

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, August 12, 2009, at 7:02 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. DeWinne, 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, Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel, Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director, 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

Presentation (s):

Mr. Ottinger introduced Ms. Erika Cowdright and Ms. Mary DeMarco to give a presentation on the Netherlands Student Exchange Program.

Ms. Cowdright said we currently have established for the past four years the German Exchange Program and we are now considering adding the Netherlands Exchange Program. She presented a summary on the regulations on how the German Exchange Program was set up because the Netherlands Program will follow the same procedures. Ms. Cowdright said it is a family sponsored exchange where a student from Vineland High School will travel to Germany; stay with a family and in return an exchange student from that family will come to Vineland. She said the purpose of the program is for high school students to encounter opportunities that go beyond the limitations and boundaries in which they live in order to open their hearts and minds to people and cultures that are radically different than their own.

Mr. Ulrich asked if the four to six hundred dollar cost is paid by the exchange student's family not the board. Ms. Cowdright said that is correct.

Ms. Cowdright mentioned that for the first time we have an International Study Abroad Club at Vineland High School. This club will be coordinated by teachers that are involved in the current exchanges. Ms. Cowdright asked Ms. DeMarco to discuss the Exchange Program established last year with the Netherlands.

Continued

Ms. DeMarco presented a brief history on how she got involved with the exchange program and what has been done so far.

Mr. Ulrich asked how many students are in the program. Ms. DeMarco said we currently have four or five students and we will be recruiting as soon as school begins. Mr. Ulrich asked how many students they would like to get into this program. Ms. DeMarco said at least ten students.

Mr. Giordano thanked Ms. Cowdright and Ms. DeMarco for the informative presentation.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the Board approved the minutes from June 20, 2009, July 1, 2009, July 8, 2009, and July 15, 2009. All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Rios who voted “yes” for all minutes except June 20, 2009 and July 15, 2009 she “abstained” and Mr. Ulrich who voted “yes” for all minutes except July 1, 2009 he “abstained.”

Solicitor’s Report: Mr. DeSanto said the Superintendent Search Process is being handled through the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA). The NJSBA has screened all the applications and selected a number of applicants for first round interviews that were conducted solely by their representatives. Mr. DeSanto said the NJSBA representatives have recommended six candidates for a second round of interviews by the board. Ultimately there will be a third and final round with the final candidates that the board determines. The superintendent will be selected in the third round. Mr. DeSanto said because one or more of the six candidates that will be interviewed by this board happen to be an internal candidate or administrator in the district, school boards advised Mr. Giordano to ask him for a legal opinion regarding any potential conflict of interest some of you may have. Mr. DeSanto said we have two board members who have spouses in the district who are teachers, one board member has a sister who is a teacher and another board member has spouse who is a principal. Therefore, all of these individuals are immediate family members of an employee. Mr. DeSanto said several years ago the School Ethics Commission was formed, which is empowered to render advisory opinions on issues involving conflict of interest in school districts. One such advisory opinion is A3007.

## Continued

Mr. DeSanto said under that opinion a school board member's spouse was employed in the district involved and there was an administrator in the district who was a candidate for superintendent. The commission said that school board member could not participate in the interview process because the administrator, an internal candidate, was in some way a supervisor of the spouse. It was decided that a school board member could not be objective or independent when you have that type of situation. Mr. DeSanto said under Ethics Opinion A3007 all four board members in this district who have immediate family members that are teachers or a principal would not be able to participate in the second round of interviews because of the involvement of one or more internal candidates. Mr. DeSanto said in the event that the third round involves one or more internal candidates you would not be able to participate in that round. He said there is no advisory opinion we could look to for guidance as to whether or not the four board members could return to the process for the third round. Mr. DeSanto said his opinion based on other opinions is that in the event an internal candidate is not involved in the final round that one or more of you may re-enter the process. The conditions are that you must ask yourself and declare to the board whether or not you can render an impartial independent decision in the third round. Mr. DeSanto said it is better when you are dealing with the chief school administrator for as many of you as possible to participate in that process. He wanted to clarify that there was a situation that involved the Northfield Board of Education where there were two internal candidates and one happened to be the selection of the board. That internal candidate had contributed to the campaign of the board member who voted for him or her. Mr. DeSanto said the unsuccessful candidate filed an ethics charge against that board member. He said this is a totally separate unrelated issue to what you have here. Mr. DeSanto said if a board member decides to re-enter the process in his opinion you are not vulnerable to an attack. As long as you declare that you believe you are objective there is not an opinion that you cannot re-enter the process.

