

An open work session of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the auditorium at the Thomas W. Wallace, Jr. Middle School, 688 N. Mill Road, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at 7:12 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. Gruccio, 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:

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

Presentations: None.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: Mr. DeSanto deferred his comments until the introduction of item #13 on the agenda.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – Mr. Giordano asked if there were any new items added. Ms. Greenfield said not for the work session but employment, leaves of absences, resignations and additions for summer school will be added to next week's meeting. Mr. Giordano asked if there will be new positions added. Ms. Greenfield responded no.
2. **Creation of Diesel Mechanic Title** – Mr. Giordano asked what prompted this. Ms. Greenfield explained that this is a creation of a position that we are currently moving all of our garage mechanics into because the job has involved working on diesel buses. Mr. Giordano asked if the positions that the mechanics are leaving will be filled. Ms. Greenfield responded no we are only reclassifying them as diesel mechanics.

Mr. Spinelli asked how this would effect negotiations in the next round. Ms. Greenfield said all of the current terms and conditions of the collective bargaining unit apply. She said all of the mechanics have signed off on it along with the union. Mr. Spinelli said as a head negotiator for five different contracts if he was moving an individual's title to a different classification the next time it is negotiated he would ask for more money. Mr. Ottinger said Mr. Spinelli has an excellent point but there will not be a lot of money to go around for the next negotiations.

3. **Special Education Students** – Mr. DeWinne asked if we are set up to handle the students who are coming back to the district. Mrs. Polof responded yes.
4. **Budgetary Transfers** – Mr. Giordano asked if these are the last of the transfers. Mr. Franchetta said there will probably be more due to school based budgets and salary adjustments.

Mr. Spinelli asked if these are the normal monthly transfers. Mr. Franchetta responded yes. Mr. Spinelli asked if the mid-year state mandated transfer of funds has been moved back. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.

5. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
6. **Acceptance of Funds** – No discussion.
7. **Bids** – Mr. Spinelli asked if we are mandated to take the lowest bid. Mr. Franchetta said it has to be to the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Cox said we can not award based on where a vendor is from.
8. **Travel** – No discussion.
9. **Rossi School Youth to Youth Conference Attendance** – No discussion.
10. **Appointment of Frank DiDomenico, Esquire, as VASA/Local 2327 Negotiator** – Mr. Spinelli said for next year the finance committee needs to discuss whether or not criteria needs to be put out at an early date for positions. Mr. Giordano said yes but a time frame needs to be established first.
11. **Salem County Special Services School District Agreement** – No discussion.
12. **Community Health Care Inc. Dental Agreement** – Mr. Giordano asked if this is for our students to be examined. Mr. Ottinger said it is for dental services.
13. **Termination of Commercial Development Company Lease for the Adult Ed Center** – Mr. Franchetta said the current lease with Commercial Development has a provision in it to renew the lease for an additional two years allowing us to cancel the lease at any time with a 90-day notification. Mr. Franchetta said since the terms of the new lease were not settled for the Center City building until a week ago he contacted the landlord and asked to waive the 90-day notice to a 60-day notice. He said it is currently under their consideration, which he is hoping they will do in light of our long standing relationship with them. Mr. Franchetta said if they do not waive the 90-day notice the lease will have to be amended to August 31, 2008.

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Mr. DeSanto said there will be a transition period and there will be a need for both leases to be in place.

14. **Vineland Community Health & Education Center Lease** – Mr. DeSanto said last week a proposed lease was received from the city. He said the city will be leasing the building to the Vineland Board of Education, Tri-County Community Action and to Community Health Services. Mr. DeSanto said the Board of Education will occupy 83% of the building and the other two entities will occupy 17%. Mr. DeSanto said the city needs to pay off the indebtedness to construct that building, which is somewhere near four million dollars. He said it was determined that the Vineland Board of Education's share of that expense is \$125,000 a year. Mr. DeSanto said basically this is going to be a thirty year turn key so that we are going to be paying constant rent of \$125,000 per year for thirty years. He said at the end of the thirty years the district will own the building for \$1.00. Mr. DeSanto said the biggest problem he had with the lease is that it provided for the initial five year term and did not provide for what happens in the future. Mr. DeSanto said the revised lease provides an additional term of five years and there are five (5) year renewals. He said that everybody must provide their own janitorial maintenance on their units. Mr. DeSanto said there is only one gas bill for the building and the other two tenants will have to reimburse the district for 17% of the bill, which Mr. Weaver has set up provisions for. Mr. DeSanto said the district will also be performing the preventive maintenance on the building and there will proportionate charges to the other tenants. He said the form of lease should be finalized tomorrow and he will get it to Mr. Ottinger on Friday morning so the board may review it.

Mr. Spinelli mentioned that with the new lease we will be saving the district \$25,000 per year.

Mr. Fanucci asked if this is triple net. Mr. DeSanto responded yes the city has no interest in this.

15. **Contract Modifications** – Mr. Franceschini asked why this has been modified. Mr. Franchetta explained that this is just an extension of the dates.
16. **National School Lunch Program Review Results** – No discussion.
17. **KPMG Performance Audit and Corrective Action Plan** – Mr. DeWinne said he needs more time to read this and asked if it has to be voted on next week.

Mr. Giordano asked for an overview on this item.

Mr. Franchetta said it is past due. He explained that the commissioner sent a letter out twenty days after the date that KPMG issued the report giving us thirty days to file a corrective action plan from the date it was filed.

Continued

Mr. Franchetta said that gave us about ten days to file the corrective action plan. Mr. Franchetta mentioned that the recommendations were scattered throughout the entire 383 page document. He had to do a word search seeking out the words “recommend” and “we suggest” to locate all of the recommendations, which took him approximately a day to do.

Mr. Ottinger said Vineland was cited at 98% efficiency, which is excellent. He attributes this to Mr. Franchetta and Mr. Rochetti and their departments.

Mr. Franchetta said a reoccurring theme throughout the comments was that they want written procedures on all of our processes.

Mr. Giordano asked if the auditors from KPMG were experienced in the field of education. Mr. Franchetta responded no.

18. **Vacation Day Law Suit Payment** – Mr. Giordano asked Mr. Franchetta if these individuals have contacted him requesting payment. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.
19. **Payment of Legal Fees** – Mr. Spinelli asked what exactly are we paying legal fees for. Mr. Franchetta explained that under state statute any employee who is charged in the line of duty of their work and found innocent has the right to have the district reimburse them for their legal fees.
20. **City of Vineland Tax Requisition-** Mr. Giordano asked for an explanation on this item. Mr. Franchetta said this is the schedule of how the city will reimburse us on a monthly basis for the tax levy raised.
21. **NJSIAA Membership Renewal** – Mr. Fanucci asked if Robin Daplyn was a member of this. Mr. Ottinger responded yes he was a member of the executive committee. Mr. Fanucci asked if we have anyone on this committee currently. Mr. Ottinger said it rotates every three years in each county between athletic directors, principals and superintendents.
22. **Oak & Main Toilet Room Waiver** – No discussion.
23. **Temporary Facilities for 2008/2009** – Mr. Giordano questioned the temporary facility at the adult education building. Mr. Franchetta said any rented facility is considered temporary.
24. **District Mentoring Plan for 2008-2011** - Mr. Spinelli asked if this is the mentoring of the teachers that we hire. Mr. Ottinger responded yes.
25. **Approval of New and Revised Curricula for Small Learning Communities** – Mr. Franceschini mentioned that at the Curriculum & Technology meeting a great presentation was given on this.

26. **Acceptance of Donations** – No discussion.
27. **Use of IMPACT Center Building as Mass Care Shelter** – No discussion.
28. **South Jersey Hospital Contract for IMPACT Services**– No discussion.
29. **Reappointment of Professional Personnel** – Mr. Spinelli asked if these are rified teachers that are being rehired. Mr. Ottinger responded yes.
30. **Federal Program Salaries for 2007-2008-** Mr. Giordano asked why this is for 2007-2008. Mr. Franchetta said it is for the current school year.

- B. Board
  1. None.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Public Comments: James Clay, Asst. VHS Wrestling Coach  
Mr. Clay spoke in support of rehiring Jim Hague as head wrestling coach.

Peter Doulis, student  
Mr. Doulis spoke in support of rehiring Jim Hague as head wrestling coach.

Sam Geri, student  
Mr. Geri spoke in support of rehiring Jim Hague as head wrestling coach.

John  
John spoke in support of rehiring Jim Hague as head wrestling coach.

Elizabeth Hague  
Ms. Hague spoke in support of Jim Hague.

Committee Reports: Mr. Spinelli mentioned that the Finance Committee meeting will be held next Monday.

Mr. Franceschini said discussed at the Personnel & Policy meeting was Policy #3230, vacation day carry-over and personnel lateral moves

Mr. Bernardini said no Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting was held. He said it was suggested by several board members that elementary school should be added on the building underneath the name for the Gloria Sabater School and Early Childhood should be on the building of the Casimer Dallago School.

Ms. Arroyo said at the Curriculum & Technology Committee meeting Mr. Peters presented the updated curriculum for the small learning communities. She mentioned that the Curriculum & Technology Committee meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Spinelli announced that the Finance Committee meetings are held the second Monday of each month.

Mr. Giordano said Mr. Franchetta will be advertising the vacancy for Ms. Arroyo's board seat with resumes due June 30, 2008. He said the board will hold a special meeting on July 16, 2008 for individuals to make their presentation and a decision will be made that evening. Mr. Giordano said next week a representative from New Jersey School Board's will be coming and the meeting will start at 5:45 p.m.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Mr. Spinelli said personnel issues can not be discussed with the public and many of the answers that Mrs. Hague wanted can not answered.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA  
Board Secretary