

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, November 2, 2011 at 7:04 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Guccio and Dr. Elliott, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Director of Special Education, Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. Ulrich 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

Presentations:

Dr. Banks said at this time deceased K-9 Clif will be recognized for his dedication to the citizens of Vineland as a member of the Vineland Police Department.

Mr. Franchetta read the following Proclamation recognizing K-9 Clif.:

RECOGNIZING DECEASED POLICE CANINE "CLIF" FOR HIS  
DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF VINELAND AS  
A MEMBER OF THE VINELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

**WHEREAS**, K-9 Clif was born in the Czech Republic in July 2006. He was imported by Tarheel K-9 Services from North Carolina and purchased from them in January 2008.

**WHEREAS**, K-9 Clif became a member of the Vineland Police Department in May 2008 after completing 16 weeks of K-9 Patrol School and graduating from the Atlantic County John "Sonny" Burke K-9 Academy.

**WHEREAS**, K-9 Clif was adopted by the Thomas W. Wallace Jr. Middle School after graduating from patrol school.

**WHEREAS**, K-9 Clif and Sergeant William Bontcue have completed approximately 20 demonstrations at most of the Vineland Public Schools.

**WHEREAS**, K-9 Clif had a great temperament around children and the public, which was critical to the ongoing Community Policing Functions required in today's modern law enforcement agencies.

**WHEREAS**, K-9 Clif's temperament was switched off when it came to a law enforcement apprehension or search in which K-9 Clif excelled thus making him an invaluable asset to our police agency.

**WHEREAS**, K-9 Clif was tragically killed on October 10, 2011 by a motorist after completing a search for a burglary suspect.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by Dr. Maryann Banks and the Vineland Board of Education, that the citizens of Vineland express their warm appreciation and gratitude to **Police K-9 Clif** for his dedicated service as a Police Canine for the City of Vineland and its citizens.

Mr. Ulrich presented on behalf of the Vineland Board of Education a memorial plaque to Sergeant William Bontcue for his and K-9 Clif's service. He said police K-9's are part of the community policing philosophy and part of the training is to show the public what police K-9's can do. Mr. Ulrich said he personally has seen what Clif has done in the school district and it is a loss to the school district and City of Vineland.

Sergeant Bontcue thanked the board. He said Clif was friendly with all the students but when he was working he knew that he did not have to be friendly to the bad guys. Sergeant Bontcue said we loved Clif as a dog and because of Clif we did not have to jeopardize a police officer, which helps the public as well as the officers.

The board recessed into executive session at 7:09 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:34 p.m.

Comments by  
Board Solicitor:

Mr. DeSanto said at the last board meeting a lease with the State of New Jersey was approved by the board for the Almond Road property.

Mr. DeSanto reported to the board that a meeting has been scheduled this Friday at 1:00 p.m. with a representative from the State Division of Buildings and Grounds. He said the discussion will be in regards to the renewal of the lease and issues concerning the right of first refusal or option to buy.

Mr. DeSanto said he wanted to update the board on the long and never-ending saga of the VHS track. He is pleased to inform the board that Mr. DiGeronimo the previous track consultant, who has incredible credentials, has assured him that in a week to ten days will submit his report on the track. Mr. DeSanto said Mr. DiGeronimo did the testing, specs and has all the history on the track. He is confident that Mr. DiGeronimo is now prepared to go forward. Mr. DeSanto said he will keep the board informed and once he receives the report will distribute it to the board members.

Mr. DeSanto said an issue has come up with respect to the Open Public Records Act procedures. He distributed to the board the guidelines from the Government Records Council along with the board policy that applies to public information requests. Mr. DeSanto said whenever anyone makes a request under OPRA that request must be in writing. He said under OPRA there are certain enforcement requirements that state the request must be in writing. Mr. DeSanto said there are certain things that are held confidential but when there is a matter on the agenda that information is taken out of confidential and made public. He said if an applicant is being considered for a position and is on the work session, then that applicant's resume is available to the board and public.

Mr. English asked if an item is on the work session agenda and is pulled from the regular meeting agenda what would happen to a request after an item is pulled from the agenda. Mr. DeSanto said once an item makes the agenda it is part of a public meeting and record. Mr. English asked if the process is that the requests go to Mr. Franchetta. Mr. DeSanto explained that Mr. Franchetta was designated by the board as the records custodian under OPRA. Mr. English asked Mr. Franchetta if he notifies Dr. Banks before a request is sent out. Mr. Franchetta said he receives numerous OPRA requests each day. If he believes an OPRA request is of importance he will call it to Dr. Banks attention.

