

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, October 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Evans, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Ms. Rios, Mr. Spinelli 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:

Kourtney Arena, Jack Choko, Jasmine Glover, Zaire Loatman, Tristan Mayer, Zachary Ross and Sera Snyder, students from Mennies Elementary School, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Lisa Arena, Principal of Mennies School and Kristen Estep, Assistant Principal were also in attendance.

Special

Presentation (s):

Mr. Ottinger introduced Mr. Mark Roskoski to present the student spotlight.

Mr. Roskoski introduced and congratulated Scott Huston and Jeffrey Walters students who have been competing in Olympic weightlifting and won gold medals at the AAU Junior Olympics.

Mr. Giordano thanked the Mr. Huston and Mr. Walters for the pride that they brought to the district.

Mr. Ottinger introduced Dr. Keith Figgs, Assistant Superintendent, to review the 2007-2008 Violence and Vandalism Report.

Dr. Figgs said based on Statute 18A:17-46 we are required to have a public hearing every year whereby a report is given to the board on all acts of violence and vandalism for the previous school year. He said this data is based on the 2007-2008 school year. Dr. Figgs emphasized that this has been verified through the State Department of Education under the Violence and Vandalism Reporting System. He said the principals are the ones who decide what is reportable to the state. Dr. Figgs said principals are provided with definitions and specific scenarios so they know exactly what to report.

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Dr. Figgs said we have gone down significantly in most areas. He said most of the violence incidents dealt with fights. Dr. Figgs said in regards to weapons possession these are things that are considered weapons other than firearms such as knives, chains, or razor blades. He said ten of the substance abuse incidents were confirmed use of substances and seven were possession. Dr. Figgs said we went down in the incidents involving vandalism to the district however; there is an increase in the cost, which a breakdown is provided. He said in regards to the actions taken we had no expulsions or long term suspensions, which are ten or more consecutive days. However; we had a number of short term suspensions, which has gone down. Dr. Figgs said we have also gone down in most areas on offender information and victim information. He said we have taken a great deal of pride in the fact that our numbers have gone down in regards to incidents. Dr. Figgs said one of Mr. Ottinger's first acts as superintendent was to make sure that every school was uniform in regards to discipline. He gave us the opportunity to sit down at the high school, middle school and elementary school level to develop uniform discipline guides. Dr. Figgs said we continue to use our Peer Mediation Program where adults are trained in each school. We have student assistant counselors available to the students to address substance abuse and health and social service coordinators in each school who conduct anger management groups. Dr. Figgs said we continue to have a very successful Giraffe Program at the elementary school level. He said we have a positive relationship with our juvenile officers and fire department to provide support when needed. We continue to have Random Acts of Kindness Week and all staff members are reminded of the importance of our Bullying/Harassment Policy. Dr. Figgs said we have Violence Awareness Week the third week in October where the schools conduct activities coordinated through the school principal. The board approved the Developmental Guidance Program where the focus is on teaching character traits and alternatives to violence. Dr. Figgs said finally our guidance counselors have an opportunity to be trained in using a number of websites that deal with the area of violence prevention and these lessons are shared with the students.

Mr. Evans asked why there were 176 incidents reported with 223 offenders. Mr. Ulrich said because there was more than one offender per incident.

Mr. Ottinger introduced Dr. Mary Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent, to review the district test scores.

