

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

1

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, June 05, 2019, at 6:14 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Medio, Mr. Sbrana, Mr. Silva, Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich.

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

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

Flag Salute: Students from Sgt. Dominick Pilla Middle School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: Mr. Mercoli read a resolution to convene into executive session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If pending/anticipated litigation the matter is: Miller vs. VBOE. 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. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. The nature of the discussion is possible transfers of certain school Principals.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

2

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 advised 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. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Spinelli, the resolution was passed. All members voted “yes.”

Special

Presentation(s): Mr. Lou Bramante, VHS Automotive Program Teacher, honored student, Elizah Jones, who won first place at the Skills-USA State Competition.

Mrs. Vicky Yeager, VHS Science Teacher, honored student, Elisabeth Baranovskaya, who submitted artwork in the 150th Anniversary of the Periodic Table at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

Mr. Ismael Bermudez, Sgt. Dominick Pilla Middle School Asst. Principal recognized the school band for its accomplishments at the World Strides On-Stage Band Competition.

Dr. JoAnne Negrin, Supervisor for Curriculum and Instruction, recognized Special Education bilingual teacher, Sonya Bertini, who was selected as a WIDA Fellow.

Mrs. Sandy Hearing, Representative from the Vineland Historical Society, presented service learning and scholarship opportunities for Vineland Public School students.

Mrs. Lisa Arena, VASA President, honored the Administrators of the Year, Mr. Jeff DuBois and Mrs. Kristin Speakman.

Mr. English concluded presentations with many thanks for employees with thirty plus years in service and who are retiring in the district: Mrs. Lisa Arena, Mrs. Lynn Monteleone, and Mr. Wayne Weaver.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

3

HIB: Upon motion by Ms. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the HIB report was approved. All members voted “yes.”

At 6:45 p.m. the Board retired to executive session.

The meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

Approval of
Minutes:

Upon motion by Ms. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the minutes were approved from the March 13, 2019, Executive Session. All members voted “yes” except for Mr. Silva and Mr. Ulrich who “abstained.” The minutes were also approved from April 17, 2019, Special Meeting and April 29, 2019, Public Hearing. All members voted “yes.”

Board
Solicitor
Report:

Mr. DeSanto states that an item was inadvertently omitted from the Executive Session resolution. Advises that it is appropriate at any time during a meeting that the Board can adopt a new resolution and this is for the purpose of discussing the renewal contracts for Central office Administration. A motion was made to retire to a second executive session but after the regular meeting has adjourned. Upon motion by Ms. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Silva, this was approved. All members voted “yes” except Mr. Fiocchi who had stepped away from the table and was not present for the vote.

Committee
Reports:

Mr. Ulrich

Tonight the Policy & Personnel Committee met and discussion of topics were:

1. Cheerleading Coach recommendations
2. 2019-2020 Central Administration contract renewals
3. VASA Collective bargaining agreement which is moving forward
4. Job postings for Administrative vacancies
5. Administrative assignments which were discussed in Executive session.
6. Policy & Personnel meeting date changes.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

4

Public Comments

Agenda Items: Jeff Martine

Spoke about the transfer of the Title 1 Principal. Shares that he feels there is great inequality in all of the schools and Title 1 monies are utilized for many different resources. He feels this Title 1 official should remain and is needed to represent the district; is not in favor of the transfer. He also spoke about the disdain for recent negative social media referencing all the students that receive free and reduced lunch. He hopes that the Board supports the continued Free & Reduced Lunch program for the students that are in great need of the program.

Mr. Medio comments and asks for further clarification of Title 1 and if that affects the free and reduced lunch program. It was answered "no" it does not.

Charlene Luna

Vineland alumni from 2012 and a supporter of Coach Alena Blizzard.
Recommends that Alena should stay as the VS Cheer Coach.

Chelsie Luna

States that she would like her voice heard and feels that she has been put in a position that is unfair. She heard Ms. Wilson was recommended for the Cheer Coach. Last week Ms. Wilson said to her that she had to pick between VHS Cheer and All-Star Cheer. Since she has not had any tryouts, established a team, or been approved, how is she being asked that she has to make a choice. Ms. Wilson also pulled her aside to ask about the program and the previous years. Shared that Coach Alena grew the program and made it better. She is very flexible with schedules and not asked to make choices over one activity or another. Why does the program have to be changed if it was working? She is a supporter of Coach Blizzard, please reconsider new recommendation to replace her; she is passionate and qualified.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

5

Kennedy Suprun

Member of VHS Cheer for the past two years. Does not feel the same excitement this year with having a possible replacement of longtime Cheer Coach Alena Blizzard. Feels that Coach Blizzard is knowledgeable, qualified, and a certified coach. She has a safe and well equipped facility available for practices when VHS cannot accommodate. Please reconsider recommendation to replace Coach Alena Blizzard.

