

The combined meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Reber Administration Office, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 6:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Jennings presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoli, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Medio, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frangipani and Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, 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 - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute: Students from Rossi Middle School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Steven Calakos, Ms. Ivelise Flores, and Ms. Lauren DeBello, to recognize students from the Applied Math and Science Academy (AMSA) for their participation in the App Challenge.

Mr. Calakos said he and Ms. Flores are the eighth grade STEM teachers in the Applied Math and Science Academy at Veterans Memorial School. He said our eighth grade students have been working very hard on an exciting challenge that we have given them. Mr. Calakos said students in middle and high schools throughout the country created apps for Smart devices. He said we have offered this App Challenge to our students. Ms. Flores discussed how the idea/project began. Mr. Calakos and Ms. Flores introduced each of students who were presented certificates.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Kristen Speakman, Assistant Principal of Mennies Elementary School, to recognize the 2018 VEA Educational Support Professional of the Year.

Ms. Speakman said tonight she is here on behalf of the Vineland Education Association (VEA) and Mennies Elementary School to recognize Darlene Castellini, Senior Clerk Typist at Mennies Elementary School, who was nominated the 2018 VEA Educational Support Professional of the Year.

Dr. Gruccio recognized and thanked all the Vineland Public School employees who have served in the military in honor of Veterans' Day.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Michael Garcia, CPA, of Ford-Scott Associates, to present the 2016-2017 Audit Report.

Mr. Garcia said the audit is two phases, which are the Financial Statements and the determination if the rules and regulations are followed that the State and Federal Government impose on school districts. He said each year there are more and more requirements that make it difficult for the business office to keep on top. Mr. Garcia said when we find errors of exception or problems we are required to report to the Board of Education a finding and recommendation that would require a Corrective Action Plan to correct the area of error. He said he is happy to report that this year's audit is clean with no findings or recommendations. Mr. Garcia said that is obviously something that your business office strives for and is a big achievement. He reviewed the audit synopsis for the 2016/17 school year that ended June 30, 2017. Mr. Garcia also reviewed each of the funds on the synopsis balance sheet and the components that make up each of the amounts. He said the district is 1.3 million dollars behind in surplus this year, which makes the next budget very difficult. Mr. Garcia said the state reduced your state aid for this year just over two million dollars. He said that he is aware the state has offered a ten year loan on the two million dollar shortfall. Mr. Garcia asked if a decision has been made on whether or not the district will be accepting the loan offer.

Mrs. Haley said we are still doing research on this and she expressed her concern that only 3 districts of the 27 that applied were offered a loan instead of reinstatement. She said we plan on writing a complaint letter along with the Millville School District asking to be reinstated like the other districts were. Mrs. Haley said we were told that the reason the three districts were offered loans is because they are not paying their fair share in taxes, which is an astronomical number for us. She said they were also looking at district reserves and surplus.

Mr. Garcia said the business office is running properly with no findings or recommendations but you do have these financial dilemmas such as being cut 2 million dollars in state aid and already being 1.3 million dollars behind in excess surplus. He said you will have a lot of tough work in the next budget.

Dr. Gruccio thanked Mrs. Haley, Mr. Musterel and the entire Accounting Department for the job that they do. She said this is the third year in a row with no audit findings, which is remarkable.

Mr. Sbrana left the meeting at 6:58 p.m. and returned at 7:02 p.m.

Mr. Fiocchi left the meeting at 7:01 p.m. and returned at 7:02 p.m.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Deanna Ridolfo, Curriculum Supervisor and District Testing Coordinator, to present the district test scores.

Ms. Ridolfo reviewed the district test scores and student growth percentiles (SGP) for the 2016-2017 school year.

Mr. Sbrana asked if this presentation can be given to the Board to review.

Ms. Ridolfo said the presentation will be posted online and everyone will have access to it.

Ms. Acosta asked what percentage of high school students are not taking the PARCC. Ms. Ridolfo said she will get that information to the Board. Ms. Acosta asked what the reasons are for not taking the PARCC test. Ms. Ridolfo said it is a combination of reasons.

Mr. Bordley asked if there are any projections from the state level that any of this will change. Ms. Ridolfo said she has not heard anything.

Ms. Rios asked what we do for students who transfer to the district from an area that did not require the PARCC test. Ms. Ridolfo said the only way the PARCC would not be required is if they came from out of state.

Dr. Gruccio said Ms. Ridolfo will send this Power Point presentation to the Board tomorrow.

Dr. Gruccio said our Student Liaison was not able to make tonight's meeting.

HIB: No discussion.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the minutes were approved from the October 3, 2017 Work Session and October 11, 2017 Regular Meeting. All Members voted "yes."

Solicitor's Report: None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

JENNINGS	BORDELY	ACOSTA	CODISPOTI	FIOCHHI	HOLMES	MEMIOS	RIBRANA
			1		2		
			1	2			
			1		2		
			1		2		

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

PERSONNEL (1.1a-f)

- 1.1 The Board approve the personnel items in accordance with the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:
- a. Retirements, Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Employment, Transfers
 - b. Students
 - c. Substitutes
 - d. Extracurricular Activities
 - e. Extracurricular Summer Late Addition
 - f. Volunteers

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS (2.1 -2.5)

- 2.1 The Board approve trips, district travel and Winter Athletic Schedule.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

- 2.2 The Board approve to authorize the Board Secretary to submit the NJQSAC Statement of Assurance.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

- 2.3 The Board approve to authorize the Board Secretary to enter into an Affiliation Agreement with Salus University for the 2017-2018 school year for the placement of students for field internship, student teaching, practicum and observations.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

JENNINGS	BORDELY	ACOSTA	CODISPOTI	FIOCHI	HOLMES	MEDIO	RIOS	SBRANA
			1		2			
				1		2		
			1		2			

2.4 The Board approve the revision of the Fee Schedule for Use of School Facilities (to go with Policy 7510 if approved).

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

Ms. Rios asked if this will be discussed in the committee report. Mr. DeSanto said this is to accommodate activities that were endorsed by the recreation committee which will only involve one time. He said this one time free use of our facility had to be put in our fee schedule.

2.5 The Board approve the second reading of the following Bylaws, Policies/Regulations for adoption:

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

Mandated Changes

- Policy 2700 Services to Non-public School Students (Revised)
- Policy/Regulation 7100 Long-Range Facilities Planning (Revised)

Recommended Changes

- Policy/Regulation 7101 Educational Adequacy of Capital Projects (New)
- Policy/Regulation 7102 Site Selection and Acquisition (New)
- Policy 7130 School Closing (New)
- Policy 7300 Disposition of Property (Revised)
- Regulation 7300.2 Disposition of Land (New) Information only
- Regulation 7300.3 Disposition of Personal Property (New) Information only
- Regulation 7300.4 Disposition of Federal Property (New) Information only

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (3.1)

3.1 The Board approve the Declaration of Easement and Resolution for temporary and permanent sewer utility easement for the relocation of the existing sewer transmission sanitary force main line located at Coney and Landis Avenue.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

J E N N I N G S	B O R D L E Y	A C O D I S P O T I	F I O C C H I	H O L M E S	M E D I O	R I O S	S B R A N A
		1	2				
		1	2				
		1	2				
		1	2				
		1	2				

FINANCE (4.1 – 4.19)

4.1 The Board approve budgetary transfers for General, School-Based and ECPA for September 2017.

All Members voted “yes.”
(9-0-0)

4.2 The Board approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for September 2017.

All Members voted “yes.”
(9-0-0)

4.3 The Board approve Special Education student placements.

All Members voted “yes.”
(9-0-0)

4.4 The Board approve submission of the following grant applications:

All Members voted “yes.”
(9-0-0)

a. The FY No child Left Behind (NCLB) Final reports to the State of New Jersey Department of Education for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 for the following grants:

Total Expenditures Reported

Title I Part A.....	\$3,458,596.
Title II Part A.....	\$ 485,157.
Title III.....	\$ 160,888.
Title III Immigrant.....	\$ 7,735.

b. Funding to assist with busing and a tour of the State House from State House Express for Rossi Intermediate School in the amount of \$350.

4.5 The Board approve acceptance of funding for the Civil War Trust Field Trip Grant for Mennies Elementary School in the amount of \$750.

All Members voted “yes.”
(9-0-0)

Ms. Codispoti thanked the schools who do the research and acquire the grants.

Vineland Board of Education
 Report to the Board – November 1, 2017

JENNINGS	BORDELY	ACOSTA	CODISPOTI	FIOCHPHI	HOLMES	MEDIO	RIOS	SBRANA
	2		1					
			1		2			
			1		2			
	2		1					
			1		2			

4.6 The Board approve the Early Childhood Program Five-Year Preschool Plan for the 2017-2018 school year.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

4.7 The Board approve submission to the Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood, the 2018-2019 ECPA budget for a total of \$18,967,114.

All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Jennings who was not present for the vote. (8-0-0)

Mr. Jennings left the meeting at 7:17 p.m. and returned at 7:18 p.m.

4.8 The Board approve staff funded by Federal Program salaries and funding percentages for the 2017-2018 school year as per the names provided and on file with the Board Secretary.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

Ms. Rios asked why we have one employee at 90% and will that person ever be at 100%. Mrs. Haley said 10% of Ms. Beck's time is used as an administrator in the schools. Ms. Rios asked if Ms. Beck will ever be at 100%. Mrs. Haley said she could be but then she will not be able to substitute for our principals.

4.9 The Board approve the year-end guaranteed profit reconciliation payment of \$41,845.26 from Sodexo for the year ending August 31, 2017.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

4.10 The Board approve the Health Care Staffing Agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and Epic Health Services, Inc. to provide Licensed Practical Nurses at \$45 per hour and Registered Nurses at \$55 per hour on an as-needed basis for special education students in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and Superintendent.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

Vineland Board of Education
 Report to the Board – November 1, 2017

JENNINGS	BORDLEY	ACOSTA	CODISPOTI	FIOCCHEI	HOLMES	MEDIO	RIGOS	SRANA
	2		1					
			1		2			
			1		2			

4.11 The Board approve the following change order from R. Maxwell Construction Company, Inc. for the VHS North Toilet Room Renovations:
 Change Order #1
 To re-route condensate line to mop sink and install partitions. Total increase of \$1,375 funded by contingency allowance of \$7,500; credit of unused contingency of \$6,125 applied to contract.

Mr. Bordley asked for an explanation on this item. Mrs. Haley said in the contract there is a contingency allowance of \$7,500 so the change order of \$1,375 does not make the contract any higher. She said after this change order the contract will be complete and can be closed out. Mrs. Haley said the work came in under budget by \$6,125. Mr. Bordley asked if the \$6,125 will go back in to our budget. Mrs. Haley responded yes.

All Members voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.12 The Board approve the following change order from Union Roofing Contractors, Inc. for the VHS South 2017 Partial Roof Replacement:
 Change Order #9269703
 To provide "C" Wing roof ladder. Total increase of \$2,869.00 to be funded by the contingency allowance.

All Members voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.13 The Board approve the agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and the Camden County Technical School for the 2017-2018 school year for one full time student at \$8,743.

All Members voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

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 Report to the Board – November 1, 2017

JENNINGS	BORDELY	ACOSTA	CODISPOTI	FIOCHHI	HOLMES	MEDIO	RIOS	SBRANA
			1		2			
			1		2			
			1		2			

4.14 The Board approve the tuition/transportation contract between Vineland Board of Education and Robbinsville Board of Education for transportation costs of \$108.42 per day and tuition costs of \$1,845 per month for one student who is attending the Rubino Academy.

All Members voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.15 The Board approve the 2017-2018 Joint Transportation Agreement between Vineland Board of Education and Deerfield Township Schools in the amount of \$1,000.

All Members voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.16 The Board approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Atlantic County Special Services and the Vineland Board of Education Route VINE-DP from September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 for transporting two students for a cost of \$16,560.00.

All Members voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

Vineland Board of Education
 Report to the Board – November 1, 2017

JENNINGS	BORDEY	ACOSTA	CODISPOTI	FIOCHI	HOLMES	MEDIO	RIO	SBRANA
			1		2			

- 4.17 The Board approve the Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation Initiatives:
- a. 2017-2018 Jointures
 - b. 2017-2018 Transportation Quoted Contracts
 - c. 2017-2018 Transportation Addendum
 - d. 2017 Fall Bus Evacuations

All Members voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$22,554,167.42).

Committee Reports: Ms. Codispoti said discussed at the October 30th Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting was high school credit recovery, GPA versus class rank research, service learning and agricultural education on the five acres across from high school.

