

The special meeting for the Public Hearing on the 2018-2019 School Budget of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:02 p.m. in the Landis Administration Building Auditorium, 61 W. Landis Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. Bordley presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Medio, Mr. Sbrana, Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Fiocchi.

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

Mr. Bordley 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, SNJ Today, the Press of Atlantic City, Nuestra Comunidad, Visto Bueno, the Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

#### Flag Salute:

Mrs. Haley, Business Administrator, said tonight she will review the 2018-2019 budget. She presented background on the budget process to date. Mrs. Haley said because we have a new Governor the state aid was delayed and was released on March 15<sup>th</sup>. She said the budget was done with flat funding. Mrs. Haley said in July our state aid was decreased by 2 million dollars. Mrs. Haley said a few hours before the meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, we received a letter via email from the Acting Commissioner of Education indicating that the 2 million dollars that was cut from our fiscal year 2018 budget was going to be reinstated as aid and not as a loan. She said in July when we were told our aid would be reduced by 2 million dollars we appealed it and requested for the money to be reinstated. Mrs. Haley said we were told by the state that we would receive it as loan which can be paid back over 10 years. She said out of the 27 districts that applied to have their money reinstated 3 were denied and would have to take the money as a loan. Mrs. Haley said we budgeted \$205,979 in the fiscal year 2019 budget because that would be the first of ten payments. She said the letter stated that the money would no longer be a loan but reinstated as aid. Mrs. Haley said that allowed us to remove the \$205,979 from the budget. With that amount we reduced the tax levy from 4% to 3% in addition on March 29<sup>th</sup> after the budget was submitted we received another letter from the state indicating that we would receive emergency aid of \$1.6 million. That amount would essentially make our state aid equal to what it was prior to the cut in July 2017.

Mrs. Haley said the budget was approved by the county on April 13<sup>th</sup>. She said a special board meeting will be held to adopt the 2018-19 budget on May 2, 2016 prior to the combined meeting at 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Haley reviewed the revenue comparison and said revenue is comprised of state aid, local tax levy, local non-tax revenue, other extraordinary aid and special education Medicaid initiative (SEMI), use of fund balance and use of capital reserve/maintenance reserve. She discussed the breakdown of the budgeted fund balance. Mrs. Haley said appropriations are the expenditure side of the budget. She said the items that increase the most are salaries, health benefits, and charter/technical school tuition. Mrs. Haley said the goal is to balance programmatic and financial sides of the budget. She said the budget approach was to address the \$10 million shortfall, meet with principal/supervisors to maintain a flat non-salary budget, analyze class size and staffing, reduce positions through attrition, consolidation and enrollment-based staffing equalization, preserve student opportunities, keep class size within state guidelines, maintain a thorough and efficient learning environment, and pursue shared service agreements. Mrs. Haley reviewed the 54 position reductions through attrition and consolidation. She said the new positions in the budget are one assistant principal, eight bus attendants, one supervisor of armed guards and part time armed guards. Mrs. Haley discussed the non-salary reductions and increases. She said we are proposing a local tax levy of 3% which equals 2.3 cents. Mrs. Haley said on March 29, 2018 we received a letter from the Acting Commissioner stating that we would receive Emergency Aid to reinstate our state aid to the level prior to the reduction of \$2,059,792 in July 2017. This reinstatement was in two separate forms: \$417,121 was included in the state aid amounts on 3/15/18, \$1,642,671 was classified as Emergency Aid on 3/29/18 (pending final adoption by legislature and governor and approval by the Director of the Office Management and Budget). Mrs. Haley said the Facilities Committee and Finance Committee met to discuss use of the Emergency Aid of \$1,642,671. The allocation is: Gittone Press Box, Bleacher Replacement and Waterproofing \$400,000, enhanced security capital outlay \$25,000, increase armed guards budget \$67,671, final months of term with Centergistic \$150,000, apply less budgeted fund balance \$1,000,000. Mrs. Haley said the total emergency aid that we were notified about of March 29, 2018 is \$1,642,671. She said when you have an advertised budget and you change it between the budget that was advertised and the public hearing you need to discuss the items at the public hearing in order to incorporate them into the budget that you are going to vote on. Mrs. Haley reviewed the details of the capital outlay budget. Mrs. Haley said we are continuing the lease purchasing financing, which we are financing over five years at a 3% (estimated) interest rate with an estimated annual payment of \$167,115.

Mrs. Haley discussed the tax impact which would be a proposed increase per average home assessed at \$159,402 of \$37.23 a year. She said there is a tax freeze for qualifying seniors at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation>. Mrs. Haley thanked Mr. Musterel, Mr. Hart and the business office for all their work on this budget, which she could not have done without them. She also thanked Dr. Gruccio, Central Administration, the Board Finance & Facilities Committee, District-Wide Feedback and Community Comments.

Mr. Jennings asked if the senior tax freeze website can be put some place where everyone can see it. Mrs. Haley said the entire presentation will be posted on our website under the welcome section. Mr. Jennings suggested for the *Daily Journal* to post this for seniors.

Public Comments

On Agenda Item:

Bonnie Martin

Ms. Martin expressed her concern in regards to not having a nurse in every school. She also disagrees strongly with having all the AMSA students in one school. Ms. Martin said there is no scientific evidence that shows having an armed security in a school will decrease the incidents of harm to our students.

Vickie Miller

Ms. Miller asked if we receive money back when charter school students come back to the district. Mrs. Haley explained how the district receives the money back. Ms. Miller said that she agrees with what Ms. Martin said about socialization. She feels it is well worth having armed guards in the schools if one person is saved.

Board Member

Comments:

Mr. Ulrich thanked the finance staff, Dr. Gruccio and her executive team and Board members who took the time to help with the budget.

Mr. Sbrana echoed the comments made by Mr. Ulrich and expressed appreciation to Mrs. Haley and her team for their work on a very difficult task.

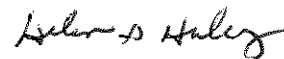
Mr. Jennings said he is happy to see the adjustment from a 4% tax increase to a 3% tax increase. He said everyone needs to realize that we are educating our children and education means a lot.

Ms. Acosta thanked Mrs. Haley and her team for the wonderful job they do on the budget. She is grateful to the state for the additional funding that we received and hope we continue to receive increases in the future.

Dr. Guccio thanked Mrs. Haley and her team for all their time and effort on the budget.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary

HGH:dt