

The combined meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Landis Administration Building Auditorium, 61 W. Landis Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Bordley presiding and the following members present: Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Medio, Ms. Spinelli, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Ms. Acosta and Mr. Sbrana.

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. Bordley 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 Durand Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Gruccio introduced and welcomed new County Superintendent, Leslie White-Coursey.

Ms. Leslie White-Coursey said she was raised in Vineland and attended Vineland Public Schools. She said it is a pleasure to be here and is excited to be the new Executive County Superintendent of Schools for Cumberland County.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Diane Mazzei and Deb Palmieri to recognize the Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators.

Ms. Palmieri thanked Dr. Gruccio for recognizing the organization.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ed Geletka, Representative from Ocean First Bank, to present a \$10,000 check for the Model Classroom Grant to Dave Orlandini, VHS Special Education Teacher.

Mr. Geletka said this year there were 144 applicants for the Model Classroom Grant and we awarded twenty five \$10,000 grants. He said we were very happy with the local participation. Mr. Geletka said Mr. Orlandini’s application was well done and shows the effort put forth.

Mr. Orlandini discussed his model classroom project.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Kristina Craig, Johnstone AMSA School Assistant Principal, who will recognize two AMSA students that received College Board AP Scholar Awards.

Ms. Craig said the Advanced Placement Program recognizes high school students that have demonstrated outstanding college level achievement through their performance on AP exams. She introduced Jessica Melo and Jeremy Rasmussen for being recently designated AP Scholars with distinction by the College Board.

HIB: No discussion.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Spinelli, the minutes were approved from October 3, 2018. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Bordley who “abstained.”

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: Susanne Morello  
Ms. Morello said the entire process for the naming of the Lincoln Avenue Middle School began February 14<sup>th</sup> and concluded in October. She hopes that the Board will consider having the dedication on a weekend and there is great communication with the family of the person honored. Ms. Morello said there are many people from out of town who would like to attend. She feels this is an opportunity to showcase our District and the City of Vineland making this into something very special. Ms. Morello said she is hopeful that there will be some time and effort put into this. She thanked the Board for using the policy. She said there has been a lot of discussion around town about doing something to include the people who were nominated so the students know what those individuals did for our community. Ms. Morello volunteered to help with this process.

Recommendations:

A C O S T A	B O R D L E Y	F I O C H I	H O L M E S	J E N N I N G S	M E D I O	S B R A N A	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

**PERSONNEL (1.1-1.2)**

- 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
  
- 1.2 The Board approve a salary increment withholding, effective September 1, 2018, for a Lincoln Avenue Middle School Teacher, whose name is on file with the Board Secretary.

All Members voted "yes" except Ms. Spinelli who "voted "yes" on all items but "abstained" on 1.1c. (7-0-0)

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

**PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS (2.1-2.8)**

- 2.1 The Board approve field trips and district travel.
  
- 2.2 The Board approve a resolution approving the dates, time and place of monthly board meetings per the list provided and on file with the Board Secretary.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

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2.3 The Board approve to adopt the 2019-2020 Budget Preparation calendar.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

**Mr. Medio said a few months ago he requested a preliminary report on what the administration planned to do as far as addressing this deficit and asked what the current deficit is. Dr. Gruccio said we do not know exactly but possibly we are looking at \$13,000,000. She said there is a list that we put together and encouraged any Board member who would like to sit and review the list to please contact Mrs. Haley.**

2.4 The Board approve the first reading and discussion of the following Policy:  
 Policy 8508 – Lunch Offer versus Serve.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

2.5 The Board approve the 2019-2020 VHS World Language Educational student trip to Barcelona, France, and Italy from March 30, 2020 to April 9, 2020, which includes the cost of a nurse and excusing all chaperones/students from school.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

2.6 The Board approve the 2018-2019 Vineland High School Class trip to Washington D.C. and Williamsburg, Virginia from April 17 to April 19, 2019, which includes the cost of a nurse and excusing all chaperones/students from school.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

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2.7 The Board approve to enter into a Dual Credit Articulation Agreement with Cumberland County College for the 2018-2019 school year.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

2.8 The Board approve submission to the Executive County Superintendent the 2018-2019 NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) and the Chief School Administrator's Statement of Assurance attesting to the accuracy of the responses in the report at the best of her knowledge.

All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Medio who voted "no" (6-1-0)

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (3.0)**

**FINANCE (4.1-4.18)**

4.1 The Board approve budgetary transfers for General, School-Based and ECPA for September 2018.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

4.2 The Board approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for September 2018.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

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4.3 The Board approve the placement of Special Education students.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (7-0-0)

**Mr. Medio said he asked a question about whether or not special education was getting money from the general budget and he never received a clear answer on this. He questioned where the extra money is coming from because we are spending twice as much on these students. Mr. Medio said that he would like an answer in the future.**

**Dr. Gruccio asked Ms. Godlewski, Director of Special Education, to put something together in regards to this for the Board.**

4.4 The Board approve the staff funded by Federal Program salaries and funding percentages for the 2018-2019 school year as per the names provided and on file with the Board Secretary.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (7-0-0)

4.5 The Board approve submission of the following grant applications:

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (7-0-0)

- a. Ocean first Foundation Model Classroom Grant for Vineland High School South in the amount of \$10,000.
- b. Young Citizens Scholarship Grant for Mennies Elementary School's field trip to the National Constitution Center. Paid admission for 42 students @ \$7.50 each for a total of \$315 and transportation costs up to \$150.
- c. Members 1<sup>st</sup> of NJFCU 2018 Teacher Mini Grant for Rossi Elementary School in the amount of \$100.
- d. Southern Coastal Regional Employee Benefits Funds Wellness Grant Program in the amount of \$22,500.

**Mr. Jennings thanked everyone who applied for these grants.**

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4.6 The Board approve the Annual Maintenance Reserve Deposit Worksheet (form M-1) indicating the required deposit in the 2018-2019 budget.

All Members voted "yes."  
(7-0-0)

**Mr. Medio asked what is going on in the front of this building. Mr. Farinaccio, Assistant Director of Maintenance, said it is the planned parking lot for two ADA spaces as well as ten visitor spaces. Mr. Medio said that this was never brought before the Facilities Committee or mentioned during budget discussions. He said we have plenty of parking and asked why we are ruining the look of the front of this building when we do not have to. Dr. Gruccio said it is necessary for us to have handicapped parking at the front of the building along with some visitor spots. She said there was funding available in this year's budget so we decided to move forward and put handicap and visitor parking in the front of the building so the elevator can be accessed easily. Mr. Medio said we have handicapped parking in the back of the building and he does not understand why we are doing this with a \$13 million dollar shortfall. Mr. Holmes said that he does recollect discussion about parking for out front and it was delayed because of budgetary issues at the time. Dr. Gruccio said we did put it off for that reason. She said Mrs. Haley can explain where we got the funding to do this project. Mrs. Haley said we budgeted for paving projects in Fund 12, which includes the infrastructure account and both projects came in under the budgeted amount. She said there was extra money in that account that we used for the parking lot.**

4.7 The Board approve the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report for the following period:  
 2017-2018 Actual -----\$1,805,353  
 2018-2019 Budgeted -----\$1,782,310  
 2020-2021 Planned -----\$2,368,000

All Members voted "yes."  
(7-0-0)

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4.8 The Board approve the Early Childhood Program Three-Year Preschool Plan for the 2018-2019 school year.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

4.9 The Board approve submission to the Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood, the 2019-2020 ECPA budget for a total of \$18,747,583.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

4.10 The Board approve the opening of a new account at Newfield National Bank for the D'Ippolito Elementary School Student Activity Account with the following signers:  
 a. Sylvia Morano  
 b. Helen G. Haley  
 c. Louise King  
 d. Daisy Mercado

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

**Mr. Medio asked since Mrs. Haley is leaving should we not have a different name on this. Mrs. Haley said the paperwork was already started with the Bank and we will change everything in December.**

4.11 The Board approve the following name changes to the authorized signers of the Winslow School Activity Account at Newfield National Bank:

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

- Remove**  
 Debra Quinn  
 Kristina Craig  
**Add:**  
 Renee Braxton  
 Deborah Flumenbaum  
 Lauren Dallago  
 Helen G. Haley



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4.12 The Board approve the revised tuition contract between the Vineland Board of Education and Cape May County Technical School for two full time students and one shared time student in the amount of \$4,791.30 per month from September 2018 to June 2019.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (7-0-0)

4.13 The Board approve the tuition contract with Gloucester County Technical School District for the Career Technical Program for the 2018-2019 school year with a tentative tuition charge of \$8,015.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (7-0-0)

4.14 The Board approve Change Order #1 from Premier Enterprises, LLC for the VHS North 2018 Roof Replacement for a credit of unused contingency allowance in the amount of \$5,000.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (7-0-0)

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4.15 The Board approve the settlement agreement with A.V. o/b/o J.R. in the amount of \$20,000 in accordance with the terms of the settlement agreement on file with the Board Secretary.

All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Ulrich who voted "no." (6-1-0)

4.16 The Board approve the bus advertisement for Castle Couture for one year for 33 ads in the amount of \$3,861.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

4.17 The Board approve the 2018-2019 Joint Transportation Contract between Lower Cape May Regional School District and Vineland Public Schools for one student in the amount of \$949.15.

All Members voted "yes." (7-0-0)

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4.18 The Board approve the following Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation initiatives:

- a. 2018-2019 Transportation Quoted Contracts
- b. 2018-2019 Transportation Addendum
- c. 2018-2019 Jointure
- d. 2018-2019 Bid #5 Student Transportation Services – Record & Award
- e. 2018-2019 Fall Bus Evacuations

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (7-0-0)

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the September 2018 bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$12,666,026.85).

Committee Reports: Mr. Fiocchi said discussed at the October 29<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting was the ECPA budget for 2019/20, Leuchter lease, surplus from 2017/18, shortfall projection for 2019/20, letter from Commissioner Repollet regarding the application for emergency aid for 2018/19, budget calendar, Oak & Main appraisal results, attorney fees for the renaming of Lincoln Avenue Middle School, and the Wellness Grant.

Mr. Ulrich said discussed at tonight’s Policy & Personnel Committee meeting was personnel items such as tenure charge case, Business Administrator position, Human Resource Office position and middle school teacher not meeting job requirements.

Mr. Medio said discussed at the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting was on-going negotiation discussions.

Dr. Gruccio said today a meeting was held with the early childcare providers and the per pupil rate that we charge them was adjusted to \$165. She said the fitness center that is located in the music building was funded by the Wellness Grant and did not come out of the district budget. Dr. Gruccio said any district employee could use that facility, which should be open next week.

Items proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board members:

Discussion regarding the scheduling of the dedication ceremony for the renaming of the Lincoln Avenue Middle School.

Mr. Ulrich said he thinks it is a good idea not to rush into this. He said this is a good thing for Vineland to be able to recognize an American hero. Mr. Ulrich said a Saturday would be a great day for this and we can work it into a nice community event with a good turn out.

Mr. Medio said he has received a lot of enthusiasm in the community. He said there are many people who are willing to help and be on the school dedication committee. Mr. Medio volunteered to chair the committee if his fellow Board members are willing to accept that.

Mr. Jennings asked what the original date was for the renaming. Dr. Guccio said we looked at dates in December and none of those dates worked for the family. She said typically it is the district that puts these kind of events together. Dr. Guccio said if that does not work for the family Mr. Medio requested that we wait until March, which she would be happy to do. She said the only reason we tried to do this in December was so that the Board that voted for this would be able to be a part of the ceremony. Dr. Guccio said we will invite those people back to still be a part of the ceremony. She said we can postpone this until March.

Mr. Ulrich said it would be great to have the band at this event. Dr. Guccio said we would like to use the band that is at the school so they are involved. Mr. Medio said both high school and middle school bands can be used.

Emergent Item(s)  
(with prior approval):

Approval regarding a professional services contract addendum between the Vineland Board of Education and Newborn Nurses, a subgroup of the NBN Group to provide LPN nursing services for students on an abbreviated school day at a rate of \$65/hour.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spinelli, to approve a professional services contract addendum between the Vineland Board of Education and Newborn Nurses, a subgroup of the NBN Group to provide LPN nursing services for students on an abbreviated school day at a rate of \$65/hour. All Members voted "yes."

Public:

Brianna Davis  
Miss Davis discussed the need for active Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) at the high school and middle schools.

Susanne Morello

Ms. Morello asked if there will be an Ad Hoc Committee for the dedication of the renaming of Lincoln Avenue Middle School. Mr. Bordley said at this point Board activity is confined to policy issues and this is not a policy issue. He said Central Administration will work with the Board to coordinate this. Ms. Morello said she does not understand what is going on in regards to the money that was spent on legal fees for the OPRA request on the naming of the school. She expressed her concern in regards to the district having a future 13.5 million dollar shortfall with a paving project being done in the front of the building. Ms. Morello would like to know what the total cost of moving to the Landis Administration building was. She asked what could be the downside of allowing people who want to be involved and help with the school naming ceremony. Ms. Morello hopes that the district thinks about including the community who elects the people who are sitting on the Board and pays the taxes.

Vicky Miller

Ms. Miller said special education is here to stay and is growing. She feels we need a committee. Ms. Miller said if we have that kind of money to put into the turf field then we should be putting it in to use for our children. She said the Board is here to support our children.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Board Member  
Remarks:

Mr. Medio said what most of the Board members are concerned about is budgeting and money. He does not want anyone to misunderstand his questioning about special education. Mr. Medio said the questioning is not about whether or not we need special education. He said his question is where is the justification and how does the money work that we are spending \$40,000 on individual students when his understanding is that their share of the money is \$20,000. Mr. Medio said instead of putting the money into school systems outside the district we should keep the money per student in the district. He said the money should be spread around to all the students who deserve it. Mr. Medio said he wants to know whether or not money is being taken away from certain students to help other students. He thinks what he has said is very reasonable.

Mr. Medio said the concept of just because you ask a question you are automatically opposed to something is very shortsighted and does not have a place in any of these discussions. Mr. Medio asked what is going to be done now that we have to make cuts.

Mr. Jennings thanked Mr. Bordley for giving his time and service on the Board. He said that he received a wonderful handwritten thank you card from the students for driving the flatbed truck for the homecoming parade.

Mr. Holmes said he finds it ironic that the Board was scrutinized by the public for the duration of the time that was spent on the school naming process. He said now that the decision has been made no one wants to rush it. Mr. Holmes thanked Mrs. Haley for her time, effort and passion to the school district and wished her the best. He welcomed and congratulated Ms. Leslie Corsey who he has known for 21 years.

Mr. Ulrich welcomed the new Executive County Superintendent. He said county board meetings are held on Wednesday nights, which conflict with our Board meetings. Mr. Ulrich asked if Ms. Corsey can see if there is any flexibility in rotating the meetings so Boards can be represented. He thanked the student who spoke about LGBT and situations that occur. Mr. Ulrich said naming a section of a building does not require the same procedure as naming a school so we can move forward with this action. He said the policy needs to be tightened up as far as the school naming process. Mr. Ulrich said this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to recognize a member of the military from our town. He feels that we should put our differences aside and work to make this the best community event.

Dr. Gruccio welcomed Ms. White-Corsey and looks forward to working with her. She thanked her for taking the time to be here tonight. Dr. Gruccio thanked Brianna for the courage she had to speak tonight. She said we are moving forward in regards to the other honorees for the building dedication. Dr. Gruccio said on behalf of everyone she extended sympathy to Mr. Medio who recently lost his mother.

Mr. Ulrich mentioned that the district recently lost a Rossi School teacher due to cancer. He sent his thoughts and prayers to the family.

Dr. Guccio said we also lost a five year old student and hopes we keep the families in our thoughts and prayers.

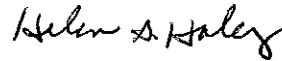
Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary