

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, March 3, 2010 at 7:06 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

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:

Mr. Giordano extended a warm welcome to all staff members who are present at tonight's meeting. He read a letter from Dottie Cullen to the Vineland School Board thanking everyone for their support and participation in Operation Valentine Project, a program that allows our young children to understand the values of freedom. Mr. Giordano complimented and thanked everyone in the school district who took part in this project.

Presentations: None.

Comments by
Board Solicitor: None.

Items for Review:

- A. Superintendent
 - 1. **Personnel Items** – No discussion.
 - 2. **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
 - 3. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
 - 4. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
 - 5. **Bids** – No discussion.
 - 6. **Travel** – No discussion.
 - 7. **Amended 2010 ARRA Title 1 Application**– No discussion.

8. **Resolution Requesting Additional Federal Aid** – No discussion.
9. **Transportation Agreement with Wawa, Inc.** – No discussion.
10. **Abolishment of Positions** – No discussion.

B. Board

1. None.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Public Comments: Ernie Marcacci
Mr. Marcacci requested an update on the high school track.

Mr. DeSanto said the bonding company and contractor will be given until April 1 to take photographs, samples and tests of the existing track. After April 1 the board and district will be in a position to start the remediation process by removing the existing condition. Mr. DeSanto said we need to give the bonding company and the general contractor the opportunity so there are no complaints later on.

Mr. Marcacci asked the board if they can anticipate when the track could be used again. Mr. Giordano said we cannot answer that right now.

Committee Reports: Mr. Franceschini said Mr. Dantine presented a K-12 update at the Curriculum & Technology Committee meeting held tonight. The Parent Portal was discussed and currently there are 400 active participants. Mr. Franceschini said they also discussed the call-out system which takes approximately four hours to complete. He said with an additional phone line the time would be cut in half. A report was given on the Small Learning Communities meeting held at the high school with Dr. Banks and Dr. Gruccio. Mr. Franceschini said there are still concerns in regards to the travel between buildings and increased lateness.

Mr. Fanucci said preparation for the upcoming budget was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting held this evening. There was also a discussion on having district wide meetings with the principals to make sure their numbers will be on board.

Mr. Bernardini said the Buildings & Ground Committee meeting was held Tuesday night and they discussed the installation of a circular desk in the center of the mushroom at Vineland High School South. Mr. Weaver was asked if the facilities department could construct the desk. Mr. Bernardini said Mr. Weaver was confident that his department had the expertise and ability to construct the desk at a low cost. The committee also discussed the new proposed life skills room at Vineland High School South. He said the hard wood gym floor at Veterans Memorial School is a job in progress still being worked on. Mr. Bernardini said electrical upgrades will be started this summer on the auditorium sound booth at Veterans Memorial School. As soon as the okay is received from Mr. DeSanto the rubber will be removed off the Vineland High School track surface. Mr. Bernardini said Mr. Weaver provided an update on the ruptured water line that flooded the school tunnel system at Vineland High School South. Mr. Bernardini said anything that was damaged by the flood will be covered by the insurance company.

Mr. Franceschini asked what was the status of the boiler. Mr. Bernardini said the boiler is still operating. Mr. Franceschini asked what the cost would be to replace the boiler. Mr. Weaver said about eight million dollars which would also include air conditioning. He said the boilers would be about 50% of that cost. Mr. Franceschini asked if Vineland High School South is the only building that does not have air conditioning. Mr. Weaver responded yes.

Mr. Ulrich asked if it is a likely scenario that the boiler will totally fail. Mr. Weaver said when there was stimulus money we did a full review of that building and sent the review along with the submission to the Department of Education hoping we could show some mechanical issue. He said the money was still denied on the stimulus.

Mr. DeWinne said it does not make sense to him to put a desk in the open space at the high school. He expressed his concern for safety reasons and feels there will be more altercations with students bumping into each other. Mr. Bernardini said all of the departments looked at this design and gave their okay. He said if there is an evacuation in the school we do not evacuate out of the front door. Mr. Ulrich said in a real life situation where there is panic you are putting something in the center of where you want people to potentially move out.

Mr. Giordano asked Mr. Provenzano the Director of Security to give an overview on the placement of the circular desk.

Mr. Provenzano said where the desk is situated now the front entrance cannot be seen. He said there would be better eye contact with the door if the desk was in the center. Mr. Provenzano said the security guard in the center would be able to observe all four hallways from that desk area. Mr. Ulrich asked if you could do that now via the cameras. Mr. Provenzano said we have six servers that cover the entire building with sixteen cameras to a server. In order to check the cameras we would have to go out of one server to another, which takes time.

Mr. Giordano said this could be discussed in a future committee meeting.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Mr. Franceschini announced that Mr. Allan Bernardini is the recipient of the American Red Cross Community Achievement Award.

Mr. Ulrich announced that there will be a Project Graduation breakfast fundraiser held on Sunday, March 14 at Vineland High School.

Mr. DeWinne congratulated the girls' basketball team on their win with Cherry Hill West.

Mrs. Phillips announced that the elementary art show will be held at D'Ippolito School on Friday, March 5 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

At 7:45 p.m. the board recessed to executive session.

The meeting resumed at 8:13 p.m.

Mr. Giordano asked Mr. DeSanto to explain the "Rice Notice" process.

Mr. DeSanto said under the Open Public Meetings Act a board or public body is allowed to discuss in executive session certain matters. He said one important exception is the discussion of personnel. Under the Open Public Meetings Act the Board of Education is allowed to discuss personnel issues in executive session however; public employees have the right under this act to have the discussion about them take place here in public.

Mr. DeSanto said this means that the individual along with everyone else including the press, audience or on television gets to see the executive session taking place. He said under the Open Public Meetings Act the notice that is given to an employee is called a “Rice Notice” and that person who exercises their right to have the discussion in public will be able to observe the discussion. Mr. DeSanto assured everyone that there was no discussion in the executive session that just took place of any person who asked to have the discussion in public. He said most of the time there is one issue about one person and it is either in public or not in public.

Mr. Giordano reminded everyone that because this is an executive session no one is allowed to speak but there will be an opportunity at next week’s meeting.

Dr. Banks said she will be mentioning the names of the individuals who wish to have their “Rice Notice” discussed in public. She said the following high school principals were “Riced” Dr. McCann, Mr. Camardo and Mr. DiCostanzo because the titles of Executive and Associate Principals will be abolished. Dr. Banks said with regard to Assistant Principals, Dorothy Burke, Kristen Estep, Karen Malatesta, Sylvia Morano, Sandra Myers, Richard Panas, Joseph Poma and Michael Sullivan the concern is that if the cuts are severe there is a possibility of a reduction in force of those assistant principalships. Dr. Banks said with regard to the Administrative Assistants, Eric Reissek and Carol Rothman she will be making a recommendation next week to the board for the elimination of the Administrative Assistant positions.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df