

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, September 9, 2009 at 7:01 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

Jacqueline Askins, Julie Kim, Melissa Laurencio, and Steve Negrón students from Wallace Middle School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance; Ms. Maureen Hibbs, Wallace Middle School teacher was in attendance.

Presentation (s):

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the Board approved the minutes from August 5, 2009, August 21, 2009, August 26, 2009, August 31, 2009 and September 1, 2009. All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Bernardini, Mr. Franceschini and Mr. DeWinne who voted "yes" on all minutes but "abstained" on August 26, 2009 and Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Fanucci and Mrs. Phillips who voted "yes" on all minutes but "abstained" on August 31, 2009 and September 1, 2009 and Mr. Ulrich who voted "yes" on all minutes except August 26, 2009, August 31, 2009 and September 1, 2009 he "abstained."

Report of the  
Secretary/Custodian  
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of July 2009, which are in agreement were approved as submitted and on file in the Minute Book, and the Board approved its monthly certification of budgetary major account fund status and the Board Secretary's monthly certification as on file with the Secretary. All Members voted "yes."

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. DeSanto said today he along with Mr. Ottinger, Mr. Bernardini, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Farinaccio, Mr. Cox and Mr. Robbins met with Mr. Joseph DiGeronimo an engineer who specializes in sports services of tracks, gymnasiums, floors, tennis courts etc. He said Mr. DiGeronimo has a very impressive resume and has done work for the federal government, colleges, universities and schools. Mr. DeSanto said we have a serious problem at the Vineland High School track because the track surface is bubbling and delaminating in spots. He is requesting board approval to proceed to litigation, if necessary, against one or more responsible parties. Mr. DeSanto said the contractor who was awarded the contract last August to resurface the high school track is Greenlane of South Jersey Inc. He said Greenlane sub-contracted to Fries Athletic Services who was the contractor that did the last resurfacing in 1999. Mr. DeSanto said with the bubbling and delamination the track is unusable. He would like the board's approval to proceed in terms of attempting to negotiate a resolution to the problem with the manufacturer, sub-contractor, contractor and bonding company. Mr. DeSanto said if we cannot resolve this we will proceed to litigation. He is also proposing to hire Mr. DiGeronimo because these cases require expert opinions. Mr. DeSanto said he will be receiving a proposal from Mr. DiGeronimo on his estimated costs, which is \$3,000 for his review, analysis and preparation of report. He will contact all the parties involved to give them the opportunity to inspect the track to resolve the matter. If they are unwilling to resolve the matter that we will need to physically remove the track surface.

Mr. Giordano asked if first we are going to ask the contractor to make good on this before proceeding to litigation. Mr. DeSanto responded yes we are trying to avoid litigation.

Mr. Ulrich asked if it would be prudent to post large signs stating "Track Closed." Mr. Bernardini said the signs are up already.

Mr. DeSanto asked the board's permission to entertain a motion authorizing him to proceed against one or more responsible parties in regards to the current condition of the Vineland High School track and to attempt to negotiate a resolution in the matter. If negotiations fail proceed to litigation with the authorization to retain Mr. DiGeronimo as an expert.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, to authorize Mr. DeSanto to proceed against one or more responsible parties in regards to the current condition of the Vineland High School track and to attempt to negotiate a resolution in the Vineland High School track matter. If there is no resolution proceed to litigation and authorize the retaining of Mr. DiGeronimo as an expert. All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. DeSanto said it does not appear that the board will be in a position to appoint a new superintendent by October 1, 2009. It is his understanding that Dr. Figgs has agreed to act as Interim Superintendent. Mr. DeSanto said that he has prepared a resolution designating Dr. Figgs as Interim Superintendent effective October 1, 2009. He is not sure how long Dr. Figgs will be able to act as Interim Superintendent so he did not put an ending date into the resolution. Mr. DeSanto said the last arrangement was that Dr. Figgs was paid \$200 additional per diem for the increased responsibilities but it would not affect additional time.

Mr. Franceschini thinks this is very reasonable and we need to move forward.

Mr. DeSanto said he understands that Dr. Figgs has pre-paid vacation plans. Dr. Figgs said he would accept the interim position until October 31, 2009. Mr. DeSanto said it would be a one month interim appointment. He asked for a motion approving a resolution to appoint Dr. Keith Figgs as Interim Superintendent of Vineland Public Schools effective October 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009 with the additional per diem of \$200, for each day worked but he shall not receive any additional sick or vacation days or other remuneration or benefits.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Ms. Rios, to appoint Dr. Figgs as Interim Superintendent effective October 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009. All Members voted “yes.”

Public Comment on  
Agenda Items:

Recommendations: Page 4 of this document

G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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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. Bernardini commented that it is good to see that Joseph Marcello will be returning as the Dramatics Director. Ms. Greenfield said it is a removal and his daughter will be replacing him.**

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

2. The Board authorize the assignments of the pupils, whose names are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board, to special education programs outside the district with tuition costs to be borne by the Board.

Further, the Board approve the acceptance of the tuition pupil(s), whose names are on file with the Secretary of the Board, for placement in special education programs offered in Vineland with tuition costs to be borne by the sending district(s).

(Tuition payment and assignments shall be regulated by Chapter 46, Laws of 1966, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the State Department of Education.)

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

3. The Board approve budgetary transfers in accordance with the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

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

G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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4. The Board approve submission of the following grant(s) as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. Target Field Trip Grant  
Petway Elementary School  
In the amount of ----- \$ 800.00
  
- b. Ronald McDonald House Charities Grant  
Mennies Elementary School  
In the maximum amount of ----- \$ 17,964.92
  
- c. State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
Individuals with Disabilities  
Education Improvement Act (IDEIA)  
September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010  
Basic Allocation (3 – 21)  
In the amount of ----- \$2,730,226.00  
  
Preschool Allocation (3 – 5)  
In the amount of ----- \$ 92,053.00
  
- d. State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
Title I Application  
FY 2010 ARRA  
July 1, 2009 – August 31, 2011  
In the amount of ----- \$3,142,473.00
  
- e. State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
FY 2010 No Child Left Behind (NCLB)  
September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010  
In the amount of ----- \$4,868,204.00

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

G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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5. The Board approve the extension of the following grant(s) as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

a. Cumberland County  
 Office of Employment & Training  
 GED Testing Services  
 Vineland Adult Education Program  
 October 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 6,000.00

b. Cumberland County  
 Office of Employment & Training  
 Workforce Learning Link Instruction Lab  
 Vineland Adult Education Program  
 July 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009  
 In the amount of ----- \$17,400.00

c. Cumberland County  
 Office of Employment & Training  
 Job Search Assistance Program  
 Vineland Adult Education Program  
 July 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009

\* Additional funding of \$40,000.00 was accepted at the July 8, 2009 Board Meeting.

d. 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
 After School & Summer Youth Program  
 Landis Middle School  
 July 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

\*No additional funding.

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

G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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				2	1			

6. Bids:

The Board approve Extraordinary Unspecified Service (EUS) contracts in the amount to exceed \$29,000.00 to the following in accordance with 18A: 18A-5.a(2):

- a. Dr. Buzz Mingin  
 Southampton, New Jersey  
 Teacher training
- b. Verbal Behavior Network  
 South River, New Jersey  
 Teacher training

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

7. 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.

**Mr. Franceschini asked what class is going to Shop-Rite and Goodwill. Mr. Franchetta said special education students need to have specific outings into the community.**

**Mr. DeWinne asked if the cost of the buses to Muzzarelli Farms was previously discussed. Mr. Franchetta said he thinks the costs were revised. Mr. DeWinne questioned the same day trips to Cumberland County College for Professional Development Day. Mr. Franchetta explained that the county has a county wide staff development day where all the county schools are closed. He said they have seminars for the teachers in the county and we are sending some of our teachers to the seminars.**

**Mr. Fanucci expressed his concern in regards to the cost of the two Muzzarelli Farm trips. Mrs. Arena, principal of Mennies School, explained that it is because of the bus driver rate of pay, which varies greatly.**

All Members  
 voted "yes"  
 on all travel  
 except each  
 board  
 member  
 "abstained"  
 on their  
 travel.  
 (9-0-0)

G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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**Mr. Fanucci mentioned that there was a trip to Philadelphia that cost less than the trip to Muzzarelli Farms.**

2 1

- 8. The Board approve an Agreement with Salem County Special Services School District to enter into a Non-Public Services Agreement for the 2009 – 2010 school year in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools. (This service is authorized under P.L. 1077, Chapters 192 and 193.)

All Members  
voted “yes.”  
(9-0-0)

2 1

- 9. The Board approve an Agreement with Salem County Special Services School District to enter into a Non-Public Services Agreement for the 2009 – 2010 school year in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools. (This service is authorized under P.L. 1991, Chapter 226, Non-Public Nursing Services.)

All Members  
voted “yes.”  
(9-0-0)

2 1

- 10. The Board approve the Student Transportation Contract with Sheppard Bus Service for the 2009 – 2010 school year for Vineland Public Charter School, Routes 68801, 68802, 68803, and 68804.

All Members  
voted “yes.”  
(9-0-0)



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G I O R D A N N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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				2	1			

11. The Board approve the Foster Grandparents Program at IMPACT for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

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

12. The Board approve the Second Reading and adopt Policy #8635, “Pupil Transportation: Vehicles and School Buses.”

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

13. The Board authorize the rehiring of the employee whose name is on file with the Board Secretary, subject to Resolution Agreement (re: petition before Commissioner of Education), all without prejudice to the Board’s rights and remedies.

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. All Members voted “yes” (\$7,396,394.99).

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

Public: Ronald Walker, Vineland Resident  
Mr. Walker expressed his concern in regards to what location his son should go to when taking the bus home.

Mr. Ottinger said he will go the Vineland High School tomorrow to make sure his son gets on the correct bus.

Board Member  
Remarks:

Mr. DeWinne wished all staff, students and athletes good luck in the new school year. He encouraged parents to encourage their children to get involved with extracurricular activities. Mr. DeWinne said it is the board’s job to make sure that these opportunities exist for the students. He thanked Mr. Ottinger for his years of services and wished him the best of luck and health on his retirement.

Mr. Ulrich wished everyone a successful school year. He thanked the principals who took the extra step and held programs at the opening of school. Thinking outside the box adds to the moral of the staff because people appreciate the extra effort done. Mr. Ulrich said it is important that we recognize that the schools cannot function without the support staff such as cafeteria and playground aides, security guards and bus drivers. Mr. Ulrich said he just heard a story about a young computer technician, Tony Rizzo, who works for Mr. Dantine and is getting raves throughout the district. He said he is a great young man who is doing a lot in helping teachers with their computers. Mr. Ulrich said it is those types of employees that make the district truly work. He congratulated Mr. Ottinger on his retirement.

Mrs. Phillips wished all the students a great school year and reminded them to always give their best. She said that she was honored to attend the Mennies School opening ceremony, which was very nice.

Mrs. Phillips said D'Ippolito School treated their staff as royalty at opening of school when they held "It's Showtime at D'Ippolito, which is great for moral. She commended Mr. Sullivan for the scheduling at the high school. Mrs. Phillips wished Mr. Ottinger the best on his retirement.

Mr. Franceschini said discussed at the Personnel & Policy Committee meeting was the Swine Flu H1N1 update. He said the district is formulating an Emergency Preparedness Committee, which will meet on Monday. Mr. Franceschini said our principals will be meeting with the Health Department on September 17 and they will be updated on precautions they should take for the students. He said they discussed a policy on board member review of applications for the interview process. There will be a few minor changes to that policy. Mr. Franceschini said they also discussed clubs and the number of participants needed to hold a club. He said they decided to have the principals give the committee a report in November on the average club attendance. Mr. Franceschini said they also discussed Policy #2418 RTI. Dr. Figgs has a formulated Policy and the first reading will be next month. Mr. Franceschini feels it is urgent to allow administration to go forward with the interviews for the hiring of the assistant principal at the high school since their policy will not be in place until November. He asked the boards consideration of the request.

Mr. DeWinne said he would like to wait on the hiring of the assistant principal.

Mr. Giordano asked his colleagues if they would like to move forward on the hiring of the assistant principal at the high school. The consensus of the board was to move forward with the interviews.

Mr. Franceschini wished Mr. Ottinger the best.

Mr. Fanucci commented that the first day celebrations held at D'Ippolito and Mennies Schools were great. He thanked all twelve month employees for getting the school year off to a good start. Mr. Fanucci wished Mr. Ottinger well and thanked him for all his years in the district.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked all staff, parents and students for getting the year off to a good start. He congratulated Mr. Ottinger on his retirement and wished him the best.

Ms. Rios asked if the 2009 Summer Reading Project is mandatory for all students. Mr. Ottinger said it is mandatory. Ms. Rios asked if the parents will be receiving their logon name and password in the mail for the Parent Portal System. Mr. Franchetta said we currently have the one system in place but unfortunately we do not have the homework assignments on it yet. Parents were given a temporary password to use and within the next couple of months we will have the other pieces intergraded. Mr. Franchetta said we wanted to have the teacher lesson plans working before bringing the parents in. Ms. Rios asked if parents who are logged on in the old system can use the same logon for the new system. Mr. Franchetta said we will probably notify the parents of new logons. Ms. Rios wished the best of luck to all students and staff. She thanked Mennies School for allowing her to be part of their first day of school opening celebration. Ms. Rios wished Mr. Ottinger the best of health and good luck in his future endeavors.

Mr. Bernardini apologized to Mrs. Arena for not being able to attend the Mennies School opening celebration. He thanked the maintenance department for all the work they accomplished this year. Mr. Bernardini wished all staff in the district a successful year. He said Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Johnson and Erica did a great job with the scheduling. Mr. Bernardini wished Mr. Ottinger the best on his retirement.

Mr. Ottinger thanked the Board of Education for all the opportunities they have given him, which he appreciates. He said he has had a great career in the district and it has been his pleasure to serve the students. Mr. Ottinger thanked all his associates Dr. Figgs, Dr. Gruccio, Ms. Greenfield, Mrs. Rafferty along with the people at the high school.

Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

Mr. Giordano echoed the comments made by his colleagues and wished the staff a safe, healthy, productive year. He wished Mr. Ottinger good luck on his retirement.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, September 9, 2009 and Wednesday, October 7, 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 meeting was adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA  
Board Secretary

KJF:df