Malaysia Nelson

Senior at VHS and a VHS cheerleader. Feels that without Coach Alena she would not be attending her first top choice school for college. She is a complete supporter of Coach Alena and the program she has built today. She brings consistency and character to the Vineland program and the Vineland students need consistency.

Eileen Bosco

VHS Marching Band Teacher and speaking on behalf of Natalia Wilson. Has worked alongside and collaborated with Natalia the past couple of years. She has a background in cheerleading and to please make the best decision you can make in choosing the best candidate.

Alena Blizzard

Head Cheer Coach at VHS since 2011. She is aware that for the Fall of 2019 she is not the recommended candidate for the Cheer Coach position. She explains her experience in cheer and what she has brought (her role) to the VHS program. Since her inception, she is certified in cheer and dance safety. She offers the opportunity to train and practice in her Vineland facility at no cost when VHS is unavailable. She has built this program. She is a proud Vineland resident and loves VHS. She is touched on all the support she has been given and has been honored to positively impact many of these young adult lives.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

6

Natalia Wilson

Teacher, Curriculum writer, and Club Advisor for Dance at VHS.

She shared her accomplishments and experience while at VHS for the past four years. Her goal and purpose in life are to be an educator, role model, and leader for the next generation and to develop and empower them through movement. She feels the opportunity to reach the masses is to be considered for the Head Cheerleading Coach for the Fall season at VHS.

Mr. English commented that he has heard everyone speak this evening and he feels that this should never be about dance versus cheer, Blizzard versus Wilson. Our goal is the young student-athletes and their achievements. There are open positions and although difficult someone will not be happy with the outcome but to focus on the students. The vote will happen tonight. Thank you to everyone who came out to speak.

Recommendations:

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

PERSONNEL (1.1-1.2)

1.1 Approval of the following:

- a. Retirements, Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Employment, Transfers
- b. Students
- c. Substitutes
- d. Extracurricular Activities
- e. Extracurricular Summer

- Dr. Gruccio pulled employee 11383 from 1.1a prior to approval of recommendations.

- Dialogue/discussion takes place between Mr. Ulrich, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Frey about the plans if the Title 1 Principal is transferred. Mr. Frey explained that the Title 1, which includes all Title grants, non public and other pieces, will be managed by a Tier Model which will include himself, Math and ELA Supervisors and Coaches. They will be working in tandem to get the information/documents to the district. Mr. Holmes questions the longevity of the person who held the position and how much money the Title 1 grant has brought in to the district. Mr. Frey explains that the Title 1 grant is an entitlement grant, Mr. Mercoli concurs, and that is based on enrollment; it is not a competitive grant. Mr. Holmes says so that means we are giving this back to multiple people who already have responsibilities to manage this again; how did that work out? Mr. Frey concludes that it was changed a little, but it was effective. Some things were not effective, but we have learned and we will move forward.

1.2 Approval of the following annual appointments:

- a. Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator (Paul Farinaccio)
- b. Right to Know Officer (Paul Farinaccio)
- c. Integrated Pest Management Coordinator (Paul Farinaccio)
- d. Indoor Air Quality Designee (Paul Farinaccio)
- e. PEOSHA Officer (Paul Farinaccio)
- f. Asbestos Management Officer (Paul Farinaccio)
- g. Chemical Hygiene Officer (Paul Farinaccio)

- Dr. Gruccio took a moment to congratulate Mr. Farinaccio and to thank Mr. Weaver for all of his years of service and all of the things he has done for the district. Wished him happiness and health during his retirement.

PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS (2.1 - 2.8)

2.1 Approval of trips and district travel.

2.2 Approval to enter into a dual credit articulation agreement with Stockton University for the 2019-2020 school year.

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Holmes who voted "no" for the Title 1 Transfer in 1.1a. (9-0-0)

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

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

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

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (3.1 - 3.3)

3.1 Approval regarding a petition to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools to approve the following for use as temporary facilities for the 2019-2020 school year:
- Dallago Pre-School –Pre-K- rooms 405, 406, 508, 519, 522, and 523

- *Mr. Medio asks how many preschool students we have. Dr. Gruccio answers that we have roughly 1200 students.*

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

3.2 Approval a request for a waiver of the toilet room facilities for the 2019-2020 school year for the following:

- a. Golan Learning Center, Inc. – rooms 3,4,5,8,10
- b. Sabater School – rooms 117 and 118
- c. Vineland YMCA – rooms blue, yellow, green, red

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

3.3 Approval regarding the Third Addendum to Robins Nest Lease Agreement for 1350 S.W. Boulevard, Unit#2; an additional 260 square feet of space. This will be leased on a month to month basis beginning July 1, 2019, with 30 days written notice for termination required by either party.

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

FINANCE (4.1 - 4.36)

4.1 Approval of budgetary transfers for General, School-Based and ECPA for April 2019

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

4.2 Approval of the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for April 2019.

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

4.3 Approval regarding the Annual Report to the Board of District Contracts 18A:18A-42.2 – a. By July 1 of each school year, the SBA shall submit a written report to the board of education on school district contracts. This report shall include: a list of all district contracts that will be awarded, subject to renewal or expire during the school years and an explanation of all applicable federal and State laws, rules and regulations relating to those contracts

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

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

FINANCE (4.1 - 4.36) Continued

4.4 Approval regarding a requisition to the City of Vineland for the 2019-2020 local school taxes according to the schedule provided and on file with the Board Secretary. (This meets the requirement by the state auditors for requisition of local district taxes for school purpose).

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

4.5 Approval regarding a loan in the amount of \$7,000,000 from Newfield National Bank due to delayed state aid for June 2019.

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

4.6 Approval regarding the renewal of health insurance with the SCRBEF effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, with a 1.78% increase in premiums for the Aetna Health Insurance Plan for an approximate total of \$31,002,216 based upon current enrollment.

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

4.7 Approval regarding the renewal of prescription program with RX Alliance/PEBT (Benecard) effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, with an increase in premiums of 1.50% for an approximate total premium of \$7,636,080.

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

4.8 Approval regarding the two-year renewal of Vision insurance with Vision Service Plan (VSP) effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021, with a 0% increase in premiums for a total premium of \$234,257.

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

4.9 Approval regarding the renewal of dental insurance with the Dental Alliance underwritten by Delta Dental effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, with a 0% increase in premiums for the Premium Plan and a .78% increase in premiums for the Flagship Plan for an approximate total of \$1,022,608 and \$240,831 respectively.

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

4.10 Approval to permit the school business administrator to bind the insurance coverage by June 30, 2019, pending the receipt of an acceptable renewal of Auto and Property/Casualty insurance with the NJSIG through Biondi Insurance effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, with Board of Education premium approval occurring retroactively.

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

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

FINANCE (4.1 - 4.36) Continued

4.11 Approval of tuition rates for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

4.12 Approval regarding submission of these grant applications which are on file with the Board Secretary:
a. NJ Youth Corps RISE/Department of Labor and Workforce Development through the Vineland Public Schools in the amount of \$54,500.
b. NJ Youth Corps FY 20 NGO/Department of Labor and Workforce Development through the Vineland Public Schools in the amount of: \$360,000.
c. State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families- Family Friendly Center Grant for Sabater Elementary school in the amount \$45,463.
d. Kay Bain Weiner Glass Art Educational Foundation for Vineland High School South Art Program in the amount of \$250 Grant Application

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Medio who "abstained" from 4.12a and 4.12b
(9-0-0)

4.13 Approval authorizing the Vineland Board of Education to purchase under State and National Co-ops.

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

4.14 Approval regarding of "rescission of the motion approving a contract with Camelot Educational Resources LLC adopted on May 1, 2019 and approval of a revised contract with Camelot Educational Resources LLC in the amount of \$2,221, 518 per year for a two year term July 1,2019 to June 30, 2020 for operation of the alternative school program."

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

- Mr. DeSanto stated that there should be an update/change to the term ending year 2020 to reflect 2021. Dr. Gruccio acknowledged.

