

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, August 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Evans, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Ms. Rios, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Spinelli.

Also present: Mr. Ottinger, Superintendent, Dr. Figgs and Dr. Gruccio, 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:

Special

Presentations: None.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** - Mr. DeWinne asked if the higher salary for name #7 was because of experience. Ms. Greenfield responded yes.

Mr. Bernardini commented that he is sorry to see that Mr. Brodzik has resigned his position with the district.

Mr. Ulrich asked why we are adding a principal position to the preschool program when it has been previously filled by a supervisor. Mr. Ottinger explained that originally three different principals have held this position. When the last principal resigned we decided to wait until the program was at the new center city school. Mr. Ottinger said originally the program had ten in-district classrooms and it now has thirty one with sixty out of district classrooms. He said all the classrooms were supervised by one supervisor. Mr. Ottinger said when our program was evaluated by the state in June they suggested that we include a principal, assistant principal, and supervisor in our ECPA budget, which is a separate budget. He pointed out that this is not a mandate but feels this is something the district could use because we have over 1200 students registered with an expectation of 1300 students. Mr. Ottinger said from an educational perspective it was unrealistic for us to expect one person to supervise all those programs. He said it is important to note that although most of it is handled by outside providers we are still responsible for what they do.

Continued

Mr. Ulrich asked Mr. Ottinger if this included two additional positions. Mr. Ottinger said that is correct. Mr. Ottinger said Max Leuchter School will be a district preschool site and an assistant principal would be there. Mr. Ulrich asked if the assistant principal at Sabater School has been assuming some of the preschool program duties. Mr. Ottinger said yes. Mr. Ulrich expressed his concern that we are filling these positions in a budget crisis and taking out classroom teachers that directly affect the children.

Mr. Giordano asked why at this time do we need a supervisor and an assistant principal. Mr. Ottinger said we have ninety one classrooms and thirteen hundred students. He said usually that calls for a principal and three assistant principals.

Mr. Franceschini asked if the directors at each of the daycares are responsible for their teachers. Mr. Ottinger said they are indirectly responsible but the Board of Education is directly responsible.

Mr. Bernardini said for the past three years the individual who is currently in charge along with the supervisor have been checking on the different schools to make sure they are providing the same education as we are doing in the district. He said they are bringing the outside providers up to a standard that the state requires. Mr. Bernardini said this individual has been doing this but not in a capacity as a principal, which is something we need.

Mr. Franceschini asked if the assistant principal would be considered a new position. Mr. Ottinger responded no the assistant principal that is currently assigned to Cunningham and then Sabater School was originally in the ECPA budget. He said once we have this position that individual will be totally at Sabater School with a new salary.

Mr. Giordano asked if the individual who has been handling this was given any extra in her salary. Mr. Ottinger responded no. Mr. Giordano asked what the assistant principal and supervisor salary would be. Ms. Greenfield said \$93,310 is the principal salary first step and \$90,093 is the supervisor first step.

Mr. Franceschini asked when the principal position was advertised. Ms. Greenfield said in July. Mr. Franceschini asked if we only had one applicant. Ms. Greenfield responded yes. Mr. Franceschini asked if we only received one in-district applicant do we have to advertise outside per the policy. Mr. Ottinger responded yes we could have and if the board wants this re-advertised at this time we can. He pointed out to the board and public that we have the most eminently qualified person that we could find. Mr. Ottinger said he does not know why other people did not apply.

Mr. Franceschini asked if there was an actual interview. Mr. Ottinger responded no.

Mr. Ulrich asked if it would be feasible to assign other supervisory personnel at the smaller schools to help out in that area. Mr. Ottinger said possibly they could help but in his opinion it would be very difficult. Mr. Ulrich asked if the actual preschool provider would assume some of the management role responsibility that a principal would assume. Mr. Ottinger said we are very concerned with the instruction aspect of it, which we are the experts in. He said we are also concerned with the standard of teaching and that the teachers are adhering to the standards required by this school district.

Mr. Bernardini said you need to have someone that is constantly checking what is going on with each of these providers.

Mr. Ulrich asked how many classrooms will be at Leuchter School. Mr. Ottinger said he thinks there will be nine or ten at Leuchter School.

Mr. Bernardini mentioned that the state has hinted to us that they would like the district to put up another building strictly for early childhood.

Mr. Fanucci asked if we are looking to add two more individuals in addition to the person that is doing this now. Mr. Ottinger responded yes. Mr. Fanucci asked if the third position is necessary at this time or could it be added later. Mr. Ottinger said tonight there is only one position being recommended. He said it is his intention to advertise for the other positions and recommend them to the board.

Mr. DeWinne asked if these positions have been advertised yet. Ms. Greenfield said the assistant principal has been but the supervisory position has not. Mr. DeWinne said he was surprised to see this on the agenda and asked to be notified when ever administrative positions are being posted. He said that he has no confidence with the state economy and if this aid will continue to come in. Mr. DeWinne said that we need to move cautiously.

Mr. Giordano asked how positions are advertised internally. Ms. Greenfield said she emails all administrators, supervisors, and directors requesting for them to please share with their staff. She also sends a link to Joni Kane to post on our website.

Mr. Ulrich wanted to clarify that we have reduced and eliminated actual teaching positions. Mr. Ottinger said they were collaborative positions and we have not reduced any classroom teachers. Mr. Ottinger wanted the public to know that he is not fiscally irresponsible and if he thought that this in any way would hurt us financially he would have never proposed this to the board. He pointed out over the past couple of days that he told Mr. DeWinne that this is a separate budget and has nothing to do with the regular budget. Mr. Ottinger said the preschool budget is not in any jeopardy.

Mr. Ulrich asked if the Language Arts Supervisor is to replace Mrs. Henson who is retiring. Ms. Greenfield responded yes.

Mr. Giordano asked if there will be additions for next week. Ms. Greenfield responded yes some employment, resignations and possibly a couple of transfers.

2. **Placement of Special Education Students** – Mr. Fanucci asked how the rates are determined. Mrs. Polof said at this time of the year the increase is projected based on what the actual state increase would be.
3. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
4. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
5. **Acceptance of Funds** – No discussion.
6. **Bids** – Mr. Bernardini asked if the track resurfacing will be started on August. 25. Mr. Cox said depending on the weather. Mr. Giordano asked when the turn-around time is for this. Mr. Cox said it depends on the weather.

Mr. Ulrich asked why the third option, which is the most expensive, is being recommended. Mr. Cox explained that the third option is the best coating we could get for the type of track we have.

Mr. Franceschini asked what kind of maintenance is required for the track. Mr. Cox said Mr. Weaver would have to answer that question.

Mr. Fanucci asked if a warranty was offered on this work. Mr. DeSanto said in our specifications there was some provision requiring warranty.

Mr. Franchetta mentioned in regards to item (b) generally we have auctions with the county. This year the county decided not to hold the auctions and they are using a vendor called govdeals.com. Mr. Franchetta said we looked into this vendor and would like to utilize them with board approval. He said we will be putting our excess surplus on this website for an auction.

Mr. Ulrich asked if it is feasible to throw old recyclables, that are past their life expectancy, into dumpsters for people to take and recycle. Mr. Franchetta said there is a website where people are bidding on piles of scrap metal. He recommended for the board to look at that website.

7. **Travel** - No discussion.
8. **Public Donor Agreement** - No discussion.
9. **Bayada Nurse Contract** – Mr. DeWinne asked if this is for students during the daytime hours. Mr. Franchetta said this is for a nurse to be with the student at all times while in school.
10. **No Child Left Behind Amended Application 2008** – No discussion.
11. **Salem County Non-Public Agreement (I.D.E.I.A.)** – No discussion.
12. **NJ Memorial Home Clinical Agreement** – No discussion.
13. **South Jersey Hospital Clinical Agreement** – Mr. Giordano asked if the facilities help with the training. Mr. Franchetta said items #12, #13, and #14 are the clinical experience that the LPN students undergo.
14. **Ancora Psychiatric Hospital Agreement** – No discussion.
15. **CCEC Joint Transportation Agreement** – No discussion.
16. **Student Transportation Contract** – Mr. Ulrich asked what this amount of money encompasses as far as transportation goes. Mr. Franchetta said this bid is for the private schools and our pre-school programs at Leuchter and Dallago Schools. Mr. Ulrich asked if it is feasible for our transportation department to pick these students up. Mr. Franchetta said the time slots are in a conflict and all of our buses that are being occupied. Mr. Ulrich asked if it is part of our strategic plan to have our own services instead of subbing out. Mr. Ottinger said he does not know of any plan for that. He said normally when you try to discuss a plan as this, it would require the purchasing of additional buses. Mr. Ottinger said he has always wanted a study done on the entire transportation system, which could be discussed with the board.

Mr. Franceschini asked how much a bus would cost. Mr. Cox said between seventy seven and ninety three thousand dollars.

Mr. Ulrich asked what the life of a school bus is. Mr. Franchetta said twelve years by statute. Mr. Ulrich asked if it would be cost effective to expand our fleet as a capital improvement, which we will get twelve years out of. Mr. Ottinger said that is a good recommendation and we will look into it.

17. **Parent Transportation Contract** – Mr. Fanucci asked if we are entertaining an increase in the amount of aid we are giving to this parent. Mr. Franchetta said this student has brittle bone syndrome. He said if we were to transport this student it would have to be by ambulance. Mr. Fanucci asked if the parent is saying that they can not continue to transport their child without this increase. Mr. Franchetta said there is a cap that we are allowed to pay a parent. He said this is not above that cap or the county would not permit us to do this because they review all contracts. Mr. Fanucci asked if this amount of money is an accurate amount for transportation. Mr. Franchetta said if we had an ambulance do this it would be a lot more.

Mr. Ulrich asked if the parent has an ambulance. Mr. Franchetta said no the code allows a parent to take the responsibility to do this.

Mr. Franceschini asked Mr. Franchetta if he could get the cost of using an ambulance for this. Mr. Franchetta mentioned that we had a student in the past that went to Haddonfield and it was in excess of \$500 per day.

Mr. Bernardini asked if the board could have the parent's expenses for the month to see where she came up with this amount. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.

18. **College Field Experience Contracts** – No discussion.

19. **Bilingual/ESL Three-Year Plan** – Mr. DeWinne asked what the student teacher ratio is for the regular English classroom. Mr. Ottinger said it would be from 21 to 24 students.

20. **Foster Grandparents Program at IMPACT** – No discussion.

21. **Donation of Nets** – Mr. DeWinne thanked a local vendor for cutting down nets for the district.

22. **Salem County Non-Public Agreement (192/193)** – No discussion.

23. **Private School Free Lunch Resolution** – Mr. Bernardini asked if they want us to provide the lunch. Mr. Franchetta it is his understanding that if the private schools such as Pinelands, Archway and Yale have the local school district approve this resolution all the students in the school will become free lunch students with the state funding their lunches.

Mr. Giordano asked if the district gets anything out of this. Mr. Franchetta said no.

- B. Proposed by Board Member – None.

Review of Bills: Mr. DeWinne said he had a number of questions that he forwarded to Mr. Franchetta.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Mr. Franceschini said discussed at the Personnel & Policy Committee was Schedule B and establishing a limit as to how many students are in a club. He said also discussed was putting a limit on substitutes for principals.

Mr. Bernardini reported that there was no Buildings & Grounds Committee or Early Childhood meeting held in July.

Mr. Franceschini said the Curriculum & Technology meeting was held this evening and Mr. Dantine gave a presentation on K-12 Blackboard software.

Unfinished Business: Mr. Bernardini mentioned that a contractor would like to build a press box for the girls' softball field using his own money.

New Business: None.

Mr. Giordano asked if the transportation department changes their schedule in anyway to accommodate parents as the upcoming academic year gets closer. Mr. Franchetta said for some situations in the past we have had extended and Saturday hours. Mr. Giordano asked if the staff splits that or do we pay overtime. Mr. Franchetta said it depends when the hours are. Mr. Bernardini asked if we can do flex hours. Mr. Ottinger said we can do that. Mr. Giordano said he would like the transportation department to be a little more flexible in case an unforeseen event happens to delay a parent. Mr. Ottinger said we will look into how we can better service the community in the next couple of weeks and months leading into the school year.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df