

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at 5:32 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. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Medio, Mr. Sbrana, Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Jennings

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

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:

Public Comments

On Agenda Item:

Vicky Miller

Ms. Miller said she believes money should be spent first on the safety of our children

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- a. The Board approve the adoption of a resolution approving the Finance Committee’s plan as modified by the Superintendent to revise the 2018-2019 district budget due to reductions in State Aid.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

Mrs. Haley said revised state aid notices were issued on July 13th and we were reduced by \$421,811 in adjustment aid. She said in addition in March 2018, we were notified that we were eligible for emergency aid of \$1,642,671. Mrs. Haley said at the time we did assign certain appropriations to the aid but we did mention that it was not fully approved by the Governor and Legislature. She said after she received the cut of \$421,811 she reached out to the county to see the status of the emergency aid. Mrs. Haley said she was told emergency aid was not part of the appropriations budget that was passed at the state level. She said since we also lost the emergency aid there is a total reduction of over \$2,000,000 in state aid. Mrs. Haley said that forced us to cut \$2,064,482 from the budget. She reviewed the budget adjustment plan that will be submitted to the county.

Mr. Ulrich asked what budget year, the \$500,000 that was to be received from the sale of the Oak & Main School, was budgeted in. Mrs. Haley said it was budgeted revenue in the 2017-2018 budget and has created a shortfall. Mr. Ulrich asked how the shortfall was covered. Mrs. Haley said it reduces our projected surplus.

Mr. Medio asked what the Finance Committee’s plan was. Mrs. Haley said Central Administration reviewed the budget, put a plan together and reviewed the plan with the Finance Committee to see if they were in agreement. She said the plan was then forwarded to the remainder of the Board members.

A C O S T A	B O R D L E Y	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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Mr. Medio told Mrs. Haley that he wants an answer from the Finance Committee. He asked the committee who had the meeting, what was discussed and who came up with the cuts. Mr. Fiocchi stated that the Finance Committee in conjunction with Central Administration developed the list of cuts. He said the Finance Committee asked for input on what could be cut and they decided together. Mr. Bordley said he attended the meeting and the first thing that was looked at was capital projects that were originally put in as a first cut if we did not receive the state aid. Mr. Medio said this Board at the next meeting will be asked to direct Central Administration to make a plan for the next two or three years on what kind of cuts are going to be made. Mr. Medio said you cannot keep cutting capital projects. He said you need to start cutting recurring funds. Mr. Medio said the athletic faculty manager has been cut and that job involves tutoring for students. Mr. Medio questioned why the Board needs a \$17,000 table. He suggested putting back the tutoring for our students and keep the Board table the way it is. Mr. Bordley said he agrees with Mr. Medio in regards to the \$17,000 Board table but there were two faculty managers. Mr. Medio said yes there are two faculty managers. He said one job involves covering sporting events when the athletic director is attending other sporting events and the other involves tutoring students.

Ms. Spinelli asked where we stand with selling the transportation building. Mrs. Haley said she thinks we are more inclined to try to lease the building. She believes the maintenance building and that building are one parcel so it may be difficult to subdivide it. Mr. Bordley asked if we are completely out of that building. Mr. Weaver said yes but we do have some issues with the building in terms of easements with that property. He said there is also a sewer line that would require an easement. Mr. Weaver said the parking lot is shared and we would need some of that parking lot for the Coney Avenue building. He said with a lease you would not have to worry about the easements.

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Dr. Guccio asked Mr. Weaver to briefly address the press box.

Mr. Weaver said he had the press box reviewed by an engineer and architect. He said the box has been there a long time and there are things that need to be replaced. Mr. Weaver said structurally it is safe. He said between \$7,000 and \$10,000 we could make the press box decent looking. He said as far as safety the press box is fine and would not be a problem putting people in it.

A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Mr. Sbrana, to amend the budget to put back the Athletic Faculty Manager and take the Board table out. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Ms. Spinelli, Mr. Ulrich, Ms. Acosta and Mr. Bordley who voted “no.” The motion did not pass.

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Ms. Spinelli, Mr. Ulrich, Ms. Acosta and Mr. Bordley who voted “no.” The motion did not pass.

A motion was made by Mr. Bordley, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, to remove the Board table from the budget. All Members voted “yes.”

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

Dr. Guccio addressed the tutoring issue. She said Mr. Robbins, Athletic Director, assured us that the students will still be tutored by a variety of teachers within the school. Dr. Guccio said the Athletic Manager oversees that schedule. Mr. Medio said if this does not pass and 6 months from now there is a problem remember that we had a motion and a second to keep a successful program going.

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Mr. Fiocchi said the Board would be fine removing the Board table. He said Mr. Robbins agreed with the plan of having one manager.

Dr. Gruccio addressed the difficulty of moving the Board table.

Mr. Medio asked about what was included in the auditorium upgrades. Ms. Messori, Communications Director, said the microphone system is not great and these upgrades are to replace the speakers, new hardwired microphones at the Board seats, permanent podium microphone and improvements to the projector screen and audio visuals.

Mr. Ulrich said it is a rough situation especially if you want to dial in to the meeting. He said people cannot hear what is going on. Mr. Ulrich said we are in this situation and we have to make it work.

Ms. Acosta asked if next year we will be looking at a 2 million dollar cut in addition to whatever deficit we have. Mrs. Haley explained the S2 Senate bill and said our argument for applying for additional state assistance is that it would make our aid for fiscal year 2019 equal to the final aid for 2018 and we would ask for it to be flat going forward.

Ms. Spinelli asked if Cumberland Regional won with their proposal of keeping the Cumberland County Technical students at the school for sports. Mrs. Haley said she does not know. Mr. Bordley said they had the right to do that but were instructed by the Commissioner to work it out between them.

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Mr. Ulrich said he needs some clarification on aid and tuition because the email he received was confusing. Mrs. Haley said not a problem she will give clarification.

Mr. Medio said the he would not depend on the article that was quoted because it came from an advocate for tech schools.

- b. The Board approve an adoption of a resolution authorizing the Superintendent and School Business Administrator to apply for Additional State Assistance of \$2,064,482, which represents the reduction of \$421,811 in Adjustment Aid and \$1,642,671 in Emergency Aid for FY 2018-2019.

Mr. Medio asked where the \$59,000,000 come from. Mrs. Haley said in the Department of Education budget software there is a calculation that shows whether you are at, above or below adequacy. She said the calculation for our budget that was submitted was over \$59,000,000 under adequacy. Mr. Medio asked where we would spend \$59,000,000. Mrs. Haley said it would also include us increasing our tax levy up to the \$56,000,000 designated fair share amount. She said it is the Department of Education’s formula. Mr. Medio asked what our tax levy is supposed to be according to the Department of Education. Mrs. Haley said about \$56,000,000 and we are around \$23,000,000. Mr. Ulrich said we have never been at our fair share.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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Ms. Acosta asked if we still have not received full funding from the State. Mrs. Haley said if the State runs the SFRA formula we would get less aid. She said because of the S2 Bill they are waiving it. Mrs. Haley said the State is focusing on enrollment and economic ability. She said they are not addressing the emergency aid, which hurts. Mrs. Haley would like the emergency aid to become regular aid so we can stay flat with no reductions.

Mr. Medio asked Mrs. Haley to explain to the public what an SDA is. Mrs. Haley said an SDA district used to be an Abbott District. She said SDA stands for School Development Authority.

Ms. Spinelli asked what ideas are there for the \$17,000 that we are saving on the Board table and in the new budget did we get clarification that winter track is coming back.

Mr. Bordley said winter track is still part of the cuts and Mr. Robbins, Athletic Director, will be at the next meeting to explain.

Mr. Medio said we added a vice principal but cut winter track. Dr. Guccio said we had two openings and hired one. She said we are putting a substitute in the other position.

Mr. Ulrich noted that Rossi School, which is the largest elementary school, will be working with a substitute and at some point in time it will need to be addressed.

Ms. Acosta asked Dr. Guccio where we stand with School Choice changing and allowing additional enrollment into our district. Dr. Guccio said she thought it was remaining the same but she will check with Mr. Frey who handles School Choice.

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Ms. Spinelli feels we need to focus on keeping our students in the district.

Mr. Musterel, Assistant Business Administrator, said in the budget detail we did add an assistant principal to Rossi Elementary School due to the number of students that are now going to that school.

Mr. Medio said he wants to direct the administration to come up with a two year plan for the next Board meeting as to what kind of cuts we will have in the upcoming budget. He said you cannot do anything but plan on flat funding and you know what your minimum increase in costs are.

Dr. Gruccio wanted to clarify that no school has a vice principal if they have 500 or less students. She said we added a vice principal at Rossi but cut one at Leuchter.

Mr. Ulrich said we closed two elementary schools for the Advanced Math and Science Academy (AMSA). He does not quite see the vision of AMSA taking in additional students and said it is a lofty expectation. Mr. Ulrich said we could have left Rossi School empty and sold it because it would have been worth more money.

Mr. Medio said closing Rossi School was an idea that was rejected by the Administration. He said it would have involved no redistricting.

Mr. Medio said he has a problem with the \$59,000,000 figure in the resolution. He said it implies that we are going to raise our taxes \$30,000,000. Mrs. Haley said that was to support our argument as to why we want the \$2,000,000 reinstated.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt