

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at 7:02 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier, and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mrs. Phillips.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel, press and public. Absent: Dr. Elliott, Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director.

Mr. Ulrich 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:

Anisa Harper, Ryler Russell, Jakob Vazquez and Melanie Veliz students from Sabater Elementary School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Edward Benish, Assistant Principal was also in attendance.

Special

Presentation (s):

Rowan University presenters did not attend meeting.

Mr. Medio called for a “Point of Order” and said there is nothing on the agenda concerning last week’s discussion on intramural sports, paying for end of the year banquets and the curriculum committee’s recommendation from the high school administration in regards to a 9/10 11/12 setting for next year.

Mr. Ulrich said there has not been any Schedule B positions forwarded for approval that covers the intramurals and the busing has already been approved. He said as far as the banquets a cost estimate was requested so it can be discussed at a work session and a vote considered.

Dr. Banks said she requested a formal memo from Dr. McCann with rationale and explanation as to what the next phase would be after the initial recommendation with regard to Ninth Grade Academy. She said her plan was to send it home in the board packets for the February meeting.

Mr. Medio asked if we are not voting on the intramural sports tonight. Mr. Ulrich said the intramural sports are covered by Schedule B and will be voted on when a recommendation comes forth from the building principals.

Mr. Medio said he was led to believe that we had to approve the money for the intramural programs. Mr. Ulrich said when this was discussed we found that the money for the actual advisors is not that much of a cost. The programs that were forwarded would be considered, discussed at a work session and approved. Mr. Ulrich said that he requested for Dr. Gruccio to please get an estimate on the cost of the school banquets and the full board would discuss the pros and cons. Mr. Medio asked if we will have these items at the next work session.

Dr. Banks said she will have Dr. McCann's recommendation with regard to the restructuring of the high school for the work session. She said with regard to the intramurals she has not received anything and would have to speak with Ms. Greenfield.

Ms. Greenfield said to date she has not received anything and the board agenda closing date for February is next week.

Mr. Ulrich said this is not the time for a debate and the issue will be brought to a work session. He said we do not direct the superintendent to do anything and the recommendations fall within the law to come from the superintendent.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from December 7, 2011 and December 14, 2011. All Members voted "yes."

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of November 2011, which are in agreement were approved as submitted and on file in the Minute Book, and the Board approved its monthly certification of budgetary major account fund status and the Board Secretary's monthly certification as on file with the Secretary. All Members voted "yes."

Solicitor's Report: None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, January 18, 2012 and Wednesday, January 25, 2012** to discuss personnel matters and residency matters.

Motion: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes.”

The board recessed to executive session at 7:33 p.m. before a vote was taken on recommendation #25

The meeting resumed at 7:42 p.m. and a vote was taken on recommendation #25.

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$7,946,687.44).

Mr. Ulrich asked Mr. DeSanto to clarify the “Point of Order” motion at the beginning of the meeting regarding items that can be added to the agenda.

Mr. DeSanto said the board’s bylaws provide a mechanism for board members to vote on matters that are not recommended by the superintendent, which is section IX.B on the meeting agenda. The bylaws provide a procedure for having matters brought up by board members placed under IX.B on the agenda. Mr. DeSanto said he believes Mr. Medio followed that procedure in the matter of intramurals and dinners. He said intramurals and dinners were brought up at a work session, discussed and Mr. Medio requested for them to be placed on the agenda. Mr. DeSanto said there are many circumstances in which that would be enough. He said in regards to the intramurals and dinners there are other issues besides approving a blanket amount of money. Mr. DeSanto said additional information is needed in order to properly vote on these matters. He said the procedure was followed but more information and detail is needed in order for the board to vote.

Mr. English asked if this could be done at a special meeting.

Mr. DeSanto said the bylaws provide that the initiation of the discussion has to be at a work session. He said that allows administration to provide information for an informed discussion. Mr. DeSanto said the next step would be to put the item on the meeting agenda for voting purposes, which could be a regular or special meeting. He said there needs to be a dialogue so everyone knows what is needed to advance this issue for a vote with all the proper information.

Mr. English asked what the best way is to address the issue other than the meeting format. Mr. Medio said at the December meeting when this was brought up we were told that we had to get the cost amount, which we were never given. He said you cannot have applications for jobs that you do not have money appropriated for. Mr. Medio said the board should have received those numbers last week so a vote could be taken this week. He said he has confidence in the administration that the board will have these numbers within the next couple of weeks so this could be voted on at the February meeting.

