

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, February 3, 2010 at 7:05 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Bernardini.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Director of Special Education, Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel, press and public. Absent: none.

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:

Special

Presentations: Dr. Banks introduced Mrs. Karla Holt to present the Five Star Award Winners.

Mrs. Holt presented from the City of Vineland Health Department and Chamber of Commerce the Five Star Awards for excellence in food safety to Wallace Middle School, Central Kitchen, Winslow Elementary School, Durand Elementary School, Vineland High School South, Barse Elementary School and Landis Middle School.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – Mr. DeWinne said football is very dear to him. He wished Mr. Hedgeman the best success in bringing back a program that for years was a very proud source of this community. Mr. DeWinne said he is trusting, Mr. Robbins, the Athletic Director, in his choice.

Ms. Rios questioned the person who is being replaced in the physical education position at Veterans Memorial School and Vineland High School. Ms. Greenfield said the position is for Veterans Memorial School and that is not the replacement. She said a correction has to be made.

Mr. Ulrich mentioned there are a lot of things that Mr. Hedgeman the football coach candidate has accomplished at Schalick High School. He said Mr. Hedgeman is also heavily involved in youth programs and ministry.

Mr. DeWinne asked what the effective date would be for the assistant superintendent position. Dr. Banks said it would hopefully be a sixty day notice.

Mr. Giordano asked if the assistant superintendent position will move forward next week. Dr. Banks said yes it will be presented for the board's vote next week. Mr. Giordano mentioned that because we are in a negotiations year the football coach salary is not listed. He said Josh Hedgeman was the former coach of Schalick High School and brought a program that was down and made it very successful each year.

2. **Special Education Students** – No discussion.
3. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
4. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
5. **Acceptance of Funds** – No discussion.
6. **Bids** – Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the list encompasses everything that we currently purchased in the district or is it just general categories of things we may have to purchase. Mr. Cox said it is for things that we may have done in the past and may do in the future.  
  
Mr. DeWinne asked if we are looking at possibly opening up opportunities for companies that may be limited in trying to save money for future bids. Mr. Cox said yes.
7. **Travel** – No discussion.
8. **Cumberland County Technical Education Center Contract** – No discussion.
9. **Salem County Special Services School District Non-Public Services Agreement** – No discussion.
10. **Computer Donation to Mennies School** – Mr. Franceschini asked how many computers are being donated. Mr. Franchetta said forty.

B. Board

1. None.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Public Comments: Ernie Marcacci, Vineland Resident

Mr. Marcacci said that he would like to know what is happening with the track at the high school.

Mr. DeSanto said there has been no change since he met with him two weeks ago.

Mr. Marcacci asked what will happen if we are not victorious with the litigation of the track does the district intend to fix the track regardless of what happens.

Mr. DeSanto said it is his understanding that the board has not met to make this decision because they need to be informed whether or not there is any realistic time table where by the claim can be taken care of. If not the board has two choices which are close down the track or determine whether or not the cause of remediating the track can be incurred by the board without immediate contribution from the contractor.

Mr. Giordano said the condition that the track is in is not our fault and he is not even looking into the option of putting the track out of service. He said the way he sees it is that we need to prevail on this because it was not something due to our negligence. Mr. Giordano does not understand what the holdup is on this and said it is getting old.

Mr. Marcacci said he cannot accept the fact that this has been going on for this long and nothing has been done. He asked in the event that we are not successful in this endeavor is the board willing to get this track back for use by the students.

Mr. Ulrich asked if the litigation does not go our way are we permitted to use budget surplus to spend as capital improvement on the track. Mr. Franchetta said it would have to be a budgeted item.

Mr. DeWinne said his personal opinion is if it came to a board vote let's fix the track.

Mr. Marcacci asked if the track would be usable without the rubber base.

Mr. DeSanto said there are a couple layers on the service and below the layers is hard asphalt. He said no matter what the upper layers would have to be removed.

Mr. Marcacci said we are sitting on a situation that will not resolve itself and suggested for the board to think hard about putting this in the budget.

Mr. Giordano asked Mr. DeSanto for a status update on this issue by next Wednesday. Mr. DeSanto said he can give a status update tonight. He said you have two options at this point and one obviously is unacceptable. Mr. DeSanto said he cannot speak for the board to say the only option you have is to fix it. He said we had tried for many months to see whether or not the contractor and contractor's bonding company was willing to attempt to negotiate. This is now at a point where it cannot be done in a timely manner. Mr. DeSanto said he would let the bonding company and contractor know that we are proceeding with the remediation of the track and sometime within the next thirty days the track surface will be removed. He said if you want to look at, photograph or test the track come now or forever hold you peace.

Mr. Fanucci said it is imperative that the public knows that we are going to face huge cuts next year and it has been discussed as to where we are going to find the pot of gold to fix the track. He said the consensus of the board and solicitor is to have the track repaired for the students and public to enjoy.

Mr. Marcacci said he is not here to chastise the board but feels this has been going on long enough and nothing has been done.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we have documented what has happened with the track. Mr. DeSanto responded yes.

Committee Reports: Mr. Fanucci said discussed at tonight's Finance Committee meeting was next year's budget. Mr. Franchetta and his staff are still diligently working on reverse priorities.

Mr. Ulrich asked under the Supreme Court decision were we held harmless as far as funding for year 2010-2011. Mr. Franchetta responded yes but knowing the financial situation the state is in anything is possible to change.

Mr. Franchetta explained that when this year's budget initially went through we thought that we were receiving equalization aid. When the federal government came through with ARRA funding the state decided to utilize federal funds to support school districts and they replaced the equalization aid with the federal aid.

Mr. DeWinne asked what the budget is for an elementary or middle school. Mr. Franchetta said about six to eight million dollars depending on the size.

Unfinished Business: Mr. Fanucci asked the board which vendors they would like to receive Request for Proposals (RFP's) from. Mr. Giordano asked the board to review the list of annual appointments and email their input by next week to Mr. Franchetta.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA  
Board Secretary

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