

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, November 7, 2007 at 7:05 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Ms. Arroyo, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Mrs. Gavigan, Mr. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Bernardini and Mr. Snyder.

Also present: Mr. Ottinger, Superintendent, Dr. Figgs, Dr. Guccio, and Mr. Peters, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Director of Special Education, Ms. Diaz, Personnel Officer, press and public. Absent: Ms. Greenfield.

Mr. Giordano 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.

Flag salute:

Mr. Giordano asked for a moment of silence for Enocencio Graves, a student at Cunningham School, who past away last month.

Special

Presentations:

Mr. Ottinger introduced Mr. Wade Anastor and Mr. Christopher Hannah to discuss the Music Program in kindergarten through eighth grades.

Mr. Anastor said he is pleased to recommend for approval the Macmillan/McGraw Hill's 2008 "Spotlight on Music Program." He said this program will replace the Silver Burdett Program, which was adopted in 1995. Mr. Anastor said the key features teachers found with this program are that each unit is organized to cover concepts, music reading, performance and seasonal celebrations. Each unit has optional lessons for gifted classes or other special needs groups. Mr. Anastor said the program is also extensively based on technology and has CD collections for each unit, which can be transformed to a MP3 player to facilitated use in the classroom. He thanked Mr. Ottinger, Dr. Guccio and Mr. Franchetta for funding the new program that is long over due. Mr. Anastor mentioned that last year we added an instrumental music teacher for the elementary schools. He is happy to report that Ms. Larson is doing a very good job and we have over fifty students involved in instrumental music as of this date.

Mr. Giordano said the end result here should help the high school program as far as the band. Mr. Anastor said it should.

Mr. Giordano said Mr. Snyder arrived at the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Ottinger introduced Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Cumberland County College and Mrs. Rosolyn Williams, District Nursing Supervisor, to speak about the Allied Health & Science Medical Technology Program.

Mr. Isekenegbe said on behalf of Dr. Ender, President of Cumberland County College and the Cumberland County College Board of Trustees he wanted to thank the board and superintendent for collaborating with the college in the development of the new courses in health careers. He said the theme of this plan is access, alignment and accountability. Mr. Isekenegbe said the courses developed through this program will provide Vineland High School students access to earn college credits while still in high school. This is just the beginning of good things to come. Mr. Isekenegbe said we are looking forward to working with the teachers in development of dual credit courses for the benefit of all of our students.

Mrs. Williams said they would like to present a proposal for four dual credit courses for the 2008-2009 school year. She said this would fit under a medical health and social science small learning community. Mrs. Williams said a partnership with Cumberland County College and five area secondary schools have developed county wide health sciences career academics. These courses are rigorous and challenging connected to entry level knowledge and workforce skills for the twenty first century. Mrs. Williams said these courses are in compliance with state education requirements and students will have the opportunity to earn up to twelve college credits while in high school.

Mrs. Gavigan asked how these courses fit into the nursing curriculum at the college. Mr. Isekenegbe explained that the college has two new degree programs and these twelve credits can transfer into these programs. Mrs. Gavigan asked if there will be any way that we can assist some of our students with the cost. Ms. Jacqueline Galbiati, Project Director of Healthcare Careers at Cumberland County College, said we have received a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. She said we will be able to offset the accuplacer cost for the students who are unable to pay. Ms. Galbiati said we will not be able to do that for the college credits but we will have a representative in the high school for advising and counseling. Mrs. Gavigan commented that this is a great partnership and a nice start for our students for college.

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Mr. Spinelli asked if students who are taking the dual credit courses will be taught anything more advanced. Ms. Galbiati said the curriculum taught at the high school will be the same curriculum taught at the college. She said the advantage at the high school is the students will have more days and hours to complete the course.

Mr. Snyder asked if the students will be employable if they stop with the twelve dual credits that lead to the associate degree. Ms. Galbiati said there are certain associate degrees that they can stop and be employed such as radiography, nursing and with an associates in health science they can work in a physician's office or surgery and diagnostic center.

Ms. Arroyo asked who are teaching these courses. Mrs. Williams said the courses will be taught by Vineland Public School staff.

Mr. Franceschini commented that these four courses could really make a difference with the students. He asked if the health science degree also includes cardio vascular or EKG technology and phlebotomy. Ms. Galbiati responded yes students will be able to start with those level jobs.

Mrs. Gavigan asked if our teachers will be teaching these four courses. Mrs. Williams responded yes. Mrs. Gavigan asked if the courses will be in the September course booklet. Mrs. Williams said yes that is what we are working on.

Mr. Ottinger commented that we are on the cutting edge of some really great things happening that will fit right in to everything we are doing. He thanked Mr. Peters, Dr. Gruccio, Mrs. Williams, the high school principals and teachers in coming up with this wonderful program. Mr. Ottinger said these are the great things that are happening between the school system and Cumberland County College.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – Mr. Snyder commented that there will be some big shoes to fill at the high school with all the retirements. He wished the retirees good luck.

2. **Creation of Asst. Director of Maintenance Services Position** – Mr. Spinelli asked if the final job description was brought before the Personnel & Policy Committee. Mr. Ottinger responded yes.

Mr. Ulrich asked if this has been funded. Mr. Ottinger said we will promote someone from within our staff, which will probably be about six or seven thousand additional dollars.

Mr. Spinelli asked if we would have to replace the internal person that is promoted. Mr. Ottinger responded no.

3. **Appointment of Staff of Federal Program Salaries** – No discussion.
4. **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
5. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
6. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
7. **Extension of Grants** – No discussion.
8. **Acceptance of Funds** – No discussion.
9. **Submission of No Child Left Behind Application 2008** – Mr. Giordano asked if this is an annual application. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.
10. **Bids** – Mr. Giordano asked if the professional contract is in addition to the consultant list. Mrs. Polof responded yes. Mr. Giordano asked if this consultant will be on going or used on an as needed basis. Mrs. Polof said this is on going counseling that is done weekly at Success for drug and alcohol counseling.

Mrs. Gavigan asked if we have always contracted the transportation service out for the Impact students. Mr. Cox responded yes. Mrs. Gavigan asked if we ever transported our Impact students with our buses. Mr. Franchetta said yes last year. Mrs. Gavigan asked if we need additional buses contracted because we have so many Impact students. Mr. Franchetta said because of the loss of a provider we opened up additional rooms at South and East Vineland Schools.

11. **Travel** – Mr. Franceschini asked what funds from EIP 505 means. Mr. Franchetta explained that when the budget is constructed that is how the funds are isolated so they are not spent by another supervisor.

12. **Approval of Bank Depositories** – No discussion.

13. **Administrative Petty Cash** – No discussion.

14. **Annual Maintenance Reserve Deposit Worksheet (Form M-1)** - Mr. Giordano asked why this is separate. Mr. Franchetta explained that the School Development Authority (SDA) did not want districts to build schools, make improvements and divert their entire budget to other costs ignoring the maintenance of the schools. He said in the code a requirement was made that we spend at least 2% of the value of the building each year for upkeep.

Mr. Snyder asked if the new schools are included. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.

15. **Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report** – Mr. Ulrich questioned why some of the repairs are repeated. Mr. Franchetta explained that this report shows where past money was spent, where it is planned to be spent this year and where it is anticipated to be spent next year. He said some of the things done are repetitive. Mr. Ulrich asked why duplicate repairs are listed in each column for Leuchter School. Mr. Ottinger said he will check with Mr. Weaver and have an answer next week.

Mr. Fanucci asked who works on these budget numbers. Mr. Franchetta said Mr. Weaver and Mr. Rochetti. Mr. Fanucci asked if the building principals are consulted on these repairs. Mr. Ottinger said yes.

16. **Joint Transportation Agreement** – No discussion.

17. **Revised South Jersey Hospital Contract for Impact** – Mr. Giordano asked if the agreement will be the same when Impact moves. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.

18. **LaSalle University Contract** – No discussion.

19. **Principle of Majority Rule Resolution** – Mr. Giordano asked Mr. Franchetta to explain this resolution. Mr. Franchetta said this is a resolution that we received from the New Jersey School Boards Association. The NJSBA asked if we would consider passing this resolution to change the law that the state passed. Mr. Franchetta said when a special question is put on the ballot for voters there must be a 60% majority vote requirement for it to be successful.

Mr. Snyder asked if this is a pre-cursor to moving school board elections to November. Mr. Franchetta said he does not know.

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Mr. Snyder asked if this has been passed or is it in legislative process. Mr. Franchetta said he thinks it has been adopted.

Mr. DeSanto said he and Mr. Franchetta will look into this and have more information at next week's meeting.

Mr. Fanucci asked if this pertains only to the budget. Mr. Franchetta said no it pertains to any special question.

20. **Application to operate a Title I School-Wide Program** – No discussion.

21. **Vacation Day Class Action Law Suit** – Mr. Giordano asked if these are former employees. Mr. Franchetta said that is correct. Mr. DeSanto said the majority of these people are retired but there are a few who have active status, which means they are no longer working as a ten month employee.

22. **Vineland Administrators/Supervisors Association (VASA) Agreement** – Mr. Giordano said Mr. DiDomenico will be in attendance at next week's meeting to address the board.

Mr. Ulrich questioned why there are employees listed that are no longer employed with the Vineland Board of Education. Mr. Franchetta explained that when we start negotiating the first thing that we do is establish a scattergram, which freezes all employees, their salaries and the positions that they are in. He said the percentage given is calculated on that pool of people. Mr. Franchetta said we can not keep changing the scattergram when people leave, start or change jobs.

23. **Local #2327 Agreement** – No discussion.

24. **Approval of District Performance Reviews (DPRs)** – Mr. Giordano asked if item #25 is related to item #24. Mr. Ottinger responded yes. Mr. Giordano said for various reasons, as far as the guidelines, it is his opinion that the procedures in coming to the conclusions to finalize this report were not totally accurate and correct. He said for instance he did not know that we could have had more than one board member represent the board at the committee meetings. Mr. Giordano also said that he did not know that he was able to appoint a sub-committee to meet with the large committee throughout the discussions with this QSAC Committee. Mrs. Gavigan said she had discussion with representatives of the Department of Education and brought to their attention how the process was conducted in Vineland. She mentioned to them that she did not have a chance to meet with a small sub-committee and her involvement was one on one with Dr. Figgs.

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Mrs. Gavigan said the Department of Education representatives indicated that there should have been a committee discussion, which she did not have that opportunity as a board representative. Mrs. Gavigan said she did not have the chance to meet with another sub-committee that she was supposed to be a member of. Mr. Giordano asked what committee was that. Mrs. Gavigan said human resources, which she was just handed a copy of the report. Mr. Giordano said the way he looks at a committee is that everyone gives input at the same time and you formulate a final report. He said that he has reservations on the process here.

Mr. Snyder said he feels that singular issues administration had with certain board members were not addressed personally to anyone in particular.

Mr. Giordano said his reservations were the procedure. He said the alternative will be that the board needs to come up with a resolution either to accept/reject parts or reject/approve the entire review. Mr. Giordano said his thought process is because of what we learned we need a resolution to reject the entire review strictly on procedure.

Mr. Ottinger said there is obviously a disagreement between the committee members, committee chairperson and the board whether the procedure was followed or not. He said it is his opinion that the review needs to be submitted to the county superintendent to make the final judgment whether procedure was followed appropriately. Mr. Giordano said he does not think it is the county's responsibility to decide whether procedure was followed but to remedy. Mr. Ottinger said ultimately it is in their hands.

Mr. DeSanto said his opinion is that the report must be submitted whether it is agreed upon or not. He said if Mrs. Gavigan refuses to sign the form then it is a requirement that her name and the words "refuse to sign" be noted on the report. Mr. Ottinger said the county superintendent asked Mrs. Gavigan to write a one line letter stating that she participated but did not agree with the procedure. Mr. Giordano said that is what it states in the guidelines. Mr. DeSanto said with respect to that part of the board's involvement he will prepare a resolution that would basically state that the board is in disagreement with respect to compliance with the process but is authorizing the submission of the report as required.

Mr. Spinelli said he did not hear about the QSAC evaluation until there was a problem with it. He said as a board member he would have liked to have known that the process was going on. Mrs. Gavigan mentioned that the board approved the committee in September.

Mr. Fanucci asked if the procedure is laid out in black and white. Mr. Ottinger said some of it is optional.

26. Allied Health & Science Curriculum – No discussion.

27. **Spotlight on Music Program** – No discussion.

28. **Acceptance of Donations** – No discussion.

29. **Winter Athletic Schedule** – No discussion.

30. **First Reading of Policy #8461 Revisions** – No discussion.

B. Board

1. None.

Mr. Franceschini departed at 7:45 p.m.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Committee Reports: Mr. Giordano asked Mr. Franchetta when the next Finance Committee is scheduled. Mr. Franchetta said the last Monday of the month.

Mr. Snyder said the two presentations that were given tonight were discussed at the Curriculum & Technology meeting. He said the music curriculum has not been updated in many years and Mr. Anastor did a fantastic job of choosing the curriculum.

Mr. Spinelli said the Personnel & Policy Committee will meet next Wednesday. He said Mr. Callavini will be attending that meeting to answer questions on procedures.

Mr. DeSanto said he forwarded a draft to Dr. Figgs to be given to the Personnel & Policy Committee on the Naming of Facilities Policy. Mr. Giordano asked if this policy will also be for naming part of a facility. Mr. DeSanto said this will totally replace what we have and will provide things that can be considered in naming a free standing facility, a room or a building. He said the policy will have criteria and will provide for a waiting period from death.

Mr. Snyder asked Mr. Spinelli if the Personnel & Policy committee was able to address the issue of giving privilege to our employees in allowing their children to attend the schools in which they work. Mr. Spinelli said the committee has not met since this was brought up but it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Mr. Giordano reminded everyone that the December regular board meeting will be held at Vineland High School and we will be entertained by the select choir.

Mr. Ottinger thanked Mr. Ulrich and the entire Vineland Police Department for the wonderful support they provide. He said we are very fortunate in this community for all the help we receive from our police department.

Mr. Ulrich announced that on November 13th at 5:30 p.m. Cumberland County College will be holding a seminar on Gangs 101. He said it is an information seminar in regards to gangs.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary