls.

Emergent Items: None.

Public Comments

Agenda Items: Louis Bramante

Mr. Bramate said our Local Chapter of Skills USA officers are in attendance to observe Roberts Rule of Order. He wanted to clarify for his students that in the event of a structured meeting where there is a dissension vote or not a favorable outcome what is the course of action. Mr. English said we will discuss this after the meeting.

Levena Scafe

Ms. Scafe asked if the Board is saying the food service employees do not have to worry about their jobs for the next year. Mr. English said we cannot exchange in dialogue but after the meeting he would be happy to talk to her.

Old Business: Mr. English asked his fellow Board members if they can reach out to him with 3 to 5 items or district goals to be discussed at the Board retreat.

New Business: Mr. English said he along with Ms. Messoro, Public Relations Director, are going to do a district calendar on our website through Google Docs.

Board Member

Remarks: Due to camera battery problem this part of the meeting was not on audio.

Dr. Gruccio said the budget has impacted everyone across the Board in some way. She asked everyone to please try to understand the work and effort that is being put into the budget. Dr. Gruccio said none of us are happy about many of the things in the budget but 14 million dollars is not a small number and we have done the best we can keeping our students first in mind as we work through it.

Board President

Remarks: Mr. English asked Mr. Musterel for a clarification on the budget meeting dates.

Mr. Musterel said the meetings will change because the Governor has postponed his speech. He said nothing has been made public yet and that information will be coming forth soon.

Dr. Gruccio said Rossini sent an email out. She said our regular March meeting will be March 6th and the following week will be the budget meeting unless something changes with the Governor's address.

Mr. English said if one or two Board members cannot make that date are we ok with switching the date to a different day. Dr. Gruccio said as long as we have enough time to advertise the change.

Mr. English thanked the cafeteria staff for coming out. He said we will do the best to keep everyone abreast as to what is going on moving forward.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Scott A. Musterel
Interim Board Secretary