Mr. Ulrich said Dr. Banks has never denied a board member the ability to review a resume. He said the board was under the impression that they could not be removed from the board office.

Mr. Mercado asked if in the future it would be possible to receive the recommended applicants' resumes in their board packets. Mr. DeSanto said yes the recommended applicants. He said the resumes can be released to the press and public when the work session begins at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Medio asked where the idea came from that the board members could not be given the resumes. Mr. Ulrich said as long as he has been on the board that has been the practice until being recently brought to light. Mr. Fanucci said this has been the practice and an issue for a long time.

Mr. DeSanto said the issue over the years has generally been about seeing the resumes of the people who are interviewed. He said individuals are given rights of privacy and could be employed somewhere else. Mr. DeSanto said the board is only allowed to act upon the recommendations of the superintendent and cannot select.

Mr. Medio said he sent an email in regards to discussing board members being involved in the interview process of administrators/supervisors and did not see it under B on the agenda. He also wanted to discuss how students are being sent to the Cunningham Alternative School and requested a weekly report on how many students are being sent. Mr. Medio asked when it was decided that board members could not be involved in the interview process. Mr. Ulrich said he spoke to the New Jersey School Boards Association about this issue and was told that according to statute the superintendent is the only person who can bring a recommendation to the board of education for hire. He said as a matter of process, through policy, the board can control how applicants enter the district and what process they go through. Mr. DeSanto said the board is supposed to maintain independence and objectivity on all votes. If two or three board members are involved in an interview committee and they advocate for a different individual to be hired then the superintendent the process is flawed. Mr. DeSanto said the board has to hold the superintendent accountable as to why she believes that candidate is the best candidate for the job. He said the New Jersey School Boards Association adamantly opposes any pre-recommendation participation by the board. Mr. Ulrich said we as a board should strive to have the best hiring practices in place.

Dr. Mounier said there is a very clear distinction between interviewing and advocating. He does not see anything wrong with board members interviewing someone as long as they do not advocate.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the board members are permitted to see evaluations of past hires. Mr. DeSanto said the personnel files are privileged except for certain exceptions. He said board members are allowed to view the files on a need to know basis.

Dr. Mounier feels it is a good idea to get to know the person who is being selected and to open up the process to more than the personnel committee.

Ms. Rios said the candidates are presented to the Policy & Personnel Committee, which she gives a monthly report on. She always urges board members to contact her or anyone on the Policy & Personnel Committee with any questions they may have on a candidate.

Mr. English questioned the hiring process used and asked if board members can sit it on the interviews without participating. Mr. DeSanto said the NJ School Boards Association has always been concerned that when board members are actively involved or observing they will form an opinion.

Mr. Medio said a school board member's job is to make sure the district is well run. He said board members represent the public and the public should be represented in the top jobs in the district. Mr. Medio said he does not see a big problem with doing this. He said the process is more likely to be unduly influenced by a superintendent who is in direct day to day charge of the people doing the interviewing than board members who are on a level playing field. Mr. DeSanto said the points that Mr. Medio is making could be made if this was a meeting of the legislature. He said the fact remains that Title 18A currently states "the superintendent makes a recommendation." Mr. DeSanto said the board can set up a process with the personnel committee to develop uniform questions that are matters of importance to the board.

Mr. Ulrich said the board's power lies in good sound policies that meet the needs of our district. He disagrees with putting our hands in something when there are many skilled people to do it.

Mrs. Phillips said years ago board members were on the interview committee and some slept through the entire interview. She does not feel board members should be a part of the interview process.

Mr. DiGiorgio said once you are hired as a principal, supervisor or administrator you are staying, which must mean you are doing the best job in the world. He asked what the past track record has been and do we always get the perfect candidate. Mr. DiGiorgio said the data is what he looks at most of the time and if you hire the right people your district is going to do well. Mr. Ulrich said when you look at the data that we just received our general education population is doing much better. He thinks it is up to Dr. Banks and if there are problems she needs to be informed. Mr. DiGiorgio said he is just looking at the results and we just received a letter that we are a district in need of improvement, which is not Dr. Banks' fault.

Mr. Medio said you get to the point where you cannot have a conversation and point out methods that have been used and worked. He said you are criticized that you are trying to change something that is working great or blaming someone that you are not blaming at all. Mr. Medio said in his estimation we are just saying that certain people should have more of a say on how things are done.

Dr. Mounier said our solicitor said that having board members on the interview committee is a liability because they might form opinions. He said if the board is not sitting up here to form opinions then we might as well go home. Mr. Ulrich said anyone is free to call Ms. Zoerb or the NJ School Boards Association Attorney, Michael Kaelber. He said there is no regulation that prohibits board members from being involved. Mr. DeSanto said he was trying to explain the rationale behind the School Boards Association admonition of board members being involved. He said everyone is entitled to their opinion and he was not saying board members should not form opinions. Mr. DeSanto said he is talking about prejudice.

Mr. Ulrich departed at 8:28 p.m.

Dr. Elliott presented the Bullying & Suspension Report for October 2011. She said there were 77 total reported cases for October. She said 32 were found to be bullying and 45 were non-bullying. Dr. Elliott said Vineland High School North/South and Wallace Middle School will be reported at the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and are not included in tonight's counts. She said Cunningham Alternative School had a total of two reports and both were unsubstantiated. Barse Elementary had five total reports and all five were unsubstantiated. D'Ippolito Elementary School had nine total reports and one was founded and eight were unsubstantiated. Durand Elementary School had two total reports one of each.

Dr. Elliott said Johnstone Elementary School had four total reports two of each. Mennies Elementary School had ten total reports five of each. Dr. Elliott said Petway Elementary School had ten total reports one was founded nine were unfounded. She said Sabater Elementary School had ten total reports five of each. Winslow Elementary School had six total reports and six were founded. Landis Middle School had four total reports and four were unsubstantiated. Rossi Middle School had six total reports and four were founded and two were unsubstantiated. Veterans Memorial School had nine reports seven were founded and two were unsubstantiated. Dr. Elliott said there were no reported cases at Dallago, Leuchter or the Success Program.

Mrs. Phillips asked why there are no numbers from the high school. Dr. Elliott said we do have numbers but there are some paperwork issues that need to be resolved.

Dr. Mounier asked what the process is to determine if a report is founded or not substantiated. Dr. Elliott explained that the process begins at the initial report that can be obtained by a student, teacher, parent or bystander. She said it has to be verbally reported to the building principal within 24 hours. Dr. Elliott said after that a written report needs to be received by the building principal within two days. She said within 24 hours of the verbal report the principal assigns the anti-bullying specialist (ABS) to investigate the situation. Dr. Elliott said the ABS has ten days to complete the investigation. During that time the ABS could call on any witnesses and ask the building principal to assist the process by getting other individuals involved such as a guidance counselor or other school personnel. Dr. Elliott said prior to the ten days being up, a decision is rendered after the determination of the facts in the investigation whether or not the case is substantiated or unsubstantiated, which is a partnership of the principal and anti-bullying specialist. She said it is then forwarded to Dr. Banks office and then to her to make sure all the paperwork has been completed. Dr. Elliott said she logs it into a district database to help with statistics and tracking. She said it is then reported at the next available board meeting. Dr. Elliott said after that board members and the parents/guardians of both the victim and the offender will receive a letter. She said they have the right to appeal the decision as to whether it is substantiated or unsubstantiated. Dr. Elliott said the appeal has to be a written request to Dr. Banks and the board has to meet within ten days of Dr. Banks receiving the written request to hear all of the facts. Dr. Mounier asked how this differs from the way things use to be done before this law. Dr. Elliott explained that the entire process did not exist prior to this year.

Dr. Banks said this has created an incredible amount of paperwork and takes a great deal of time to review each document.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if technology or a format is provided to do this. Dr. Elliott said there has been no template provided and all the districts are currently sharing what they create.

Dr. Mounier asked if this law has stimulated people to report incidents. Dr. Elliott said yes.

Mr. English asked how the high school social worker is dealing with this if they receive ten cases in one day. Dr. Elliott said they are doing their job and giving two hundred and ten percent.

Dr. Elliott said we had 568 total suspensions for the month of October and reviewed the breakdown by each school.

Mr. Medio asked if they are out of school suspensions. Dr. Elliott said they are a combination of out of school and in school suspensions. Mr. Medio asked for the breakdown. Dr. Elliott said she will distribute the breakdown. Mr. Medio asked how many of the high school students have been assigned to Cunningham Alternative School. Dr. Elliott said she does not currently have that information but will research it.

