

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, September 5, 2012 at 6:35 p.m., pursuant to notice with Ms. Rios presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Dr. Mounier and Mrs. Phillips. Absent: Mr. Mercado and Mr. Ulrich.

Also present: Dr. Guccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Figgs, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Ludy, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, Ms. Godlewski, Supervisor of Special Education, press and public. Absent: Mrs. Polof, Director of Special Education.

Ms. Rios 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:

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. John Provenzano, Director of Security, along with representatives of the Vineland Police Department to discuss the district camera system.

Sergeant Chris Fulcher of the Vineland Police Department said he is here tonight to seek approval and support from the board for a collaboration project with the police department and camera systems in the schools.

Mr. DeSanto said this is the type of collaboration that we are committed to in the Law Enforcement Education Cooperative Agreement that has been in place for almost 20 years. He said that he would like to review the district's electronic surveillance policy. Mr. DeSanto said this could be done by a board motion next week or in October if the board is inclined.

Mr. Fanucci asked if this would be for all buildings. Sergeant Fulcher said that would be up to the board. Mr. Fanucci said his opinion is to get all the schools on board at one time if possible.

Mr. Provenzano said it would be great for our schools to join the police department on this. He said the police will eventually have the plans of all our schools in their patrol cars.

Ms. Rios asked if any board member has any objections to moving forward with this at the next meeting.

Dr. Mounier asked how this would play out in terms of the police department's participation.

Sergeant Fulcher said personnel in the 911 center would be able to access the cameras when they are contacted in regards to an event that is happening at the high school such as an active shooter or a fight. He said this would give the police department the opportunity to immediately assess what is going on in the school without having to rely on information from anyone else.

Dr. Mounier asked how many cameras we have in the district. Mr. Provenzano said we have approximately 72 in each high school and approximately 4 or 5 in each of the other schools.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if there would be an opportunity for the cameras to be bypassed if someone was planning something extreme. Sergeant Fulcher said he cannot say it is impossible but the probability of it is low.

Comments by
Board Solicitor:

Mr. DeSanto said we have an issue developing in regards to the use of cell phones. He asked if Mr. Weaver can explain some of the problems that we are experiencing.

Mr. Weaver said unfortunately during the last six months we have been having a tremendous problem with connecting and having outside calls going directly to voice mail. He said this has been hindering our operation and we would like a change made in our phone system.

Mr. DeSanto said the statutes were changed during the past year allowing municipalities and school boards to take advantage of cooperative purchasing. We can now purchase contracts with other governmental combines. Mr. DeSanto said a group called the Western States Contracting Alliance could provide Verizon Wireless phones at a cost to the district of \$14,860.20 annually. He said they have contracts throughout New Jersey and are able to pull from many states to get their pricing. Mr. DeSanto said this is a recommendation of administration along with Mr. Zorzi the Purchasing Agent. The board is allowed to award this contract as if it was a state contract.

Mr. Fanucci asked if before moving forward with this someone can check to see if the service works in all of the buildings.

Dr. Gruccio said that Mr. Zorzi assured her that the company stands by their word and we will have service.

Mr. DeSanto asked if the board would consider advancing this to next week's meeting.

Mr. English said he has Verizon and any building that has a metal roof you will have no service in.

Dr. Gruccio asked if there is something that can be installed in the buildings that have metal roofs to allow service. Mr. Frey said Sprint has a device that can be installed in buildings but it is costly.

Ms. Rios said we will move forward with this for the next meeting and information will be provided to the board so they can make an informative decision.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – Mr. Medio asked if we are going to post for the assistant principal position at the Cunningham Alternative School. Dr. Gruccio said she would personally like to see us move to a county wide alternative program and not fill that position at this time. Mr. Medio does not see how we can get involved with a county alternative school when we have our own school and building. Mrs. Phillips said we really need to keep the Alternative School and put a principal in place there. She said all the other high schools in the county have their own Alternative School. Dr. Gruccio said the Bridgeton School District would like to go to the county school as well. Mr. English said this is something that we need to address and make a decision in January. He would like to hear what Dr. Gruccio's vision is along with a second plan in place. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we have always had a principal and vice principal at the alternative school. Dr. Gruccio said years ago we only had a teacher in charge. Mr. Medio said we have a lot of other problems in this district that we should be looking at besides trying to change the Alternative Program. Ms. Rios asked when will we know the plans for the county wide program and who will be the coordinators. Dr. Gruccio said that is currently being worked on. Ms. Rios suggested for Mr. Medio to attend a Buildings & Grounds meeting to share his ideas. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we ever explored expanding existing buildings in lieu of new buildings. Mr. Weaver said that we could do that. Mrs. Phillips asked if we are sending middle school students to second chance this year. Dr. Gruccio responded no. Mrs. Phillips expressed her concern that we are going to have problems in the middle schools

Dr. Mounier requested for the personnel documents to be more consistent. He said the diskette in his packet does not match what is on the laptop. Dr. Mounier questioned why the teachers and aides did not transfer from the former Success building to the new building. Mr. Rossi said he was aware of two positions that remained at Success. Ms. Godlewski said at the end of June the premise was that Success was going to the county ERIC Program. She said at the time the teachers and assistants assigned to that program were reassigned to open teaching positions within the district. Ms. Godlewski said when it was determined that we were going to open two classrooms at the Cunningham building we needed to supply teachers.

2. **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
3. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
4. **Travel** – Dr. Mounier said on page 24 field trips there is an error code and requested for zeros to be entered.

Mr. English asked why there is a \$513.51 charge for the band to attend the high school football game in Ocean City. Dr. Gruccio said she will look into it tomorrow.

Ms. Rios asked if the board member training to Atlantic City is mandated. Ms. Ludy said it is for the School Boards Convention in October. She said the amount listed is for mileage and tolls.

5. **Submission of Grants** - No discussion.
6. **Acceptance of Funds** – No discussion.
7. **NJYC Van Donation** – Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this is a district asset. Ms. Ludy said it is a NJ Youth Corps asset.
8. **Dr. Rhyme Chief School Physician** – No discussion.
9. **Legal Depositories Resolution** – No discussion.
10. **Authorization to Solicit Proposals** – Mr. Medio asked if our employees can do a lot of the energy conservation on their own. Ms. Ludy explained that there is no cost to the district with this program. Mr. English said we should look into a timer system for the lights.

Ms. Rios asked for an explanation on the Banking Services Proposal. Ms. Ludy said the Finance committee instructed her to obtain a banking services Request for Proposal (RFP) to see if our banks are competitive and what the going rates are. She said that she would like to implement summer savings and would like to know if the banks are on board with this because it is a lot of work on their end.

Mr. English questioned why everything has increased on the energy conservation services proposal except electricity, which has decreased.

11. **Legal Fees Payment** – Mr. English asked for a clarification on the amount.

12. **First Reading of Policy #2622 – Pupil Assessment** – Mr. Medio asked if this policy is state mandated. Dr. Figgs responded yes. Mr. Medio asked if we are following the state mandate on the policy. Dr. Figgs responded yes.

B. Board

1. **Advertising on School Buses** – Ms. Rios distributed information to the board, for their review, on advertising on school buses. Dr. Figgs explained that the Education Information and Resource Center (EIRC) have formed a consortium and they are willing to provide support and assistance to districts who may be interested in advertising on school buses. He said one of the major responsibilities the board would have is to approve the advertisements that would be going on school buses. Dr. Figgs said the board has to decide whether or not they want to move forward with this.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if there is any projected idea as to how much revenue could be derived from advertising on school buses. Mr. English said it states with a fleet of 51 buses you could earn between \$25,000 to \$100,000 per school year.

Dr. Mounier said he objects to this because it seems to him that a district that manages its affairs properly does not need to use its buses as billboards. He said the advertisements take up a substantial portion of the bus and he expressed his concern in regards to this being a safety factor.

Mr. DiGiorgio agrees with Dr. Mounier and feels a school bus should look like a school bus.

Ms. Rios said because there are a lot of board members who are in disagreement with this she believes we will not be moving forward on this.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Mrs. Phillips said discussed at yesterday's Curriculum Committee meeting was revising the registration process and residency requirements. She said they also discussed the new district Technology Vision Committee. Mrs. Phillips asked Mr. Frey to explain this new district committee.

Mr. Frey said this committee consists of members of the community, principals and board members. He said we discussed where we want to go in the future of technology.

Mr. English said he would still like to continue with the Technology Ad-Hoc Committee. Mrs. Phillips feels this would be overlapping Mr. Frey's committee. Mr. English asked how many students attend Vineland Schools that do not reside here. Mrs. Phillips said we do not have a number but there are enough. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if it were possible to get a number of the students. Mr. DeSanto said possibly Mr. Callavini could provide a summary to the board.

Mr. DeSanto said on next month's agenda there will be a first reading on a master policy that will set forth the requirements and protocols that each school will have to go through in regards to school uniforms. He said we currently have this now but it is not mandatory.

Unfinished

Business: Mr. Medio asked if there will be a closed session tonight. Dr. Gruccio responded no. Mr. Medio asked why we are not having one. Dr. Gruccio said it was changed. Mr. Medio expressed his concern that if we are going to have changes to the agenda the board should be notified.

Ms. Rios announced that the board retreat has been moved to January 12, 2013 after the elections.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Ludy
Board Secretary

CL:df

