

An open work session of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 6:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Jennings presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Medio, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: None.

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

Mr. Jennings 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 for the City of Vineland, and the Administrative Office public bulletin board.

Mr. Jennings asked for a moment of silence for Celeste Cannon, sister of Isiah Pacheco, Vineland High School quarterback, who passed away as well as those who tragically passed away in Las Vegas.

Flag salute:

Resolution:

Mrs. Haley read a resolution to convene into executive session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10-4-12. 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 discussion is performance of the Superintendent. 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. **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 advises 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 Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentations: Dr. Gruccio introduced, Ms. Lynn Monteleone, Preschool Principal, to recognize several preschool staff members for their act of heroism.

Ms. Monteleone said on September 19, 2017 the staff in room 3 at Dallago Preschool worked in perfect harmony. One of their students began choking while eating lunch and immediately the three ladies that support that classroom went into action. Ms. Monteleone said thanks to their calm reaction the child began breathing immediately. She introduced Tiffanie Miller and Amy McMahan along with Dianis Ramos DeFeliciano who was not present and thanked them for their heroism.

Dr. Gruccio introduced, Ms. Jennifer Belvett, VHS English Teacher, to honor a student who was selected as a semi-finalist in the 2017 Anthem Essay Contest.

Ms. Belvett said it is her pleasure to be here tonight to honor Elisabeth Baranovskaya the first student from Vineland High School to place in the 2017 Anthem Essay Contest as a semi-finalist.

Student Liaison

Report: None.

HIB Report: None.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: Mr. DeSanto said he has been asked by Board members about the process of the appointment/reappointment of the Superintendent. He said that he will present a brief outline of what the parameters and options are for the Board as they consider Dr. Gruccio's contract. Mr. DeSanto said tonight is a presentation on the process and there should be no discussion regarding Dr. Gruccio's performance, merits, or what you should and should not do. He said this will give the Board an advanced outline of what they should be considering come December, which is the time that this discussion takes place. Mr. DeSanto said we should remember that the Board of Education appoints a Superintendent for a certain period of time and there is no tenure for a Superintendent. He said the contract for the Superintendent is at least three years and no more than five years. Mr. DeSanto said the contract must end on June 30th. He said 18A:17-20.1 provides for the automatic reappointment of a Superintendent.

Mr. DeSanto said at the conclusion of the term of the initial contract or any subsequent contract the Superintendent shall be deemed reappointed for another term of the same duration unless either a.) The Board by contract reappoints the Superintendent for a different term, which shall not be less than three years or more than five b.) The Board notifies the Superintendent in writing that he/she will not be reappointed at the end of the current term in which their employment ceases at the expiration of the term, provided that such notification shall be given prior to the expiration by a length of time equal to 30 days for each year in the term of the current contract. Mr. DeSanto said that means if you have a three year contract you must give 90 days' notice of your intent to non-renew. He said in prior contracts the Superintendent was given additional time so in the event of non-renewal they would have more of an opportunity to make a decision about future work. Mr. DeSanto said Dr. Gruccio's contract indicates that this decision to non-renew is to be made on or before December 31st. He said that is why it is important for the Board to consider this issue in December. Mr. DeSanto said there is another provision under 18A where a Board of Education can extend and negotiate an amendment to the contract through a process. He said another possibility is an extension to the current contract. Mr. DeSanto said because the Superintendent's contract can be no more than five years a three year contract could be extended for no more than two years.

Mr. DeSanto said the following options need to be taken by December 31st:

- 1.) The Board can do nothing and the contract will automatically renew for three years from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.
- 2.) The Board can vote to eliminate the automatic renewal of the contract and after January 1st the new Board can let the contract expire on June 30th or renew the contract for 3, 4, or 5 years or extend the current contract. He said this vote will just move the decision to the next year.
- 3.) The Board can vote to extend the current contract up to two years.

Mr. DeSanto said this is an outline of the process and procedure. He said if any Board member would like to contact him he would be more than happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Medio asked if the contract could be renewed in months. Mr. DeSanto said any length of time up to two years.

