

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 5, 2016 at 7:02 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Ms. Acosta and Mr. DeWinne.

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. 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:

Mr. English thanked everyone for wearing pink and blue as we raise awareness for breast cancer.

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentations: Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Joseph Callavini, Transportation/Registration Coordinator, to update the Board on department initiatives.

Mr. Callavini said he will give a review on some of the initiatives that were discussed at previous Board meetings and implemented this year. He explained how registration was handled during the summer. Mr. Callavini discussed the combined bus stops that were initiated this year to reduce the amount of stops in neighborhoods in center city to put more students on a bus. He said we received about 120 requests to review the new stops. Mr. Callavini said the garage worked hard all summer getting our buses ready for the start of school and completed 1,370 repairs. He thanked Cliff Hickman, Acting Foreman, for working with 1 ½ less mechanics. Mr. Callavini said Z Pass was used in preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and was successful with a few issues. He said we were able to find 50 missing students within minutes of the parents contacting us. Mr. Callavini said in the past this took us anywhere from 20 minutes to 1 ½ hours. He said during the summer we took over the County Cooperative Transportation System handling the transportation for the all of the counties out of district special needs students.

Mr. Callavini said we are transporting an additional 384 students on 102 routes to 47 different schools. He said we received a Federal Environmental Protection Rebate Program Grant for 3 special needs buses in the amount of \$55,000. Mr. Callavini said he is working on bringing in some of our out of district routes to save money as part of our special education transportation costs.

Mr. Sbrana said he is pleased to see that Mr. Callavini keeps trying different approaches to reach people.

Mr. English asked Mr. Callavini if he fully supports the Transportation Committee and is it helping him through this process. Mr. Callavini said it gives him the opportunity to explain in detail our programs. Mr. English thanked the mechanics for all the repairs that were done. He asked if there are any suggestions for the future for the Registration Department. Mr. Callavini said we just have to be prepared to staff the department as much as possible to maintain the volume that we get. Mr. English asked if eventually the transportation cooperative will be a money maker for the district. Mr. Callavini said yes. Mr. English asked if the overall complaints for the combined stops were generic complaints. Mr. Callavini said every complaint is dear to the parent's heart and he understands their concerns but had to maintain our plan. Mr. English thanked Mr. Callavini on behalf of the Board for reaching the goal and having more students transported versus walking. Mr. English asked if Sheppard Bus is 100% on board with the Z Pass. Mr. Callavini said they were always on board it was just the extra software piece Z Pass Plus that they never signed up for. Mr. English said some of the complaints he has received from parents is the time that Sheppard Bus is showing up. Mr. Callavini said he has been working closing with Sheppard on their packaging and next year he thinks he will package with them directly to make sure this does not happen.

Mr. Sbrana asked what percentage of our routes are being handled by Sheppard. Mr. Callavini said our public school routes are in district routes and not counting preschool about 32%. He said preschool routes add about another 12%.

Ms. Codispoti thanked Mr. Callavini and his staff for immediately addressing a couple safety issues she saw.

Mr. Bordley asked who is responsible for the Charter School bus issues. Mr. Callavini explained that the Charter School is currently fragmented. He said they are in 4 locations and one is located in Millville, which created a transportation problem for us. Mr. Callavini said we did the best we could in the short time that we had. Mr. Bordley asked who the parents contact with their complaints. Mr. Callavini said his department.

Dr. Gruccio introduced the new Senior Class President, Gracie Galan, to present her first student liaison report to the Board.

Student Liaison  
Report:

Miss Galan thanked the Board for the air conditioning. She said the homecoming game/parade will be held on October 22nd and the homecoming dance on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Miss Galan said that she has contacted some of the past class presidents dating back to 1927 to be on a float in the homecoming parade. She said the senior trip payments to Disney World have been extended to next week. She said Back to School Night will be held tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. Miss Galan said the Search for Conscious Club will be visiting some elementary schools to speak about bullying. She said senior Mia Montalvo held a Steps for Sarcoma Walk on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Vineland High School track in honor of her mother and over \$1,000 was raised. Miss Galan said the football team is doing great with 4 wins and the marching band had their first competition this weekend and won first place.

Mr. English asked Miss Galan to name a few of the activities that she is involved in.

Miss Galan said marching band, select choir, interact, youth to youth and search for conscious clubs.

Mr. English said it is students like Miss Galan that help the Board to make the decisions for all of our students. He commended and thanked Miss Galan on behalf of everyone in the Vineland School District.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB Report), Suspension Report, Cunningham Alternative School Report/Average Daily Attendance - No discussion.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – No discussion.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

2.1 **Travel** – No discussion.

2.2 **Affiliation Agreement with Simmons College** – No discussion.

3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** – None.

4. **FINANCE**

4.1 **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.

4.2 **Board Secretary/Treasurer's report for August 2016** – No discussion.

4.3 **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.

4.4 **Submission of the following Grant – a. D'Ippolito South Jersey Gas Energy for the Arts** – No discussion.

4.5 **Acceptance of the following funding – a. National Clean Diesel Rebate Program, b. Mennies Progresso General Mills Foundation, c. Camelot Educational Resources, d. D'Ippolito Reflex Educators Program Software** - Mr. Jennings asked how this funding is obtained. Dr. Gruccio said you apply for the grant. Mr. Jennings thanked everyone who has taken the time out to apply for the grants for the district.

4.6 **Petway Elementary School Student Activity Account** – No discussion.

4.7 **No Child Left Behind Corrective Action Plan** – No discussion.

- 4.8 **Annual Maintenance Reserve Form M-1** – No discussion.
- 4.9 **Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report** – No discussion.
- 4.10 **Cumberland County Educational Cooperative Transportation – a. Transportation Addendum, b. Quoted Contracts, c. Out of District Joint Agreements** – No discussion.
- 4.11 **Rejection of Contracted Nurses Request for Proposal (RFP)** – No discussion.
- 4.12 **Sale of Items on Gov.deals.com** – No discussion.

## 2. REGULAR AGENDA

- b. Items proposed by the Board President or an individual Board Member

Review of bills incurred during August 2016 – No discussion.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Ms. Codispoti said the Curriculum & Instruction Committee met on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and the meeting minutes are online. She said they discussed the student solar project, broadcasting program, van update, district class sizes/school enrollment and the CCTEC student enrollment. Ms. Codispoti said the next meeting will be on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Mr. English said tonight he would like to have a group photo taken with everyone wearing pink.

Dr. Gruccio thanked Newfield Bank for their donation. She wished the girls tennis team good luck this weekend.

Mr. Jennings said that Mr. Callavini mentioned that we had to pay \$400,000 extra for Charter School transportation that we were not prepared for. He said if everyone wants to reduce their taxes we all need to do our part to try to alleviate these extra costs.

Mr. Pagano clarified that the \$400,000 was due to the Charter School not getting their work done.

Dr. Gruccio said the Charter School has 4 locations and did not notify us until summer, which made it very difficult. She said we are obligated to bus those students and that cost us additional money.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

