

The Annual Organization meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland New Jersey, on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Flag Salute:

Temporary Chairman: Dr. Banks, serving as temporary chairperson, 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 of and posting of this Annual Organization meeting of the Board of Education.

Members Sworn In: Mr. DeSanto administered the Oath of Office to Carlos A. Mercado, Jr., Eugene Medio and Diamaris Rios who took their seats on the Board for a term of three years.

Roll Call: The following members were present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich.

Mr. DeSanto reviewed the procedure that has been used for many years and adopted under *Roberts Rules of Order* for the election of officers. He said Dr. Banks will entertain nominations for the office of President and the nominations do not need a second. Mr. DeSanto said a vote is then taken on the first nominee. In the event that the first nominee receives five or more votes that nominee becomes President. Mr. DeSanto said there will be no further election for that office. He said the President will assume the chair and the same procedure is done for Vice President. He said the bylaws have a slightly different procedure. Mr. DeSanto said under the bylaw procedure the bylaws provide that each board member will cast a vote for the candidates they want to support. If a candidate receives five votes then there is no further election. Mr. DeSanto said if no candidate receives five votes then the highest two candidates will do a run off for a vote. Mr. DeSanto we have not done this for many years and suggested at some point to revise the bylaws to be consistent with the practice.

Dr. Banks called for nominations for the office of President of the Board.

President: Mr. Fanucci nominated Mr. Ulrich for President of the Board.

There were no other nominations for President of the Board.

Dr. Banks closed nominations for President of the Board and asked for a vote to be taken for the nominee Mr. Ulrich.

All Members voted “yes” for Mr. Fanucci’s nomination of Mr. Ulrich for President of the Board of Education except Dr. Mounier who voted “no.”

Mr. Ulrich won the nomination of President of the Board of Education. He requested nominations for Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Vice President:

Mr. Mercado nominated Ms. Rios for Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Phillips nominated Mr. English for Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Ulrich closed nominations for Vice-President and asked for a vote to be taken for the first nominee Ms. Rios.

All Members voted “yes” for Ms. Rios nomination for Vice-President of the Board of Education except Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English and Mrs. Phillips who voted “no.”

Ms. Rios won the nomination of Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Public Comments:

None.

Recommendations:

D I G I O R G I O	E N G L I S H	F A N U C C I	M E D I O	M E R C A D O	M O U N I E R	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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2	1							
2	1							

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Board re-adopt the Rules for Board Governance (i.e. By-Laws and Policies).

Mr. Medio asked if the by-law that Mr. DeSanto discussed would be eliminated if it is not re-adopted at this time. Mr. Ulrich said it can be sent to the Policy & Personnel Committee to be revised. Mr. DeSanto said the problem with that is each time the board reorganizes you have to adopt your policies and bylaws. He suggested adopting the policies and bylaws as is and direct this revision to the Policy Committee.

2. The Board accept the results of the 2011 annual school election.

3. The Board approve travel for district members as required by NJAC 6A:10A-8.3 and/or school field trips as per lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

Dr. Mounier asked why there are three blank pages included in the travel. Mr. Franchetta explained that it is a standard form that we use and there is only one item.

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

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

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

Public Comments:

Lee Burke, Vineland Resident

Mr. Burke congratulated all the board members. He said public service and volunteerism is very important for any community. Mr. Burke commented on an article in today's *Daily Journal* written by Richard Smith, a former board member.

Board Member
Comments:

Mr. Mercado thanked his wife and everyone who supported him. He said that he is grateful for this opportunity the community has given him. Mr. Mercado said that he looks forward to working really hard and doing the best that he can.

Mr. Medio thanked everyone who voted for him. He looks forward to the next year on this board and moving this district forward. Mr. Medio said there are several changes that he thinks should be made, which will be brought up in the near future. He said there is a good atmosphere on this board and he is sitting with a group of people who are very forward looking and hoping to improve the district. Mr. Medio said that he has full confidence in everyone on this board that they will do just that.