4.15 Approval authorizing the Board Secretary to enter into a partnership with Complete Care Memorandum of Agreement for Student Health Solutions for the 2019-2020 school year in a form acceptable to the Superintendent and Board Solicitor.

All Members voted "yes" except for Ms. Spinelli who "abstained."
(8-0-1)

4.16 Approval regarding the renewal of the following Public Agreements between Vineland Board of Education and Inspira Medical Center, Inc. for healthcare services acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent:
a. INSPIRA Public Donor Agreement for the period of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, with donated resources in the amount of \$107,321.
b. INSPIRA Pubic Donor Agreement for the period of July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, with donated resources in the amount of \$88,700.

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

- Mr. DeSanto stated that the word "Donor" should be added to the resolution between the word "Public and Agreements." \Dr. Gruccio acknowledged.

4.17 Approval regarding the renewal of the following Service Agreements with INSPIRA Medical Center, Inc. for IMPACT healthcare services:
a. INSPIRA Services Agreement for the period of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, in the amount of \$140,894.
b. INSPIRA Services Agreement for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, in the amount o \$141,187.

All Members voted "yes" except for Ms. Spinelli who "abstained."
(8-0-1)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

FINANCE (4.1 - 4.36) Continued

4.18 Approval regarding the agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and Catapult Learning, LLC to provide Nursing Services to students in non-public schools within the Vineland City boundaries for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

4.19 Approval regarding the agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and Catapult Learning, LLC to provide Evaluation and Determination of eligibility services to students in non-public schools within the Vineland City boundaries for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

4.20 Approval regarding the agreement between Vineland Board of Education and Catapult Learning LLC to provide educational and related services through Chapter 192-193 funding to eligible students attending non-public schools within the Vineland City boundaries for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

4.21 Approval regarding a professional services contract between the Vineland Board of Education and Health Care Consultants, Inc., a New Jersey corporation doing business as Newborn Nurses , for nursing services at \$42 per hour for an LPN and \$52 per hour for an RN for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

4.22 Approval regarding the acceptance of the Bancroft settlement in the amount of \$39,287.66 and permit the School Business Administrator to negotiate a more timely repayment schedule.

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

4.23 Approval regarding the Service Agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC, to provide communications and other services at \$7,590 per month through the E-Rate Program for the term July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

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

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

FINANCE (4.1 - 4.36) Continued

4.24 Approval for Vineland Board of Education to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Vineland to assist in providing free influenza vaccines to eligible preschool students enrolled in the Vineland Public Schools PreSchool Programs to help meet state requirements at \$10,000, funded by the ECPA grant.

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

4.25 Approval regarding a shared service agreement with the Cumberland County Board of Vocational Education for the Vineland Board of Education to process payroll services in the annual amount of \$40,000 to be paid to the Vineland Board of Education from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, pending attorney review of acceptable contractual language.

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

4.26 Approval regarding awarding the following contract for Homebound Instruction (RFP # 06-19/20) for the term of July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, with the option to renew two, one-year terms or one, two-year term for a maximum of a three-year term:

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

Homebound Instruction
 Contractor:
 Ark Educational
 518 Maple Ave.
 Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Total contract amount based on estimated usage: \$ 48,500
 Contract hourly amount: \$25 per hour

4.27 Approval regarding the established petty cash and change funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year per the lists provided and on file with the Board Secretary:

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

- a. Administration and Schools- Petty Cash
- b. Food Service- Change Fund

4.28 Approval regarding the Paid Lunch Price Increase for the 2019-2020 school year.

All Members voted
 "yes" except for Ms.
 Spinelli who voted "no."
 (8-1-0)

4.29 Approval regarding the (year five) addendum with Sodexo Management, Inc. for Food Service Management from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. Final cost pending approved civil service layoff plan.

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

*- Mr. English had a question concerning the civil service lay off and what the time frame is.
 - Dr. Rossi answered that he has had communication with the state on two occasions and a couple of pieces of clarification were requested. Once they approve, the employees are entitled to 45 days notice with an effective date of 9/1/19.*

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

FINANCE (4.1 - 4.36) Continued

4.30 Approval to enter into a 60-month operating lease with Canon Solutions of America, Inc. for the replacement of 102 copier units throughout the District at a cost of \$20,000 per month with each color impression invoiced at \$0.035 per unit and each black/white impression invoiced at \$0.0039 per unit, beginning August 1, 2019 utilizing National IPA and OMNIA Partner contract #FI-R-0251-18. Estimated savings to district over previous vendor is \$175k.