Mr. Ulrich said it was brought up by the New Jersey School Boards Association that ethics charges could be placed against them. He asked what information the conflicted board members could have about how the process went in regards to interviews that have already taken place as far as questions, responses, notes and discussions with other board members. Mr. DeSanto said in his opinion anything that occurred in the second round is off the table for you.

Continued

Mr. DeSanto said part of the decision you have to make is was your participation in the second round critical to you making an informed decision in the third round. Mr. Ulrich said it could be.

Mr. Giordano said he spoke to our field representative, Charlene Zoerb, today in regards to board members rejoining the search and she said they can be briefed on the successful candidates. He asked Mr. DeSanto if a conflict could be direct or indirect. Mr. DeSanto said yes.

Public Comment on  
Agenda Items:

Deanna Speranza-Murphy, Resource Room in Class Support Teacher  
Ms. Speranza-Murphy expressed her concern in regards to her pending transfer to another school.

Recommendations:

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Board approve personnel items in accordance with the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

**Mr. Franceschini asked for an explanation on the process of the transfer for the individual who spoke during public comments.**

**Mr. DeSanto said the employee who was here tonight opened the door with respect to her situation and waived any rights to privacy. Therefore, she can be discussed by Mrs. Polof. Mr. DeSanto said because there are privacy rights involving other employees he cautioned Mrs. Polof that if her decision making had to do with the relative performance of other employees then that is not subject to public discussion.**

**Mrs. Polof explained that the regular education teachers and principals in the elementary schools are doing a wonderful job in keeping all students in regular education. She said there have been classes closed down due to the fact we have no special education students. Mrs. Polof said what happens is we have teachers that have no jobs and we need to find positions for those teachers. She said this year Durand School had two classes with no children. Mrs. Polof said she spoke with Mrs. Horner in July with two recommendations of moves to another building due to the lack of students. At that time, there was no other involvement and both teachers were excellent with experience in the positions that were open in another school. Mrs. Polof said they thought that was a wonderful opportunity for the teachers to maintain a job in an area where they had experience. She said we have many special education transfers on tonight's agenda. Mrs. Polof said the decision to move Ms. Murphy to D'Ippolito School was based solely on her experience, wonderful teaching abilities and needs of our children.**

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Ulrich, Mr. Bernardini, and Mr. Giordano who voted "yes" for all items except "no" on Ms. Deanna Murphy's transfer #55 and Mrs. Phillips who voted "yes" on all items except she voted "no" on Ms. Murphy's transfer and she "abstained" on new hire #5 on the original list. (9-0-0)

Transfer #55 Deanna Murphy did not pass.

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Continued

**Mrs. Phillips asked if Mrs. Horner made this suggestion originally and then changed her mind. Mrs. Polof said no Mrs. Horner expressed to her that she would rather move people with less seniority.**

**Mr. Ulrich asked if seniority is taken into account when a move is made. Mrs. Polof said if the people involved have training and in this case seniority was not the criteria. Mr. Ulrich said in his view all the employees want is consistency, procedure and policy. He said sometimes a lack of consistency is what causes miscommunications and the assumptions that transfers are being made because someone complained. Mrs. Polof said from her prospective it has never been a lack of consistency on the decision making of who moves because it is always the person that does not have any students in their classroom.**

**Mr. DeWinne asked if this notification to Ms. Murphy could have been sent earlier. Mrs. Polof said it could have been done earlier without board approval.**

**Mr. Franceschini asked Mrs. Polof if she spoke with this teacher prior to the decision making. Mrs. Polof responded no. Mr. Franceschini asked if there is a reduction in special education students in the district. Mrs. Polof responded yes.**

**Mr. Bernardini asked if students were moved out of Ms. Murphy’s class to another school. Mrs. Polof said there are no students projected for Ms. Murphy’s class.**

**Ms. Greenfield commented that she has worked for the last two years with Mrs. Polof on this. Mrs. Polof and her staff review every I.E.P. and unfortunately the process is what it is and this is the earliest it can be done.**

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**Mr. Franceschini asked if it was ever established as to how many students are needed to make a club. Ms. Greenfield responded no. Mr. Franceschini said this could be discussed at the next Personnel & Policy Committee meeting.**

**Mrs. Phillip questioned if there was an error made on the individuals who are transferring from Durand to D'Ippolito. Ms. Greenfield said this is an amendment and tomorrow you will receive the entire agenda merged as one document.**

**Mr. Ottinger asked Ms. Greenfield to inform the board as to who they are voting on and who is transferring where. Ms. Greenfield said Ms. Murphy is being transferred to D'Ippolito and the other individual is not. Mrs. Polof said Deanna Murphy and Nancy Hepner are being transferred from Durand to D'Ippolito School.**

2 1

2. The Board approve budgetary transfers in accordance with the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:
  - a. General Fund
  - b. Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA)

All Members  
voted "yes."  
(9-0-0)

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

- a. H&R Block  
 Dollars & Sense Grant  
 Vineland High School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 1,500.00
  
- b. Pride Grant  
 D'Ippolito Elementary School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 11,466.00
  
- c. State of New Jersey  
 Department of Children & Families  
 Family Friendly Center Grant  
 Sabater Elementary School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 45,463.00
  
- d. 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

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)



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All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)

4. The Board accept funding in the following amount(s):

- a. State of New Jersey  
 Department of Health & Senior Services  
 REBEL School-Based Tobacco Prevention Initiative  
 Vineland High School  
 Landis Middle School  
 Veterans Memorial Middle School  
 Wallace Middle School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 1,000.00  
 (each)  
 (In accordance with the form of contract approved by  
 the Board Solicitor and Superintendent of Schools.)
- b. Wal-Mart Grant  
 Petway Elementary School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 1,250.00
- c. H&R Block  
 Dollars and Sense Grant  
 Vineland High School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 1,500.00
- d. Vineland Municipal Alliance Program  
 January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 6,250.00
- e. State of New Jersey  
 Department of Children and Families  
 Family Friendly Center Grant  
 Sabater Elementary School  
 July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 45,463.00
- f. New Jersey School Boards Association  
 Insurance Group  
 Safety Grant Program  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 78,186.00

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4. Acceptance of funds (Continued)

- g. 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

2 1

5. Bids:

- a. The Board approve Professional Service Contracts to the following in accordance with 18A: 18A-5.a(1):
  - 1) Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland, for instruction to homebound students in the amount to exceed \$29,000.00.
  - 2) Partners in Pediatrics, L.L.C. as Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapists for Section 504 students at the rate of \$75.00 per hour.
- b. The Board approve full year financial coverage in the amount of \$60,534.00 and six months of educational coverage in the amount of \$20,878.50 for the 2009 – 2010 district-wide software licenses and support for all Fusion software products supplied by Keystone Information System, Inc. of Maple Shade, New Jersey in accordance with 18A: 18A-5(19).

All Members  
voted "yes."  
(9-0-0)

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6. 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.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)

7. The Board approve the submission of the FY 2009 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Amended Application to the State of New Jersey, Department of Education, in the amount of \$5,078,241.00.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)

8. The Board approve tentative tuition charges for the 2009 – 2010 school year and the Secretary of the Board be authorized to notify the sending districts:

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)

	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Daily</u>
Preschool/Kindergarten - - - - -	\$ 9,483.00	\$ 52.68
Grades 1 – 5 - - - - -	9,141.00	50.78
Grades 6 – 8 - - - - -	10,395.00	57.75
Grades 9 – 12 - - - - -	9,480.00	52.67
Cognitive Mild - - - - -	17,959.00	99.77
Cognitive Moderate - - - - -	26,090.00	144.94
Learning Language Disabilities - -	16,981.00	94.34
Auditory Impairments - - - - -	65,500.00	363.89
Behavior Disabilities - - - - -	17,173.00	95.41
Autism - - - - -	60,452.00	335.84
Preschool Disabilities/Full Time -	4,489.00	24.94

9. The Board approve the Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2009 – 2010 school year with the Cumberland County Educational Cooperative for Routes CS20, CS23, and #58001.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)

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10. The Board approve the Student Transportation Contract renewals with Sheppard Bus Service for the 2009 – 2010 school year for the routes which are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members voted “yes.”  
 (9-0-0)

11. The Board approve renewal membership for the 2009 – 2010 school year with the Cape Atlantic League.

All Members voted “yes.”  
 (9-0-0)

12. The Board approve an Agreement with Catapult Learning to enter into a Non-Public Service Agreement for the 2009-2010 school year for Evaluation and Determination of Eligibility Services in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools.

All Members voted “yes.”  
 (9-0-0)

13. The Board approve the option to execute the lease with the Hallissey Corporation for the SUCCESS Building for four (4) years. The term of the lease will be from December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2013 with an annual rate of \$222,000.00 less an annual credit of \$7,500.00 for preventative maintenance.

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. DeWinne who voted “no.”  
 (8-1-0)

**Mr. DeWinne said that he would like this item “tabled” because he still has some unanswered questions.**

**Mr. DeSanto said the motion to “table” supersedes the motion that is on so you need to vote on the motion to “table.”**

**Mr. Fanucci asked if this was adjusted to be a three year lease instead of four year. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.**

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**Mr. DeWinne said the questions that he had was why the lease was so long, what other options we have and is this the best rate.**

**Mr. Ottinger asked Mr. Weaver, the Executive Director of Physical Facilities, what his is opinion is of this rental agreement.**

**Mr. Weaver said he along with Mr. Franchetta met with Mr. Hallissey the owner of the Success building on June 12 to review and renegotiate the existing lease. He said they also looked at leasing the former Adult Education building and the tenant is obligated to pay the taxes on that building, which is about \$1.50 a square foot. Mr. Weaver said currently Mr. Hallissey is paying \$48,000 a year in taxes on the Success building, which he will continue to pay on the current lease. He said the Pettisani building that we were leasing was \$9.25 a square foot and was an open building with no classrooms. Mr. Weaver said we spent between fifty to sixty thousand dollars in screen flex to create the partition walls for the classrooms. He said we looked into breaking out the warehouse, which is difficult since we will have a school working out of that building. Mr. Weaver said that he feels we have a good number on the lease but has not had the chance to review the final lease. He said based on what he is hearing about the contents it sounds pretty straight forward. Mr. Weaver reminded the board that we have an educational model approved for this building and if we start this process on a new building it could take up to twelve months to get approved. Mr. Weaver said if the board desires he along with Mr. Franchetta could investigate additional sites.**

**Mr. Ulrich asked if Mr. Hallissey would do a year to year lease. Mr. Weaver said he is not sure.**

**Mr. Bernardini said we need a building for at least three years until the new school is built.**

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**Mr. Weaver said he met today with the School Development Authority (SDA) to finalize the specifications for Middle School #2.**

**Mr. DeWinne expressed his concern that the warehouse space should not be our problem and we should not pay for something that we do not need. He said that he knows that times are different in the economy and you have more buying power. Mr. DeWinne feels that we need to explore all options to see what is available.**

**Mr. Ulrich asked what would be the time frame on the approval process to have a new facility approved. Mr. Weaver said it could be time consuming to develop the model and break the building down. Mr. Ulrich asked how much money would we have to put into the building to get it ready as far as classrooms, gymnasium and cafeteria space. Mr. DeWinne said this is negotiated all the time in tenant leases.**

**Mr. Franceschini asked if the district could utilize the warehouse at the Success building. Mr. Weaver said it is something that we could look at from a district stand point. Mr. Franceschini asked if we do not use that space is there another storage area we could use. Mr. Weaver said there is some storage area at Veterans Memorial School in the old food service area. He said we also have the option of using the smaller schools or 28 West Avenue. Mr. Franchetta said originally the plan was to move these classrooms to Veterans Memorial School but we changed direction. Our first initiative was to clear out the warehouse. Mr. Franchetta said last week when he heard the board's discussion he went to Mr. Hallissey and had the lease changed to three years with two one year options. He said this building was customized for us by Mr. Hallissey with the rent being \$222,000 since its inception. Mr. Franchetta said through our negotiations we were able to negotiate a \$7,500 credit with Mr. Weaver's staff handling the routine maintenance in the building.**

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**Mr. DeWinne asked who he should contact to tour the warehouse. Mr. Franchetta said it can be arranged through Mr. Cox. He said in October we will be abandoning the space at the Goldkey building located at Elmer Road and the Boulevard. Mr. Franchetta said we paid \$9.25 per square foot for that building, which was an office complex. He said we also looked at the Omni-Care building located at Elmer and the Boulevard and the building needed extensive work done. Mr. Franchetta said the new Vineland Charter School that is renting the church next to the YMCA had contacted him about space. He said next year they will be adding another grade level and the church is not big enough. Mr. Franchetta said the Charter School looked for space throughout the community and the only place they could find was the church. He said that he also spoke to Sandy Forosisky who is the Director of Redevelopment at City Hall and she felt the numbers were fair. Mrs. Forosisky told Mr. Franchetta that we will never be able to obtain a space of this size for this cost.**

**Mr. DeWinne said he understands everything that has been said but our purchasing director should be out there looking for deals.**

**Mr. Franceschini asked if we would be able to sublet the warehouse. Mr. Franchetta said he is not sure the lease would permit that. Mr. Ulrich said for safety concerns it would be problematic to have a facility that we did not have total control.**

**Mr. Ottinger said he does not know how much time we will have between now and November 30<sup>th</sup> to realistically get what the board is looking for. He said Mr. Weaver and Mr. Franchetta worked very hard on this for the board and this is really our best option for the three year period. Mr. Ottinger said it does become a point where it is incumbent upon us to trust the people who we hire to research these things and make these decisions.**

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**A motion was made by Mr. DeWinne to Table Item #13 the Hallissey Corporation Lease. There was no second therefore the motion to “Table” did not carry.**

14. The Board approve the Agreement to appoint Stanley H. Allen, Inc., t/a/ Allen Associates for broker/consultant of employee health services for the period of October 1, 2009 until December 31, 2010 in accordance with the contract on file with the Secretary of the Board in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools.

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (9-0-0)

15. The Board approve the Winter Season Athletic Schedule as the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (9-0-0)

16. The Board approve the proposed Netherlands Student Exchange Program. This student exchange will take place in April/May 2010.

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (9-0-0)



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17. The Board approve the following new and/or revised curricula:

Language Arts/English

- LEADS LA – Grade 8 (revised)
- College English I – Grade 9 (revised)
- HSPA LA 11 (revised)
- HSPA LA 12 (revised)
- Honors English IV (new)

Science

- Forensic Physics – Grades 11, 12 (new elective)
- Marine Science – Grades 11, 12 (new elective)
- Zoology – Grades 11, 12 (new elective)

Social Studies

- Native Americans and the Natural World –  
Grades 10 – 12 (new elective)

AF JROTC

- Aerospace Science I – Grades 9 – 12 (new elective)

Arts

- Theater Arts II

All Members  
voted “yes.”  
(9-0-0)

18. The Board approve contracts with Bayada nurses in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 18A:1 in the following amount:

- Six (6) LPNs @ \$40/hour
- Approximately 220 days @ 7 hours per day
- In the amount of ----- \$369,600.00

(In accordance with the form of contract approved by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools.)

All Members  
voted “yes.”  
(9-0-0)

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: None.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same (\$5,398,243.71). All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Bernardini who voted “yes” on all items except check #10228725 he “abstained.”

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

Public: Deneen Depre, Vineland High School North Teacher  
Ms. Dupree said Noah Cook, a student of hers, who has Osteogenesis Imperfecta, was in a serious car accident on July 16. She said that Noah was thrown out of his wheel chair and broke almost every bone in his body. Noah was in Cooper Hospital for eleven days and returned home on Monday, July 27 by ambulance. Ms. Dupree said there is a possibility that Noah’s wheelchair may not be able to be repaired and a new wheelchair would cost \$30,000. She said fundraisers have been set up to raise money for a new wheelchair for Noah and encouraged everyone to please try to attend them. Ms. Dupree said also an account has been set up for Noah at Susquehanna Bank on 1748 S. Lincoln Avenue for anyone who would like to make a donation.

