

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, March 12, 2008 at 6:30 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. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Snyder.

Also present: Mr. Ottinger, Superintendent, Dr. Figgs, Dr. Gruccio, & Mr. Peters, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Board 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:

Alec Allonardo, Sophia Baldosaro and Devon Pritchett students from D'Ippolito Elementary School, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Curcio, Principal and Mrs. Frederico, Assistant Principal of D'Ippolito Elementary School, were also in attendance.

Mr. Snyder arrived at 6:31 p.m.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, March 12, 2008**, regarding contract negotiations, personnel matters, and pending litigation. On **Thursday, March 27, 2008** a closed session will be held regarding budget issues and contract negotiations, and on **Wednesday, April 2, 2008** regarding personnel matters, anticipated or pending litigation, and budget issues.

A motion was made by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Franceschini, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes."

Mr. Giordano asked Mr. Franchetta to explain why he read the executive session resolution at this time.

Mr. Franchetta explained that because of a New Jersey court case executive session items now have to be narrowed down to what is actually going to be discussed. Therefore, board meetings that are far in advance can not be listed on the resolution until it is known what is actually going to be discussed the night of the meeting. Mr. Franchetta said since the board is recessing to executive session at the beginning of this meeting the resolution has to be read now.

The Board recessed to executive session at 6:35 p.m. regarding a personnel matter.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:01 p.m.

Special

Presentation (s): Mr. Ottinger introduced Mr. Craig Phillips, Music Teacher, to introduce Andrea Chieffo, a renowned National Harpist.

Mr. Phillips introduced Andrea Chieffo, a junior in the high school string ensemble who has been chosen to play the harp in the 2008 All State High School Orchestra.

Ms. Chieffo played a selection on the harp.

Mr. Ottinger introduced Eloise Bruce to discuss the Artist in Residence Program at Sabater Elementary School.

Ms. Bruce presented an overview on the Artist in Residence Program, where the teachers came up with a proposal to write a play about George Daynor and the Palace of Depression.

Mrs. Gavigan asked when the play is. Ms. Bruce said May 15.

Mr. Snyder said this is an excellent idea and he is glad this is being done.

A motion was made by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, to open the public hearing. All Members voted “yes.”

Public Comments
on Public Hearing
Items:

John Magee, Vineland Resident and Security Guard

Mr. Magee said in no way does he want to disrespect the people who will be receiving a raise but expressed his concern that the raises are high. He said we will be losing many people at the bottom who are not making anything at all and now is not the time.

Jennifer Giovinazzi, Student Assistance Counselor Landis School

Ms. Giovinazzi said this is her first year working for Vineland and she really enjoys it. She said her job is being cut and feels that the increase in the assistant superintendent salaries could save one of the community liaison positions.

Amy Cam, Vineland Resident

Ms. Cam said she has watched the decline of a lot of things in our school system. She finds it unconscionable that we would consider pay raises for the highest ranking administration at this period in time when there are such cuts going on.

Lori DeMatte, Library Aide at Petway School

Ms. DeMatte agrees with everyone who has spoken tonight. She does not understand how we could think about giving raises out when positions and programs are being cut that directly affect our children.

A motion was made by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, to close the public hearing. All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. Ottinger wanted to clarify for the public what the board will be voting on. He said these salaries are not the highest in the district and there are two assistant superintendents that actually make less than principals in the district. Mr. Ottinger said all other groups in the district received three year raises of 4.4, 4.6 and 5.0 percent. He said those raises were for the teachers, principals, supervisors and everyone in the district. Mr. Ottinger said the N.J.E.A. who represents the teachers and home school liaisons supported the governor’s school funding formula. He said these individuals are being given the lowest percentage of raises of anyone in the district by a considerable amount.

Mr. Ottinger recommended the following salary increases for the assistant superintendents:

Dr. Figgs 2.62% per year for three years

Mr. Franchetta 3.0% per year for three years

Dr. Gruccio 4.0% per year for three years

Mr. Peters 2.62% per year for three years

Mr. Ottinger pointed out that Mr. Franchetta and Dr. Gruccio are paid lower than some principals in the district.

- Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, to approve the salary increases for the assistant superintendents. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Giordano who voted “no.”
- Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Spinelli, the Board approved the minutes from January 26, 2008, February 6, 2008, and February 13, 2008. All Members voted “yes.”
- Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies: Upon motion by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of January 2008, 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: Page 5

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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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

Mr. Snyder asked if there is a reason why we have three girls track coach resignations. Mr. Ottinger said the head coach has an affiliation with the wrestling incident and no longer wishes to coach. The other was an assistant wrestling coach and he does not know why the third coach resigned. Mr. Snyder asked if we are without coaches for our track team. Mr. Ottinger said right now Mr. DeShields the boys track coach is overseeing everything and the position is advertised.

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.)

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

- a. Governor’s Initiative on Autism Grant

All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Arroyo who voted “yes” on all items but abstained on #30 and Mr. Franceschini who voted “no.” (8-1-0)

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – March 12, 2008

G I O R D A N O	G A V I G A N	A R R O Y O	B E R R O R D I N I	F A N 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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4. The Board approve submission of the following grant(s) as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

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

a. No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
 School Improvement Grant
 Landis and Wallace Middle Schools
 March 1, 2008 – August 31, 2008
 In the amount of ----- \$54,000.00
 (for each school, plus \$7,000 for nine highest performing schools)

b. 21st Century Community Learning Center
 After School and Summer Youth Program
 Landis Middle School
 July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009
 In the amount of ----- \$65,688.00

5. The Board accept funding in the following amount(s):

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

a. 21st Century Community Learning Center
 Young Audiences in New Jersey
 Artists-in-Education After-School Residency Program
 (20 days, March – June 2008)
 Landis Middle School
 In the amount of ----- \$8,055.00

(The Artists-in-Education Residency Program is through the Young Audiences New Jersey which is a partner organization of the 21st Century Community Learning Center.)

Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – March 12, 2008

G I O R D A N O	G A V I G A N	A R R O Y O	B E R R O R D I N I	F A N 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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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 Student Transportation Contract renewal with Sheppard Bus Service for the 2006 – 2007 school year for the routes which are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members voted "yes" except for Mrs. Gavigan who voted "no." (8-1-0)

8. The Board approve the extension to the "Second Amendment to the Lease" with Elwyn, Inc. for the IMPACT/Nash Education Center extending the lease period through August 31, 2008.

Withdrawn by Superintendent

Mr. Franchetta explained that this recommendation was to extend the lease of the Impact Center with Elwyn, which is expiring on June 30, 2008. Due to recent developments at the Impact building, because of a roof leak, it was decided to move the students during Easter vacation from the Impact Center to the Center City Learning Complex. He said there will be no need now to extend the lease to August 31, 2008.

Mr. Snyder asked if we have to pay until the end of the contract. Mr. Franchetta said we are committed in the contract to June 30.

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 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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Vineland Board Of Education
Report to the Board – March 12, 2008

Continued

Mr. Snyder asked if we are committed even though the building is unsafe. Mr. Franchetta said the building has not been deemed unsafe we just thought it was in the best interest of the program to move during the Easter holiday. Mr. Snyder asked what the cost of the next three months would be. Mr. Franchetta said about \$10,000 a month and he would have our solicitor review the lease.

Mr. Bernardini commented that there are so many things wrong at that building it is pathetic.

Mr. DeSanto said he is not familiar with the contract because Mr. DiDomenico negotiated it.

Mr. Snyder said he would like a report on this by the next work session. He feels that we should be withholding payment until this is settled. Mr. Franchetta said he will speak to Mr. DiDomenico.

- 9. The Board approve the New Jersey Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Provider Application for the period beginning September 1, 2008.

All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Spinelli who was not present for the vote. (8-0-0)

- 10. The Board approve the collaboration between the Vineland School District and South Jersey Healthcare for participation in S.T.E.P.S. (Success Through Exercise, Physical Fitness and Sharing Information). This program is for students ages 8 – 12 and their parents who need help adopting a healthier lifestyle in order to combat childhood obesity. (This is a three-year grant provided, in part, from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.)

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

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Bernardini who was not present for the vote. (\$7,250,993.50).

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

Public: Angela D’Ottavio & Brenda Cucukov, Adult Education School Nursing Instructors
Ms. D’Ottavio said that 95 individuals have signed up for the Vineland Licensed Practical Nursing Program and 24 are Vineland residents. She asked if they receive 30 applicants willing to pay full tuition of \$6,500.00 by June 2008, do the applicants have to be from Vineland. Mr. Ottinger responded no.

Board Member
Remarks:

Mr. Spinelli said it is his wish as well that the LPN Program continues to stay in Vineland and he will do everything he can do ensure that it happens. Mr. Spinelli said he understands what everyone is talking about in regards to the raises, but everyone deserves a cost of living increase. He said the assistant superintendents go above and beyond the things that are asked of them. Mr. Spinelli said at this point the cuts are not definitive. He said something will be cut but he is not sure what and hopefully it will affect the least amount of people as possible.

Mr. Franceschini said the reputation of the Vineland LPN Program has been excellent for the years that he has been involved in healthcare. He really hopes that this program succeeds.

Mr. Fanucci announced that Vineland had seven students that qualified for the 2008 DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta. He said DECA donated 100 stuffed rabbits and delivered them to Children’s Hospital as part of their community service project. Mr. Fanucci thanked and congratulated DECA for a job well done.

Mrs. Gavigan said the board understands the trauma that the budget cuts have caused. She mentioned that tomorrow Commissioner Davy will be at Cumberland County College and she urged everyone to attend to express their point of view. Mrs. Gavigan said the board does not have control on how much money the district receives.

Continued

Mrs. Gavigan announced that a Public Hearing on the budget will be held on March 27, 2008. She said Cap N' Dagger will present *Singing in the Rain* on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Vineland High School South. Mrs. Gavigan also announced that next Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. the board will be naming the Impact Center at the Vineland Community Learning Complex. She said the board is accepting nominations.

Mr. Bernardini distributed the buildings & grounds report for the board to review. He said the last page is about Middle School #2, which will go out for bid July 1. Mr. Franceschini asked if the same architect will be used that was used for Middle School #1. Mr. Bernardini responded no. Mr. Bernardini said during the spring break Impact will be moving over to the Community Learning Complex.

Mr. Ottinger wanted the public to know that the Abbott Superintendents had the opportunity to meet with Governor Corzine, before the new legislation was passed, regarding the new school funding formula. He said the Cumberland County Superintendents also had the opportunity to meet with Commissioner Davy at Cumberland County Vo-Tech for the same purpose. Mr. Ottinger said we are trying to fight as hard as we can against this new school funding formula, which has been passed. He said it did not help that the NJEA among others supported this issue. Mr. Ottinger said with the old formula you had the right to appeal and in most cases through the years Vineland received more money. He said the board is in a very difficult position in the regard that we had to submit a balanced budget last week.

Mr. Giordano mentioned that our former Senator Nicholas Asselta supported the new school funding formula as well.

Mr. Ottinger said it is important to note that Senator Van Drew and Assemblyman Albano voted against the new formula and have been very supportive in helping us with this endeavor. He said this is the biggest fight that this district has ever faced and the negative impact this could have for years to come can not be explained.

Mr. Giordano asked Mr. Ottinger if he has heard a rumor that we will no longer be an Abbott district as of July 1. Mr. Ottinger said yes he spoke to Jim McBee who is the head of Abbott Services and he was led to believe that there would be no Abbott designation. He was wondering if this could happen because it is a Supreme Court designation. Mr. DeSanto said there is no definitive answer and this is clearly the message that the state department is sending out.

Mr. Ulrich wanted to reiterate that in a perfect world in a non-budget crisis the proposal for the small learning communities sounds great. However; in the situation we are facing do we have so much invested in small learning communities that we have to move forward. Mr. Ottinger said currently we have no choice because small learning communities are part of the secondary school initiative, which is part of the Abbott mandates. He said we are really committed and the small learning communities will not cost us any more money. Mr. Ulrich asked if there was an issue with the state not supplying the money for the labs. Mr. Ottinger said yes there are labs at Vineland High School North that can not accommodate physics. He is very confident that the School Construction Corporation will take care of this for us. Mr. Ulrich asked if there are any other Abbott Districts that are moving forward with small learning communities effective September 1. Mr. Ottinger said everyone is supposed to implement small learning communities by mandate September 2008. Mr. Ulrich said these are not easy decisions and a great deal of thought is given to every position that he votes on.

Mr. Bernardini said Mr. Peters at one time mentioned that we are one of the only school districts that were almost prepared for small learning communities.

Mr. Snyder said it is great that we are moving forward on certain things but he has the same reservations as Mr. Ulrich. He wonders what the long term affects or cost will be.

Mr. Ottinger said Mr. Peters is considered the expert on small learning communities and we will take another look at it. He said we are always open to suggestions.

Mr. Ulrich said he does believe that a smaller environment with one on one teaching and better counseling is going to benefit our students.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Giordano said the superintendent's evaluation can be held following the budget hearing on March 27. He announced that a Finance Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df