

VINELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SEMI-ANNUAL RETREAT

Saturday, January 26, 2008

Place: Vineland Board of Education Meeting Room

Present: Frank Giordano, President, Jacqueline Gavigan, Vice President,  
Mayra Arroyo, Allan Bernardini, Anthony Fanucci, Ronald Franceschini, Paul  
Spinelli, Christopher Synder, Thomas Ulrich, and Charles Ottinger,  
Superintendent

The Board semi-annual retreat was called to be order by Mr. Frank Giordano, Board President, at 9:00 am.

**NJQSAC** – The Board reviewed the findings from the recent New Jersey Department of Education’s NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum – Governance audit. Mr. Giordano and Mrs. Gavigan reported a meeting was held with the Cumberland County Superintendent regarding the Board’s plan of correction which includes board training provided by New Jersey School Boards Association.

New Jersey School Boards Association will work with board to discuss the board self evaluation. This meeting has been scheduled sometime in February 2008.

A discussion ensued regarding each of the findings cited in the NJSAC – Governance report.

**Superintendent’s Goals Update** - Mr. Ottinger provided the board with a mid-year progress report of the Board’s Superintendent Goals regarding small learning communities, consistency of policies and programs throughout the district, district’s public relations and early children program.

**Goal # 1 - Secondary School Initiative** – Our Vineland district is prepared to implement small learning communities curriculum in September 2008. There was a discussion regarding the status of the Abbott regulations and mandates in relationship to the new school funding formula. Mr. Ottinger indicated there has not been any decision regarding our Abbott status and Vineland will continue to plan for the implementation of small learning communities.

**Goal #2 - Consistency of policies and programs throughout the district** – There has been a concerted effort to standardize discipline, grading, curriculum, lesson plans, disciplinary process and promotion policies throughout the district at every grade and every level. Meetings have been held to review curriculum and instructional techniques to insure that the various curricula are being consistently offered at all levels.

**Goal #3 - District Public Relations** – Throughout the past year Channel 13 has been utilized as a source of public relations by hosting several information sessions to explain programs and initiatives that are in effect throughout the district.

**Goal #4 - Early Childhood Programs** – Mr. Ottinger reported there is evidence that early childhood programming and early intervention has a direct correlation with positive test scores in 3 & 4<sup>th</sup> grades. ECPA funding will continue and we will continue to contract with private providers. All preschools in the Vineland District continued to be monitored for operating in a consistent, fair and efficient manner while offering quality programs to students no matter where the students live or where the preschool is located. Mr. Ottinger discussed plans to register students in the same manner as utilized throughout the district.

**2008-2009 Budget** - In addition to the district goals above, the Superintendent provided a brief overview of the 2008-2009 budget.

**Open Forum** - Individual board members voiced concerns regarding varied topics of concern.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Reported by:

Jacqueline Gavigan  
Vice President