RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

PERSONNEL (1.1a-1.1e)

1.1 The Board approve the following:
   a. Retirements, Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Employment, Transfers
   b. Substitutes
   c. Extracurricular Activities
   d. Summer
   e. Students

Mr. DeWinne asked Mr. English to explain the combined meeting process.

Mr. English said as what was done at our July meeting Dr. Gruccio will go through each item and he will ask for a motion and a second. He said at that point he will ask for questions or comments and once the item is fully discussed we will put it to a vote and move to the next item on the agenda.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we are hiring security guards. Dr. Rossi said not full time. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we are utilizing the outside agency for full time positions. Dr. Rossi said no we made four cuts at the high school for security this year and those guards went to other schools. Mr. DiGiorgio asked as openings take place with security personnel do we have a qualified list. Dr. Rossi said we are working with Mr. Provenzano to use part time hires.

Ms. Morello asked about the bus attendant hires. Dr. Rossi said the positions have been vacant for quite a long time and transportation needs to fill them to run the bus routes. Ms. Morello asked if these are attendants for special education students. Mr. Callavini, Transportation Supervisor, said these positions are bus attendants for special education. Ms. Morello asked if we have been using substitutes for this. Mr. Callavini said yes but we are now filling them with permanent positions.
Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we have ever utilized the services of an outside company for special education routes. Mr. Callavini said yes we have used the county consortium for several years.

Ms. Morello asked how we are doing in finding appropriate substitutes for the people who are on leave. Dr. Rossi said at this moment we have a fairly aggressive pool of substitute teachers and it is going well.

PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS (2.1 - 2.8)

2.1 The Board approve field trips and district travel.

2.2 The Board approve a partnership affiliation with Salus University, Elkins Park, PA to permit their speech/language pathology students to complete fieldwork in district during the 2015-16 school year.

Ms. Morello asked how this wonderful affiliation came to be. Mr. Frey said they contacted his office.

2.3 The Board re-approve the following policies:
(As required by the State for Title I) – [no changes have been made – only for re-approval]

Policy 2415 – No Child Left Behind Programs

Policy 2415.01 – Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability

Policy 2415.02 – Title I – Fiscal Responsibility

Policy 2415.03 – Highly Qualified Teachers
Policy 2415.04 – Title I – District Wide Parental Involvement

Policy 2415.05 – Pupil Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations

Policy 2415.06 – Unsafe School Choice Option

Policy 2415.20 – No Child Left Behind Complaints

2.4 The Board discussed only the approval of the first reading regarding the following policy:

Policy 8651 Community Use of Transportation (Revised)

**NO VOTE TAKEN ONLY DISCUSSION ITEM**

Mr. Jennings asked for a quick explanation of this. Dr. Gruccio said in the policy there was a ten day notice in order for us to provide busing for the community. We have now changed it to a one month notice.

2.5 The Board approve the new curriculum for the 2015-16 school year:

- High School Dance – Grades 9-12
- Sociology II – Grades 11-12

Mr. Jennings said he is impressed as to how fast the High School Dance curriculum was put together. He said the curriculum looks very detailed and finished.

Mr. English said he has been pushing very hard for this and dance was something we did not offer.
Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we currently have the Sociology II class. Mr. Frey responded yes.

Ms. Acosta echoed Mr. Jennings comments on the curriculum and said it is a very detailed excellent curriculum.

2.6 The Board approve the NJ Department of Education Waiver Applications N.J.A.C. 6:3A regarding Class Size and Teacher Observations to begin with the 2015-2016 school year.

Ms. Morello said Mr. Frey and administration were proactive in getting a class size waiver, which allows the district to have some flexibility. She said there is also a waiver for the teacher observation piece to reduce an observation for tenured staff. Ms. Morello said by reducing one observation and changing the configurations of the others it will allow the building principals to have a little more in depth time when they speak to their staff members and to focus on school based activities.

Ms. Rios said today she requested from Mr. Frey a schedule of the district class sizes.

2.7 The Board approve Consolidated Monitoring Reports Corrective Action Plan.

Ms. Morello hopes that as a district we make sure that everyone reaches out to the people at the grant sites to get help.

Mr. DiGiorgio thinks it is important that people at all levels have knowledge and training to make sure that administration has the necessary information to adhere to all the different nuances of these grants.
2.8 The Board approve the revised Fee Schedule for Use of School Facilities (to go along with Policy 7510).

Mr. DeSanto said Mr. English has requested for him to make a brief presentation on the revisions. He said as a result of discussions at the facilities committee meeting and among district administrators the Superintendent is recommending certain revisions to the Board’s Facilities Fee Schedule. Mr. DeSanto said the term fluid document is used frequently in connection with the budget and he believes that it is equally applicable to this fee schedule. He said a significant revision was adopted to the fee schedule in July with other revisions in August and now in September. Mr. DeSanto said new issues have come up and old issues that were not addressed need to be. He highlighted the changes to the fee schedule.

Ms. Morello asked why we have a stage supervisor because she thought we had an employee that was in charge of that. Ms. Mil Johnson, who was in the audience and handles the rentals for the district, said Mr. Ehrlich from the high school cannot be at both places so there are people in the middle schools who handle this. Ms. Morello asked if these fees cover the expenses of the district. Mr. Wayne Weaver, Director of Physical Facilities, said an adjustment was made and we are as close as we have ever been to covering our full operation costs.

Mr. DeWinne thanked Mr. DeSanto for his very thorough explanation on the revised fee schedule.

Mr. English said for many years our district was running in the red with the way our facilities were being rented out. He said we have made significant upgrades to many of our facilities, which cost the district a lot of money. Mr. English said this was not meant to single out any one person or organization as the rumors have been.
Mr. English said he along with Mr. Robbins, Athletic Director, do not support training out of district students. He said the fees will be reviewed again if adjustments need to be made.

Mr. DiGiorgio spoke in support of giving a better rate to our student athletes to use the facilities when they are being trained after hours.

Mr. Pagano said if the person who is running the clinic is making a profit then they should be paying to use our facilities.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (none)

FINANCE (4.1 - 4.16)

4.1 The Board approve the General, School Based and ECPA Budgetary Transfers for June 2015.

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

4.2 The Board approve the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports for June 2015.

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

4.3 The Board approve the placement of Special Education students.

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)
4.4 The Board approve the submission of the following grant applications:

a. The Competitive Grant Application for 2015 National School Lunch (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant for $37,110.25.

b. The FY 2016 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) application to the New Jersey Department of Education in the revised amount of $3,686,980 for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Ms. Morello asked if it is just a matter of filling out the paperwork to get the National School Lunch Equipment grant. Ms. Haley said yes and thanked Mr. Patel, Mr. Weaver and Mr. Lewis for their work on the grant. Ms. Morello asked if this grant will provide more efficient equipment. Dr. Gruccio responded yes. Mr. English asked Mr. Weaver if we continue to own that equipment. Mr. Weaver responded yes.

4.5 The Board approve to accept the following funding:

a. The FY 2016 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) grant from the New Jersey Department of Education in the amount of $3,686,980 for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
4.6 The Board approve to award a contract under a National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement to participate in the National Joint Powers Alliance #010615 to purchase office, school and other workplace-related supplies and service from September 9, 2015 through July 31, 2020 (including the one year optional extension) to Staples Advantage pursuant to the proposal submitted in response to the National Joint Powers Alliance, request for proposals, office, school and other workplace-related supplies and service. The Vineland Board of Education is permitted to join national cooperative purchasing agreements under the authority of N.J.S.A. 52:34-6.2(b) (3).

Ms. Morello asked for a brief explanation on this item. Ms. Haley explained that Staples used to have a State contract but in May they no longer had that and in order to use them we have to approve this National Cooperative Agreement.

4.7 The Board approve the agreement between Ark Educational Services and the Vineland Board of Education for virtual education services in the amount of $25 per hour from August 20, 2015 to August 20, 2016 in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Morello asked if this is more consistent and readily available home instruction. Mr. Frey said correct. Ms. Morello asked what happens if a student does not have the equipment to do the instruction. Mr. Frey said since he has been here he has provided it one time.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked how different Ark is from Educere. Mr. Frey said it is similar but condensed.
4.8 The Board approve the contract for in-school one-on-one nursing services with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. in the amount of $49 per hour for RN and $39 per hour for LPN from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

Ms. Morello asked Mr. DeSanto if he has reviewed this contract. Mr. DeSanto responded yes.

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

4.9 The Board approve a contract with Blackboard for Non-Erate Services effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of $32,074.90.

Ms. Morello asked if Blackboard is all of our school websites. Mr. Frey said yes and the call system. Ms. Morello said she is sure that all of our school websites are going to be magnificent and asked if the principals are happy about this. Ms. Arena expressed her concern off the microphone from the audience. Mr. Frey said he will speak with Ms. Arena later because it is totally the opposite of what he has seen.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we are under a time constraint for this item. Mr. Frey said no not at all. We put a lot of effort into this website and his suggestion would be to continue out the year. He said this was a decision made by a large group of individuals who went through many different website providers and chose this website based on its ease of access. Mr. Frey said there were over 20 people involved one of which was Ms. Arena.

All Members voted “yes” except Mr. DiGiorgio who was not present for the voted. (8-0-0)
Ms. Morello expressed her concern on the timeliness of the effective date of the Blackboard contract. Ms. Haley explained that it has been a contract that has been under review since June.

Mr. DiGiorgio stepped out from 8:13 p.m. and returned at 8:17 p.m.

4.10 The Board approve an agreement with Dreyfuss Speech Services, Inc. for Therapy Services for 2015-2016 in the amount of $80 per hour for speech language pathologists from September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Ms. Morello asked Mr. DeSanto if he reviewed this contract. Mr. DeSanto responded yes.

Mr. English asked why some contracts begin July 1st. Mrs. Haley said sometimes we do not receive the contracts timely. She said we send a lot of contracts to Mr. DeSanto to review and there are times they miss the cut off for the agenda.

Ms. Morello suggested putting on the contract in parenthesis “with services to begin after Board approval.”

Ms. Haley said she will reach out to the various departments for them to make a list of the contracts they deal with each year and create their own tickler file to keep track of.

Mr. Jennings asked where the $80 per hour for speech therapy derives from. Mrs. Haley said we budget for speech therapist salaries but if we do not have them we transfer funds from the speech therapist line to outside services. Ms. Godlewski said $80 per hour is the company rate.
Mr. DiGiorgio asked Ms. Godlewski if she is happy with the services these companies provide. Ms. Godlewski said yes they send quality people from our area.

Mrs. Haley said these services are also reimbursed through the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Services.

4.11 The Board approve the service agreement with Educational Based Services (EBS) for state-certified speech therapists in the amounts of $75-$85 per hour from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

4.12 The Board approve the 2015-2016 Joint Transportation Agreement between Glassboro Public Schools and the Vineland Board of Education in the amount of $1,159.40. All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

4.13 The Board approve the student transportation contract with Sheppard Bus Service for multi routes in the amount of $419,814 for September 3, 2015 through June 30, 2016 (Schalick/Compass/Various Vineland runs). All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

The first motion was suspended for public comments.

Ms. Morello asked how Sheppard Bus Service is doing. Mr. Callavini said it is the worst start that we ever had with Sheppard Bus Service.
Mr. English asked if we need Sheppard to do these runs. Mr. Callavini said at this point we need Sheppard. Mr. English said what he has been hearing about Sheppard is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. Mr. Callavini said Sheppard’s major issues were addressed this afternoon.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked what our options are besides Sheppard. Mr. Callavini said there are around three larger companies that have 54 passenger busing. He said they are not directly in the area and not bidding.

Mr. English said there is a reason they are not bidding. Mr. Callavini said they cannot provide the service at a cost effective means and Sheppard is able to. Mr. English feels he is settling for a company that is just not providing the service we thought we were going to get.

Ms. Morello said transportation and the superintendent should come up with a list of the problems that need solving and then have Sheppard do a presentation for the Board.

Ms. Rios wanted to emphasize on the importance of safety in our school district. She said we must try our best to be safe and keep our students safe. Ms. Rios said when we put our children’s safety at risk what explanation can we give to a parent when their child’s life is in jeopardy. She said this company has been with the district for years and gets paid to do a job so there is no excuse. Ms. Rios said we need to hold people liable for their actions and the numerous complaints we have received from parents are not acceptable.

Mr. Pagano said he agrees with Ms. Morello that we do have to sit down and discuss what the problems are. He said we should be sitting down within our own district and asking how we make this work and what is the problem.
Mr. Pagano said when you are at the mercy of an outside company this is what you get. He believes in taking care of business on our own so we do not have to be susceptible to these outside agencies. Mr. Pagano said we can control our own buses and make things work.

Ms. Morello said if this problem is ongoing Dr. Gruccio needs to direct people to get the information together to present it to Board members.

Mr. English said is he correct in saying that this requires a vote tonight or students will not be transported. Mr. Callavini said yes. Mr. English said the Board has control in making this situation better and you have to put the students first. He said there is a reason we need an outside vendor and this needs to be put to a vote.

Ms. Morello said Dr. Gruccio should send a letter to people in our government letting them know in Vineland, New Jersey there is no public transportation to take children to school. She said it is a rural area, the largest city in acreage in New Jersey and we need special consideration for transporting our students.

Mr. English said we identified the problem so let’s do something about it.

4.14 The Board approve the sale of a 54 passengers Bus number 8, VIN #4DRBUSKP6AB221509 on Govdeals.com.

Mr. English asked what is wrong with this bus that we are selling it. Mr. Callavini said it was totaled in an accident.
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4.15 The Board approve the donation of a piano from Charles Johnson to Durand Elementary School in accordance with Board Policy #7230, “Gifts, Grants and Donations”, approximately $500.00 value.

All Members voted “yes.”
(9-0-0)

4.16 The Board approve the Partnership Agreement between Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem and the Vineland Board of Education for school-based and high school-based mentoring programs in the amount of $12,000 in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and Superintendent of Schools.

All Members voted “yes.”
(9-0-0)
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