

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 7, 2013 at 7:45 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Medio presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bongiovanni, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Dr. Mounier, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Polof, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Ludy, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. Medio 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 to be sent to the following, announcing time and place thereof, agenda, etc.: The Daily Journal, the Atlantic City Press, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag salute:

Special

Presentations: None.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Public Comments

on Agenda Items: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – No discussion.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

2.1 **NJ Department of Education “School Self-Assessment”** - No discussion.

2.2 **Achieve 3000, Inc. Kid Biz/Teen Biz Program Contract** – No discussion.

- 2.3 **Tyco SimplexGrinnell Contract** – Ms. Morello asked if this is only for Vineland High School North. Mr. Frey said this is the inspection for all the schools. Ms. Morello asked if this replaces the in-house people. Mr. Frey responded yes. Ms. Morello asked if this is for equipment only or for going to the buildings when the alarm sounds. Mr. Frey said this is for inspection only.
- 2.4 **DIRECTV Contract** – Mr. English asked if Comcast offers the same package. Mr. Frey said they do not.
- 2.5 **Travel – a. Field Trips, b. District, c. Winter Athletics** – No discussion.
- 2.6 **Revised Curricula for the 2013-2014 school year** – No discussion.

3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- 4.1 **Budgetary Transfers - a General, b. School Based, c. ECPA** – No discussion.
- 4.2 **SRI & ETTC Allocation for the 2013-2013 school year** – Ms. Morello asked if we use our credits up every year. Dr. Gruccio said yes.
- 4.3 **Catapult Learning Nursing Services Agreement** – Mr. Medio asked if this contract will be ready for next week. Mr. DeSanto responded yes.
- 4.4 **Legal Fees Payment \$1,500.00**– No discussion.
- 4.5 **Inspira Medical Center, Inc. Public Donor Agreement** – No discussion.
- 4.6 **Linda Santagata Agreement** – Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this person will be in a supervisory or consulting role. Dr. Gruccio said she will work closely with guidance imputing into Genesis so we can insure that our students are being seen on a regular basis. Ms. Morello asked if she will spend a number of hours in each high school building. Mr. DeSanto said the contract was written so the direction of the days and hours worked are determined by Mrs. Polof. Mrs. Polof said the vision is that she works with both high schools depending on the need. Mr. Ulrich said he does not want to hear that it is a vision. If we are hiring someone he wants to see action and help given to the students in both buildings. Ms. Morello agrees with Mr. Ulrich and expressed her concern in regards to the agreement. She does not think it is a good practice to have things so open and there is a benefit in having a little more structure. Mr. DeSanto said the duties were developed by Mrs. Polof and he will work with her tomorrow to clarify exactly the role of Ms. Santagata. Dr. Mounier asked why this position is necessary.

Mrs. Polof said most of the concerns came from the Board of Education indicating that the guidance counselors at the high schools are not producing what they want to see. She said it was discussed to have more oversight since we no longer have a student of personnel services supervisor. Mrs. Polof said it was the district's belief that if the board and parents were unhappy with what was happening then we would need to do something about it. Dr. Mounier asked if there was a provision for remediating deficiencies in guidance without adding to the tax burden. Dr. Guccio believes the problem is that we never replaced the supervisor that brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to this district. She thinks with the area that we live in and the issues are children face each day the position was critical and it was eliminated by the board. Mr. Medio wanted to clarify that it was not this board that eliminated the position it was eliminated four or five years ago. Mr. DiGiorgio hopes more attention is given to this area because it is something that helps our students. Ms. Morello said if this is purposeful and measureable then she does not have any problem in supporting this if we can track the effectiveness. She said the problem she has with everything is there does not seem to be a well-defined end goal. Mr. Ulrich asked why there is a contract involved and Ms. Santagata cannot be hired as a substitute to help. Dr. Guccio said that was the original intent and they were directed to do a contract. Mr. DeSanto said he was informed that the administration proposed that Ms. Santagata be hired with a long-term arrangement. He said the contract states "up to 74 days" and there would be flexibility. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this contract allows us to terminate our arrangement with the party. Mr. DeSanto responded yes there is a provision to terminate if administration is not satisfied with the progress of the service. Mr. Medio said if this passes he is certain that administration will follow standard operating procedures and have in place areas of weakness being addressed, solutions and a schedule for the first thirty or forty days of work to see exactly what is being done.

4.7 **Revised Joint Transportation Agreement with Glassboro Public Schools** – No discussion.

4.8 **Approval of the following contracts for the 2013-2014 school year: Lisa Beatty, Asst. School Business Administrator, Joseph L. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Nathan Frey, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum/Instruction** – Dr. Guccio said because there was a change in Mr. Frey's contract it has to be publicly advertised with a public hearing held in September. Mr. DeSanto said Mr. Frey's contract cannot be approved until the public hearing. Dr. Mounier asked if automatic pay increases are built in to the contracts. Dr. Guccio responded no only Mr. Frey will be receiving an increase, which is why there will be a public hearing held in September. Dr. Mounier asked what the justification is for an increase. Dr. Guccio said this was brought before the finance committee and it was agreed to give him a 2% increase based on the disparity between salaries at the central administration level. Dr. Mounier said an employee who agrees to certain terms is rewarded because other people have contracts that yield more money.

Dr. Gruccio said the contract is for one year and each year the employee has the right to negotiate their contract for an increase. Dr. Mounier expressed his concern that increases are granted because we turned a page on the calendar. Ms. Ludy said Mr. Frey has taken on additional responsibilities with other duties, which is the justification for this increase. Mr. Jennings called for a “point of order” because what we are discussing is not on the agenda. Mr. Medio said this could be discussed in September. Ms. Morello asked if this will not be on next week’s agenda. Dr. Gruccio said it will be on the September agenda but she wanted the board to have the opportunity to review the contract in advance. Ms. Ludy said Mr. Frey’s contract was approved in June because Dr. Stepura requested for contracts to be approved before July 1st. She said a raise was negotiated with Mr. Frey so his contract needs to be amended with a public hearing and advertised in the newspaper before a vote can be taken. Mr. DiGiorgio said this was discussed with the finance committee and there was an opportunity to evaluate the additional duties that Mr. Frey has taken on with the elimination of other personnel. He said the committee felt confident that this was justified.

- 4.9 **Bids – a. Sheppard Bus Service Inc., b. Major Petroleum Inc.** – Dr. Gruccio said Major Petroleum will be taken off the agenda until the August 28th meeting.
- 4.10 **NJ Youth Corps Program 2013-2014 Funding** – No discussion.
- 4.11 **Perkins Budget Management for 2013-2014** – No discussion.
- 4.12 **Discovery Education Contract** – Ms. Morello asked how this will be utilized. Mr. Frey explained that there are online videos and clips. Ms. Morello asked when Discovery took this over was it improved, did the cost increase and is the utilization monitored. Mr. Frey said we monitor the utilization. Ms. Morello asked if this is voluntary utilization. Mr. Frey said it is also a resource provider.
- 4.13 **Pearson Contract for the Successmaker and Waterford Programs** – No discussion.
- 4.14 **SimplexGrinnell Contract** – No discussion.
- 4.15 **Certified Staff Home Instruction Tutors for 2013-2014 school year** – No discussion.
- 4.16 **Salem County Special Services School District Nursing Services Agreement** – No discussion.
- 4.17 **Sheppard Bus Service, Inc. Contract for Charter School** – Dr. Mounier asked if this locks Sheppard Bus into service regardless of increases in fuel costs. Mr. Callavini said yes Sheppard Bus Service is locked into one year at this price.
- 4.18 **Childcare Provider Contracts for 2013-2014** – No discussion.
- 4.19 **Legal Fees Payment \$6,320.00** – No discussion.
- 4.20 **Withholding of Salary Increments** – No discussion.

2. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR REGULAR AGENDA:

- a. **Report by the Secretary of the Board of Education (June)** – At this time Ms. Ludy read a letter from Carlos Mercado resigning from the Board of Education dated July 20, 2013 and received by the district July 22, 2013.

Dear Honorable Secretary/Business Administrator Ludy,

Please accept this letter as official notification of my resignation of my position as Board Member with the Vineland Board of Education effective Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. I will be accepting the appointed position of Cumberland County Freeholder. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve the people of Vineland over the last 2 years. It has also been a pleasure to serve with my fellow Board Members and the entire Administrative Team. Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,
Carlos A. Mercado, Jr.
Board Member

- b. **Monthly Bills Incurred- July 2013 and Amerihealth Payments** – Mr. Ulrich asked where we stand as far as an increase with the Amerihealth contract. Ms. Ludy said it was increased 16.6% in March.

Public

Comments: Ken Farrell

Mr. Farrell expressed his concern in regards to the safety of his son and other children while walking to school with no sidewalks and limited lighting.

Dr. Mounier asked Mr. Farrell if children are walking who previously received a bus due to the change in transportation. Mr. Farrell said that is correct.

Mr. Medio said they will look into this situation and hopes to have a solution that is acceptable to everyone.

Ronald Walker

Mr. Walker expressed his concern in regards to all administrators being on the same page with the uniform policy discipline. He said that we have to be here for the students and hopes that the most qualified people are being hired for positions.

Crystal Gaines

Ms. Gaines expressed her concern in regards to her daughter not receiving bus transportation and having to walk to school down Lincoln Avenue. She urged the board to reconsider the bus transportation.

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

Committee

Reports: Mr. DiGiorgio said there are two Finance Committee meetings this month and he will have a combined report after the second meeting is held.

Ms. Morello said the Curriculum Committee will be meeting tomorrow and she will have a report for next week.

Unfinished

Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Ludy
Board Secretary

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