Mr. Mercado asked if any referrals were made to send any of the suspended high school students to the Cunningham Alternative School. Dr. Elliott reviewed the referrals from the beginning of the year.

Mr. Medio asked if the students are assigned to the Cunningham Alternative School because they met a threshold of discipline that was unacceptable. Dr. Elliott said sometimes. She said it was a past practice to be assigned to the Alternative School for credit completion, which is not the purpose of this school. Dr. Elliott said attendance and family issues are other factors that are taken into consideration. Mr. Medio asked how many of the 17 arrests have been sent to the alternative program. Dr. Elliott said they are statistics that she needs to research.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – Mr. Mercado asked if it were appropriate for a board member to write a letter of reference for a job applicant in the district. Mr. DeSanto said it would be inappropriate.

Mr. English asked how we are progressing with the technology positions that are posted. Ms. Greenfield said the interviews were completed today.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if district personnel are given consideration on open positions in the district. Ms. Greenfield responded yes.

Mr. Medio asked how many technology positions are available. Ms. Greenfield said we currently have two Network Administrator positions, an Electronic Systems Technician and a Computer Technician, which we will have to go off of the Civil Service list for.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the names under new employment were reported on a list before the school year began. Ms. Greenfield said some of the names are amended because of start date or salary. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if name nine under new employment was on a list prior to September. Ms. Greenfield said the person was previously with us a while ago as an aide.

Mr. English asked about the cafeteria substitutes. Ms. Greenfield said Mr. Nocco is preparing a document for posting because substitutes will now be Sodexo employees.

Mr. Mercado asked if we keep the same job description or are they tailored as needed for individual schools. Ms. Greenfield said for the most part the description stays the same except if a specific requirement is mandated.

Mr. Fanucci departed at 9:00 p.m.

Public

Comment: At this time per Mr. DeSanto's recommendation.

Carey Savage, Title I Supervisor

Mr. Savage said the board delegated the assistant principal job search process to the superintendent and after conducting this search process Dr. Banks is presenting her recommendation for board approval. He said as a board you should trust Dr. Banks recommendation and not attempt to micromanage this process. Mr. Savage said as a full voting board you should back the recommendation of Dr. Banks to whom you gave the full authority to conduct this assistant principal search within the parameters of a process that the board authorized. He said we should always want the best this process can produce for our children. Mr. Savage urged the board to do what is right and honorable, which is vote their conscience, vote in the affirmative and vote to confirm.

Mario Olsen, VASA President and Principal

Mr. Olsen urged the board to vote for the two assistant principal positions. He said in reference to Mr. DiGiorgio's back handed comment regarding members of VASA and the hiring process we work very hard and need the board's support first rather than their critique. Mr. Olsen said we have an amazing group of teachers, staff members and children. He said there are many variables as to why schools are not improving. Mr. Olsen said the new Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) Policy takes an enormous amount of time away from things we truly need to do. He said we need the board's support instead of being told how poorly we are doing. Mr. Olsen said VASA members as well as all staff members work hard every single day.

Ronald Walker, Parent

Mr. Walker thinks tonight's board meeting is disappointing. He said that he truly feels sorry for Dr. Banks and Dr. Elliott for all the work they have to put into the new bullying policy along with administration problems. Mr. Walker said his children attend Wallace Middle School and Dr. Davis, the principal, has turned the school completely around. He urged the board to support the people they have hired to do a job.

Sam Irizarry, Parent

Mr. Irizarry spoke in support of keeping the chess club at Veterans Memorial School.

2. **Special Education Students** – No discussion.
3. **Budgetary Transfers** – Mr. Medio asked if there is any funding above and beyond the \$10,500 we are getting per student at the Almond Road School. Mr. Franchetta said ECPA is funded by the number of students that are on the rolls on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Medio asked if we are getting any extra funding for the rent of the building. Mr. Franchetta said the funding comes in a per pupil allocation.
4. **Travel** – No discussion.
5. **Foster Grandparents Program** – No discussion.
6. **Petty Cash Funds Change** – No discussion.
7. **K-9 Clif Proclamation** – No discussion.
8. **Uniform Memorandum of Agreement** – No discussion.
9. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
10. **Acceptance of Funding** – No discussion.
11. **Bids** – Mr. Medio asked what we are getting for this and is there something we can do to cut this cost. Ms. Evans explained that Scholastic is the vendor that has the Read 180 Program and we purchase a large variety of other materials from Scholastic through the course of the year. She said this is for another implementation of Read 180 and an update that included the special education classrooms at the middle and high school. Ms. Evans said we also added additional licenses and technical support to Read 180 in order to run the program throughout the course of the year. She said normally the amount would not be so high but we had a huge implementation in many classrooms.

Mr. Medio asked what part of the day students use this. Ms. Evans said during their language arts instruction. Mr. Medio asked if the same licenses can be used in different periods. Ms. Evans said no the licenses are tied to the student.

Dr. Mounier asked if there are alternative programs we can use that do not cost as much. Ms. Evans said there are but we chose Read 180 because it is considered to be the most effective reading intervention, particularly at the middle school level. Dr. Mounier asked what the future looks like in terms of cost. Ms. Evans said it depends on the stage of the implementation. Dr. Mounier asked if teachers who have been through the training could teach other teachers. Ms. Evans said we do have a few teachers that are so proficient in Read 180 that the new teachers will visit their classroom to watch the procedures they have in place. She said there is a large technical component to the report and it is our responsibility to make sure the teachers are trained.

Mr. Mercado said if our purchasing agent contacted these companies and told them that the board is considering looking at alternative programs maybe they would open up to negotiations to save a little money. Ms. Evans said it is possible.

Mr. DiGiorgio mentioned that there is a website called the Khan Academy, which is a great resource for parents.

12. **Bus Evacuation Drills** – No discussion.
13. **Sheppard Bus Contract** – No discussion.
14. **Glassboro Public Schools Joint Transportation Contract** – No discussion.
15. **Salem County Joint Transportation Contract** – No discussion.
16. **Vineland Non-Certificated Supervisors Association Contract** – Ms. Rios asked who made the changes on this contract. Dr. Banks said Mr. Toscano represented this unit and it was presented to her and the board.
17. **Non-Union Administrative/Supervisory/Auxiliary Personnel Memorandum** – No discussion.
18. **Annual Maintenance Reserve Deposit Worksheet** – No discussion.
19. **Legal Fees Payment** - No discussion.
20. **Participation with Hannah's House** – No discussion.

21. **Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report** – Dr. Mounier feels we should establish a protocol to look after maintenance on a regular basis. Mr. Weaver said the roof maintenance is spread across the entire district and we do an annual contract in reserve for it. He said listed are the repetitive maintenance items that are done annually. Dr. Mounier said if preventative maintenance was done we should never have a leak. Mr. Weaver said we just awarded a contract to a new roofing company and their response time has been good. He is currently working with the company to evaluate the entire district. Mr. Weaver said this company believes in going on the roofs and looking at the layer of the cores. He said we are taking a more pro-active approach on the roof repairs.
22. **SES Contracts** – Mr. Medio asked if the board could receive a report on this when we are within one hundred thousand dollars of the final figure. He asked if this is paid per student. Mr. Savage explained that these providers are state approved and the rates they are charging we have no control over. He said each child has a per pupil allotment of \$1,701.00 and once the money is exhausted it is gone. Mr. Medio asked how close we came last year. Mr. Savage said last year we were about \$80,000 over.
23. **First Reading of Regulation #5530** – No discussion.

- B. Board
  1. None.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Committee Reports: Mr. English said discussed at Tuesday’s Facilities Committee was technology updates, new proposed tennis courts, Almond Road Pre-K Center, Breakfast in Classrooms, Veterans Memorial School stage, Success roof, solar panel project update, school kitchen maintenance and Landis School new lockers and renovations. He thanked the facilities and technology departments along with the new Almond Road complex staff for getting everything done efficiently to be up and running.

Unfinished

Business: Mr. Mercado said teachers at the high school cannot teach because of disciplinary problems. He asked if we could place more students in the Cunningham Alternative School to give students at the high school an opportunity to learn without the distraction. Dr. Banks said there is a process in place and she would need to know the specific concerns.

Mr. Medio said a few years ago hearings were held for students to attend the Alternative Program and asked if those hearings are still held. Dr. Banks said she is not aware of any practice where the superintendent attended hearings at the high school. She said the hearings are held at the building level and the assistant superintendent attends along with the building principal. Mr. Medio suggested for the superintendent to be involved with the hearings to eliminate one step of the report.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he thinks you have to earn your way into the Alternative School. He said there are instances where certain students do not make it to the Alternative School but should because of behavior problems.

Mr. English asked for a clarification on the after school busing. He was under the understanding that it was for clubs, academics or sports. Mr. English said he is being told that students who have after school detention are also taking advantage of this busing. Dr. Banks said yes it is a pretty standard practice. Mr. English asked why students are being allowed busing who have after school detention. Dr. Banks said they are entitled to transportation to and from school. She said if we are requiring them to stay after school then we are responsible to get them home. Mr. English asked how they got home when there were no activity buses. Dr. Banks said they probably were not holding after school detention. Mr. English said about six months ago the board received a supervisor's report, which was very informative. He asked if they can have an additional one sent. Dr. Banks said certainly.

Mr. English asked if we still have a waiting list for pre-school students. Dr. Elliott said as of today we have 1,374 total spots available at all of our preschools and 1,371 are filled. She said these spots will be filled by the three remaining students on our waiting list.

New Business:

Mr. English asked if a technology subcommittee can be established to meet on a monthly basis since technology is growing in our district.

Mr. DeSanto said if we are dealing with a committee that is not one of our standing committees under our bylaws it would be called an Ad Hoc committee. He said this would be something put under board member recommendations on the agenda.

Ms. Rios said technically this committee exists within the curriculum committee. She asked if the committees would be separate. Mr. DeSanto said Mr. English is saying that technology transcends into each committee so the only way to do this is to have one member of each committee be on this subcommittee so those ideas are exchanged.

Mr. English said a big complaint is that Smart Boards are not up and running because of being down on manpower. He said if we would have had a technology committee meeting in September he would have known about this earlier. Mr. Medio questioned why this job was not posted immediately and filled.

Dr. Banks requested for Ms. Greenfield to respond to the open positions in technology.

Ms. Greenfield said in terms of all the positions mentioned she emphasized that they are civil service positions. She said before she can do anything she has to contact the Division of Personnel to see if there is a list of eligible people for those positions. Ms. Greenfield said another part of the process is that the supervisor involved has to create a hire request for that position to be posted to comply with the accountability regulations.

Ms. Rios said she will propose for next week's meeting the creation of a Technology Ad Hoc committee for a vote. She said if there are any volunteers for this committee to let her know so this can be moved forward.

Mr. English asked Dr. Gruccio if she feels this committee is needed. Dr. Gruccio respectfully requested to keep the committee the way it is and if there are issues to please let her know. She said that she had no idea that there was a meeting held with one of her supervisors and that there was issues with the installation of Smart Boards. Dr. Gruccio said if anyone had an issue with technology to bring it to her. Mr. English asked if her committee can handle along with Smart Boards the fire alarm systems and card access. Dr. Gruccio said if she does not know there is an issue she cannot handle it. Mr. English asked what the process is as far as when he invites Steve Dantine to a meeting. Dr. Banks said Dr. Gruccio should be told and she thought that was occurring.

Mr. Medio said Mimio-Boards are unacceptable for elementary schools because you need a stylus to write on them. He would like administration to look at whether or not Mimio-Boards are a good idea to have at the elementary level or should you continue to use the Smart Boards.

Dr. Mounier said several months ago a couple of citizens came before the board with concerns in regards to a hearing impaired child who was being bused to Pennsylvania. He asked if there has been an attempt to institute a program within our district that would eliminate the need for sending small children on long commutes for special services.

Ms. Polof said we have had ongoing conversations with the state on the number of students that would require that program. She said our last study indicated that there was one student in the entire southern county that would require that program. Ms. Polof said that one student is our student who is presently attending Clarke School. She said the probability of opening a program here is not financially feasible for the district. Ms. Polof said she has a meeting next week with the state to discuss if there is an increase in population. Dr. Mounier asked why this child is unique. Ms. Polof said the child had a cochlea implant before she was three. Her parents chose for her to attend an oral program instead of a spoken or sign language program to increase her ability to understand and speak appropriately by the time she entered kindergarten. Ms. Polof said the program she was in we were going to open at the pre-school level but the school that we were working with could not provide a staff member.

Mr. English asked about the removal of the chess club at the middle schools. Ms. Rios said it is not new business. Dr. Banks said this matter should be referred to her.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA  
Board Secretary