

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, February 13, 2008 at 7:03 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Ms. Arroyo, Mr. Bernardini, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Mrs. Gavigan, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

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

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:

Tarah DiPaolo, Calah Gonzalez, Kevin Leung and Nathan Surace, students from Barse Elementary School, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Johnson, Principal of School, was also in attendance.

Mr. Giordano announced that on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 a facility will be named at the Vineland Community Learning Complex.

Special

Presentation (s):

Mr. Ottinger introduced Ms. Louise DiBiase, Winslow School LEAP Teacher, to present the student spotlight.

Ms. DiBiase introduced Brianna Acosta, Angela Benson, Meranda Cardona, Angela Doulis, Danine Gonzalez, Robert Jessie, Justin Malme, Gabrielle Rafael and Haley Rossi Winslow Elementary School's Published Poets. She said these outstanding students are being honored for having their poems chosen to be published in the anthology "A Celebration of Young Poets." Ms. DiBiase said the anthology selects less than 40% of the poems submitted and it is quite an honor to have your poem selected

Mr. Giordano congratulated the students on a job extremely well done and thanked them for the pride that they brought to the Vineland District.

Mrs. Gavigan mentioned that the poets will be on television tomorrow night and had a life size picture done of them by the *Daily Journal*.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Spinelli, the Board approved the minutes from January 9, 2008, January 16, 2008, January 23, 2008 and January 29, 2008. All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Arroyo and Mr. Snyder who voted “yes” on all minutes except the January 29, 2008 minutes they “abstained.”

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Spinelli, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of December, 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:

Mr. DeSanto said he received a proposed agreement last week after the work session from an organization known as Family Resource Network. He said this organization sponsors a program called “Learning Through Life.” Mr. DeSanto said that he revised the agreement and distributed it to the board this evening. This program, at no cost to the Vineland Board of Education, will teach life skills to children with special needs for the balance of this year and for two additional academic years.

Mr. Ottinger said through our monitoring program this is one of the things that we have to do in our special education department. This is a method by which we can meet the mandate and teach life skills to our students.

Mr. Giordano asked if this is for voting on tonight. Mr. DeSanto responded yes.

Mr. Snyder asked if we are already using this program. Mr. Ottinger said no it is new.

Ms. Godlewski, Special Education Department Supervisor, presented a brief explanation of the program to the board.

Mr. Snyder asked who sponsors this program. Ms. Godlewski said the N.J. State Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Continued

Mr. Ulrich asked if staff that is brought in through this program are subject to background checks and clearances. Ms. Godlewski said yes it is in the contract.

Mrs. Gavigan asked if this is an after-school program. Ms. Godlewski said it is during the school curriculum time. Mrs. Gavigan asked where some of the field trips are to. Ms. Godlewski said trips within the community that would meet the skill they are working on such as trips to the grocery store or to restaurants.

Mr. Franceschini asked what kind of personnel will be implementing these skills. Ms. Godlewski said they will be in conjunction with the staff that we employ in the district.

Mr. Giordano asked if this was an initiative on part of someone in the district soliciting for this type of program. Ms. Godlewski said she does not believe so.

Mr. Fanucci asked if this is strictly an Abbott mandate. Mr. Ottinger responded no.

Mr. DeSanto recommended for the board to entertain a resolution authorizing an agreement with Family Resource Network of Westmont, New Jersey, in accordance with the contract on file with the board secretary.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Franceschini, to approve the agreement with Family Resource Network. All Members voted “yes.”

Public Comment on Agenda Items: Teresita Fernandez-Vina, Vineland Resident
Ms. Fernandez-Vina expressed her concern that local history should be a component of the school curriculum.

Recommendations: Page 4

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Board approve the following personnel items in accordance with the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. List of retirements
- b. List of resignations/terminations
- c. List of leaves of absence
- d. List of employment of personnel
- e. List of transfers, assignments and/or promotions
- f. List of student assistants and New Jersey Youth Corps
- g. List of substitute personnel
- h. List of extracurricular assignments

All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Arroyo who voted “yes” on all items but “abstained” on name #1 Cafeteria/ Playground Aide and Mr. Fanucci who voted “yes” on all items but “abstained” on Extra Curricular Comm., Media, & Technology name #2 under Studio Productions and Applications of Web Design. (9-0-0)

2. The Board authorize the assignments of the pupils, whose names are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board, to special education programs outside the district with tuition costs to be borne by the Board.

(Tuition payment and assignments shall be regulated by Chapter 46, Laws of 1966, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the State Department of Education.)

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

G I O R D A N O	G A V I G A N	A R R O Y O	B E R N A R D I N I	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	S N Y D E R	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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3. The Board approve budgetary transfers in accordance with the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. General Fund
- b. School-Based Budgets
- c. Governor’s Initiative on Autism

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

4. The Board approve submission of the following grant(s) as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. General Mills
 Champions for Healthy Kids Grant
 Grades K – 12
 In the amount of ----- \$ 10,000.00
- b. United States Department of Education
 Smaller Learning Communities Program
 Partners Group Agreement
 July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2013
 In the amount of ----- \$1,500,000.00

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

5. Bids:

- a. The Board approve a list of Contracts on file with the Board Secretary that is bid by the State of New Jersey and/or Cumberland County for use by Local Entities for Materials and Supplies that are expected to exceed \$29,000.00 from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10 and 11.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

G I O R D A N O	G A V I G A N	A R R O Y O	B E R N A R D I N I	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	S N Y D E R	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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5. Bids (Continued)

b. The Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary be authorized to advertise and receive competitive bids for the 2008 – 2009 school year. The list of the potential bids is on file with the Board Secretary.

c. The Board acknowledge receipt of bids and award as follows:

Non Food Supplies for Food Department

Award:

Dubin Paper Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania ----- \$ 86,301.45
 (Estimate)

d. The Board exercise the option to renew the following contracts for two (2) years in accordance with 18A:18A-42:

Collection of Trash and Materials

Award:

Item #1 – Trash Containers

Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc.

Ewing, New Jersey ----- \$126,930.80
 (Annual Estimate)

Item #2 – Bulk Trash Containers

Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc.

Ewing, New Jersey ----- \$ 10,400.00
 (Annual Estimate)

Number Two Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel Oil

Award:

Riggins, Inc.

Millville, New Jersey ----- \$520,392.00
 (Annual Estimate)

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			1				2	
			1				2	
			1		2			
			1		2			

6. The Board approve travel for district members as required by NJAC 6A:10A-8.3 and school field trips as per lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

7. The Board approve the Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2007 – 2008 school year with the Cumberland County Educational Cooperative for Route #800055.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

8. The Board approve the submission of the FY 2008 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Amended Application to the State of New Jersey Department of Education in the amount of \$3,072,510.00.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

9. The Board, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:45-6, establish the hourly rate of \$14.29 compensation for school election workers for the April 15, 2008 school board election.

All Members
 voted "yes"
 except for
 Mrs. Gavigan
 who
 "abstained."
 (8-0-1)

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			1				2	
			1		2			

10. The Board authorize payment to current and previous employees who are not a party to the class action law suit, the cash equivalent of vacation days earned under Civil Service rules with the list that is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

11. The Board approve the revisions to American Sign Language 1 and American Sign Language 2 and the new curricula for American Sign Language 3 and American Sign Language 4.

All Members
 voted "yes"
 (9-0-0)

Further, the Board approve the revisions to Bilingual United States History 1, Bilingual United States History 2 and Bilingual World History and Geography curriculum.

Ms. Arroyo said she will recommend to the Curriculum Committee that we include information on local pioneers into our Bilingual United States History.

12. The Board approve a contract with Bayada Nurses in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 18A-1 in the following amounts in accordance with the form of contract approved by the Superintendent and Board Solicitor:

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

One (1) LPN @\$40/hour
 Approximately 103 days @ Seven (7) hours/day
 In the amount of ----- \$28,840.00

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			1		2			

13. The Board approve the Spring Season Athletic Schedule as list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members
voted "yes."
(9-0-0)

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Spinelli, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$5,699,274.97).

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

Public: Beatrice Corbin
Ms. Corbin spoke in support of naming the Adult Education Center at the Vineland Community Learning Complex after Juan Vargas.

Teresita Fernandez-Vina
Ms. Fernandez-Vina wanted to thank Ms. Arroyo for taking her idea to the Curriculum Committee.

Board Member
Remarks: Mrs. Gavigan mentioned that on the Vineland School District website one of our board members, Mr. Snyder, started Archives Alive. She said there are many individuals from our community that should be spotlighted on Archives Alive. Mrs. Gavigan asked Mr. Snyder to explain Archives Alive.

Mr. Snyder said the Archives Alive Project was begun in 1998. He said we took students from our classes and had them interview people from local history. Mr. Snyder said the oral history was compiled, edited and posted to the web. He said that he left the district in 2001 and the website has not been updated since then. Mr. Snyder said he would love to see the website resurrected. He said there is a component in our curriculum that addresses Vineland history and we have a great social studies supervisor, Michael Brodzik, who has taken local history to whole new levels. Mr. Snyder said it is important that we demonstrate with our new athletic fields that we are not going to accept something less than what we want. He feels it is important to have the same press box for the girls as the boys. Mr. Snyder said if we really try we can find a way to make this happen. He also feels that there are overwhelming reasons as to why the Professional Courtesy Policy to allow children of staff members to attend school where they are employed should happen. Mr. Snyder feels this promotes a healthy environment for our students and staff.

Mr. Franceschini said the Professional Courtesy Policy was discussed at tonight's curriculum meeting and Dr. Figg's presented a draft for review.

Mr. Ulrich said he has had the pleasure of sitting on committees with Beatrice Corbin, who is very active in the community. He said the advice she gave under public comments is good for the board.

Mrs. Gavigan promoted the Challenger League, which is in conjunction with the North Vineland Little League. She said the Vineland Rotary is sponsoring this league at no cost for the special needs students. Mrs. Gavigan said our schools and athletic teams have been sponsoring many fund raising events. She encouraged everyone to please support the events.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Giordano reminded everyone that on **Wednesday, February 20, 2008** a special board meeting will be held for student disciplinary hearings. A meeting will also be held on **Monday February 25, 2008** at **7:00 p.m.** to discuss the 2008-2009 budget. Mr. Giordano said that before the work session on **March 5, 2008** at **6:30 p.m.** a special meeting will be held to approve the budget that is discussed on February 25. On **Wednesday, March 12, 2008** at the regular board meeting a public hearing will be scheduled for discussion and approval of the assistant superintendents' salary scale. Mr. Giordano said on **Wednesday, March 19, 2008** at **7:00 p.m.** the naming of the other facility at the Vineland Community Learning Complex will be held at the complex and on **Thursday, March 27, 2008** the public hearing will be held for the 2008-2009 budget.

Mrs. Gavigan asked if an ad will be put in the newspaper in regards to the naming of the facility. Mr. Giordano responded yes. Mrs. Gavigan also requested for something to be put on *Channel #13*.

Mr. Franceschini asked if both facilities at the Vineland Community Learning Complex will be named. Mr. Giordano said the Impact Center is the only one that can be named. Mr. Franceschini asked if the Adult Education Center can be named. Mr. Giordano said that portion is the Mayor's project. Mr. Bernardini asked if anyone spoke to the Mayor about this. Mr. Giordano said no but we can have a conversation with him.

Mr. Bernardini said he has never heard the Mayor personally say that they were going to name the Adult Education Center.

Mrs. Gavigan asked what facility the board will be naming on March 19. Mr. Giordano said if we are allowed both facilities.

Mr. Giordano mentioned that there has been a rumor going around that Vineland is no longer an Abbott District. He said that rumor is not true and we are still an Abbott District.

Mr. Ottinger said Vineland along with the other districts are still Abbott Districts at least until July 1, 2008. Whenever a question is asked whether or not we still have to do small learning communities the commissioner's response is that there are certain criteria and standards expected to be met and how you meet them is up to you.

Mr. Giordano said we are going to move ahead 100% with the small learning communities.

Mr. Bernardini mentioned that of all the districts that were told to do small learning communities, Vineland is the only one that is actually prepared to do it.

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, February 13, 2008**, regarding contract negotiations and pending litigation, **Wednesday, February 20, 2008**, regarding student residency/disciplinary matters, **Monday, February 25, 2008**, regarding personnel matters and budget issues, **Wednesday, March 5, 2008**, regarding personnel matters, anticipated or pending litigation, and budget issues.

Motion: Upon motion by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Franceschini, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df