Dr. Gruccio explained that usually this presentation is shared with the board in August however; the tests were administered later in the year and we just recently received the results back. She thanked Donna Nedohon, Steve Dantine, Andrea Evans and Carey Savage for giving her a tremendous amount of their time in putting this presentation together. Dr. Gruccio said we have exceeded the benchmarks for third grade in language and math. She said there were only two schools in grades three that did not meet the benchmarks in language arts. Dr. Gruccio said all schools exceeded the benchmark in math. She said we missed the benchmark for grade four in language arts by 2% and exceeded the benchmark in math. Dr. Gruccio said we continue to also show growth in science however; the state has not set a benchmark. She said five of our elementary schools did not meet the benchmark in language arts and all eight exceeded the benchmark in math. Dr. Gruccio said not only have our benchmarks been raised but in grades five through eight the test was made harder and the percentage of correct answers to become proficient or advanced proficient was increased. She said that is why there is a decline in the fifth grade. Dr. Gruccio said for middle school we did meet the benchmark as a district in math but did not meet it in language arts in any of the middle schools. She said three out of our four middle schools exceeded the benchmark in math. Dr. Gruccio said as a district in grade seven we did not meet the benchmark in language arts or math. She said for eighth grade the district did not meet the benchmark in math but exceeded it in language arts. Dr. Gruccio said at the high school level we did not meet the benchmark in math but there was an increase in general and total population. She said in summary both in third and fourth grades the tests did not change however; the benchmarks have been increased. In grades five through eight the test has been redesigned with more rigor and number of questions to be scored proficient or advanced proficient has increased with an increase in the required benchmarks. Dr. Gruccio said that is why we can not compare the schools last year in grades five through eight when it comes to this year's scores. She said the benchmarks have increased at the high school as well. Dr. Gruccio said we feel that at all levels we need to continue to analyze the data and use it to help us drive the instruction on what we are doing in the classroom. We need to monitor student progress by utilizing the district and state benchmarks that we receive and need to continue our focus on academic rigor.

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Dr. Guccio said we need to continue to provide professional development. We are putting a focus on writing and higher order thinking skills particularly at the middle school level. Dr. Guccio said we are going to fine tune the implementation of our small learning communities and continue to focus on academic rigor and personalization. We are going to encourage our principals at the middle and high school level to participate more in leadership training through the partnership we are developing with Rowan University and the state. Dr. Guccio said we want to place major emphasis on our limited English proficient students particularly at the middle school level. She knows some of these scores look like they went down drastically but she asked the board to keep in mind the three reasons why. We need to look at achievement through a much wider lens than test scores. Dr. Guccio said it is important for us to remember that we have to look at a variety of things when we evaluate or assess a child. She said our teachers and principals are working hard and we are going to continue to do the very best that we can.

Mr. Spinelli asked how the interventions are being applied in the classroom. Dr. Guccio said the RTI is a new federal mandate and we are implementing that currently. Mr. Spinelli asked if these are borderline students. Dr. Guccio explained that every child is universally screened and the students that show they are struggling will get small group attention by the teacher. Mr. Spinelli asked if our special need students are included. Dr. Guccio said yes if they are mainstreamed into a regular classroom.

Mr. Ulrich asked if there are any statistics out to see how we compare to other urban districts. Dr. Guccio said she does not have those statistics at this time. Mr. Ulrich said he would like to see how the education of the other districts reflects with the test scores.

Mr. DeWinne said he agrees with Dr. Guccio that not every student tests well. He asked if the state does not change the benchmarks will we have those same exclusions three years from now. Dr. Guccio said we will continue what we are doing to achieve and increase our scores. She said if the same thing happens in another three years we could be in the exact same situation. Mr. DeWinne asked if we will lose anything such as funding if these scores are not brought up. Dr. Guccio said no. Mr. Ottinger said it would depend on what happens with No Child Left Behind.

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Mr. Ottinger said the presently No Child Left Behind calls for reorganization after you are six years in need of improvement. He said currently No Child Left Behind is yet to be renewed.

Mr. Giordano said if he had his way he would cut standardized testing and let the teachers teach like they use to teach. He said each year either language arts or math is either up or down. Mr. Giordano asked what would be the reason for this besides the factor that was mentioned. Dr. Guccio said this year they think language arts was lower because the students had to achieve twenty five percent more correct answers.

Mr. Bernardini said it seems like early childhood helped with the scores up to third grade and we were going in an upward position. Dr. Guccio said Mr. Savage has been working on statistics and it did show that students who were in preschool two years did better on the third grade test.

Mr. Giordano asked what the over all goal of the state is when they raise the benchmarks and standards. Dr. Guccio said she wished that she knew.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. Spinelli, the Board approved the minutes from August 27, 2008, September 3, 2008, September 10, 2008 and September 17, 2008. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Franceschini and Mr. Spinelli who voted “yes” for all minutes but “abstained” on September 10, 2008.

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of August 2008, 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 at last week's work session the board referred the proposed policy on student publications and photographs to the policy committee. He said it is his understanding that the policy committee is recommending the policy to the superintendent for his recommendation to the board. Mr. DeSanto said under Bylaw 0131 the board can act promptly on a policy if they are inclined to do so as long as the superintendent recommends it and a majority of six board members adopt it. He said it is his understanding that it has been a tradition in the schools that the photographs are done in the fall, which may be sufficient reason to implement this policy as an accommodation to the parents.

Mr. Franceschini said the Personnel & Policy Committee reviewed the policy and felt that it was sufficient. He said the committee would recommend this to the board. Mr. Giordano said this could be added in with the recommendations.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations: See page 7

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Board waive the time requirements for review according to Policy #0131 “Bylaws and Policies” and adopt Policy #5723, “Student Publications – Photographs.

2. The Board approve the following personnel items in accordance with the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:
 - a. List of retirements
 - b. List of resignations/terminations
 - c. List of leaves of absence
 - d. List of employment of personnel
 - e. List of transfers, assignments and/or promotions
 - f. List of student assistants and New Jersey Youth Corps
 - g. List of substitute personnel
 - h. List of extracurricular assignments

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Franceschini who voted “yes” on all items but “abstained” on A.1 (e) name #5. (9-0-0)

Mr. Spinelli asked if the extended day program is for academic after school help. Ms. Greenfield said it is after school tutoring. Mr. Spinelli asked if the coordinators for the program are teaching. Ms. Greenfield said she does not know. Mr. Spinelli feels it would be better having a teacher teach then having a coordinator, which is costing the district \$4,000.00.

Mr. Franceschini asked who oversees the coordinator. Ms. Greenfield said the principal.

Mr. Spinelli said he would vote “yes” on everything except the coordinator until he knows what the responsibilities are.

Mr. Giordano asked for a job description for the coordinator. Ms. Greenfield said no such description exists.

Mr. Ottinger said if the board concurs the coordinator position could be pulled from the agenda until we find out what the coordinator does.

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Dr. Figgs explained that this is the fifth year of the 21st Century Program, which is a grant we receive from the state. He said the coordinator for this program is involved in setting up parent activities, required to attend training, required to see that students are registered and kept on a regular attendance basis. Dr. Figgs said we are held accountable to the State of New Jersey in regards to the outcome of those programs. He said the coordinator for the 21st Century Program has been in place for the last four years, which is mandated by the state.

Mr. Spinelli asked if this program is at the high school. Dr. Figgs said no at Landis Middle School. Mr. Spinelli said if this is going to hinder students being tutored then he would vote for this but would still like to receive an explanation. Mr. Ottinger said he would like an explanation also.

Mr. Giordano asked if the liaisons are other positions. Ms. Greenfield said they are the same as the coordinators.

Mr. Spinelli said he would like to have all the coordinator positions removed except for the mandated one. Ms. Greenfield said her concern is that we may have already board approved a few other coordinators. Mr. Spinelli said he is not asking for those positions to be rescinded but would also like an explanation on them.

Mr. Giordano asked why is there a rehire under employment. Ms. Greenfield said this was a non-tenured ESL teacher that we had to let go and we now have funding for that position.

Mr. Franceschini asked if we know what all these coordinators do. Ms. Greenfield said they work with the teachers and review the student’s material. Mr. Franceschini asked if we fund the coordinators or is it through a grant. Ms. Greenfield said we fund them.

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Mr. Ottinger congratulated Mary Michelle Bocchetti on her promotion as Supervisor of Early Childhood Education.

3. The Board establish and create the position of Fiscal Analyst with the agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and the Administrative/Auxiliary Personnel Contract.

Mr. DeWinne asked for an explanation on this position. Mr. Spinelli said this was due to a desk audit. He said Civil Service stated that this individual was doing a different job and this position would move them to a different pay scale. Mr. Spinelli said the difference in pay this year was about \$1,400.00.

4. 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" except for Mr. Giordano who "abstained."
 (8-0-1)

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

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

- a. General Fund
- b. School-Based Budgets
- c. ECPA

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

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

- a. National Constitution Center
Young Citizens Scholarship Grant
Petway Elementary School
In the amount of ----- \$ 500.00
(for admissions)
\$ 200.00
(for transportation)
- b. Wal-Mart Grant
Mennies Elementary School
In the amount of ----- \$ 1,000.00
- c. Dollar General Youth Literacy Grant
Mennies Elementary School
In the amount of ----- \$ 3,000.00
- d. State of New Jersey Department of Education
Individuals with Disabilities Education
Improvement Act (IDEIA)
September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009
Basic Allocation (3-21) ----- \$2,806,655.00
Preschool Allocation (3-5) ----- \$ 92,976.00
- e. New Jersey Office of Human Services
Strengthening Families Program
Durand Elementary School
January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009
In the amount of ----- \$ 53,094.80

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

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8. Bids:

- a. The Board acknowledge receipt of bids as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the following items in the amount shown:

Janitorial Cleaning Products

Award:

Eagle Maintenance Supply, Inc.

Pennsauken, New Jersey

In the amount of ----- \$142,095.98
 (Estimate)

- 9. 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.

- 10. The Board approve the appointments of staff of Federal Programs salaries and funding percentages for the 2008 – 2009 school year as per the names provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

- 11. The Board approve the Annual Maintenance Reserve Deposit Worksheet (Form M-1) indicating the required deposit in the 2009 – 1010 budget.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

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

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

18. The Board authorize the awarding of a contract to Secret Service Band in accordance with Board Policy #3230, Guideline #5, "Outside Activities."

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

19. The Board accept the donation of a 6-stone U. S. Armed Forces statuary from Salvia Meritzio to Veterans Memorial Middle School at a cost of \$4,500.00 in accordance with Board Policy #7230, "Gifts, Grants and Donations."

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

Mr. Bernardini requested for the board to be notified if there is a dedication so they could be present.

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

1. Adopt the following goals formulated at the Special Board Meeting on September 17, 2008, and direct the Superintendent to develop action plans for the implementation and achievement of these goals:

Goal #1 Evaluate and provide periodic updates and report on the progress of the Secondary School Initiative (Small Learning Communities).

Goal #2 Improve internal and external district relations by fostering positive interaction and improve interaction with community and district employees.

Goal #3 Maintain consistency of policies and programs throughout the district to ensure there is articulation of curriculum throughout the district at all grade levels and schools. Furthermore, sustain consistency in district policies which include, but are not limited to, hiring practices, discipline policy, safety and security accountability.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, to approve the above goals. All Members voted “yes.”

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by, seconded by Mr. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$5,523,328.09).

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

Public: None.

Mr. Giordano said in regards to Goal #1 he would like a brief update given to the board each week from Mr. Ottinger on the problems and solutions encountered at the high school.

Mr. Bernardini said he was invited to common planning time at the high school with the liberal arts group and listened to some of their concerns. He said after observing the students walking back and forth between buildings he noticed that some were moving at a fast pace and others slow. Also some students were smoking and others were going to their cars. Mr. Bernardini said we currently have four buses at the high school and feels we need eight. He said that it should be mandated that the students have to get on the bus with security present.

Mr. Spinelli said during the Personal & Policy Committee meeting they discussed security. He said Mr. Ottinger stated that he was going to speak with both principals to make sure that students go directly to the bus area and enter the building in the same area. Mr. Spinelli said if administration wants to mandate that students must take the bus back and forth it is something they could do.

Mr. Bernardini said the board should mandate uniforms like other districts in the area have done. He feels this would help with the security problems.

Mr. Ulrich said it is clear what needs to be done and there should be a minimum number of student switching buildings.

Mr. Bernardini asked if there is any way to possibly upgrade the scheduling during the holidays. Mr. Ottinger said some of these issues have nothing to do with the program that we are implementing. He said the problem with students being late to class has been a problem for the twelve years that he was there. Mr. Ottinger said he has been at the high school every single day to watch what is going on. We understand the problem and know that there are a lot of students going back and forth. Mr. Ottinger said this year he does not anticipate dramatic changes to the schedule. He said at every high school somebody is smoking. Mr. Ottinger said he knows that people do not dress appropriately are late for class and at times misbehave. He emphasized that happens no matter what the program is.

Mr. Giordano urged staff members to continue to forward their concerns to the superintendent. He knows that Mr. Ottinger will address it and include in his update to the board. Mr. Giordano asked Mr. Franchetta to forward last week's work session public comments to Mr. Ottinger.

Mr. Franceschini said he would like the small learning communities to be the main topic at next month's curriculum and technology meeting. He said possibly an Ad Hoc Committee could be appointed to bring people together to come up with solutions. Mr. Spinelli asked solutions to what. Mr. Franceschini said technology issues, curriculum and the advocacy program. He said that he would rather not wait for next year to change things if there are possible changes we can do during the year, we need to do it.

Mr. Giordano said the board's goal is to make sure that every issue is answered as quickly as they come across with written documentation.

Mr. Ottinger said the board has automatically assumed that everything they heard was accurate without hearing from the high school administration. He said some of the things brought up were already addressed. Mr. Ottinger said as these issues come to the forefront we check every single one of them out and try to address them. Mr. Ottinger said he has a list of any special education or 504 cases that are out of compliance, which are not related to small learning communities. He said there were no dramatic violations of that type. Mr. Ottinger said he does not have a problem keeping the board updated in regards to Goal #1. However; he does have a serious problem with the board becoming too involved in this and insinuating that administration can not handle it. Mr. Ottinger said this is not something the board should be involved in nor should they be in the schools meeting with teachers during the school day. He said all the issues brought before the board, besides the scheduling issue, have been answered. Mr. Ottinger said he would be glad to provide an update to the board and will continue to monitor what is going on. He thinks the advocacy program at the high school is a fantastic program. Mr. Ottinger said there are children in this community that absolutely need help and have no one to go to. He wants the board to know that there are certain aspects that he is committed to. Mr. Ottinger said our concern, when we implemented this program, was to address the fact that our school is in its sixth year of needs of improvement and many of the students at the school are not being served. He said that he will report to the board on a monthly basis and will work hard to make sure that many of the concerns voiced by our teachers will be alleviated.

Mr. Giordano said that Mr. Ottinger stated he would report on a monthly basis. He said the board asked for a weekly report so they will compromise for a report every two weeks. Mr. Ottinger said he does not think there will be enough information to report every two weeks.

Ms. Rios asked if the advocacy program is one on one. Mr. Ottinger said it is a teacher and a group of students. He said the total concept is the teacher would have that group of students all four years of their high school career. Ms. Rios asked what type of information the students are disclosing to these teachers in front of other students. Mr. Ottinger said they are not forced to disclose any information in front of other students. He said students development relationships with certain teachers and some students would confide things to teachers that they would not confide to their parents. Ms. Rios said her concern was not with the teacher but with the students and what they could disclose to other students. Mr. Ottinger said he would hope the teacher would cut off discussion that involves confidentiality.

Mr. Spinelli asked if the teachers in the advocacy program are responsible for making home contacts. Mr. Ottinger responded yes and the parents are required to come in twice a year to see each of their advocates.