Mr. Sbrana asked who is eligible to vote on this contract. Mr. DeSanto said the non-conflicted Board members. He said the ethics ruling indicates that the same people that cannot participate in the Superintendent's evaluation cannot participate in any employment issue involving the Superintendent. Mr. Sbrana said whatever the decision is that the unconflicted Board members make would only put the decision of the renewal to the new Board. Mr. DeSanto said the non-conflicted people will have the vote to non-renew or the vote to extend to consider.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – No discussion.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

2.1 **Travel** – Mr. Bordley asked if we receive a grant for the Special Olympics. Dr. Gruccio said Special Olympics is funded through the IDEA Grant. Mr. Bordley asked when the Special Olympics are held. Ms. Godlewski, Director of Special Education, said the bowling competitions are held in February and March. She said the track and field competition is held in May.

2.1 **First Reading of the following Bylaws, Policies and Regulations: Mandated Changes Policy 2700, Policy/Regulation 7100 – Recommended Changes, Policy/Regulation 7101, 7102, 7130, 7300, 7300.2, 7300.3, 7300.4** – No discussion.

2.2 **Memorandum of Agreement with Completecare Health Network** – No discussion.

3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** - None

4. **FINANCE**

4.1 **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.

4.2 **Board Secretary/Treasurer's report for August 2017** – No discussion.

- 4.3 **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
- 4.4 **Submission of the following Grant Applications – a. School Climate Transformation Project Rossi School, b. Target Field Trip Petway School, c. 2018 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** – No discussion.
- 4.5 **Acceptance of the following funding – a. Cumberland County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Service Grant, b. Reflex Math Grant Johnstone School, c. The Franklin Institute Field Trip Grant Mennies School, d. Young Citizen Scholarship Grant Mennies School** – Mr. Jennings thanked the people who are doing this work.
- 4.6 **New Winslow School Activity Account at Newfield National Bank** – No discussion.
- 4.7 **Second Account for Safety Patrol at Newfield National Bank** – No discussion.
- 4.8 **Closing of Landis Student Activity Account for transfer to Landis Scholarship Account** – No discussion.
- 4.9 **Annual Maintenance Reserve Deposit Worksheet (form M-1)** – No discussion.
- 4.10 **Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report** – No discussion.
- 4.11 **Landis School Elevator Change Order #1 from Levy Construction** – Mr. Jennings asked how this project is going. Mr. Bordley said it will be discussed in the committee report.
- 4.12 **VHS South Locker Room Upgrades Modification** – No discussion.
- 4.13 **Landis School Change Order #1 from Capri Construction** – No discussion.
- 4.14 **Legal Fees Payment** – No discussion.
- 4.15 **Cancellation of Checks** – No discussion.
- 4.16 **Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation Initiatives** – No discussion.

REGULAR AGENDA

Items proposed by the Board President or an individual Board Member: None.

Review of bills incurred during August 2017: No discussion.

Dr. Gruccio asked for a moment of silence for Millie Ramos, a former district employee for 30 years, who passed away suddenly in Florida.

Public Comments: Wanda Simmons
Ms. Simmons spoke on behalf of her granddaughter being transferred to the Cunningham Academy School. She presented background on the incident that involved her granddaughter.

Mr. DeSanto recommended to the Board that this should be handled like a disciplinary hearing privately in executive session.

Committee Reports: Ms. Codispoti said discussed at the Curriculum & Instruction Committee meeting was new curriculum, Gizmos Grant for online Science simulations, revised Home Instruction Manual and Revision Summary, Life Skills Curriculum and change of opportunities within the Life Skills Cafe.

Ms. Codispoti said discussed at the Transportation Committee meeting was the contract 54 passenger buses, other areas for savings and Z-pass.

Ms. Codispoti said discussed at the Policy & Personnel Committee was capital projects, administration codes and school closings mandated and recommended policies from Strauss Esmay.

Mr. Bordley said discussed at the Facilities Committee meeting was the turf field, shared services with the city, All Sports Booster Club and the progress of the projects at the various schools.

Ms. Codispoti asked if it is only the majority of the non-conflicted Board members that count if there is a vote on the Superintendent's contract. Mr. DeSanto said no the decision has to be made by the majority of the full membership of the Board.

Mr. DeSanto said he may have incorrectly responded to Mr. Medio's question. He said since the original Superintendent's contract must end July 1st the extension may have to be also July 1st. Mr. DeSanto said the contract may be a one or two year extension. He said he would like to opportunity to look into it a little further for Mr. Medio and apologized for his previous answer.

Ms. Codispoti asked if possibly we could get some vocational training at Camelot.

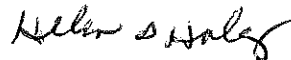
Mr. Jennings said he cannot say enough about the Camelot Program. He said the students learn respect, success and are doing well in the community.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, to adjourn the executive session at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt