

The combined 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 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pagano, and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Mr. DeWinne and Ms. Rios.

Also present: Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: Dr. Gruccio Superintendent and 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): None.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the August 3, 2016 Board Retreat minutes were approved. All Members voted "yes."

Solicitor's Report: None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

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

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

Committee Reports: Mr. English said the Ad Hoc Committee met tonight and they reviewed the current policy, which covers what needs to be said.

Mr. Jennings said a Facilities Committee meeting was held today and the minutes have not been finalized. He said everyone expressed their concern in regards to the Vineland High School HVAC project. Mr. Jennings said everyone has been working very hard to get this project done.

New Business: Mr. English discussed Governor Christie’s proposed fairness formula that was in the newspaper. He said as our budget is developed in October we will treat this as if we will have a \$70 million dollar cut in our state aide. Mrs. Haley said it is a large number and she does not know how we will do a budget with \$70 million less in state aid. She said our state aid is about \$155 million, which is about 80% of our budget.

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

Public: None.

Dr. Rossi thanked the personnel department, principals, and supervisors. He said at this time we are still making changes, additions and subtractions to the 2016-2017 school year.

Mr. English echoed the sentiments of Dr. Rossi. He said it is not easy and we are still receiving retirements and resignations every day. Mr. English thanked the Board for being patient through the process along with Dr. Rossi and his entire staff.

Board Member
Remarks:

Ms. Acosta thanked administration for all their hard work on these very difficult transfers. She wished the students luck and a very happy successful school year. Ms. Acosta said the tax payers have rights and she suggested for the public to reach out to their elected officials to let them know how the Governor’s equal funding plan will devastate our city.

Mr. Sbrana thanked all the staff members for their hard work in a very short period of time in getting the schools ready. He hopes everyone has a restful few weeks before the start of school. Mr. Sbrana urged everyone to please be careful when the buses are back on the road.

Mr. Jennings said September 6th is the day the HVAC project will be complete. He said we are all working hard and wished everyone a great year. Mr. Jennings said we need to have higher graduation rates and better grades moving forward.

Mr. Bordley commended and thanked central administration for doing an excellent job with the difficult task they have had. He thanked Mr. Jennings for taking care of the high school issue, which seems to be going smoothly. Mr. Bordley wished all of our students the best school year.

Mr. Pagano hopes everyone has had an enjoyable vacation. He welcomed back our teachers, staff and students and wished them a good year. Mr. Pagano asked everyone to pay attention to the buses on the road and have a safe year.

Ms. Codispoti echoed the comments made by her fellow Board members. She welcomed back the students, faculty and staff. Ms. Codispoti hopes it will be a great 2016-2017 school year. She thanked central administration for doing a wonderful job. Ms. Codispoti also urged everyone to please reach out to our elected officials in regards to the Governor's equal funding plan.

Mr. Frangipani said the UAW #2327 union will be donating 300 red uniform shirts to the Vineland Public Schools. He said the lettering will be done by Shirt Works of Vineland and will be delivered to Sabater, Leuchter, D'Ippolito, Barse and Mennies School before the start of the school year. Mr. Frangipani thanked the UAW #2327 on behalf of the school district.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. English echoed the sentiments of his fellow Board members. He wished everyone a good remainder of the summer and 2016-2017 school year. Mr. English thanked Dr. Rossi and his department along with transportation, security, maintenance and finance staff.

Mr. English said Governor Christie is trying to do some things that are interesting. He said the bottom line is that we have to educate our students. Mr. English said we can only hope that Governor Christie's plan does not happen. He also hopes that this Board and future Board's continue to work to do what is best for each of our students while being fair to our taxpayers.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

