

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, October 2, 2013 at 7:02 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, Mr. Schectman, 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:

Resolution: Mr. Schectman read a resolution to convene into executive session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10-4-12 Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. (The nature of discussion is retirement request of non-classified employee and performance of administrative employees). **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity or person with respect to said discussion.

Motion: Upon motion by Dr. Mounier, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentations: Mr. Medio introduced Mr. Joseph Callavini, the Supervisor of Transportation, to honor Mr. Deane Charlson for his 50 years of dedicated service as a bus driver.

Mr. Callavini said Mr. Deane Charlson was a career veteran bus driver for over 50 years. He said during Mr. Charlson's tenure in the district he has transported approximately over 7,500 students and has driven over 375,000 miles. Mr. Charlson has transported kindergarten through twelfth grade students providing them with safe transportation, a kind word and a pencil/pen when needed. Mr. Callavini said it is an understatement to say that Mr. Charlson was an exemplary employee. He has accrued 540 sick days during the last 50 years, which is proof that he is at work every day transporting the students. Mr. Callavini introduced Mr. Kenneth Figgs who is here tonight on behalf of the Commissioner of Education to read a letter.

Mr. Figgs said he is very happy to be here tonight to honor Deane Charlson. He said that Mr. Charlson was his first bus driver. Mr. Figgs read a letter of thanks from the Commissioner of Education to Mr. Charlson.

Mr. Callavini introduced and presented a plaque to Mr. Deane Charlson.

Ms. Morello thanked Mr. Charlson on behalf of the board for all of his years of service.

Mr. Charlson thanked his family for putting up with him for the past 50 years. He also thanked the *Daily Journal* for the wonderful article along with John Sbrana for all the media attention he received. Mr. Charlson thanked all the bus drivers present and retired for all their support.

Mr. Medio recognized and thanked Jarivette Andujar, Carlos Mercado, Michelle Peranio and Debbie Savigliano for their donation of 1000 uniforms and 300 book bags to needy students in the Vineland Public School District.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB Report), Suspension Report, Cunningham Alternative School Report/Average Daily Attendance – Mrs. Polof presented the reports.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: Mr. DeSanto said administration has been in negotiations with Educational Based Services (EBS) to provide a speech therapist. He said the district has had difficulty in filling a couple speech therapist positions that are needed in working with our children with IEP's. Mr. DeSanto said we are very close to concluding the negotiations of the contract with one significant paragraph that he has insisted to be included. He said that paragraph is the only thing that is holding up the contract being acceptable to him for recommendation to the board for approval. If this paragraph is agreed upon within the next couple of days he requested for Dr. Gruccio to move this matter forward to next Wednesday as an emergent item.

Mr. Medio asked if any board member had an objection in proceeding this way. There were no objections. Mr. Medio said if we do not receive this corrected contract within a week we will look for another company.

Public Comment

On Agenda Items: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – Dr. Gruccio pulled “e. volunteers” off of the agenda.

Mr. English asked if the open food services positions have been posted. Dr. Rossi said we do not post until we see who from the current group would like to move up.

Mr. Jennings asked if volunteers will not be on the agenda next week. Dr. Gruccio responded yes. Mr. Jennings asked if this is a good idea. Dr. Gruccio said she had a conversation with Mr. Medio and Mr. Robbins, Athletic Director, and they both felt that at this point in time this is the right direction. She said the season is half over. Mr. Ulrich asked why we would not want a volunteer involved if there is not cost. Dr. Gruccio said she would email detail on this tomorrow to the board. Mr. DiGiorgio would like an update on the procedures for background and reference checks for volunteers in the district. Dr. Rossi said all background checks are done and if Mr. Robbins recommends an individual it is a reference to him. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the background check is a private record. Dr. Rossi said he has not released the background checks. Mr. Medio said this procedure does not imply any problem in regards to this volunteer.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

2.1 **Travel** – a. Field Trips, b. District, c. 2014 Softball Trip – Ms. Morello asked how the softball trip is funded. Dr. Gruccio said it is funded through fundraising. She said the only cost to the district is transporting the students to and from the airport.

2.2 **First Reading of Policies/Regulations**

Bylaw 0000.01- Introduction (revised)

Bylaw 0000.02- Introduction (revised)

Policy 3144.12- Certification of Tenure Charges – Inefficiency (NEW)

Policy 5120 – Assignment of Pupils (revised)

Policy 5300 – Automated External defibrillators (revised)

Policy 5512 – HIB (revised)

Policy 5533 – Pupil Smoking (revised)

Policy 7434 – Smoking in School Buildings and on School Grounds (revised)

Mr. Medio said next week he will discuss with the Personnel & Policy Committee separating Policies/Regulations that are state mandated from those that are school board initiatives.

2.3 **Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials** – Mr. Ulrich said everyone should become familiar with what needs to be reported to law enforcement authorities. He said there are a couple sections on reporting and the school district does report these incidents.

3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** – None.

4. **FINANCE**

4.1 **Budgetary Transfers** – Ms. Morello asked for an explanation on the school based cafeteria position transfers. Mr. Schectman explained that the three positions were employees working for the district and funded through the Ed Jobs Fund Program Grant. He said there is no longer any funding through this grant and an agreement was made to take funds that were reduced in the budget and move them to fund these three positions. Mr. Schectman said the funding came from the health benefit costs that were saved by the reduction of the guidance counselors. Ms. Morello asked if the guidance counselor positions and associated costs were cut from the budget to make a budget cut. Mr. Schectman responded yes. Ms. Morello asked how unbudgeted positions suddenly become budgeted and did the finance committee have knowledge of this. Mr. Schectman said he does not know because this preceded his tenure with the district.

Ms. Morello expressed her concern as to how many other things may have had the potential to be added in when we were cutting, reducing and restructuring positions. Dr. Guccio said we are finding a few things like this that were already done prior to Mr. Schectman arriving. Ms. Morello asked Dr. Guccio if she knew about this being done. Dr. Guccio said she did not.

Ms. Morello asked if the Inspira bill for over \$248,000 is alleged to have been for last year's services that were not paid for. Mr. Schectman said it is payment for last year's services. Ms. Morello said that she would like to know the details of the program because that is a large sum of money. Mr. DiGiorgio said he spoke about this today with Mr. Schectman. He said Mr. Schectman identified where the resources were derived from and additional information will be sent to the board. Mr. DiGiorgio said we are mandated to provide these services. Ms. Morello said this is a very expensive program and would like to know if it is actually fulfilling its mission. Mr. Schectman said he will forward the information to the board as soon as he receives it.

Mr. Ulrich asked if the cafeteria position transfers came out of school based budget money. Mr. Schectman said it was his understanding that the savings from the positions that were cut came from the school based budgets. Mr. Ulrich asked if it would be fair to say that the budget is a fluid document that changes and this money builds up throughout the course of the year with people leaving. Mr. Schectman said this occurred at the beginning of the school year and we have not had enough time yet to save money from positions that have been vacated. Ms. Morello said what is raising the question is they are unbudgeted positions that are here to be approved without any notations. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if it has been determined by the school that these are necessary positions. Mr. Schectman said it was requested by the principals. Mr. Ulrich asked when the Job Ed grant ran out. Mr. Schectman said he believes the grant ended June 30th. Mr. Ulrich asked how the remainder of the four million dollars was absorbed into the budget. Mr. Schectman said he does not know. Ms. Morello requested research to be done as to where this money was absorbed. Dr. Guccio said originally the Job Ed money was to bring back positions that were lost because of cuts in the budget.

