

The combined 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, August 10, 2016 at 6:12 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pagano, and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Ms. Acosta, Mr. DeWinne and Ms. Rios.

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

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, the Atlantic City Press, the Grapevine, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute:

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Wayne Weaver, Executive Director of Physical Facilities, to present an update on the new HVAC project at Vineland High School.

Mr. Weaver said he knows there has been a lot of discussion on the status of the HVAC project so present tonight we have Charles McKenna, CEO and Aidita Milstead, Program Manager from the School Development Authority. Mr. Weaver introduced Charles McKenna to address any concerns there may be.

Mr. McKenna addressed the high school air conditioning project and the asbestos that was found. He said all of the asbestos will be removed by a contractor in two or three shifts, which will cost a lot more money. Mr. McKenna said he had to get approval from his Board to spend around a million dollars or more in addition to have this asbestos removed. He said August 31st is the remediation date whereby all of the asbestos will be removed. Mr. McKenna said that means the high school will be able to open on time and will be safe. He said October 15th is the deadline for the heat to be installed. Mr. McKenna said we will work hard to meet these tight deadlines.

Mr. English thanked the state for their continued support. He asked Mr. McKenna if on August 31st the asbestos will be contained, finished and complete. Mr. McKenna said the asbestos will not be there. Mr. English said it is phenomenal the work that has taken place in such a short time. He said unfortunately you do run into speed bumps along the way but the good thing is that the issue is being addressed and made safe.

Mr. Jennings wanted the public to know that everyone is working extremely hard to finish this project in the safest fashion possible.

Mr. Sbrana said the safety of our students and staff is the number one concern. He expressed his concern in regards to the great deal of money the district spent several years ago on an asbestos abatement project, which we did not get. Mr. English said for the record we will be discussing this with Mr. DeSanto, Mr. Weaver and Mr. McKenna.

Mr. English asked Mr. Weaver to address the closing of the schools.

Mr. Weaver discussed the closing and sale of East Vineland, Oak & Main and the South Vineland School property.

Mr. English said if any of these properties sell to please contact Mrs. Elaine Greenberg, as we have done in the past, to collect any items that have history behind it.

Mr. Sbrana asked where will the proceeds for the sale of these properties go and how would it be used. Mrs. Haley said the money will go into capital reserve to be used for future capital projects.

Mr. English asked Mr. Jennings and his committee to update the Board on where we stand on this.

Mr. Weaver presented an update on Middle School II. He said there has been discussion to have a formal ground breaking ceremony the third week of September.

Mr. English said he knows a joint effort was done with the county in regards to space for the drain near Veterans Memorial School. He said he would like to lean on the county to push a traffic light in the Middle School II area. Dr. Gruccio said she wrote a letter to the freeholder director so maybe we could touch base with him to see what they can do.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Bordley, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the minutes were approved from July 6, 2016 and July 12, 2016. All Members voted “yes.”

Solicitor’s Report: Mr. DeSanto said recently a number of issues have come up concerning the Open Public Meetings Act and the time has come for a brief presentation to the Board and public regarding the Sunshine Law. He said the Sunshine Law was passed in the seventies and the public legislators decided that meetings of public bodies should be open. Mr. DeSanto said the general theme of the Sunshine Law is that all matters/discussions of Boards should be in the public unless they are exempted. He said under the Open Public Meetings Act there are several exemptions. Mr. DeSanto said if the discussion does not fall under one of these exemptions it must take place in public. He said a closed or executive session may be held if the subject matter is covered under any of the following exemptions: Matters made confidential by law where disclosure would result in an invasion of privacy or disclosure would impair the bodies right to receive funds, collective bargaining, lease or acquisition of property, internal investigations, strategies regarding public security, ending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiations, personnel matters and proceedings that would result in a suspension, penalty or loss of a license. Mr. DeSanto said we recently had a lot of discussion in regards to transfers. He said generic discussions on transfers of employees cannot be held in private session, which we did not do. Mr. DeSanto emphasized the exemption relating to personnel matters. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms/conditions of employment, evaluation, performance, promotion, discipline of any specific perspective or current public officer or employee unless all the individual employees whose rights could be effected adversely request in writing that the matter be discussed at a public meeting. Mr. DeSanto said if you are discussing transfers or specific individuals involved in transfers the discussions are in executive session unless after receiving a Rice notice the individual requests that the matter be discussed in public session.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

Brian Buglio

Mr. Buglio expressed his concern in regards to why he is being transferred.

Janice Bokma

Ms. Bokma asked the Board to reconsider her transfer from Landis Intermediate School to D'Ippolito Elementary School.

Mr. DeSanto said the procedure under bylaws is that this is public comment on agenda items and the Board does not engage in questions and answers with the speaker.

Recommendations:

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the bills for June 2016 were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$9,784,897.14).

Committee Reports: Mr. English said some of the committee reports are not on the website and need updated.

Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: None.

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

Mr. English mentioned that he has heard a couple public complaints concerning the combined board meetings. He said the schedule has been set and on the website since January.

Public: Gracelyn Galan, President Class of 2017
Miss Galan wanted to express her excitement for the upcoming school year and hopes to have an eventful, productive school year.

Janeen Dunkley
Ms. Dunkley read a letter that she wrote to Mr. Callavini, Transportation Supervisor, in regards to her child’s bus stop. She is requesting for her child’s bus stop to be changed to the front of her house as it has been for previous years.

Mr. English said this matter will be referred to Dr. Gruccio.

Renee Carfagno
Ms. Carfagno questioned why she is being transferred if a position opened up at the school she is currently in.

Board Member
Remarks: Ms. Codispoti thanked Mr. McKenna for coming tonight. She welcomed all the new hires and told everyone to enjoy the remainder of their summer.

Mr. Sbrana congratulated the new hires. He hopes our staff and students have a safe few weeks before the start of school. Mr. Sbrana looks forward to a successful and productive year.

Report/Remarks by
Board President: None.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

