

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, December 7, 2016 at 7:04 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Jennings, and Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Mr. Pagano.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, press and public. Absent: Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, arrived at 7:25 p.m.

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:

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 purposed, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matter is disclosed; discussion of the terms and conditions of a lease with the State of New Jersey and acquisition of property by donation. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If contract negotiation the nature of the contract and interested party is the terms and conditions of contracts with child care providers. 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:

A motion was made by Mr. Bordley, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the resolution passed. All Members voted "yes."

Special

Presentations:

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. David Calderetti, YMCA Project Director, to recognize Max Leuchter, Sabater and Wallace Schools for participating in Safe Routes to School.

Mr. Calderetti said Cumberland County ranks last in state health outcomes because adults and children are extremely inactive in our community. Mr. Calderetti said in 2013 the Vineland Board of Education decided to take a stand and participate in Safe Routes to School, which is a federally funded program that has two goals. One goal is to encourage healthy walking and bicycling to and from school and the other is to replace/refurbish existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities that do not allow children to safely walk and bike to school. Mr. Calderetti announced that the following schools are being recognized as Gold Level Award participants Sabater, Winslow and Leuchter Elementary Schools.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Aura McQuay, Special Education Teacher, to recognize a 5th grade student.

Ms. McQuay said it is her pleasure tonight to introduce Miss Rylee Howerton who was crowned National Miss Amazing Preteen 2016 for her platform “Choose Wise Words.” She wished Rylee the best in her continued efforts to promote her important message.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Brandi Grosso, Vineland Public Library Director, to honor the winner of the Library Design Bookmark Contest.

Ms. Grosso said the theme for the Bookmark Contest is “Build a Better World.” She thanked the schools for promoting this contest with their students.

Dr. Gruccio introduced each of the winners along with their principal.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Sarah Nurnberger, VHS World Language Teacher, to present a proposal for a student educational trip abroad in spring of 2018.

Ms. Nurnberger said she along with Ms. Serrano and Ms. Gonzalez are proposing a tour to Europe in spring 2018. She said they are asking for the absences to be approved for the students and themselves. Ms. Nurnberger discussed the 11 day tour to Cinque Terre, Côte d’Azur and Barcelona. Ms. Serrano spoke about the insurance that can be purchased. She said that she is certified in CPR and AED.

Mr. English asked if this trip is open to all language students and grade levels. Ms. Serrano said yes as long as they are not freshman and had two years of the language. Mr. English asked if the trip will be during the spring break. Ms. Nurnberger said half of the trip will be.

Mr. DeWinne asked how many preliminary students have said they would like to go on this trip. Ms. Nurnberger said about half of her students are interested.

Ms. Acosta asked how many students went last year. Ms. Nurnberger said about 18 students and 3 adults.

Mr. English suggested in the future having a Power Point presentation done on how the trip went.

Student Liaison

Report: Next week.

HIB Report:

None.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

The Board recessed to executive session at 7:28 p.m.

The meeting resumed 8:57 p.m.

Ms. Codispoti departed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – Mr. Bordley said it will be sad to see Mr. McDevitt retire.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

- 2.1 **Travel** – No discussion.
- 2.2 **Board Meeting Dates, Time and Place** – No discussion.
- 2.3 **Courtyard School NJ Department of Education Waiver** – No discussion.
- 2.4 **Bus Evacuation Drills for November** – No discussion.
- 2.5 **VHS Senior Class Trip to Pocono Valley** – Mr. Jennings said this really looks like a fantastic time.

Mr. English asked if this trip is a replacement. Dr. Guccio responded yes there was not enough response for the Disney trip so it was changed to a new location. Mr. English asked if nurses will be provided. Dr. Guccio said yes. Mr. English asked what type of buses will be used. Dr. Guccio said she believes Charter Buses.

- 2.6 **First Reading of Policy 2415.30** – No discussion.

3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- 3.1 **Resolution for Proposed Donation of Property** – No discussion.

4. **FINANCE**

- 4.1 **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
- 4.2 **Board Secretary/Treasurer’s report for October 2016** – No discussion.
- 4.3 **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
- 4.4 **Acceptance of the following Funding – Mennies Young Citizens Grant** – No discussion.
- 4.5 **Submission of the following Grant – Mennies Wetlands Institute Field Trip Program** – Mr. English asked if there are thousands of grants available. Dr. Guccio said there are many grants and some schools apply and others do not. She said Mr. Bordley has scheduled a meeting with someone from the NJ School Boards Association who has a proposal for us to research and write grants. Mr. English thanked Mr. Bordley for setting this up.