Mr. English said that the middle school principals need to be made aware of this and at last week's meeting they stated that they were not.

Mr. Medio said it has always been his understanding that the middle school principals had the sports and they were cut. He said the principals did not want the sports cut.

Mr. Ulrich said no one has forwarded anything to Dr. Banks for approval.

Public: None.

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

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Fanucci said we need to set our budget public hearing date as a committee of the whole. Mr. Ulrich suggested setting up the same routine as done previously. Mr. Medio asked how information is provided to the board members before the meeting. Mr. Fanucci said usually it comes with the board packets prior to the work session.

Mr. Fanucci requested for the school based budgets to be sent to the board as soon as possible. Mr. Mercado asked if it were possible to have the school based budgets printed out instead of on a disk. Mr. Fanucci said it is too much paperwork.

Mr. Medio requested hard copies of any new positions in the budget and hard copies of any position in the current budget that was not filled.

Mr. Franchetta said in the budget we always show what has been added since last year's budget and anything that is proposed new for next year.

Mr. Ulrich said the committee of the whole budget meeting will be scheduled for **Wednesday, February 1, 2012** at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we ever finalized how the additional extraordinary aid would be spent. Mr. Ulrich said some of the money has been spent. Mr. Fanucci said spending the remainder of that money is one of the things he wanted to discuss with the full board. He asked for an updated list on the current expenditures and remaining balance.

Mr. Fanucci asked if we are looking to fill the senior technology positions. Mr. Ulrich said that information could be forwarded to Mr. Fanucci.

Board Member
Remarks:

Mr. English said the Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) at Vineland High School will be holding their monthly meeting on January 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Vineland High School South auditorium. He said the presentation will be on combating the dangers of sexting, facebook and social media. Mr. English announced that the VHX-Factor battle of classes will be held on February 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the VHS South auditorium. He thanked everyone for their kind words and thoughts in regards to a death in his family last week.

Dr. Mounier said the board has received a number of anonymous letters and comments. He said the documents would have more power if whoever sent them would sign them. Dr. Mounier said it is so easy to dismiss something if it is anonymous.

Mr. Mercado requested for a date to be scheduled for the board retreat. Mr. Ulrich said he would have to schedule it with the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Mr. Mercado asked if the NJSBA has to be in attendance at the retreat. Mr. Ulrich said Ms. Zoerb is the one who guides the process. He said he will contact her tomorrow to set up a date between meetings.

Ms. Rios congratulated the Sabater students for a job well done on the flag salute. She also congratulated Hope Johnson on her new position. Ms. Rios said it was a pleasure working with Dr. Elliott on the Policy & Personnel and Early Childhood committees. She wished Dr. Elliott the best and knows she will succeed in her new endeavor.

Mr. Ulrich reminded the board that there will be a special board meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. He said a residency hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. the board will discuss the elementary school restructuring and moving the school board elections to November. Ms. Rios asked if the meeting can be held earlier than 6:00 p.m. Mr. Franchetta said a letter was sent to the parent in regards to the 6:00 p.m. residency hearing. Mr. Ulrich said the special meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. on January 25th and then the residency hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. The board scheduled the committee as a whole budget meeting for Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the work session.

Mr. English asked if the presentation at the PTSO meeting on combating the dangers of sexting, facebook and social media could be put on *Channel 9*. Mr. Ulrich said it would have to be scheduled with Mr. Sbrana.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich congratulated Hope Johnson, Carmella Heer and JoAnne Negrin on their positions. He also congratulated and wished Dr. Elliott the best of luck in her new position at the Cumberland County Vo-Tech. Mr. Ulrich said he feels after last week's meeting a full discussion is needed in regards to the dinners and intramurals. He said his wife gave him some advice after watching a board meeting. Mr. Ulrich said that his wife said to him, after watching the board meeting, that the board endlessly debates a lot of decisions that sometimes have absolutely nothing to do with moving the education of our children forward. He said in the end the only people that lose are the students.

Mr. Ulrich said we could debate intramural sports all night but he looks at intramurals as a better option than students going home and being on the streets. He supports intramural sports from a social perspective. Mr. Ulrich encouraged his fellow board members that through compromise there is a way to come up with everything.

Dr. Banks thanked Dr. Elliott for all of her hard work in the district during the time she was here. She said that she thoroughly enjoyed working with Dr. Elliott and wished her well.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df