Board Member  
Remarks:

Mr. Franceschini said discussed at the Policy & Personnel Committee meeting was the policy from Mr. DeSanto on Board Member Review of Applications and Interview Process. He said this is a lengthy policy that needs to be more thoroughly reviewed by the committee. Mr. Franceschini said a Swine Flu update was given at the meeting and they discussed the flu preparations for 2009. He along with the committee are recommending for the district to re-develop their Emergency Preparedness Committee so each school in the district has a plan.

Mr. Ulrich said the policy that Mr. DeSanto wrote is lengthy. He said it is worth taking the time to review thoroughly before a policy is enacted that is going to govern how the board interacts with the administration regarding personnel decisions of higher management positions. Mr. Ulrich said there was a recent resignation of a district vice principal, which has already been posted. He is requesting that no hiring decisions be brought forward to the board until this policy is in place.

Mr. Bernardini distributed the minutes from the Early Childhood Provider Committee meeting to the board. He said at the Early Childhood Provider meeting Mrs. Bleistine, Principal of Dallago Preschool, explained what is anticipated for this year. He emphasized to all the providers that one of the themes this year, that is very important, is accountability throughout the district.

Mr. Ulrich said in regards to the employee transfer that was discussed tonight he thinks there were inconsistencies involving a principal and district supervisors not being on the same page. In a situation where there is a complaint it should go to administration first and handled at that level and the recourse would be the board. Mr. Ulrich said the reason he voted to intercede because he feels there is an issue of consistency on transfers applied in a fair manner.

Ms. Rios asked how long the principal has been out on leave at this school. Mr. Ottinger said she has been on leave since July 24 and he does not think that she will be back.

Mr. Ottinger said the board did not have to intercede. Mr. Giordano said we are not going to get into this discussion right now. Mr. Ottinger said he thinks he has the right to respond. Mr. Giordano said we will not entertain a discussion at this time. Mr. Ottinger asked Mr. DeSanto if he has the right to respond.

Mrs. Phillips said we really need to thank our teachers for the outstanding work they do in the summer when they are not paid. She said Noah Cook's teacher who spoke tonight is an example of the kind of passion that our Vineland teachers have for their students. Mrs. Phillips commended Ms. DePre for what she did.

Mr. Ottinger said he has the right to comment. Mr. Giordano told Mr. Ottinger he is out of order that he is running the meeting and capable of doing it. Mr. Giordano said to Mr. Ottinger when he acknowledges him he may speak. He asked if any other board members have any comments. Mr. Giordano asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ottinger asked if the public does not get to hear the superintendent speak. Mr. Giordano said we do not need a lecture. Mr. Ottinger said he is not giving anyone a lecture and just wanted a chance to speak.

Continued

Mr. Ottinger asked if this is the dictatorship we have in Vineland now and asked Mr. DeSanto again if he has the right to speak. Mr. DeSanto said if he comments he is disrupting the meeting.

Ms. Rios asked if Mr. Ottinger has the right to express himself.

Mr. Ottinger asked if he has the right to express himself or does the dictator have the right to shut everyone up. He said he did not say anything disrespectful and was just going to make a comment to Mr. Ulrich. Mr. Ottinger said Mr. Giordano acts like a dictator sometimes and does not run this city or school board. Mr. Giordano told Mr. Ottinger he is so disrespectful and asked him to say what he wanted to say. Mr. Ottinger said he is sorry that it has got to this and just wanted a chance to speak. He knew there was a disagreement between the principal and supervisor, which is why he investigated it and made the recommendation to the board. Mr. Ottinger said when there are disagreements like that and people are writing to the board it is the responsibility of the superintendent to clear the air and then make a recommendation to the board. He did try to clear this up without the board becoming involved. Mr. Ottinger said the public needs to take a hard look at this board when now you are not allowed to make a comment because the board president does not want you to. He said he lives here and is a taxpayer and does not need Mr. Giordano saying to him or anybody else that you cannot speak.

Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

None.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, August 12, 2009, Wednesday, August 26, 2009, Monday, August 31, 2009 Tuesday, September 1, 2009 and Wednesday, September 2, 2009** regarding budget issues, personnel matters, contract negotiations 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 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA  
Board Secretary

KJF:df