- 4.6 **Dallago/Almond Road Preschool Student Activity Account** – No discussion.
- 4.7 **Landis Middle School Student Activity Account Authorized Signers Change** – No discussion.
- 4.8 **Cancellation of Payroll Checks**- No discussion.
- 4.9 **Cancellation of Accounts Payable Checks** – No discussion.
- 4.10 **NCLB Revised Submission** – No discussion.
- 4.11 **IDEA Submission** – No discussion.
- 4.12 **List of Professionals for Services/Assessments for Classified Students** – No discussion.
- 4.13 **ECPA Budget for 2017/18** – No discussion.
- 4.14 **Early Childhood Program Five-Year Preschool Plan 2017/18** – Mr. Bordley said this is a fluid document and there is no harm in approving this to move forward.

Mr. English asked Mrs. Haley to explain this item. Mrs. Haley said the ECPA budget is our preschool budget that is based on enrollment and funding is received from the state. She said the budget is due to the state by December 15th but we were told that it can be revised if any of the facts change later, which is why Mr. Bordley said it is a fluid document.
- 4.15 **Cumberland County Technical Education Center Contracts** – No discussion.
- 4.16 **Colonial Life Flexible Spending Account Program** – No discussion.
- 4.17 **Quoted Transportation Contracts- Wall13 & DPS11** – No discussion.
- 4.18 **Award Bid #07-17 Durand and Wallace Routes** – No discussion.

4.19 **Cumberland County Educational Cooperative Transportation – a. Transportation Addendums, b. Quoted Contracts, c. Out of District Joint Agreements, d. Bus Evacuation Drills, e. Transportation Statistics/Updates, F. Record/Award Bid #4/2016-17** – Mr. English asked if the private bus services do their evacuations like we do. Dr. Gruccio said yes.

4.20 **Sale of Trailer on Gov. Deals** – No discussion.

2. REGULAR AGENDA

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

Review of bills incurred during October 2016 – None.

Public Comments: Ruth Piatt, Little Lamb Preschool-Keener Kids Inc.
Ms. Piatt expressed her concern in regards to the district cutting classrooms from the private preschool providers. She said the providers are putting together an alternate solution that they will present to the Board before December 14th to review.

Lewis D’Ippolito, Director of Courtyard School
Mr. D’Ippolito expressed his concern in regards to the district cutting classrooms from the private preschool providers. He also expressed his concern that there is no guarantee that the preschool provider students who are being cut will be sent to schools in other areas that are in need of enrollment.

Committee Reports: Mr. DeWinne said the Finance Committee met on November 28th and they discussed the ECPA and General Budget.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. English asked for a clarification and if alternate solutions can be brought to Mrs. Haley in regards to the ECPA Budget.

Mrs. Haley said she sent an email to Ms. Silva, Fiscal Specialist and Ms. Monteleone, Dallago/Almond Road Preschool Principal, asking them to contact the state tomorrow to find out if we can accept assistance from the providers.

Mr. English asked if we have exhausted every option available. Mrs. Haley said the ECPA Grant is based on enrollment, which is the budget that we have to work with. She said the classroom size is down from last year and that is how we know we have to cut six classrooms. Mr. English said the new Board may come in with ideas that are different and he would hate to say it is too late. Mrs. Haley said the total grant dollar amount based on enrollment cannot be changed but the makeup of the budget could be.

Dr. Gruccio said she distributed the new Strategic Plan to the Board, which explains everything that was accomplished during the past year and what we are focusing on for the current year. She said our lending libraries which are promoted by the *Daily Journal* will be added to Johnstone, Sabater, Petway, Mennies, Winslow and Veterans Memorial School along with All Kids First, Almond Road and two other preschools. She said if anyone would like to donate books to those libraries to please contact Deb Marko at the *Daily Journal*. Dr. Gruccio thanked the *Daily Journal* for the lending libraries. She also thanked BJ's for donating four \$25 gift cards to Title I ASSA Homework Club, MBC Universal for their equipment donation to enhance studio production and Kelly Construction for their \$75.00 check to Vineland High School Jag.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Bordley, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