Mr. Fiocchi said discussed at the October 23rd Finance Committee meeting was the ECPA Budget for 2019, audit results, Food Service operating results for 2017 and Sodexo payment, approval of application for additional general fund state aid, timeline for synthetic turf field bid, and shortfall for year 2019.

Ms. Acosta said discussed at the October 4th Policy & Personnel Committee meeting was various personnel issues within the district and Policy #7510 Use of Facilities.

Items proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board members: None.

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

Public: Sean Kashani
Mr. Kashani suggested having real estate as a possible elective in high school.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Board Member Remarks: Mr. Medio congratulated Tess Fisher for winning the Cape Atlantic League Tournament. He said Miss Fisher’s accomplishments are beyond anything that has ever happened in Vineland School’s. Mr. Medio wished the football team good luck on Friday.

Ms. Rios congratulated the AMSA students for their creativity in the App Challenge. She also congratulated Darlene Castellini on her VEA recognition. Ms. Rios wished everyone who is running in the election good luck and hopes that their heart is in the right place.

Mr. Sbrana thanked the Rossi School students for doing tonight's flag salute. He said the App presentation was spectacular. Mr. Sbrana congratulated Darlene Castellini on her recognition. He thanked all those who are willing to give their time and talents to serve the public interest. Mr. Sbrana congratulated Mr. Russo along with our undefeated football team and wished them great success on Friday. He also acknowledged Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, who was one of the veterans honored tonight and was selected volunteer of the year for the Main Street Vineland Program. Mr. Sbrana wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Holmes said he is very proud to be a part of this great district. He encouraged everyone to vote next Tuesday.

Ms. Acosta echoed her fellow Board members thoughts. She congratulated the AMSA students. Ms. Acosta said she is deeply disturbed that the state did not approve our request for the return of the two million dollars that they reduced from the district's state aid. She said we are one of the poorest cities in New Jersey and are deserving of the money. Ms. Acosta urged everyone to contact the local legislators and let them know that we are a district in need.

Ms. Codispoti echoed her fellow Board members comments. She said that she was very impressed with the AMSA students and their Apps. Ms. Codispoti congratulated Ms. Castellini on a job well deserved. She thanked Dr. Guccio for recognizing the veterans in the district. Ms. Codispoti thanked all the fall sport participants, athletes, coaches, Tess Fisher, and football team. She echoed the comments made by Ms. Acosta in regards to the state not returning the two million dollars to the district. Ms. Codispoti urged everyone to vote. She wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Bordley congratulated Tess Fisher and all of our fall athletes. He wished Coach Russo good luck on Friday.

Dr. Guccio thanked the Board and community members who came out to the Strategic Plan update meeting.

Dr. Gruccio said she is very proud of the work that our district is doing on the Strategic Plan, which is what we base our goals on each year. She said the football program received a \$2,000 donation from Gruden Group, LLC. Dr. Gruccio said at this point we are not sure what the donation will be used for but possibly the Turf Field. She thanked all the veterans in the district who have given time to our country. Dr. Gruccio hopes our teachers remember to explain to our students what Veterans Day is all about. She thinks tonight was a true picture of what our district is all about and we have a lot to be proud of. Dr. Gruccio thanked all the candidates who are running for the Board and wished them all the very best. She wished everyone a very blessed, healthy and happy Thanksgiving.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Jennings said the Vineland High School Marching Band came in number one out of ten bands. He said Petway School is sponsoring a Disney on Ice trip in December. Mr. Jennings thanked Ms. Ridolfo for her presentation. He asked Coach Russo to discuss the meeting the football team had with Jon Gruden.

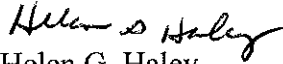
Mr. Russo said Vineland got chosen as one of the best teams in South Jersey, which is why they were selected to meet with Coach Gruden. He said the \$2,000 that the team received from the Gruden Group will be matched by PDQ Restaurant. Mr. Russo said he received a \$100 gift card as well. He said once a year we have a blackout, which is a fun thing that we do now with the football program. Mr. Russo said this Friday we want to blackout Gittone Stadium and wear the black uniforms for the big game.

Mr. Bordley said Coach Gruden gave the team a shout out on Monday Night Football.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. All Members voted "yes."

Respectfully Submitted,


Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt