

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, April 9, 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:

Jessica Flitcraft, Patrick Laurencio, Ariel Polanco and John Torres, Student Government Officers from Wallace Middle School, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Saffioti, Student Government Advisor, was also in attendance.

Special

Presentation (s):

Mrs. Josephine Spinelli, said she is here on behalf of her husband, Paul Spinelli, and herself to honor Mrs. Gavigan and Mr. Snyder. She thanked them for all they have done and presented them with flowers.

Mr. Ottinger introduced Dr. Bertha Henson to present the Spelling Bee Champions.

Dr. Henson introduced Ms. Carole Dallago, the Advisor of the National Honor Society and Chastity Palmer and Christina Watts, National Honor Society Members to present the winners of the first annual Spelling Bee Competition. Ms. Palmer and Ms. Watts introduced Aleksandra Rajcevic, David Macon, Moses Badillo, Zachary Watson, Moises Hernandez II, William Lunsford, Megan Medina, Mark Novatorskiy, Andrew Barefield, Sean Slusarczyk, and Dean Mason, first place winner. Mr. Snyder presented certificates to each of the winners who were present.

Ms. Dallago thanked the board for their support and the parents for making this happen.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Franceschini, the Board approved the minutes February 20, 2008, February 25, 2008, March 5, 2008, March 12, 2008, March 19, 2008 and March 27, 2008. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Snyder who voted “yes” on all minutes but “abstained” on March 19 and March 27, 2008 and Mr. Spinelli who voted “yes” on all minutes but “abstained” on March 12, 2008.

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 February, 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 3

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. Spinelli asked if the volunteer assistant softball coach position will interfere with the duties within this individual's job description. Ms. Greenfield responded no.

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. General Fund;
- b. School-Based Budget.

Mr. Spinelli asked if this was exactly the same as the work session. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.

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

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

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

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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:

- a. Wal-Mart Community Grant
 Petway Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 1,000.00
- b. Phillips Medical Systems Grant
 Petway Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 2,225.00
- c. State Farm
 Children’s Literacy Initiative Grant
 D’Ippolito Elementary School
 Three days of professional development
 In the amount of ----- \$ 3,467.00
- d. My Hometown Helper Grant
 D’Ippolito Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$11,882.85

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

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

- a. General Mills Community Grant
 Petway Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 2,700.00
- b. Vineland Municipal Alliance Program
 January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008
 In the amount of ----- \$ 8,750.00
- c. New Jersey Youth Corps
 Department of Labor & Workforce Development
 Through Vineland Adult Education Program
 May 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008
 In the amount of ----- \$21,951.00

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

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6. Bids:

- a. The Board acknowledge receipt of bids for School buses as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and reject all bids in accordance with 18A:18A-22.b & d.

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

- 7. 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)

- 8. The Board approve cancellation of the list of checks provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and remit the funds to the Department of treasury Unclaimed Property.

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

- 9. The Board approve a Resolution retaining attorney Arthur M. Brown for purposes of obtaining federal and state revenue rulings at no cost to the Vineland Board of Education.

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

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10. The Board accept the results of the Department of Education’s review of the Carl D. Perkins Secondary Entitlement Grant # PERK 5290-07 for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. (As no exceptions were noted during the Department’s review, the filing of the Corrective Action Plan on the district’s part is not required.)

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

Mr. Giordano asked if these were the dates the review was done. Mr. Franchetta said it was the time frame the grant was audited.

11. The Board approve and direct the Secretary of the Board to implement each of the following recommendations from the New Jersey Department of Education Office of Compliance Investigation from the reports of examination on the following Abbott Early Childhood Education Centers in accordance with the Corrective Action Plan which are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

12. 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)

13. The Board approve the Agreement between the Vineland Non-Certificated Supervisors Association for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

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14. The Board agree to participate with the Cumberland County Educational Cooperative from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 for the purpose of coordinating and managing county-wide transportation services for the purpose of deducting districts' costs and facilitating said services.

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

15. The Board approve the Veterans Memorial Middle School's Title I School Restructuring Plan as presented at the April 2, 2008 Work Session.

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

16. The Board approve the Summer 2008 Programs, preschool through grade 12, as per list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

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

17. The Board accept the following donations in accordance with Board Policy #7230, "Gifts, Grants and Donations:"

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

a. The Picket Fence
 Petway Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 292.82

b. Wal-Mart Department Store, Millville
 Reading books for third grade classes
 Petway Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 500.00

c. Cabinets from Donald Tigar to be used by the
 Vineland Community School Learning Complex
 In the amount of ----- \$9,500.00

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18. The Board Secretary be instructed to notify the non-tenured professional staff, whose names are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board, that the Board of Education has deemed it advisable to abolish their position for reasons of economy, reduction in the number of pupils, change in the administrative or supervisory organization and/or other good cause.

All Members voted “yes” except for Ms. Arroyo who voted “no.” (8-1-0)

Ms. Arroyo voted “no” because she feels there are several positions being abolished that are vital to our district and she would like to find a way to bring them back.

19. The Board Secretary be instructed to notify the tenured professional staff, whose names are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board, that the Board of Education has deemed it advisable to abolish their position for reasons of economy, reduction in the number of pupils, change in the administrative or supervisory organization, and/or other good cause.

All Members voted “yes” except for Ms. Arroyo who voted “no.” (8-1-0)

20. The Board approve the Second Reading and adoption of Policy #5530, “Substance Abuse” (Revised).

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

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21. The Board approve the Settlement Agreements for the employees whose names are on file with the Secretary of the Board.

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

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

Mr. Snyder asked where we are with the completion of the homework and lesson plan sites. Mr. Franchetta said a meeting will be held with two different vendors tomorrow and Friday. Mr. Snyder said we were told that the thought was this would be complete by April. Mr. Ottinger said that is correct but we are looking into other possible solutions. Mr. Snyder requested for his colleagues to please follow up on this important piece.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Franceschini, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$5,544,496.95).

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

Public: Valerie Francisci
Ms. Francisci acknowledged and thanked Mrs. Gavigan, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Franceschini for their hard work and dedication.

Jimmie Lee Headen
Ms. Headen asked if there is a time frame in which we will hear the Supreme Court’s decision in regards to Abbott. Mr. Ottinger said the Educational Law Center asked for a ninety day period to respond to the Attorney General’s request for a change in the designation. Ms. Headen asked if the Abbott funding is ruled in our favor would all the cuts be reinstated. Mr. Ottinger said if the ruling is in our favor it would give us the right to appeal. Ms. Headen asked if the individual who is in the assistant superintendent position, that is being eliminated, will have another job title. Mr. Ottinger said he was a tenured principal and would have the right to riff to a principal’s position. Ms. Headen asked if he would have the same salary. Mr. Ottinger said he would have the same salary, which would frozen at that amount.

Michael Gavigan
Mr. Gavigan presented roses to his wife Jackie from their son, Ryan, for her long dedication to his education and the students of Vineland.

Mr. Giordano said we are losing two valuable board members whose contributions have been absolutely invaluable to the district. He said both individuals bring a certain perspective to the board. Mr. Giordano said Mr. Snyder is a man of his convictions and does not back off from a challenge. Mr. Giordano said Mrs. Gavigan reminds him constantly of all of the district activities and holds a special place in her heart for all the parents. He said they both will be sorely missed and presented Mr. Snyder and Mrs. Gavigan a plaque for their dedicated services on behalf of Vineland Public Schools.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Spinelli commented that Ms. Greenfield is working frantically in trying to save as many of the non-tenured positions as possible. He feels that we have to be very careful when releasing someone from their job responsibilities and that it is done in a careful way. Mr. Spinelli said we will stay on top of the lesson plan site. He said that he appreciated everything that Mr. Snyder did to help him out and for Mrs. Gavigan keeping the board moving in the right direction. Mr. Spinelli wished them both the best.

Mr. Ulrich said he will definitely follow up on the homework site that Mr. Snyder mentioned. He said it is important that parents have every available resource that they possibly can. Mr. Ulrich expressed his concern in regards to the board having to pay out settlements because of accountability mistakes in personnel. He said Mr. Snyder is a gentleman who offers a great deal to this board. Mr. Ulrich said Mrs. Gavigan was one of the first people that helped mentor and educate him on board issues. He congratulated Mr. Snyder and Mrs. Gavigan for their dedication to the City of Vineland.

Ms. Arroyo thanked Mr. Snyder and Mrs. Gavigan for the dedication and passion they brought to this board.

Mr. Fanucci said Mr. Snyder is bright and passionate and Mrs. Gavigan is a mother hen always keeping the board in line. He will never forget the support they have given him and thanked them both.

Mr. Franceschini wished Mr. Snyder all the best. He said that Mrs. Gavigan has helped him a lot and will do well where ever she goes.

Mr. Bernardini thanked Mr. Snyder for the insight he put in to Middle School #2 and wished him a lot of luck. He thanked Mrs. Gavigan for what she did for the children of the district.

Mr. Ottinger said the public knows that the relationship between the superintendent and the board is not always great. He said the board does not get paid for what they do and are criticized on a daily basis. Mr. Ottinger said it is not very often that you hear the board of education did a great job. He said to be on the board you have to be a special person because most of the time you will be criticized. Mr. Ottinger said the community can say unequivocally that they appreciate everything Mr. Snyder and Mrs. Gavigan have done for our district and he wished them the best of luck.

Mr. Snyder said that this was not an easy decision for him to not run for re-election. He said we do not always agree but we all love children. Mr. Snyder said there are many things that he was proud to be a part of such as the building of the new schools and the hiring of Mr. Ottinger. He said public education is about the only thing that can be criticized personally. Mr. Snyder read a list of the top ten things he will miss the most. He read a quote from Roberto Clemente “If you have a chance to make a difference in this world and you do not do that then you are wasting you time on this earth.”

Mrs. Gavigan thanked Mr. Snyder for spearheading the Archives Alive project and for the expertise he brought to the board. She announced that Vineland High School will host the Special Olympics Track & Field on Saturday, April 19th at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Gavigan also announced that this Saturday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. there will be a dedication ceremony at the Gloria M. Sabater Elementary School to honor Gloria M. Sabater. She said on Saturday, April 12, Comcast Cable will be changing *Channel 13* to *Channel 9*. Mrs. Gavigan reminded the community that Tuesday, April 15 is School Board Election Day and the polls are open from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. She said that she has been involved in the Vineland Public School system for thirteen years. Mrs. Gavigan thanked the community for allowing her the opportunity to be on the school board, which is an honor. She really enjoyed attending school events and watching parents watch their children. Mrs. Gavigan thanked the board for their friendship along with her husband, son, sister, friends and the children in the district.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Giordano reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday. He thanked Mr. Snyder and Mrs. Gavigan.

Mr. Snyder said he will be back.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, April 9, 2008** regarding personnel matters, and pending litigation and **Wednesday, April 30, 2008**, regarding student disciplinary/residency issues and personnel matters, **Wednesday, May 7, 2008** regarding personnel matters, anticipated or pending litigation, and budget issues.

Motion:

Upon motion by Mr. Bernardini, seconded by Mr. Spinelli, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary