

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 7, 2012 at 7:00 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, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Guccio, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Schneider, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Barber, Interim Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Director of Special Education, Ms. Diaz, Personnel, press and public. Absent:

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 to be sent to the following, announcing time and place thereof, agenda, etc.: The Daily Journal, the Atlantic City Press, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag salute:

The board recessed to executive session at 7:05 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:05 p.m.

Special

Presentations:

None.

Comments by

Board Solicitor:

None.

Dr. Banks introduced Dr. Schneider to present the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) Report and Suspension Report.

Dr. Schneider said 44 students were sent to the Cunningham Alternative School this year, 18 students returned to home school, 3 were denied and 1 was rescinded. She said for the month of February there were 72 reports of bullying and 33 were substantiated. Dr. Schneider said there were 671 total out of school suspensions during the month of February.

Dr. Mounier asked how the suspension report compares to other schools in our category. Dr. Schneider said she does not know but can look into it.

Mr. English asked if Cunningham and Success present a monthly report. Dr. Schneider said yes. Mr. English requested the present enrollment and average daily attendance at the Cunningham and Success Schools.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – Mr. English asked if the substitute food service employee list is reviewed. Ms. Diaz said reassurance letters are mailed out annually. She said if a substitute has not worked more than twenty days within the school year they are asked to explain why. Ms. Diaz said depending on the response given we remove them from the list. Mr. English asked if the food service substitutes are Sodexo employees. Ms. Diaz said the substitutes are Vineland Board of Education employees. Mr. English asked if the other food service employees are Sodexo employees. Ms. Diaz said it is her understanding that the three and a half hour food service workers can be currently hired by Sodexo. Mr. English asked if Sodexo just hires the employee without coming before the board. Mrs. Barber said Sodexo hires the employees but they have to meet the criteria for fingerprinting and a back ground check. She said after that point they are employees of Sodexo. Mr. English asked who would receive the complaint when employees are calling out in the cafeteria and they become shorthanded. Ms. Diaz said the food service department would receive the complaint first then personnel. She said we are currently advertising for substitute food service workers, clerks, teachers and aides. Mr. English asked if this has been a successful search. Ms. Diaz responded yes. Mr. English asked if the chef that was hired at the central kitchen is the district's employee or Sodexo's. Ms. Diaz said the chef is a civil service employee of the district.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if Sodexo has hired anyone in the food service area since retirements have taken place. Ms. Diaz said not yet.

Ms. Rios asked if the three and a half hour position will be replaced by someone from Sodexo along with all the prior retirements. Ms. Diaz said not yet but eventually. Ms. Rios asked if we have enough food service workers at each school. Mrs. Barber said Mr. Nocco, from Sodexo, stated that he does have problems with substitutes but is sometimes short. Ms. Diaz asked if retirees are being replaced to have enough staff in the cafeterias. Mrs. Barber said she is planning to meet with Mr. Nocco and Sodexo.

Mr. English asked why the substitute food service list is not larger. Ms. Diaz said because of the pay and split days. Mr. English asked if the substitute gets to choose the school they want to work in. Ms. Diaz explained that the SubFinder system automatically calls off the list until the position is filled.

Mr. English asked for an explanation on the VHS Call for Conscience Club. Dr. Banks said it is probably a pilot club.

2. **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.

3. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
4. **Bus Evacuation Drills February** – No discussion.
5. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
6. **Acceptance of Funds** – No discussion.
7. **Bids** – No discussion.
8. **Travel** – Dr. Mounier asked if it can be noted on the spreadsheet what employee travel items are required by the district. Dr. Banks said we can do that. Dr. Mounier asked if a grand total cost amount can be listed on requested and required travel. Mrs. Barber responded yes.
9. **2012-2013 School Calendar** – Mr. Fanucci asked if there is time built in to the calendar in the event there is inclement weather. Dr. Banks said if all days are exhausted in June the days are deducted off of the spring recess, which is stated on the calendar.
10. **Race-to-the-Top Grant MOU** – Mr. Medio asked if this involves the district doing additional mandated work such as more observations. Dr. Banks said it does not. Mr. Medio asked if this grant pertains to putting supplies in the classroom. Dr. Gruccio said she does not believe so. She said we now have to provide training and a new evaluation tool and the training cost is written in this plan. Mr. Medio asked if this is a mandated program. Dr. Gruccio said no but it will give us approximately three hundred thousand dollars, which will help us with things that we need to do such as the new evaluation system. Mr. Medio said he does not want to get involved with another grant that brings more problems than it is worth. Dr. Mounier asked if the net amount can be calculated. Dr. Gruccio said she would be happy to give the exact cost of the training and items that Mr. Savage has in the proposal.
11. **Creation of 12-Month Principal Position at Vineland High School North** - Mr. Mercado asked this position will be posted immediately following the vote. Mr. Ulrich said yes it can be posted immediately following approval next week.

Mr. English asked if there is a way to create the position without having eight administrators at the high school. Dr. Banks said we could examine this. Mr. English asked if there is a timetable on this. Dr. Banks said this position could begin July 1st.

Mrs. Phillips asked why we posted for an assisted principal at the high school but have not interviewed yet. Dr. Banks said because the posting just closed.

Mr. English asked Mrs. Phillips if she feels, as a former educator, it is more important to have the principal in place to pick their assistant versus an assistant in place before the principal. Mrs. Phillips said we need both but feels it would be better to have the principal in place to choose the assistant.

12. **Bayada Nurse Contract** - No discussion.
13. **Fixed Facility Mass Prophylaxis Program** – No discussion.
14. **Qualified Purchasing Agent Resolution** – No discussion.
15. **Supervising Certifying Officer/Appointing Authority Resolution** – No discussion.
16. **Certifying Officer Resolution** – No discussion.
17. **Creation of Assistant Coordinator of School Transportation Services Title** - Mr. Fanucci asked for an explanation of this item. Mr. Ulrich said this involves two people who are not working in their title. Mr. Fanucci asked if this would be an assistant to Mr. Callavini. Mr. Ulrich explained that these individuals are already supervisors in the transportation department but are classified as mechanics. He said they requested a Civil Service desk audit, which was granted. Mr. Fanucci asked if this is just a title issue. Dr. Banks responded yes. Mr. Ulrich requested for Dr. Banks to ask Ms. Diaz to email the current job descriptions to the board.
18. **Submission of Phase II for Almond Road Preschool** – Mr. Medio asked if this is funded out of the ECPA account. Mr. Weaver explained that currently we are looking at doing the modifications over the summer and this does not commit to any funding for the district.
19. **Submission of Durand School Interior Alterations Project** – Mr. Medio asked what this involves. Mr. Weaver said we would like to put a wall up in the open classrooms and need the Department of Education’s approval to do this. He said this project will be done in-house by our maintenance department staff at a minimal cost.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if anything is put up for noise. Mr. Weaver said yes.
20. **Benefitfocus Contract** – No discussion.
21. **IKON Contract** – No discussion.
22. **First Reading of Policy #3431.1 and Policy #4431.1** – No discussion.

B. Board

1. None.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Public Comments: James Cooper, Vineland Resident
Mr. Cooper expressed his concern in regards to the cancellation of the Fed-Up-For-You Anti Youth Anti-Gang Organization talent showcase scheduled for February 25. He said the event was cancelled because the Vineland Police did not think it was a good idea due to security reasons. Mr. Cooper said that he would like to schedule a meeting with Dr. Schneider to discuss this matter.

Mr. Ulrich said a meeting can be scheduled with Dr. Schneider and he will ask Sergeant McLaughlin, Vineland Police Juvenile Officer, to attend.

Committee Reports: Mrs. Phillips said at yesterday's Curriculum & Technology committee meeting Mrs. Karen Malatesta, Asst. Principal of Petway School, showed the use of iPads in the classroom for instruction. She said there are thousands of applications that the teachers can put on the iPad and it is a great tool in the classroom. Mrs. Phillips said Mr. Dantine presented a technology update.

Mr. English said at the Facilities Committee meeting an overview was provided by Mr. Mark Roszko from ENEROC on the demand response program for the school district. He said a conceptual facilities plan for the 2012-2013 school year was discussed that would alleviate current overcrowding conditions at the elementary schools. Mr. English said that Mr. Weaver provided information on the closed South Vineland School and recommended maintaining the property for future use. He said that Mr. Robbins, Athletic Director, attended the meeting and discussed the tennis court project and the need for a minimum of 10 courts. Mr. English said Mr. Weaver provided an update on the emergent submission to the NJ School Development Association for the new HVAC system at Vineland High School South. He said that Mr. Weaver is very confident that the project will be approved by the Department of Education.

Mr. English said the Technology Ad Hoc Committee has been discussing many options. He said we need to be competitive with other districts in order to push student achievement. Mr. English asked Mr. Ulrich if the Technology Ad Hoc Committee meetings can continue. Mr. Ulrich said the meetings can be extended for a couple months or however long is needed.

Ms. Rios said at the Policy & Personnel Committee meeting the committee was introduced to the language arts supervisor candidate. She said Mr. Olsen presented various options in changing the ten month assistant principals to twelve months. Ms. Rios said Mr. Robbins, Athletic Director, attended the meeting in regards to the two F's policy and GPA issue. She said Mr. Robbins also presented percentages and facts in regards to interventions with the students. Ms. Rios said Dr. Banks presented the interim personnel director at the meeting. She said the committee discussed Policy #5410, which is social promotion. Ms. Rios said student uniforms were also discussed and surveys will be given to the parents, teachers and students.

Ms. Rios said discussed at the Early Childhood Provider meeting was chain of command and parental choice. She said the providers expressed their concerns in regards to comments that were made at the last board meeting regarding outside providers. Ms. Rios said the providers have already contacted the state in regards to the cash flow for June. She said provider improvement was also discussed and the providers requested a comparison as to how they are doing academically compared to the district.

Mr. Mercado asked if we have an idea as to when the uniform surveys will be done. Ms. Rios said it was discussed today and Dr. Schneider will be working on preparing and distributing the survey. Mr. Mercado said he would like to see something done before the end of the school year. Ms. Rios said definitely.

Mr. English thanked Ms. Rios for allowing him to attend the Policy & Personnel meeting. He feels any extra-curricular activity is a privilege and believes that if there was a 2.0 policy in place it would give the students something to strive for. Mr. English asked if we can contact the state about the providers receiving their funding in a timely fashion. Ms. Rios said that it is up to the providers not the district or board to contact the state.

Ms. Barber made a recommendation to the board to schedule a Public Hearing on the adoption of the budget for **Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.** She also recommended scheduling a committee of the whole meeting on **Monday, March 26, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.** in order to finalize discussion on the tentative budget. Mr. Ulrich said that is fine.

Unfinished

Business: Mr. English said last year at this time there was discussion in regards to the AVID Program at the high school and he wanted to know where we are with this. Mr. Ulrich said he thinks there is an enrollment problem at the high school level. Mr. English said they were trying to push this program in the middle schools to help the high school enrollment. He asked if the program will no longer exist because of the small enrollment without trying to put the program in the middle schools. Dr. Guccio said we did not receive a good response in regards to the enrollment and there were issues because it was going to be held at one school.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Barber
Interim Board Secretary