- Mr. English commented that we hit a homerun on this.
- Dr. Gruccio thanked Mr. Mercoli, Mr. Salerno, and Mr. Musterel for their work on this.

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

4.31 Approval authorizing the School Business Administrator to enter into transportation contracts for the June and July Board meeting with approval from the Superintendent.

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

4.32 Approval regarding the lease purchase of 10 (ten) 54 passenger gasoline school buses from Wolfington Body Company Inc. of Mt. Holly, NJ utilizing the NJESC Co-op Bid 18/19-31 at a total cost of \$937,390.20 to be leased over a 5-year period. Leasing terms shall be secured for the July meeting.

- Mr. Ulrich thanked Mr. Mercoli and the transportation staff for really putting together a very thorough future forward plan for supporting our bus efforts.
- Mr. Sbrana echoed Mr. Ulrich's comments. Added that is was a data driven plan and very impressive. Glad to see that we are getting back in the transportation business.

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

4.33 Approval regarding the Participation Agreement with JMI Enterprises LLC with SchoolBusAds.org for advertisement services for July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

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

4.34 Approval regarding the 2019-2020 agreement of Participation in Cooperative Transportation with the Gloucester County Special Services School District for homeless, non-public, special education and vocational transportation needs for a cost of 7% above the actual route cost if their services are needed.

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

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

FINANCE (4.1 - 4.36) Continued

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4.35 Approval regarding the following Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation initiatives:

- a. 2018-2019 Transportation Jointure
- b. 2018-2019 Transportation Quoted Contracts
- c. 2018-2019 Transportation Addendum
- d. 2019-2020 Extended School Year Renewal Contracts
- e. 2019-2020 Non Public/ChoiceBid#1
- f. 2019-2020 Migrant Education Quoted Contracts

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

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4.36 Approval regarding a resolution rejecting all bids received for student transportation services Regional Cooperative Bid #2 2019-2020 Extended School Year.

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

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

16

Proposed Item

For Review:

Mr. Eugene Medio, Board Member, would like to discuss a hiring freeze.

Mr. Medio states that this is a proposal for the upcoming deficit and that he proposes to only hire the ten new bus drivers for the new busses and no other hires.

Mr. English states that they did discuss this earlier in the year and would like to open up the discussion.

Mr. Ulrich comments that everything is going through the Policy and Personnel Committee and being heavily scrutinized. The Boards job is fiscal responsibility and not to interfere with the districts day to day operations.

Mr. English shared that he consulted with Mrs. Walter, the NJSBA Representative, and she explained that if the district does not have a hiring freeze, we as Board members still have the final vote on hires. Feels that they are trying to look ahead, as is Mr. Medio, at next year's deficit of eight million dollars. The budgeted positions will get posted and hired, but it is pending board approval. Asked if his fellow Board members could comment.

Ms. Spinelli stated that they should trust the leadership and their recommendations. Not the Board's job to manage the day to day operations.

Mr. Fiocchi shared that he does not like the idea of Central Administration having to come to the Board to justify hires; not the Board's job to micromanage.

Ms. Acosta shared that a blanket hiring freeze seems questionable. Believes that Administration is careful and looking at what is needed for the district.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

17

Mr. Medio asks his fellow Board members. "How do you determine an essential position?" How is it that you have 800 essential people in positions, but you can not get by with 700? We can sit here and talk about micromanaging and necessary positions but the bottom line is last month we voted on 150 positions to be eliminated. Why wait to go through this whole thing again next year? Responsibility is up here at this desk. If you are going to be fiscally responsible address the deficit now. Something has to be done. You do not want to do a hiring freeze, fine, but do not forget you are affecting people's lives. He understands certain positions have to be replaced but to replace everything that is budgeted is not fiscally responsible.

Ms. Spinelli commented that the Policy & Personnel committee is looking at each position and discussing with Principals of what is needed. They are looking at saving money and making movement that is best for each of the schools.

Mr. Medio requests to get all numbers for all positions that are in place this school year and then get the same thing on October 5th to see where we have made some cuts and to address the upcoming deficit.

Mr. English states that this seems fair.

Dr. Gruccio adds that in regards to what Mr. Medio said about where did we make all the cuts, feels true efforts were made in discussion between the Board and Administration and that compromises were also made to save positions and money. However, she is not sure how many people understand how large of a district that we are. We are the lowest in the state in Administration and to run efficiently you need central administrator positions filled. That the open positions are budgeted and we can not not fill Principal and Vice Principal positions when they are critical positions to fill. Mr. Frangipani's position is also critical to fill. I welcome anyone to come and see what anyone in the district does every day. Mr. Frangipani is busy every day. Concludes that she believes wholeheartedly that any position that is open and budgeted is critical and needed to run the district properly.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

18

Mr. Medio states that with all that being said still does not understand what they are going to do for the upcoming shortfall. Until we go through the same thing as last year need to have some kind of plan to address this.

Dr. Gruccio shares that every year we do our best to save positions and save money. We are not sure what money we will get from the state and what financial position we will be in but we will work as a team as we always do and address each issue. We will do best as we can and feels that these positions are critical and needed to do what is right for the kids.

Mr. Ulrich echos some of the same thoughts as Dr. Gruccio that some of his fellow Board members go out and visit the schools to see what is happening on a daily basis. He cannot envision eliminating VP's that take care of so much. Also, personally he is very concerned about our school security and safety which he will be bringing up for discussion again. Understands there are tough choices, whether consolidating small schools, etc. and knows that Mr. Mercoli has started this with transportation. We are going to have a period of pain but once stabilized and with smart decisions, we will move forward.

Mr. English states that he has had functional discussions with Dr. Gruccio and understands that Mr. Medio is trying to ease the pain; he respects that. This district is unique and we constantly ask the Principals to make cuts and he also hears when are we going to cut at the top. He is not the same leadership that we have had the past two years and he watches the henhouse. He believes the Board understands what Mr. Medio is saying but also that they respect what is being laid out in front of them. He also does believe that what has been done during the last two months will be done again for the next year. We are the custodians' of the taxpayer's money. He believes that Dr. Gruccio and the BA, Mr. Mercoli, are working on the culture of how money is being spent and that it is being changed. That there is a plan. Believes that Mr. Mercoli will keep them abreast of what is going on monthly. Asks Mr. Medio if he is looking for a vote.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

19

Mr. Medio states, “no” as he can count, but asks if there is opposition for what he has asked for about the deficit.

Mr. English replies that it seems feasible and directs comment to Dr. Gruccio.

Dr. Gruccio replies that they can look into it but doesn't know where they will be in October. She can tell what we have done so far, but they will work on it.

Mr. Medio says that he will bring this up again and can not repeat this ridiculous charade.

Mr. English agreed and states that he knows that Mr. Mercoli is working on it.

Approval of
Bills:

Bills incurred during April 2019.

Motion made by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi.
All members voted “yes.”
(9-0-0)

Emergent
Item:

None

Ms. Spinelli leaves the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

20

Public

Comments:

Annette Lower

ESL Teacher at Barse and D'Ippolito Elementary School.

One of four ESL Teachers that travels daily between two schools. Discussed how they are affected by the schedule change that was brought to them by Administration in November. Does not feel it is working and that it is effective. She feels that the combining of grade levels has made it difficult for the ESL curriculum that they worked so hard on and that has been aligned and written for specific grade levels to implement. Please consider the staffing for the upcoming year with the challenge of more children anticipated for the program.

Aimee DeLucia

ESL Teacher at Petway and Pilla Middle School.

It has been her privilege to work in the Vineland Public schools for twelve years. Her area of great concern is that in 2012 there were approx 500 students in the ESL program and today there are over 900 students. During this time while this influx of students happened, three Full-time educator positions were cut. With the numbers growing please consider the staffing requirements need for the program. More time is needed for the ESL students and the teachers and the success for all. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Mary Angelo Moi

VHS ESL Teacher currently and has been an ESL teacher for all grade levels for over 20 years. She would like to piggyback on Ms. Lower and Ms. DeLucia in reference to the ESL program. ESL has an expanding student body and we have experienced a reduction in ESL staff. Please consider the needs of all of our students. Than you.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

21

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. English

In reference to the Superintendent's evaluation process; we have the four non-conflicted Board members with Ms. Spinelli chairing up the committee. Mr. Sbrana, Mr. Fiocchi, and Mr. Holmes are the additional members and he hopes that all is going smoothly and that they are on track with completing this task. Thank you too to Dr. Guccio for getting her piece done in a timely matter. Also discussed committee groups and although we have been into this for 6 months if there is anyone that would like to flip/flop committees he is open to the change. Would not like to change chairs to each of the committees, but would like to get Mr. Silva involved. Please review over the next couple of days and he will be reaching out.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Medio

Shared that on August 1, 2019, the Red & Grey Gridiron has their golf outing fundraiser and honoree dinner if anyone would like to attend. He congratulated fellow Board member, Mr. Sbrana, who is receiving the lifetime achievement award for his dedication and commitment to the VHS football program. He is the honoree at this dinner. He also added that to anyone that spoke this evening about the ESL program, that there should not be any three, four, or five-year-olds in the ESL program that he is aware of. Six-year-olds he is unsure of, but preschool should not be a part of this. Asked Mr. Frey to check into the curriculum.

Mr. Sbrana

Asked Dr. Guccio is he could repeat a request that he has made before about his email address. It should be fsbrana@vineland.org. He is having a hard time receiving emails from the public and addressing prior to meetings.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

22

Dr. Gruccio apologized and mentioned that she thought this was taken care of already; Mr. Frey and she will work it out.

Mr. Sbrana

Also shared that with a few school days left that the students to please make good decisions, especially our seniors. Thank you to Mr. Medio, on behalf of the Red & Grey Gridiron, he is flattered to receive this award. His history with VHS football goes back to 1970. Thank you again.

Mr. Silva

No comment at this time.

Mr. Fiocchi

No comment at this time.

Mr. Holmes

Thank you to Rossi school, he played Hanah for their Wise program, and it was nice to see that when he visits schools, that they remember his name; it warmed his heart. Hopes that everyone has a safe and happy summer.

Ms. Acosta

Congratulated all the staff who were recognized tonight and offered sincerest wishes to those who are retiring. To our graduating class, I look forward to seeing you at Graduation. In respect to all of the discussion in regards to the various issues that we will be confronted with; despite fiscal challenges, they have faced we saw tonight how the teachers all still perform and are distinguished in educating our children. Thank you. Have a wonderful and safe summer.

Mr. Ulrich

Commented on students that came forward and had their voices heard. Highlighted on all the negative talk but there are so many good things happening in the schools. Congratulations to Mrs. Heer and staff for their play of Junie B. Jones, as he heard that it was a wonderful play. He added that he will keep his pledge, as he always has, to focus on the staff and the classroom teachers. The Board had been a little distracted this past couple of months but in moving forward, that they take ownership in their actions and decisions.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

23

Dr. Gruccio

Would like to take a moment at the end of this school year and thank all the staff and employees in the district; she feels blessed to work here. She wishes all a happy, healthy, and safe summer. Also, wishes the graduates the very best and to publicly thank central office staff; they always take their time and though they do not always agree, try to solve problems together and she is grateful. This also includes all of the department heads and feels fortunate to work with everyone.

Board President

Remarks:

Mr. English

First, thank you to Mr. Medio for bringing up the discussion about the hiring freeze; you always wear your heart on your sleeve and I respect your thought process in handling things as a business. Thank you to Mr. Holmes. He reminds me of Kim Codispotti back in the day where you can not be everywhere, but are everywhere. Thank you for taking the time and representing the Board. Thank you Mr. Sbrana, a well-deserved honor. As Board members, we do not get paid but by seeing the accolades that the students achieve makes the job of what they do rewarding. He respects all the Board members. Thank you to Mr. Mercoli as he could not attend some of the meetings but by what he has heard it is a breath of fresh air about things financially; feels we are being well represented. It is the end of the year, safety to all kids and congratulations to all the graduates. And thank you, Mr. Fiocchi, as chair to the Finance Committee, no picnic, especially with the 14 million dollar deficit, you jumped right in. To Mr. Silva, we will be getting you acclimated to everything that goes on and finally, Ms. Acosta,

Understand you have had some challenges faced, but family is first and we appreciate you taking the time and efforts while this was happening. Happy to be here; keep our heads up. Thank you and good night.

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 05, 2019 - COMBINED MEETING

24

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Fiocchi, seconded by Mr. Holmes to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. and convene to the second executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gene Mercoli
Board Secretary

GM:kji