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, May 13, 2009 at 7:05 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

Also present: Mr. Ottinger, Superintendent, Dr. Figgs and Dr. Gruccio, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director, press and public. Absent: Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel.

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:

Special

Lisha Black, Pedro Cruz, Jarod Pierce, Christian Ramos, Lexi Rodriguez and Kayla Ronchetti students from Barse School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Nedd Johnson, Principal of Barse School was in attendance.

Mr. Giordano said there are individuals present tonight in regards to the issue of naming the athletic complex at the high school. He said the naming of the athletic complex will be done at a special meeting sometime after graduation. Any individual who would like to speak about it may at the end of the meeting.

Presentation (s):

Mr. Ottinger introduced Mrs. Donna Nedohon the district Math Supervisor to present the Math 24 Tournament Winners.

Mrs. Nedohon said our annual Math 24 Tournament was held this year at Petway Elementary School on March 14, 2009. She said our fourth and fifth grade students throughout the district did an outstanding job demonstrating how well they learned their math facts. Mrs. Nedohon introduced each of the winners at the fourth and fifth grade levels.

Mr. Giordano said there are some big time challenges in the math tournament and who ever brought it to the district deserves a huge compliment. He congratulated all the students and thanked them for coming out.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the Board approved the minutes from April 1, 2009, April 8, 2009, April 22, 2009 and April 29, 2009. All Members voted “yes.”
Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of March 2009, 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:

Recommendations:
RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Kevin J. Franchetta as Board Secretary for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Furthermore, Daniel M. Smith, Executive Controller, be designated Board Secretary in the absence of Kevin J. Franchetta.

2. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Kevin J. Franchetta as Custodian of School District Records for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Furthermore, Daniel M. Smith, Executive Controller, be designated Custodian of School Records in the absence of Kevin J. Franchetta.

3. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Carmen DiGiorgio as Custodian of School Monies for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 at the rate of $4,500 per annum.

4. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Kevin J. Franchetta, Daniel M. Smith and Robert E. Cox as contract agents for the 2009 – 2010 school year, effective July 1, 2009 to prepare advertisements, to advertise for the receive bids, and to make awards for the Board of Education in connection with purchase contracts or agreements as permitted by 18A:18A-2.

5. The Board appoint Robert Cox to act as liaison and serve as a Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010.


8. Bank depositories for business checking, savings and investments for the 2009 – 2010 school year be designated as shown:

   a. Susquehanna Payroll Agency; Food Service
   b. Newfield National Budgetary
   c. Sun National Athletic Dept. Petty Cash; Athletic Fund; Payroll (Net); Unemployment Trust Fund

Additionally, the signatures be approved as shown on the Resolutions on file with the Secretary of the Board.
9. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Daniel M. Smith to the following positions for the period of June 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009 in the absence of Kevin J. Franchetta:

   a. Board Secretary
   b. Custodian of School District Records
   c. Contracting Agent
   d. Transfer/Investment of funds at authorized district depositories

10. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Keith C. Figgs Affirmative Action Officer for the period July 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009.

11. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Wayne Weaver ADA Coordinator for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

12. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Linda Santagata Section 504 Compliance Officer for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

13. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Keith C. Figgs Title IX Coordinator for the period July 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009.

15. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Harold B. Shapiro, Esquire, to the position of VEA Negotiator/Alternate Counsel for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

16. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Frank DiDomenico, Esquire, to the position of VASA and Local 2327 Negotiator/Alternate Counsel for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

17. The Board approve a Resolution and Client Engagement Letter appointing the professional agency of Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr as Auditor for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 with charges not to exceed $91,875. Furthermore, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 6A:23-2.2(i), the district is in receipt and has reviewed the most recent external peer/quality report completed within the time established by Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

18. The Board approve a Resolution appointing the professional agency of Manders Merighi Portadin Farrell Architects, LLC as Architect of Record for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. (It is understood that the services of the Architect of Record in the Vineland Public Schools must be initiated by the Secretary of the Board of Education.)

19. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Daniel C. Hoffman as Attorney for Collection of Delinquent Accounts Receivables for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 on a contingency fee basis of 33 1/3% of any amounts collected.


22. The Board approve the continued use of textbooks and courses of study as per list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

23. The Board Secretary be authorized to enter into tuition agreements with other districts for homeless students as required during the 2009 – 2010 school year.

24. The Board recognize the following bargaining units for the 2009 – 2010 school year:

a. Amalgamated Local #2327 – UAW, AFL/CIO
b. Vineland Administrators and Supervisors Association
c. Vineland Education Association
d. Vineland Non-Certificated Supervisors’ Association
25. The Board approve the following annual travel stipends for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010:

   a. Executive Director of Personnel $960.00
   b. Communications Coordinator 840.00
   c. Director of Special Education 840.00

26. The Board establish the petty cash funds for the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year per the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

   a. Administration and Schools
   b. Food Service

27. The Board authorize entering into partnerships with colleges and universities for the placement of students for student teaching, practicum, field internships and observations for the 2009 – 2010 school year as per list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

28. The Board approve a Resolution approving the dates, times and place of open work sessions and regular monthly meetings as per list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

29. The Board authorize the date, time and place for the 2009 Vineland High School Commencement Exercises as follows:

   **Thursday, June 18, 2009**
   **6:00 p.m.**
   **Gittone Stadium**

   **Rain Date: Friday, June 19, 2009**
30. The Board approve the 2009 – 2010 school calendar for pupil attendance as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

Mr. Fanucci asked if graduation is scheduled on a Friday next year. Mr. Ottinger said usually the last day for pupils is the night of graduation. He said we contact our Jewish community to ask for a waiver.

31. 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
i. List of summer hours

32. The Board authorize the Secretary of the Board and the Superintendent to issue “Reasonable Assurance” of continued employment for the 2009 – 2010 school year to substitute and federally-funded personnel.
33. The Board approve the reappointment of professional personnel for the 2009 – 2010 school year as list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

34. The Board approve the reappointment of non-tenured administrative/supervisory/auxiliary personnel and teachers for the 2009 – 2010 school year as lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

35. The Board Secretary be instructed to notify the tenured professional personnel, 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.

36. The Board Secretary be instructed to notify the non-tenured professional personnel, whose names are provided and on file with the Secretary of the board, that they are not recommended for reappointment for the 2009 – 2010 school year because of lack of supervisory level recommendations N.J.S.A. 18A:27-10(b).
37. 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.)

38. 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

39. The Board approve submission of the following grant(s) as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

a. State Farm Insurance Companies
   Good Neighbor Citizenship Grant
   D’Ippolito Elementary School
   In the amount of - - - - - - - - - - - - - $ 6,480.00
39. Submission of Grants (Continued)
   b. State of New Jersey
      Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP)
      Grades Pre-K to 6
      FY 2009 – 2010
      In the amount of $11,644.00

      Teen Child Assault Prevention
      Program (Teen CAP)
      FY 2009 – 2010
      In the amount of $6,471.00

      Special Needs Child Assault
      Prevention Program
      FY 2009 – 2010
      In the amount of $3,238.00

c. State of New Jersey
   Department of Human Services
   100% Insured for Sure Grant
   In the amount of $27,450.00

d. State of New Jersey
   Department of Education
   FY 2009 No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
   School Reward Grant
   Landis Middle School
   September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009
   Carryover period
   September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010
   In the amount of $100,000.00

e. Food Service Equipment Assistance
   Grant
   In the amount of $250,215.42

f. State of New Jersey
   Department of Labor and Workforce Development
   Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy
   Civics Education Grant
   Vineland Adult Education Program
   In the amount of $629,490.00
40. The Board accept funding in the following amount(s):

a. City of Vineland
   Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities Grant
   Special Olympics Program
   January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009
   In the amount of $6,400.00

b. State of New Jersey
   Department of Labor and Workforce Development
   New Jersey Youth Corps (Summer)
   Vineland Adult Education Program
   In the amount of $25,952.00

   Maximum funds for this grant $87,000.00

c. Cumberland County
   Office of Employment and Training
   WIA Out-of-School Youth
   Vineland Adult Education Program
   October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009
   In the additional amount of $42,000.00

41. Bids:

   The Board acknowledge receipt of bids as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the following items in the amount shown:

a. **Annual Electrical Services**
   G. M. White Electrical Contractor, Inc.
   Vineland, New Jersey
   In the amount of $79.41/hour
   (Regular Time)
   $153.93/hour
   (Premium Time)
41. Bids (Continued)
   
   b. **Annual HVAC Services**
      Core Mechanical, Inc.
      Pennsauken, New Jersey
      In the amount of - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - $74.00/hour
      (Regular Time)
      $111.00/hour
      (Premium Time)

   c. **Annual Plumbing Services**
      Falasca Mechanical, Inc.
      Vineland, New Jersey
      In the amount of - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - $102.00/hour
      (Regular Time)
      $182.00/hour
      (Premium Time)

42. 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.

   Mr. Ulrich recommended a temporary moratorium be placed on out of state travel where the district has to pay for lodging, mileage and tolls during this fiscal crisis. He is requesting that number two be tabled pending discussion.

   Mr. Ottinger explained that the Wilson Reading Workshop is a program for special education students. This individual is the only teacher in the district that is certified to handle this program. Mr. Ottinger agrees with Mr. Ulrich’s recommendation but in this circumstance he is asking for the board’s permission for this individual to attend this workshop.

   Mr. Ulrich said he agrees and will vote “yes.”
43. The Board approve the Resolution rejecting the offer of a deferral by the New Jersey Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and authorizes the School Business Administrator to pay the 2009 PERS pension obligation in full before April 30, 2009.

44. The Board approve the Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year with the Cumberland County Educational Cooperative for Route #59101.

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

46. The Board authorize administration to initiate the approval process for the transfer of Maurice Fels School to the City of Vineland through the New Jersey School Development Authority under the various regulatory and contractual requirements in accordance with the Ordinance 2009-25 authorized by the City of Vineland.
47. The Board authorize the renewal of the partnership with Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County for the New Jersey Nutrition Education Program for the 2009–2010 school year.

48. The Board approve an Agreement with Catapult Learning to enter into a Non-Public Service Agreement for the 2008-2009 school year for utilizing “carryover” funds from the 2007 – 2008 school year for IDEIA (Part B) Services in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools.

49. The Board approve district participation with Hannah’s House, Inc. in providing English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for parents of children enrolled in the Vineland Public Schools. Classes will be held in the evenings, three (3) days per week at the Sabater Elementary School. There is no cost to the district. (Hannah’s House is covering the cost of this service through the Even Start Family Literacy Program.)

50. The Board approve the Agreement for the establishment of an Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit at Vineland High School.
51. The Board approve the Summer 2009 Programs, preschool through grade 12, as on the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

52. The Board approve the rates for Summer School 2009.

53. The Board grant permission for students and advisors from Rossi School and Vineland High School Resources Aligned for Teens (RAFT) to attend the Youth-to-Youth International Eastern State Conference at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island from July 16 – 19, 2009. The student group has secured their own funding for the trip and there is no additional cost to the Board.

54. The Board approve the transportation agreement with the Cumberland County Office of Employment & Training and Wawa, Inc. to provide transportation services to the work-study students.
55. The Board approve the Second Reading of the following policy for adoption:

   a. Policy #8319 Selection of Professional Staff (NEW)

56. The Board approve a Resolution authorizing the settlement for the employee whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board.

57. The Board approve the medical examination for the employee whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board.

58. The Board approve legal attendance days to enable staff members to be trained in using the K-12 System for grade books and lesson planning. The requested days are:

   May 29, 2009 High School
   June 15, 16, 17, 2009 Middle & Elementary Schools

Mr. Giordano asked Dr. Gruccio to explain this addition to the agenda.

Dr. Gruccio said the board asked for professional development to be provided to the staff before the school year began for the new K-12 system. She said we are proposing half days for this development.
Dr. Gruccio said the focus will be mainly on grade book, which is the newest component. She said we are going to try to do as much training in the short amount of time that we have and touch upon lesson planning. Dr. Gruccio said we are also going to do our very best to expose everyone to this as much as possible. Mr. Dantinne has agreed to provide training through the summer so anyone who would like to get in depth training in regard to the new program can do so. She said we will continue the training in September the best we can. Dr. Gruccio said Dr. Figgs and Mr. Dantinne have worked out scheduling with the new teacher orientation so they can be trained. She said we are going to have our principals send a memo to the parents and have Mr. Dantinne do a call out since the half days are not on the calendar.

Mr. Franceschini said it does not sound like we have enough trainers. Dr. Gruccio said we are going to have one per building and Mr. Dantinne is working out the logistics. Mr. Franceschini asked if the company would offer additional trainers. Dr. Gruccio said we tried to get as many as we could. Mr. Giordano asked how many trainers the company is offering to send. Dr. Gruccio said three people and Mr. Dantinne. Mr. Franceschini asked what we are spending on this. Mr. Ottinger said over one hundred thousand dollars.

Mrs. Phillips commented that the training schedule that was set up was excellent. She said the last week of school is a perfect time for teachers to train.

Mr. Fanucci suggested possibly setting up a webinar for the staff to view over the summer.

Mr. Bernardini asked if we did this six months ago would we have received more than three trainers. Dr. Gruccio said she is sure that we would have got more trainers or sessions.
Mr. DeWinne asked if this will be enough training for the staff to use this system in September. Dr. Gruccio said no but it is an effort to get us started. Mr. DeWinne asked if there was a definite date set for the staff to be using this system. Mr. Ottinger said we are anticipating that everyone will be ready to use it in September.

Mr. Ulrich asked if teachers will have a home portal to log in at their house. Mr. Dantinne responded yes.

Mr. Fanucci suggested having a workshop for the staff on this when they report back.
B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: None.

Mr. Giordano asked the board if they would like to recommend a vote for a temporary moratorium on out of district travel.

Mr. Ulrich said there will always be exceptions but his recommendation is for a temporary moratorium to be placed on out of town travel when the district has to fund meals, mileage, and overnight accommodations at the discretion of the superintendent.

Mr. DeSanto said generally the board’s procedure for doing business is that new issues are usually discussed at the work session. He said administration can be asked to provide any information that can be helpful for the board’s consideration and it can be acted upon at a regular meeting. Mr. DeSanto said if there is not urgency to this issue the board may want to consider following the procedure.

The board was in agreement with Mr. DeSanto’s suggestion.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. Franceschini, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” ($8,308,738.57).

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

Public: None.

Report/Remarks by Board President: Mr. Giordano mentioned that the board was provided today with questions for parents, students and staff for the Small Learning Communities survey. He said an excellent job was done on the questions, which are not lengthy and get to the point.

Mr. Franceschini said he likes the format of the survey and the idea that all the stakeholders are involved in it.

Mr. Giordano asked what would happen with the parents who do not have access to computers. Mr. Dantine said we can do an outcall in regards to the survey being available and put it on Channel 9. He said for those who do not have a computer the Vineland Public Library is an excellent place to go.
Mr. Giordano asked if there will be a cutoff date for the survey to be returned. Mr. Dantinne said you can have two different deadlines because the students and teachers can take the survey in one day. He said it is the parent survey you may want to extend.

Mr. Franceschini suggested for the survey results to be in by June 2 prior to the work session so they can be reviewed. Mr. Giordano said that would not be enough time for review. He asked who the surveys will be forwarded to. Mr. Ulrich feels the surveys should be forwarded to the superintendent. Mr. Ottinger asked Mr. Dantinne to send the surveys directly to the board. Mr. Giordano asked Debbie Marko, reporter from the *Daily Journal*, to publicize this in the newspaper to alert parents. Mrs. Phillips feels we should not give more than two weeks to have the survey completed.

Public: Mr. Benish, Administration Assistant Vineland High School North
Mr. Benish thanked the board for approving the Air Force Junior ROTC Program. He said this is going to be an excellent opportunity for the community and students.

Mr. Giordano announced that the following individuals will be on the School Safety Committee: Joe Callavini, Tim Codispoti, David DiCostanzo, Robert Domico, Michele Mascio, Tom McCann, Dennis McGee, Tim McLaughlin, Charles Ottinger, Rusty Phillips, John Provenzano, Diamaris Rios, Robert Romano, Tom Ulrich, and Wayne Weaver along with himself. He said a meeting will be scheduled in June. Mr. Giordano asked the board if there is anything that they would like addressed to please forward it to either Ms. Rios, Mr. Ulrich or himself.

Board Member Remarks: Mr. Ulrich congratulated all the individuals who are retiring.

Mrs. Phillips announced that last week was National Teachers Week. She wanted to thank the dedicated teachers we have in the Vineland School District for all the hard work that they do.

Mr. Franceschini mentioned that May is National Fitness Month. He said we need to be role models to the students and increase activity in schools and at home. He commented that at every board meeting there are two to three students from Cumberland County College taking notes.
Mr. Ulrich announced that a Dance for the Cure fundraiser for autism is being held at the North Italy Hall on Friday evening.

Mr. Fanucci thanked Mr. Dantinne and Dr. Gruccio for the K12 training. He said that he attended the Mennies School Springfest last weekend, which was a really nice event.

Mr. Bernardini announced an Auto Shop student won an individual championship and will be going out to Kansas to the National Championship.

Mr. Giordano thanked the principals and assistant principals for attending tonight’s board meeting.

Mr. DeSanto gave a presentation to the board on Code of Ethics, Confidentially and Open Public Meetings Act. He said the definition of a meeting is any gathering whether in person or by means of communication equipment, emails, fax machines that is attended by or open to all members of the public body. Mr. DeSanto said a meeting does not include a gathering by less than the majority. He said any matter involving a public officer or employee appointed by the board must be discussed in executive session unless the employee requests in writing that such matters be discussed at a public meeting. Mr. DeSanto said the ethics law applies to school board members along with certain level employees. He said the Code of Ethics only applies to board members and he reviewed each of them with the board.

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 regarding personnel matters and Wednesday, June 3, 2009 regarding budget issues, personnel matters and anticipated or pending litigation.

Motion: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df