- 4.2 **Placement of Special Education students** – No discussion.
- 4.3 **Cunningham School Petty Cash Funds** – No discussion.
- 4.4 **Non-Public Nursing, Technology and Textbooks Entitlements 2013-2014**– No discussion.
- 4.5 **Gloucester County Technical School Contact** – Mr. English would like to know how many students are attending this school and what the total cost is. Mr. Schectman said five students. Mr. English asked if we also transport these students. Mr. Schectman responded yes. Mr. English asked if the transportation cost is included in the contract. Mr. Callavini said up until this year we were part of the consortium that transported most of these students. He said this year due to the reconfiguring he had extra drivers so he brought this back in-house to save money.

Mr. Ulrich asked about the transportation of School Choice students. Mr. Callavini said we have combined the Performing Arts Program at Schalick with School Choice. Mr. Ulrich asked if we also have to pay for School Choice transportation. Mr. Callavini explained that School Choice students are treated like private school students who have a reimbursement clause. Mr. English requested the total number of students who are School Choice/Performing Arts students and what they are taking. Mr. English expressed his concern as to how we know that students are still taking these classes and not taking regular classes that we offer.

4.6 **Foster Grandparents Program** – No discussion.

4.7 **Catapult Learning Evaluation and Determination Agreement** – No discussion.

4.8 **Catapult Learning Chapters 192-193 Agreement** – No discussion.

4.9 **Catapult Learning IDEIA Agreement** – No discussion.

4.10 **Acceptance of funding for 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant** – Ms. Morello asked if there is a training component in this. Dr. Gruccio said she believes so. Ms. Morello said that we are spending large amounts of money on new technology coming into the district. She expressed her concern in regards to staff/technical training and implementation. Mr. Medio asked if this is a five year grant which will be finished the end of this year. Dr. Gruccio said that is correct. Mr. Medio asked if part of this funding is for the guidance counselor and a couple other positions at Landis Middle School. Dr. Gruccio said she believes it is from the Regional Achievement Center (RAC) funding that will end after this school year. Mr. Medio said that this needs to be looked into because those positions will become unfunded positions.

2. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR REGULAR AGENDA:

a. **Report by the Secretary of the Board of Education** – No discussion.

b. **Monthly Bills Incurred** – No discussion.

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

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Mr. DiGiorgio thanked Mr. Schectman for providing the detailed minutes of the Finance Committee meeting. He said discussed at the meeting was food service, transportation, current facility projects, the audit, assistant business administrator and head nurse positions.

Unfinished Business: Ms. Morello said a date needs to be scheduled with those who are involved with the superintendent's evaluation to review the work product before scheduling an appointment with the superintendent. She asked if 6:30 p.m. before next week's meeting is a good time. Everyone was in agreement with that date and time.

New Business: Ms. Rios about the uniform chart the board received. Dr. Guccio said that is the number of families who are requesting uniform assistance. Ms. Rios asked if all families were helped. Dr. Guccio responded yes and there are still a couple pending due to the availability of uniforms.

Mr. Ulrich said the police department is continuing the "Lunch with a Police Officer Program" in all of the elementary schools. He announced that on October 29, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. a Community Block Meeting will be held at D'Ippolito Elementary School. He said police officers will be going door to door in North Vineland to inform people to come on out and meet the police officers.

Ms. Morello said Dr. Guccio received a copy of a letter to Juliana Frankenfield who will be taped for Classroom Close-Up NJ, which is a NJEA sponsored program. She said the taping is titled Sign of Distinction, which will be done at Vineland High School on October 16, 2013. Ms. Frankenfield was honored this spring for her work as an American Sign Language Interpreter. She respectfully requested for Ms. Frankenfield to be honored at the board meeting for her outstanding work and dedication to her students.

Mr. English also requested the total costs for the vocational and school choice schools. He asked if all special needs students receive busing regardless of where they reside. Mr. Callavini said as part of their IEP the child team decides what type of transportation is needed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote to executive session at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert G. Schectman
Board Secretary

HGS:df

