

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, April 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Jennings presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Medio, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: None.

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

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 Barse 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 matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public Provision relied upon: Discussion of qualifications and merits of candidates for Board vacancy as authorized by Commissioner’s decision. 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.

Motion: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes.”

Special

Presentation (s): Mr. Frangipani introduced Mr. Nathan Frey, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, to recognize the AMSA Science Fair winners.

Mr. Frey said Vineland has always been very successful in the Science Fair competition. He said this year is special because our instructor received twice the amount of awards than any other teacher at the fair. Mr. Frey introduced Ms. Vicky Yeager, award winner, to explain how well we did this year.

Ms. Yeager explained the Science Fair and recognized the Academic Team winners.

Mr. Frangipani introduced Ms. Sheryl Rasmussen, VHS Teacher, to honor the Odyssey Team for their achievement in the 2016-2017 competition.

Ms. Rasmussen said Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem solving competition. She said the students had to build a robot which had to do four tasks. Ms. Rasmussen said the students did well at the regional competition and she introduced each of them.

The Board recessed at 6:13 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 6:17 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Ms. Acosta, the minutes were approved from March 1, 2017, March 8, 2017 and March 15, 2017. All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Rios who voted “yes” on all minutes except the March 1, 2017 minutes she “abstained” and Mr. Bordley who voted “yes” on all minutes but “abstained” on the March 15, 2017 minutes.

Solicitor’s Report: Mr. DeSanto announced that all six of the Board candidates are here tonight in the executive conference room. He said they have been given the questions and instructions on what is going to happen. Mr. DeSanto said the candidates will be called in one by one around 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

Motion to deny the residency appeal of the parent of student J.K. (ID #1965828), declaring J.K. ineligible to attend Vineland Public Schools and directing the removal of J.K. from enrollment at Vineland High School, effective April 13, 2017, subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-8.1.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, to deny the residency appeal of the parent of student J.K. (ID #1965828), declaring J.K. ineligible to attend Vineland Public Schools and directing the removal of J.K. from enrollment at Vineland High School, effective April 13, 2017, subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-8.1. All Members voted “yes.”

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, the bills for February 2017 were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Bordley who “abstained.”(\$9,411,353.28).

Emergent Item(s)
(with prior approval) None.

Public: None.

Board Member
Remarks:

Ms. Codispoti thanked the Barse Elementary School Safety Patrol for the flag salute. She congratulated all the winners and teachers tonight. Ms. Codispoti thanked everyone who put their name in for the Board vacancy.

Mr. Sbrana congratulated the Barse Elementary School Flag salute students, AMSA Science Fair, Academic Team and Odyssey of the Mind Team students. He said he is ready for spring not only for the warm weather but for a more peaceful world. Mr. Sbrana wished everyone a safe and restful spring break.

Mr. Bordley presented insight on the March 15, 2017 bylaws violation. He said on February 2nd he was involved in a very serious car accident along with two of his children.

Mr. Bordley said the accident left him in critical condition. He said during his recovery he made a very strong attempt to fulfill his duties as a Board member, however they could be done. Mr. Bordley said on March 15th he was released from Cooper Hospital and was on the phone in attendance at the Board meeting while being discharged and driven home. He said that he did inadvertently violate a bylaw, which he deeply regrets. Mr. Bordley thanked Ms. Rios for bringing this to the attention of the Board. He gave his sincere apologies for the oversight.

Board President
Remarks:

Mr. Jennings wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover.

The Board recessed the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m.

Filling Board Member
Vacancy:

a. Interviews

Mr. Jennings explained the process of filling the Board member vacancy. He said each name will be pulled out of a box and the candidates will have up to seven minutes to discuss their answers to the first four questions and then he will ask a two-part final question. Mr. Jennings said after that the Board will deliberate in executive session.

1# - Mr. Cedric P. Holmes discussed his answers to the questions.

2# - Mr. Dave Jamil discussed his answers to the questions.

3# - Mr. Anthony Parisi Sanchez discussed his answers to the questions.

4# - Dr. Robert J. Gerardi discussed his answers to the questions.

5# - Ms. Sharon Dauito-Baxter discussed her answers to the questions.

6# - Mr. Robert D. Novicki, Jr. discussed his answers to the questions.

The Board recessed to executive session at 7:51 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:09 p.m.

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Medio, to nominate Cedric P. Holmes to fill the vacancy on the Board. All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. Jennings congratulated Mr. Holmes and thanked all the candidates for coming out.

Mr. Sbrana recommended creating a bylaw that would renew every year appointing the next highest vote receiver to fill a vacancy on the Board. Mr. Jennings said that is a great idea and will be brought to the Personnel & Policy Committee.

Mr. Frangipani wished the staff and students a safe time off. He also wished Dr. Guccio a quick recovery.

Mr. Holmes thanked the Board for the time they put in every day. He also thanked his family and supporters.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

