

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, May 7, 2008 at 7:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Ms. Arroyo, Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Ms. Rios, Mr. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: none.

Also present: Mr. Ottinger, Superintendent, Dr. Figgs, Dr. Guccio, and Mr. Peters, Assistant Superintendents, 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 said up until this point public comment was permitted at the voting meeting only. The governor recently signed into law allowing public comment at all school board meetings. Mr. Giordano said effective with this work session we will be allowing public comment at the end of the meeting with a five minute timeline. If the meeting is close or goes past 9:00 p.m. it would be stopped to allow the public input.

Special

Presentations:

Mr. Ottinger introduced Mr. Kevin Duffy and Mr. Bill Artosky to present Mr. Wayne Weaver with the Trane Energy Efficient Leader in Education Award.

Mr. Duffy and Mr. Artosky congratulated Mr. Weaver and the Board of Education for having implemented energy saving strategies.

Mr. Weaver said this is an honor to receive this on behalf of Vineland Public Schools. He said it shows the commitment from the board and School Development Association (SDA) who funded the projects.

Mr. Bernardini mentioned that he works closely with Mr. Weaver being on the Buildings & Grounds Committee. He said we are very fortunate to have somebody like Mr. Weaver on our staff and he is proud to be associated with him.

Mr. Giordano congratulated Mr. Weaver and thanked him for the pride he brings to the district.

Mr. Ottinger said everyone in the district knows what a gem we have in Mr. Weaver and Mr. Weaver along with his entire staff do a great job.

Mr. Ottinger introduced Mr. Theodore Peters and Ms. Linda Santagata to present the Parent Advocacy Program and middle/high school schedules.

Mr. Peters said several months ago board members asked for an update on our Family Advocacy Program that we are intending to implement September of next year and along with the high/middle school schedules.

Ms. Santagata presented a brief overview on the program. She said the idea of the Family Advocacy Program is to personalize the situation. The students will get to know one adult extremely well in either middle or high school and there will be twenty students per advocate in single grade levels. Ms. Santagata said eventually advocates will meet with families twice a year and Wednesday's will be Family Advocacy Day.

Ms. Arroyo asked if this is in conjunction with small learning communities. Ms. Santagata responded yes.

Mr. Ulrich asked if it is a mandatory component for the advocate to meet with the families twice a year. Ms. Santagata said at this point in time it is not a mandatory component but we are moving in that direction. Mr. Ulrich asked what does moving in that direction mean. Ms. Santagata said she does not know that parent conferences have been organized yet to address that specific issue. Mr. Ulrich asked if the same person will be the child's advocate in high school. Ms. Santagata responded yes.

Ms. Arroyo asked Ms. Santagata if she has met with any other schools that have this component to see the outcome of the parent component. Ms. Santagata said we have met with several schools and attended conferences.

Mr. Peters said small learning communities is about personalization and breaking down large buildings into smaller buildings. He said advocacy takes this one step farther. Mr. Peters said the middle and high school schedules show very little change. He said each of the four middle schools has three learning communities and every student has six academic periods. Mr. Peters said the advocacy period will be a one period class on Wednesday's, which will be rotating on a six week schedule.

Mr. Ulrich asked what are some of the topics that would be discussed during the advocacy period. Mr. Peters said anything from social, academic and personal issues.

Ms. Arroyo asked if students will be graded for the advocacy period. Mr. Peters responded no.

Mr. Peters said the basic schedule for the high school is the same. He said all ninth and tenth graders are getting their English, math, science and social studies in 84 minute blocks this year. Mr. Peters said we are calling ninth period a “Skinny” because it is a traditional 40 minute class all year long. He said one thing we are going to do is rotate the small learning community (SLC) so over the four years of high school students will get the benefit of all four schedules.

Mr. Ulrich commented that this component of the small learning communities is a great concept and he hopes we stay on top of it.

Mr. DeWinne asked what will happen when the teacher/advocate is out. Mr. Peters said when possible we will have an administrative assistant and a counselor assigned to that.

Mr. Spinelli asked if there are availabilities to switch from one small learning community to another if a teacher does not care for it. Mr. Peters said they are limited but if we can accommodate it we will.

Mr. Bernardini said who will monitor the advocacy program. Mr. Peters said the administrative assistant of that small learning community.

Mr. Franceschini asked if the teachers have their assignments for next year. Mr. Peters said they will by June 1st.

Mr. Spinelli asked if we are prepared to retro fit labs over the summer. Mr. Peters said we are still waiting on that.

Mr. Ottinger mentioned that one of the advantages of having administrative assistants and not department heads is that the department heads are teachers with no supervisory capacity. He said the administrative assistants have full supervisory capacity to deal with various situations. Mr. Ottinger said the people here this evening have totally committed themselves to this project and have done such a great job that he believes they are trend setters.

Mr. Ottinger mentioned that small learning communities and the advocacy program are out of the Gates Foundation. He thanked and commended the staff for all their hard work in getting small learning communities ready. Mr. Ottinger said he is confident that this will be a good thing for our district and students.

Mr. Spinelli asked if an administrative assistant can write up an employee. Mr. Ottinger said yes they are in a full supervisory capacity and can do reprimands if need be. Mr. Spinelli asked if the administrative assistants are also handling student small offenses. Mr. Ottinger responded yes.

Mr. Ulrich said it is also important to state that the administrative assistants are also teachers and carrying a class load.

Mr. Franceschini asked how much training staff received to prepare for small learning communities. Mr. Peters said just in the advocacy part there were five programs. He said in addition to the in-service days there were seven half days and other opportunities beyond that for just this year. Mr. Franceschini asked if someone is hired with no training how will it be handled. Mr. Peters said the high and middle schools have orientations for that.

Mr. Ulrich commented that in order for this program to be successful the board without waiver is going to have to support this endeavor one hundred percent.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Appointment of Board Secretary** – No discussion.
2. **Appointment of Custodian of School District Records** – No discussion.
3. **Appointment of Custodian of School Monies** – No discussion.
4. **Appointment of Contract Agents** – No discussion.
5. **Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer** – Mr. DeWinne asked if everything over \$25,000 has to go out for bid. Mr. Franchetta said yes unless it is state contract. Mr. DeWinne asked what the threshold increase is. Mr. Cox said it allows you to go up to \$29,000.

6. **Appointment of Qualified Purchasing Agent** – No discussion.
7. **Appointment of Legal Depositories** – No discussion.
8. **Appointment of Bank Depositories** – No discussion.
9. **Appointment of Affirmative Action Officer** – No discussion.
10. **Appointment of American Disability Act Coordinator** – No discussion.
11. **Appointment of 504 Compliance Officer** – No discussion.
12. **Appointment of Title IX Coordinator** – No discussion.
13. **Appointment of Board Solicitor** – No discussion.
14. **Appointment of VEA Negotiator/Alternate Counsel** – No discussion.
15. **Appointment of Auditor** – Mr. DeWinne said since the auditor fees were increased was this sent out for bid or are we using the same person. Mr. Franchetta said it is reoccurring.
16. **Appointment of Architect of Record** – No discussion.
17. **Appointment of Attorney for Collection of Delinquent Acct Receivables** – No discussion.
18. **Appointment of Insurance Broker** – Mr. DeWinne asked who handles the district's health care. Mr. Franchetta said Allen Associates handles it through Biondi Insurance. He said a majority of our insurances are through New Jersey School Boards and are probably the best rates you can get.

Mr. Giordano asked if there was a start date for all of the appointments on the agenda. Mr. Franchetta said the appointments all start on July 1 and if the board desires any appointment could be pulled to get a request for proposal.

Mr. Ulrich asked what would happen if a business person came forward with a proposal prior to these positions being awarded. Mr. Ottinger said anyone at any time could notify us that they want to be included and we would advise the board. He said the board at anytime could request proposals.

Continued

Mr. Giordano asked why we are approving these contracts now if they are not effective until July 1. Mr. Ottinger said this is the way it has always been done and no one has ever said to do it differently. Mr. Franchetta said the window of opportunity is between now and June 30 if the board chooses to change anything.

Mr. Franceschini commented that in the future we should consider an advertisement prior to the appointments.

Mr. DeSanto said the board has to realize that you need to have standards and you can not just issue a letter to someone requesting a proposal. He said if you were to decide that you wanted to advertise for an attorney, insurance broker or auditor there has to be a set of standards or certain requirements. Mr. DeSanto said based on common standards you will be able to compare. Mr. Spinelli said if we wanted to do something of this nature in the upcoming year should we formulate standards for all the appointments so it can be advertised next year. Mr. DeSanto said only the board that is constituted after the April election can make the award.

Mr. Fanucci said certain people do not qualify for a variety of reasons because they would also have to be approved by New Jersey School Boards Association.

Mr. Bernardini asked if the board wants to do all of these appointments or certain ones. Mr. Ulrich said he was just bringing up the concept.

Mr. Spinelli said an Ad Hoc Committee has to be appointed to set standards with Mr. DeSanto to make sure they are legal.

19. **Appointment of Primary School Physicians** – No discussion.

20. **Appointment of Alternate School Physicians** – No discussion.

21. **Appointment of official newspapers** – Ms. Arroyo asked if we can add the Spanish newspapers *Nuestra Comunidad* and *Su Voz*. Mr. Giordano said he does not see that as a problem.

Mr. DeSanto said the board could have a number of newspapers that they provide notices to but the designation of official carries certain criteria and requirements. He said it would not be a problem having a third newspaper receive notices without the official designation.

Mr. Franchetta said he will add *Su Voz* and *Nuestra Comunidad* to be designated to receive notices of meetings.

22. **Approval of Textbooks and Courses of Study-** Mr. Spinelli asked if we are just going to continue using what we have. Mr. Ottinger said no it is for approval to purchase textbooks when we need them.
23. **Agreement to Enter into Tuition Agreements for Homeless Students** – Mr. DeWinne asked what this means. Mr. Franchetta said when students are homeless and they come to us from other districts we are allowed to charge tuition.
24. **Recognition of Bargaining Units** – No discussion.
25. **Approval of Annual Travel Stipends** – Mr. Ulrich asked if these individual are being paid mileage. Mr. Franchetta said no they receive a lump sum.
26. **Establishment of Petty Cash Funds** – Mr. DeWinne asked why the athletic department receives \$2,000. Mr. Ottinger said it is used to pay officials on site. Mr. DeWinne asked if we issue them any tax forms. Mr. Franchetta said we run it through our vendor system and if they earn over \$600 they will receive a 1099.

Mr. Spinelli asked if Vineland does vouchers. Mr. Franchetta said a voucher is filled out when the check is presented.
27. **Participation with Colleges and Universities for Placement of students for student teaching, practicum, field internships and observations** – Mr. Giordano asked if this is when student teachers work in our schools. Mr. Ottinger said that is correct.
28. **Approval of Dates, Times and Place of Open Work Sessions and Regular Meetings** – Mr. Giordano said the start time for the June 11 meeting will have to be changed, which he will discuss later. He said the board retreat date is flexible.
29. **Date, Time and Place of 2008 Commencement Exercises** – No discussion.
30. **School Calendar 2008-2009** – No discussion.
31. **Personnel Items** – Ms. Arroyo asked why we are hiring someone to start in September instead of bringing someone back who is being rified. Ms. Greenfield said we do not have enough special education teachers and we have a number of vacancies.

Mr. Franceschini asked where we are with the LPN Program. Mr. Ottinger said the test has been given and they are waiting for the results to select the candidates. He said hopefully 25 or 30 students will be chosen who will have to pay tuition up front in order for the program to continue.

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Mr. DeWinne asked what the process is for leaves of absences because some of the dates have already passed. Mr. Ottinger said this has been a problem but through Ms. Greenfield's efforts it has been much better.

Mr. Giordano asked for an explanation as to the possible reasons for the delay with the leaves of absences. Ms. Greenfield explained that when someone is out six continuous days it becomes a leave of absence. She said maybe on day three the individual did not know that they would be out so long because of a condition they may have. Ms. Greenfield said the personnel department generates a report every week and when someone is out for a third or fourth day a letter is generated.

Mr. DeWinne asked Ms. Greenfield if her staff makes sure the leave is with or without pay. Ms. Greenfield said yes they have a tracking system in place.

Mr. Bernardini asked if the forty seven transfers, assignments and promotions are because of the rife notices. Ms. Greenfield responded yes. Mr. Bernardini asked if all the people have been notified. Ms. Greenfield responded yes.

Mr. Franceschini asked how coaching positions are advertised. Ms. Greenfield said it is done internal and if we do not receive enough candidates we will do an external posting.

Mr. Spinelli asked if anything has been done with the SAC's being replaced in the high and middle schools. Mr. Ottinger said they will be reinstated.

Mr. Ulrich asked Ms. Greenfield if she personally reviews the request for leave notices. Ms. Greenfield responded yes.

Mr. DeWinne asked where summer school will be held. Dr. Figgs said the high school program will be held at Rossi School, middle school at Veterans Memorial School and the Impact Program will be at Sabater School.

Mr. Franceschini asked if summer school teachers will be receiving \$25.00 per hour. Dr. Figgs said yes that is the standard rate.

Ms. Arroyo asked if the hiring of JTPA students go through us. Ms. Greenfield said any students that are hired are on the board agenda. Ms. Arroyo asked what WIA students do during the summer. Mr. Ottinger said they work in the Wawa's throughout South Jersey. Ms. Arroyo asked what their ages are. Ms. Greenfield said the students have to be at least fifteen years old.

Continued

Mr. Giordano asked how many days constitutes a leave of absence. Ms. Greenfield said it depends on the contract. She said it would be day six for VEA; day five for UAW and VASA follows the VEA.

Ms. Greenfield mentioned that the club advisor rate should be \$21.75, which will be corrected.

32. **Addition to Special Education Consultant List** – Mr. DeWinne asked for an explanation on this contract.

Mrs. Polof explained that we will be utilizing this consultant one day a week during the next school year. She said this consultant is currently doing some professional development in the district working with our special education populations that have behavioral issues. Mrs. Polof said our goal is to work with teachers and administration on strategies of positive behavioral support to keep children from going out of district. Mr. DeWinne asked if the contract is for ten months. Mrs. Polof responded yes.

Mr. Giordano asked what prompts a change like this. Mrs. Polof said it is needed to keep the referrals from going out of the district.

Mr. Fanucci asked if this individual is subject to background checks. Mrs. Polof responded yes.

Mr. Ottinger said there is a concerted effort on the part of the district to see what we can do about educating our own students and these things will hopefully get us prepared to do that.

33. **Authorization to distribute Individual and General Notice of Layoff letters** - Mr. Ulrich asked what is in place to avoid litigation when civil service positions are rified and a position becomes available. Ms. Greenfield said that she has to work very closely with the Department of Personnel. She said currently there are only 13 people who will get individual letters out of all the Civil Service employees. Mr. Ulrich asked when these individuals are taken out of employment and a year from now a position becomes available, how is this dealt with internally to make sure that those 13 people are contacted first. Ms. Greenfield said she would have the recall list and would not post the position until the list is addressed.

Mr. Giordano asked if an official hiring freeze is instituted by the board. Ms. Greenfield said as long as we are not posting for any Civil Service positions we are not hiring.

34. **Reasonable Assurance of Continued Employment for 2008-2009** – Mr. Bernardini asked if every substitute has to renew employment or they are taken off the list. Ms. Greenfield responded yes. Mr. Bernardini asked if this is something we have done in the past. Ms. Greenfield responded yes.
35. **Reappointment of Professional Personnel for 2008-2009**- Mr. DeWinne asked if this is just the teachers and is done every year. Mr. Ottinger said it includes everyone and is done every year.
36. **Reappointment of Non-Tenured Administrative/Supervisory Auxiliary Personnel for 2008-2009** – Mr. Spinelli asked if this was taking into consideration the two postings for the elementary schools. Mr. Ottinger said that would be something different. He said these are people who are presently employed by the district and will be renewed at their present position.
37. **Non-Appointment of Non-Tenured Professional Personnel for 2008-2009** – No discussion.
38. **Non-Reappointment of Non-Tenured Professional Personnel for 2008-2009 due to lack of supervisory level recommendation** – Mr. Franceschini asked if past practice was to see the teacher’s review. Mr. Ottinger said he does not think so and if you did you should not have. Mr. Giordano said board members could request to see the review but they have to go into the building. Mr. Ottinger wanted to clarify that we would never just distribute the review to the entire board.

Ms. Arroyo said she needs to speak with Mr. Ottinger in regards to name #1. Mr. Ottinger said that is a different scenario and that person has agreed to meet with the board.
39. **Placement of Special Education Students** – Mr. Bernardini mentioned that this is one of the reasons why the consultant on tonight’s agenda is being hired. He said that Mrs. Polof has done an outstanding job in reducing the amount of students being placed out of district.
40. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
41. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
42. **Acceptance of Funds** – No discussion.

43. **Bids** – Mr. DeWinne asked Mr. Cox if these were the only replies that he received. Mr. Cox responded yes. Mr. DeWinne asked if the vendor who did not submit a list of plumbing services will have a chance to remedy on the bid. Mr. Cox said they are a licensed plumber but not certified by the state. He said they apologized for bidding and said that it was done in error. Mr. DeWinne asked if the YMCA is the only vendor that bid on the Before and After School Program. Mr. Cox said the current bidder chose not to bid. The program is being changed for the next school year and the vendor will have to collect the money. Mr. DeWinne asked how many students we have in the program. Mr. Cox said about 600 students per session. Mr. Franchetta said as part of our budget cuts with the current provider the board funded the program in excess of \$100,000. In order to save that money administration decided to change the way services were rendered. Mr. Franchetta said the YMCA is going to run the program and we will just offer the space.

Mr. Spinelli asked if the electrical vendors are a supplement to our staff in case of emergency. Mr. Cox responded yes for emergency or other jobs that come up. Mr. Spinelli asked what would happen if there were no emergencies. Mr. Cox said they would not receive anything.

44. **District Travel** – Mr. DeWinne asked if the nurse who will be traveling to Arizona will be educating the other nurses or is she going for the students. Mr. Ottinger said anyone who attends a conference anywhere is required to share the information with the rest of the staff.
45. **Sheppard Bus Service Agreement for 2007-2008** – Mr. DeWinne asked how many students we service for each bus. Mr. Franchetta said these contracts are for the P3 and P4 services. Mr. DeWinne asked if this was one bus going to one school or two buses. Mr. Franchetta said he did not know and would get that information.
46. **Approval of Public Consultant Group Semi Compliance Agreement** – Mr. Giordano asked if this is brand new. Mr. Franchetta explained that as an Abbott district we are required to partake in this process.
47. **Implementation of Recommendations from Office of Compliance for Abbott Early Childhood Education Centers** – Mr. Giordano asked if these were findings that needed to be corrected. Mr. Franchetta the Department of Education randomly picks two or three Abbott childcare providers each year and audits them. This was the findings of the audit that was done for this year's providers.

Mr. Spinelli mentioned that one vendor in particular does not meet the standards that the other providers do. He feels that we should keep an eye on that vendor to make sure they are providing the services that we expect for our children. Mr. Ottinger said he is absolutely sure that is taking place.

48. **Summer School 2008 Rates** – Mr. DeWinne asked if the district has school psychologists on staff contracted until June. Mr. Ottinger responded yes.

Mr. Spinelli asked if child study team school psychologists work twelve months. Mr. Ottinger said they are 10 month positions.
49. **Participation of D’Ippolito School’s “Books on Tape” Program for 2008-2009** – No discussion.
50. **Designation of Vineland High School North and South as one comprehensive high school and Cunningham Elementary School to a Middle/High School Alternative Program, effective September 2008** – Ms. Arroyo asked if we will change the name of Cunningham Elementary School since it will no longer be an elementary school. Mr. Ottinger said the board agreed previously that the name will stay with the building.
51. **Service Learning Agreements for Internship Programs for Computer Technologies** – No discussion.
52. **Permission for City of Vineland July 4th Fireworks to be held at the Vineland High School South Complex** – No discussion.
53. **Healthy Schools Program Memorandum of Understanding** – Mr. Ulrich asked how the elimination of the LEAP teachers would affect the schedule at the elementary schools. Dr. Gruccio said the LEAP teachers have been eliminated however; the regular classroom teachers will pick up those responsibilities. She said LEAP teachers have been reassigned based on the need at each school.

B. Board

1. None.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Mr. Giordano announced the following committees for 2008-2009:

Buildings & Grounds – Allan Bernardini, Chair, Anthony Fanucci, and Diamaris Rios

Committees Continued

Curriculum & Technology – Mayra Arroyo, Chair, Ronald Franceschini, and Thomas Ulrich

Finance – Paul Spinelli, Chair, Brian DeWinne and Anthony Fanucci

Policy & Personnel – Ronald Franceschini, Chair, Paul Spinelli, and Thomas Ulrich

All Committees – Frank Giordano, Ex Officio

NJ School Boards – Ronald Franceschini, Delegate

Urban School Boards – Mayra Arroyo, Delegate

Early Childhood Education Liaison – Allan Bernardini

Liaison to Collective Bargaining Units – Frank Giordano

Ms. Arroyo announced that the Curriculum & Technology meetings will be held the third Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Franceschini announced that the Policy & Personnel meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. before the regular board meeting.

Mr. Giordano said that all the committee dates and times can be firmed up next week.

Unfinished Business: Mr. Giordano asked Ms. Rasmussen, Odyssey of the Mind Advisor, how many businesses were solicited for donations. Ms. Rasmussen distributed a list of the businesses to the board. Mr. Giordano asked if there were any responses. Ms. Rasmussen said one response was received.

Mr. Fanucci asked where the list was pulled from. Ms. Rasmussen said some are people who do business with the families of the students and others are people who have donated in the past.

Mr. Giordano asked Ms. Rasmussen when she knew that they were advancing to the world finals. Ms. Rasmussen said the competition was on Saturday, April 12.

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Mr. Giordano said we are proud of the Odyssey of the Mind students but we have other groups through out the district who are also working hard to raise funds.

Mr. Ulrich said when the board approved this in February the request was there would be no cost to the board. He asked if there was any foresight that there would be funding needed. Ms. Rasmussen explained that she did not know that the regulations were different when this was submitted for board approval. Mr. Ottinger said the board approved this trip in February with the stipulation that funds would be raised to be able to go. He said the board is concerned that the fund raising should have been started in February. Ms. Rasmussen said the students started fundraising in July and have completed eight fundraisers. She said the students have funded themselves completely this school year and have paid for all supplies, membership and tournament fees.

Mr. Fanucci asked why there was a gap in fundraising starting in February. Ms. Rasmussen said it was because they were getting ready for the tournament.

Mr. Bernardini asked what the cost was to go to the states. Ms. Rasmussen said about three for four hundred dollars. Mr. Bernardini asked if enough money was raised to cover the states and regionals. Ms. Rasmussen responded yes everything was paid from the fundraising. Mr. Bernardini asked if there is anything left from the fundraisers. Ms. Rasmussen responded yes. Mr. Bernardini said this is a wonderful program and the students do a wonderful job but fundraising should have been continued.

Ms. Rios asked if the businesses have been called to see if they are going to make a donation. Ms. Rasmussen said no.

Mr. Franceschini asked what the registration cost is per student. Ms. Rasmussen said there is no per student cost. She said we can have five teams of seven students for \$135.00 per year. Ms. Rasmussen said the registration was \$90.00 for two teams and \$100.00 for two teams to attend the states. Mr. Franceschini asked what the room and board charge is. Ms. Rasmussen said about \$498.00 per person.

Ms. Arroyo asked how much money is still needed. Ms. Rasmussen said \$4,708.68.

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Mr. Franceschini asked where this money came from. Mr. Ottinger explained that in December a number of teachers who were with the district over thirty years retired and we hired in their place a first year teacher. He said that would be approximately twenty to twenty five thousand dollars per teacher that we would have. Also sometimes money is allocated for textbooks and not used.

Mr. Bernardini asked if this is approved would it be setting a precedent for every club. Mr. Giordano said no it has to be the exception and can not be the rule.

Mr. Ottinger said we spend six to seven hundred thousand dollars a year on athletics and never question anything. Someday we have to confront this issue as to what we do with these clubs and organizations whom we are requiring to raise their own money to participate on behalf of our schools. Mr. Ottinger said this is an important issue because an argument can definitely be made. He said that we do not do anything when it comes to the money that we spend on athletics and he does not think it is fair.

Mr. DeWinne said he would like to see us fund the difference for this program. He said as a private person he is willing to help raise the funds.

Ms. Rios asked when the final deadline is to receive the money. Ms. Rasmussen said it was May 1 but they would be flexible.

Mr. Bernardini said if we were to fund this and four thousand dollars in donations were received would that money go back to us. Ms. Rasmussen said if that is what you want. Mr. Spinelli said he would have Odyssey of the Mind keep it for next year so they would have a balance. Mr. Spinelli said he agrees with Mr. DeWinne that we should fund the balance not setting precedent.

Mr. Giordano suggested for the future that Odyssey of the Mind should go on the assumption that they will get to the world finals and raise money.

Mr. Ulrich said the real issue is the board's commitment. He expressed his concern as to how requests from other clubs will be dealt with.

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Mr. Fanucci said this is a cause that is going to benefit education and we do not have an entire community here to support these children. He said that he is going to ultimately support this but he does not think it is fair to the students, administration or board.

Mr. Giordano said it is his understanding that the board would like to place this on next week's agenda and asked Mr. Ottinger if it could be done. Mr. Ottinger said absolutely. Mr. Giordano said next year Odyssey of the Mind has to do a little more planning on the financial end and this will be an exception for this year.

Mr. Ottinger said possibly at a board retreat equity could be discussed on the way money is spent for sports and clubs.

Ms. Burke suggested putting a master fundraising schedule in place.

New Business: Ms. Arroyo asked if Gear Up is back on track. Mr. Ottinger said there is money left in the foundation and still being awarded. He said there are no more new students only students who are currently in the program.

Mr. DeSanto announced that on Thursday, May 15, 2008 Mr. Ottinger will be the featured speaker at the Vineland Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Mr. Giordano mentioned that at the City Council work session tomorrow night the district's budget will be discussed. He said the June 11 regular meeting will start at 5:45 p.m. for a board training session with New Jersey School Boards Association.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df