Ms. Rios thanked the voters who came out to vote. She also thanked the candidates who ran for the board for taking an interest in our children's education. Ms. Rios congratulated Mr. Medio and Mr. Mercado. She thanked her family and friends for being there for her and the community for their support. Ms. Rios also thanked Mr. Mercado for nominating her for Vice President and everyone who supported her for the position.

Mr. Fanucci congratulated the newly elected board members and Ms. Rios. He looks forward to working with the new members of the board and believes we are going to move forward in a positive direction. Mr. Fanucci said the voter turnout was light and the community needs to take a bigger interest in the board elections.

Mr. English wished the new President and Vice President the best of luck. He is looking forward to working with the newly elected board members Mr. Mercado and Mr. Medio. Mr. English said it is mandatory that they are brought up to speed as soon as possible with important issues such as settling the VASA and VEA contracts, district solar project, bilingual education and implementing the right model at the high school level.

Mr. English said Mr. Medio made a bold statement to the press concerning the 9/10 and 11/12 format, which he is a big fan of. He said we need to see the proper data showing why it is was not working in the past as stated and what can be done to make it work in the future. Mr. English said he will also be hammering the need for more career readiness classes for our students who are not planning to attend college. He urged everyone to please come out from the shadows and be heard. Mr. English said he looks forward to a year of positive results for what means the most to him, which is our students and their academic and/or technical achievement. He wished everyone good luck.

Dr. Mounier congratulated the new board members and new officers. He thinks it was great that there were seven candidates for three positions, which shows there is an interest among citizens to fill these important positions.

Mrs. Phillips congratulated the two new board members and looks forward to working with them. She also congratulated Ms. Rios on her re-election. Mrs. Phillips said she looks forward to the board working as a team and knows we will not always agree on things. She said we vote the way that we feel is the right way to vote on issues. Mrs. Phillips said the bottom line is if we always make every single decision based on what is best for the children then we will all be winners all of the time.

Mr. DiGiorgio congratulated Mr. Mercado, Mr. Medio and Ms. Rios. He said we have a lot to do during the next couple of years and with hard work and perseverance we will get through it all.

Board President
Comments:

Mr. Ulrich thanked his colleagues who supported him for the position of Board President. He also congratulated Mr. Medio and Mr. Mercado on their election to the school board along with Ms. Rios on being re-elected and then elected Vice President of the board. Mr. Ulrich promises to work hard and maintain a collaborative relationship with our board and superintendent. He said in his view the focus of the board needs to be how to efficiently and effectively manage their dwindling resources in one of the worst financial times in our country has ever faced. Mr. Ulrich said he is going to ask Dr. Banks to empower employees to look within their respective departments to identify and eliminate waste. He said by streamlining processes now, future jobs can be saved and our children will receive a more effective education. Mr. Ulrich said it is the board's responsibility to ensure that our children receive the best possible education available and administered in the most efficient way.

Mr. Ulrich said there are many pending educational and financial issues facing the district. We cannot underestimate the importance of getting contracts in place for our employees so that morale improves and the real business of the district can be the single focus of each staff member. He looks forward to being able to continue to work with Dr. Banks and central administration in moving this district forward. Mr. Ulrich recited a quote from Walt Disney “With all the adversity I have had in my life, all my troubles, and obstacles have strengthened me. You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you.” He also quoted his sister, Debbie, a cancer survivor, who is the Cumberland County Chair of the “Relay for Life.” Whenever she is at a rally, meeting or with family and there needs to be some encouragement, she tells everybody, “Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it is about learning how to dance in the rain.”

Dr. Banks congratulated Mr. Mercado, Mr. Medio and Ms. Rios on their election and re-election. She also congratulated the new President and Vice President. Dr. Banks said that she looks forward to working very closely with this board as we continue to advance our vision for the future of our children in the district. She said that she has worked with boards in another district where individuals had personal agendas that they tried to advance and all it did was compromise the board in terms of its integrity. Dr. Banks said that she has a great deal of respect for this board because she feels that it does not happen here. She said we put our personal feelings and agendas aside and work at what is best for the entire district. Dr. Banks said she has a great deal of respect for the board, loves working with them and looks forward to our continued efforts on behalf of the children.

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary