Mr. Franceschini 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: Lucero Bautista, Joshua Hartman, Tyler Little, Joanna Mendez and Travis Sachs students from Johnstone Elementary School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Presentation (s): Dr. Banks introduced Dr. Emily Cannon, Director of Guidance, to present the Outstanding Participant of the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Dr. Cannon said tonight it is an honor to recognize Shavonne Davis. She said Shavonne Davis, a Vineland High School senior, has qualified as an outstanding participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Shavonne was one of 3,100 students in the country afforded this status for her performance in the 2009 Preliminary SAT National Merit Scholarship qualifying test. She is also an outstanding athlete. Shavonne will be referred to U. S. colleges and universities as ranking in the top 3% of more than 160,000 black Americans who request consideration in the 2011 Achievement Program. Ms. Cannon said Shavonne is a wonderful young woman and a great role model for all young people.

Mrs. Phillips congratulated Shavonne and her family. She said that Shavonne attended Cunningham Elementary School and she knew back then that Shavonne would be getting this honor tonight.

Dr. Banks also congratulated Shavonne.
Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Ken Schultz, Rossi School Music teacher, to present the All South Jersey Middle School Band students.

Mr. Schultz introduced and recognized Jenna Garrett and Mark Novatorskiy who competed against over 300 students for selection into the All South Jersey Honor Band.

Dr. Banks congratulated Mark and Jenna.

Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Don Robbins, Athletic Director, and Mr. Rick Baruffi, girls’ basketball coach to present the Vineland High School Girls Basketball Team.

Mr. Robbins said the Vineland High School Girls Basketball Team are the American Conference Division I Champions and the overall American Conference and Cape Atlantic League champions for this winter. Mr. Robbins introduced Mr. Baruffi to introduce each of the girls.

Mr. Baruffi thanked the parents of the girls and said without them none of this would have happened. He introduced each of the girls and said they were also the city champions for the first time in thirteen years.

Dr. Banks congratulated the coaches and their team.

Dr. Banks said at this time Mr. Robbins will recognize the accomplishments of the Vineland High School Girls Swim Team along with their coach Mr. Mike Schneider.

Mr. Robbins said the Vineland High School Girls Swim Team are the Public School Division A South Jersey Sectional champions this year. He introduced the head coach of the girls swim team Mr. Mike Schneider.

Mr. Schneider congratulated the girls’ basketball team and introduced each of the swim team members. He announced that this past weekend at the Individual Meet of Champions held at Gloucester County Institute (GCIT), Lauren Carastro, Allison Humphries, Ann Marie Ruberti and Rachel Bernhardt won the 200 free-style relay State Championship.

Dr. Banks congratulated Mr. Schneider and the swim team.
Mr. DeWinne said the girls’ basketball team is truly a team that will be looked up upon for decades and they should be proud. He said the girls’ swim team is tough and are some of the hardest working athletes. Mr. DeWinne said what the girls’ swim team accomplished this season with only two seniors is to be commended.

Mr. Franceschini echoed the comments made by Mr. DeWinne and said he is very proud of the teams. He mentioned that he had the privilege of watching the basketball team beat Sacred Heart, which is where he attended school. Mr. Franceschini said Mr. Schneider has done an excellent job with the swim team.

Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Keith Nocco to present an update on Sodexo Food Management.

Mr. Nocco said breakfast in the classroom started at Sabater Elementary School on March 2nd. The partnership between food service, teachers, maintenance, aides and administration has created a positive environment for a successful implementation. Mr. Nocco said a new program introduced is the School Gardening Program. He said this program will be held at Vineland High School South and there will be a greenhouse along with outdoor gardens. Mr. Nocco said the second program is the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), which introduces fresh fruits and vegetables to students during non-cafeteria hours. He said Vineland High School South has new marketing in the serving areas. Vineland High School North will be receiving new equipment during the summer and D’Ippolito Elementary School will be receiving a new oven over the summer. Mr. Nocco said central kitchen has created new recipes that will be featured on April’s menu. He said lunch participation in February is up 2% over last year.

Mr. DeWinne asked if we are on board with Sodexo for year 2011-2012. Mr. Nocco said he believes that April is the renewal.

Mr. English asked who owns the equipment that is purchased. Mr. Nocco said the district owns the equipment.

Ms. Rios asked how the cafeteria workers are adjusting to the Sodexo changes. Mr. Nocco said he has found that everybody has been on board.
Mr. Ulrich asked if we are to the point where we have hired Sodexo only employees. Mr. Nocco said no.

Mr. English asked if we have a Plan B in place if the contract is not renewed. Mr. Ulrich said we already have revenue with the money that is coming in, own the equipment and have the employees. We would just need to hire a manager.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we have a point of sales system that tracks everything the students are purchasing. Mr. Nocco said yes.

Dr. Mounier asked if we are on schedule in terms of profits and loss with the contract. Mr. Nocco said because we started late we are a little behind and would get back to him with that information.

Dr. Banks introduced Andrea Evans, Language Arts Supervisor, and Jeff DuBois, Math Supervisor, to give a presentation on the Successmaker Pilot Program.

Ms. Evans said she along with Mr. DuBois will be presenting their proposal for piloting Successmaker in lieu of AIMSweb as a screening and progress monitoring tool at Petway and D’Ippolito Elementary School. She said Successmaker is an adaptive software program in the area of language arts and math that is already in use at each of our elementary schools. Ms. Evans said they are proposing using a newly released feature of the Successmaker software to replace AIMSweb. She said our goal with this pilot is to reduce the amount of time that teachers spend on assessments and make the reports more applicable to the classroom. Mr. DuBois said the areas that we are hoping to impact with this change are progress monitoring. He said with the Successmaker report every student is compared against their grade level. Mr. DuBois said the Successmaker report is able to identify areas of weakness for students of which a teacher can focus on. Ms. Evans said we have been providing professional development to our teachers in Successmaker over the course of the year because there are some other additional new features released. She said we have not trained teachers in the RTI component but will with the board’s approval. Ms. Evans said we are hoping to get everything up and running at D’Ippolito and Petway between now and the end of the year. We will review the data and ask the teachers and administrators if they felt it was successful. Ms. Evans said we will take a look at implementing this program at the other elementary schools and potentially the middle schools the beginning of next school year.
Mrs. Phillips said as far as elementary is concerned this is the best thing that she has seen happen for elementary teachers in a long time. She said to replace AIMSweb, which was not user friendly, with Successmaker is the best idea she has ever heard. Mrs. Phillips said she looks forward to all the schools having Successmaker not just two.

Mr. Ulrich said the key that the CAPA team centered on was data driven instruction. He said if we have a product that is time consuming and does not give us the data then this is a no brainer.

Mr. Fanucci asked if there is enough time to implement this with solid results by June. Ms. Evans said the only training piece for the teachers is how to read the new reports. She said the teachers and students are already familiar with Successmaker and using it. Mr. Fanucci asked if the actual staff that will be working on this was consulted. Ms. Evans said Mrs. Curcio and Mrs. Frederico stated that feedback from the teachers was positive.

Mr. DeWinne asked if the cost between Successmaker and AIMSWeb is similar. Ms. Evans said since we already have the licenses currently there will be no additional costs for Successmaker. If we were to expand this to the middle schools it would cost additional money because three of our middle schools do not use Successmaker. Ms. Evans said it would cost $105,000 for the three middle schools and AIMSWeb is $40,000 a year. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the cost is for one or four licenses. Ms. Evans said the cost is 35 licenses per middle school.

Dr. Banks requested for Dr. Mary Gruccio to give an introduction to the next presentation.

Dr. Gruccio said there has been a lot of discussion regarding different scenarios for our Bilingual Program. She is going to discuss the process that was gone through to get to the point that Mr. Al Cores, Bilingual Supervisor, will be explaining. Dr. Gruccio said every year in the spring a meeting is held to discuss grade configuration. At that meeting there was discussion in regards to having the elementary Bilingual Program housed in one building. Many issues and thoughts were discussed. Dr. Gruccio said this was shared with Dr. Banks and it was decided that it was too late to do anything and we should have further discussions to plan for the 2011-2012 school year.
Dr. Gruccio said a District Bilingual Committee was formed and three scenarios were developed that will be shared with you this evening. On February 15th Dr. Banks hosted a Town Meeting at Sabater School where Mr. Cores shared the three options with the public. Dr. Gruccio said the next step, once a decision is made, is to meet with the Bilingual Committee to discuss curriculum and an instructional model that we feel would be best for our students with a focus on English proficiency. She said we will then determine the direction in which we should proceed to provide the best for our students. Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Al Cores, Bilingual Supervisor, to continue the presentation.

Mr. Cores said as part of a larger assessment of the entire K-12 department he did a needs assessment of this program. One of the tools used was a staff and parent survey. He said teachers that will be impacted by this change believe that we have serious issues with regard to philosophies and uniformity of instruction in the K-5 grade levels. Mr. Cores said that 83% of the parents feel that a K-5 bilingual magnet school would benefit their child. He said the parents are happy with the program and agree that the program values their culture and language.

Mr. Cores discussed the results of the Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO) analysis and the NJASK analysis. He said we need a uniform philosophy and an instructional delivery, which is why the magnet school might come in handy. Mr. Cores said we currently have two magnet schools Johnstone and Mennies. He said with Option A there is a proposal for Johnstone to remain with the current set up and Mennies to move their bilingual classes to Sabater School. Option B is making Sabater School the magnet with all bilingual classrooms from Johnstone and Mennies moving to Sabater. Mr. Cores said the Bilingual Office and Office of Accountability at the New Jersey Department of Education have informed the district that the formation of a bilingual magnet school is not a segregation violation. He said Option C is a magnet program at Johnstone School with Johnstone receiving students from Mennies School and relinquishing their BD students. Mr. Cores compared the magnet proposals between Sabater and Johnstone Schools.

Mr. Fanucci said he needs clarifications on a lot of things and would like to have a special meeting in regards to this issue.

Mr. DeWinne thinks it would be wise to place children closer to the schools they live by.
Mr. Ulrich asked if there are many districts in the state that have magnet bilingual schools. Mr. Cores said yes it is a common configuration. He said they visited the Newark district and they have a fantastic magnet and an outstanding program.

Mrs. Phillips said she is very happy to see that the voices of the parents and teachers have been heard.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the minutes were approved from February 2, 2011, February 3, 2011 and February 9, 2011. All Members voted “yes” except Mrs. Phillips who voted “yes” for all minutes except February 3, 2011 she “abstained.”

Report of the Secretary/Custodian Of School Monies: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of January 2011, 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: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:
RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

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

   Dr. Banks mentioned that an additional item was added to tonight’s agenda. She said it involves the resignation of Mr. Nedd Johnson, Principal of Barse Elementary School. Dr. Banks said Mr. Johnson has been appointed Assistant Superintendent in Bridgeton and has tendered his resignation effective 60 days from today.

   Ms. Greenfield said there were three additions added to the agenda.

   Mr. Fanucci congratulated Mr. Johnson on his position.

   Ms. Rios congratulated Mr. Johnson and thanked him for his years of service.

   Mr. DeWinne wished Mr. Johnson good luck.

   Mr. English wished good luck to Mr. Johnson.

   Dr. Mounier thanked Kathy Franzoi, who is retiring, for helping one of his daughters years ago and for her many years of service.

   Mrs. Phillips congratulated Mr. Johnson on his new position and all the retirees.

   Mr. Ulrich congratulated Mr. Johnson.

   Mr. Franceschini congratulated Mr. Johnson and wished him all the best.

   Dr. Banks congratulated Mr. Johnson.
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.

Further, the Board approve the acceptance of the tuition pupil(s), whose names are on file with the Secretary of the Board, for placement in special education programs offered in Vineland with tuition costs to be borne by the sending district(s).

(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.)

3. The Board approve budgetary transfers in accordance with the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

   a. General Transfers:
      Worksheets
   b. Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA)
   c. School-Based Budget Transfers:
      Barse
      Durand
      Johnstone
      Landis
      Memorial
      Mennies
      Petway
      Rossi
      Sabater
      Vineland High – North
      Vineland High – South
      Wallace
      Winslow

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:

Kohl’s Associates in Action Grant
Dallago Impact Center
In the amount of $500.00

5. Bids:

The Board approve Change Order #005 in the amount of $1455.00 to provide labor, material and equipment to repair existing natural gas line and $322.00 to provide labor, material and equipment to install one (1) precast step at greenhouse.
Change Order
Contract: Vineland High School – South
Life Skills Renovations Project 29067
Contractor: Capri Construction Company, Inc.

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
7. The Board approve the contract with the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services Office of Education for tuition of State responsible eligible students under the New Jersey State Facilities Education Act. (State Child Study Team Placement)

8. The Board approve a program to act as a Fixed Facility Mass Prophylaxis in the event of a major public health emergency in accordance with the agreement on file with the Secretary of the Board

9. The Board approve the proposed Netherlands Student Exchange Program. This student exchange will take place in April/May 2011

10. The Board approve the G.R.E.A.T. Program (a commitment of the school district and the local law enforcement agency to work together to combat gang problems through prevention training). The signing of this agreement establishes the mutual commitment between the school district and law enforcement agency personnel to provide our children with the knowledge, attitude, and skills necessary to resist the pressures of gangs and their influence

Mr. Ulrich recognized Patrolman Albert Vargas who is the first G.R.E.A.T instructor that was introduced into the system. He announced that due to a retirement Officer Vargas is going to take over the Police Athletic League Program.
11. The Board approve the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) pilot program initiative at Wallace Intermediate School beginning with the 2011-2012 school year

Mrs. Phillips said that she does not support this pilot program because they had it in the past and it is an expensive program that affects a small number of students.

MOTION DEFEATED

12. The Board approve the Response to Intervention (RTI) proposal to pilot SuccessMaker as a screening and progress monitoring tool at Petway and D’Ippolito Elementary Schools

13. The Board approve a Resolution and Agreement with the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission for Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Dr. Mounier and Ms. Phillips who voted “no.” (4-5-0)
The motion did not carry.

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)
14. The Board approve the authorization to transfer a 1998 GMC Blue Bird 54 Passenger Bus, VIN 1GDL7T1JXVJ513688, to the city of Vineland Recreation Commission, for the sum of one dollar ($1.00) effective June 24, 2011.

15. The Board approve that the Board Secretary, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18:25-6, be instructed to notify the tenured professional employee, whose name is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board, that her employment be suspended with pay effective February 28, 2011 pending the disposition of the criminal history report in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.3.
B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: None.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” ($5,345,485.91).

Emergent Item(s) (with prior approval)

None.

Public:

Kelly Almeida, Parent
Ms. Almeida expressed her concern in regards to the Special Education Department and problems with her child.

Mr. Franceschini asked Ms. Almeida if she spoke to her child’s principal. Ms. Almeida said she has had several child study team meetings during the year. Mr. Franceschini asked Ms. Almeida if she has gone beyond the principal. Ms. Almeida said she went to the top in the district. Mr. Franceschini asked Ms. Almeida if she has met with the Director of Special Education. Ms. Almeida said when her child was in second grade but she will get to that point.

Rose Spencer, Vineland Resident
Ms. Spencer asked how the survey was done for the Bilingual Program and where in the state other then Newark was this program implemented.

Mr. Franceschini told Ms. Spencer to contact Mr. Cores for that information.

Cindy Paterno, Vineland Resident
Ms. Paterno said for the past seven years an award has been given out to a senior at the Cap ‘N’ Dagger play. Last year it was decided to present the award at the merit assembly. Ms. Paterno is requesting for the award to be given out after the play instead of at the merit assembly.

Ms. Rios said discussed at the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting was the use of Gittone Stadium for the Mastodons and the committee decided to remove this item from the agenda. It was agreed by the committee that the potential renter should follow the normal contract application process.
Ms. Rios said also discussed at the meeting was the athletic maintenance staff. She said Mr. Robbins provided the committee with the work assignments and reduction in overtime over the last couple years. The SDA released their capital plan and middle school #2 was not in the 2011 plan. Ms. Rios said that she asked Mr. Franchetta to investigate what is currently being housed in the Veterans Memorial School temporary classroom units. She said the asphalt floor in the hardball batting cages will be complete as soon as the asphalt plants resume production. Ms. Rios said Mr. Weaver provided an update on the solar panel project. The life skills room is 90% complete and the district is waiting on one appliance. Ms. Rios said the Safe Routes to School Grant was discussed and site work would have to be performed for the grant submission process. She said Mr. Weaver provided an update on the Vineland High School HVAC removal and replacement. Ms. Rios said Mr. Weaver provided an update on the Veterans Memorial School sound booth. Ms Rios said the public use of the track was discussed and the hours will be from dawn to dusk. Ms. Rios said Mr. English expressed his concern in regards to the magnitude of facilities in need of upgrades and or repairs.

Mr. DeWinne asked when the Veterans Memorial School theatre work will be complete. Mr. Weaver explained that there are a variety of reasons as to why the project has not been completed. He said the component for funding was not budgeted and the money had to be found in the budget. Mr. Weaver said our staff did the work, which was a savings but it was very extensive. Mr. DeWinne said he is hoping that in the future, when there are projects, they get done in a timely fashion. Mr. English said he does not understand why the wires were not pulled. Mr. Weaver said we looked at it and almost went forward with doing the cabling. He said the parts had to be reordered because the dimming rack was no longer available.

Mr. Fanucci said tonight was a great night with a lot of celebration and the students and teams were amazing. He congratulated all the students and retirees. Mr. Fanucci wished Mr. Johnson well.

Mr. English congratulated all the students, parents, teachers and coaches who were honored tonight. He sent his thoughts and prayers to Rusty Phillips and his family on the passing of his father. Mr. English thanked all district employees, students, parents and community members who participated in promoting reading to students through the Read Across America Program.
Mr. English announced that the Vineland High School Cap ‘n’ Dagger Club will be performing the Broadway musical *Hello Dolly* on March 10, 11 and 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Vineland High School Auditorium. He urged everyone to come out and support our students.

Ms. Rios thanked and congratulated the students who were present tonight for a job well done. She also thanked the parents, coaches and teachers who are part of these students’ lives. Ms. Rios informed the community that she has attended committee and public meetings on the Bilingual Program. She recognized her friend, Jeannette Vega Castro, who passed away. Ms. Rios said Ms. Vega Castro was a Hispanic in the community who volunteered her time to the youth and community.

Mr. DeWinne echoed the comments made by Mr. English. He said this is a forum for anybody to speak out and we need to be receptive to the concerns of parents. Mr. DeWinne said as a former student athlete he could not be more proud of the sports teams. He said sports teach discipline, punctuality, work ethic, teamwork, dedication and diversity that are great traits to have as an adult. Mr. DeWinne wished all the board candidates good luck in the April election.

Dr. Mounier said he had the pleasurable experience of reading at Mennies and Petway Elementary Schools for the Read Across America Program. He was impressed by the demeanor of the students who were very well behaved.

Mrs. Phillips said we have some really great students in Vineland. She agrees with Dr. Mounier and said that she read at various schools for Read Across America and the children were very well behaved. Mrs. Phillips commended Shavonne Davis, a former Cunningham School student, who has always worked very hard. Mrs. Phillips said she is very proud of Jenna Garrett and Mark Novatorskiy who were both Petway Patriots. She also commended the girls’ basketball and swim team. Mrs. Phillips said Lauren Carastro who is a swim team member attended Cunningham School and was an outstanding student. She wished the entire cast of *Hello Dolly* especially Natalie Bermudez a former Cunningham student.

Mr. DiGiorgio echoed his colleagues’ sentiments on Reading Across America. He said he also echoes the thoughts of Mrs. Paterno and hopes that her concern can be addressed easily and timely. Mr. DiGiorgio congratulated Shavonne Davis along with the girls’ basketball and swim teams.
Mr. DiGiorgio extended his condolences to the Phillips family.

Mr. Ulrich said he has two years left on the board and assured Mr. DeWinne that he will support athletics. He said athletics are a memory that these students will have at different points in their lives. Mr. Ulrich said that he has a lot of questions about the magnet concept and the Bilingual Program.

Dr. Banks extended her condolences to Nancee Bleistine, Craig and Rusty Phillips on the loss of their father. She congratulated all of the students who were honored tonight and thanked the coaches and teachers for their dedication. Dr. Banks also congratulated Mr. Johnson.

Report/Remarks by Board President:

Mr. Franceschini reminded the board that a Public Hearing on the budget will be held on Wednesday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m. He said he saw a group of Cap ‘n’ Dagger students in a restaurant on Friday and was very proud of their behavior. Mr. Franceschini said he spoke with Mrs. Paterno on her concerns and wished her and her husband the best. He sends his condolences and prayers to the Phillips family.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on Wednesday, March 23, 2011, Wednesday, March 30, 2011 and Wednesday, April 13, 2011 regarding budget issues, personal matters, contract negotiations, student residency/disciplinary matters and anticipated or pending litigation.

Motion:

Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned by voice vote at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df