Mr. Bernardini asked if there is a homeroom the student reports to on a daily basis. Mr. Ottinger responded no. Mr. Bernardini asked if it would better for the teacher who has the student every day to be part of the advocacy. Mr. Ottinger said the teacher would only have the students for one year and the concept is that you have the students for four years.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. DeWinne said he never assumes anything and tries to find the facts. Mr. Ottinger said he did assume and apologizes if that was a bad assumption.

Mr. Spinelli said there seemed to be a perception last week by the staff that spoke that there was a lack of communication or lack of accepting a contrary opinion by the administrators in the buildings from their teaching staff. Mr. Ottinger said how he addressed that is he went to the high school and spoke with teachers who were not here last week. He said that some teachers did tell him that in some cases it was difficult to communicate with some administrators. Mr. Ottinger said that is not the case with every administrator and every situation. Mr. Spinelli said he is concerned and would just like it reiterated to the administrators to please be as understanding with the staff as possible.

Mr. Ottinger said the district has made a decision to go in this direction and he does not want to change things just because we received criticism. He is trying to decipher the genuine legitimate concerns.

Mr. DeWinne said hopefully communication between the staff, parents, administration and board is something we can have more of.

Mr. Spinelli asked if there has been any conversation in regards to doing away with partial blocks and going to a regular schedule. Mr. Ottinger said he does not think you will see that for this year. He said what he discussed with administration was to decide what the schedule would be and to make sure it can be implemented while adhering to the provision of the teaching contract. To see that time allotment is allocated for the school day and that foremost the students are all assigned to their learning communities. Mr. Ottinger said unfortunately the most serious mistake was not making sure we had this schedule under control for the opening of school.

Mr. Ulrich said last week he saw frustration among workers and parents. He said often times a bad or good perception will drive what we think is reality. Mr. Ulrich does not think that any one of us believes everything you see and we need to be flexible. He suggested possible sending an anonymous feedback survey out to staff and students to see how they perceive things and if they are happy with the small learning communities. Mr. Ulrich said without feedback we can never really gauge how we are doing. He said everyone has the right to bring their grievances forward and any type of discussion should involve parents and teachers.

Mr. Fanucci asked what the normal chain of command is. Mr. Ottinger said administrative assistant, assistant principal, principal, superintendent and board. Mr. Fanucci said he thinks it is important that we do not forget about the rest of the district. He asked if extra security is put in the schools on election days. Mr. Ottinger said he is pretty sure that we do.

Mr. Bernardini said he did not go to the high school to undermine administration. He needed to go there to get a personal view on what is going on. Mr. Bernardini said we have a problem if Mr. Ottinger does not like board members going to the high school. He said he intends to go back to the high school again because he thinks there are still

problems there that need addressed.

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Mr. Bernardini asked if we still have planning committees. Mr. Ottinger said each school is supposed to but it is not required anymore. He said the first time he heard that Mr. Bernardini was over at the high school was tonight in public. He said board members obviously visit the schools and when they are there people want to speak to them, which he understands. Mr. Ottinger said he would like to hear the concerns a board member has after visiting a school. Mr. Bernardini said he went through Dr. McCann's office before moving through the school. He said he did not contact Mr. Ottinger because he was busy all day out of town.

Mr. Ulrich said we need to focus on all the good things that are going on in the district.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Giordano said we are in a position where we need to listen to everybody. He thinks every one of last week's concerns were legitimate. Mr. Giordano said the board needs a bi-weekly report on the school learning communities not a monthly report. He asked if we have a time frame for testing the small learning communities. Mr. Ottinger said a time frame for the small learning communities would be the board's decision. He hopes this program works because he sincerely believes in his heart that good things will be in store for the students.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, October 8, 2008** regarding pending litigation and **Wednesday, November 5, 2008** regarding personnel matters and pending litigation.

Motion:

Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF: