

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 5, 2014 at 7:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Medio presiding and the following members present: Mr. Baruffi, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mr. DeWinne and Mr. Ulrich.

Mr. Ulrich arrived at 7:08 p.m.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Interim 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:

Mrs. Haley read a resolution to convene into executive session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10-4-12. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law regarding computer use/electronic communication policies. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If pending/anticipated litigation them matter is John Sammons v. Vineland Board of Education. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. 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 NJ Youth Corp Contracts. **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 Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Special

Presentations: Mr. Medio introduced Mr. Dominic Massaro and Mr. Vince Luciano, Girls’ Tennis Coaches, along with Mr. Don Robbins, Athletic Director, to honor an outstanding freshman tennis player, Tess Fisher.

Mr. Massaro thanked the Members of the Board of Education on behalf of Don Robbins, Athletic Director, Vince Luciano, Girls’ Assistant Tennis Coach, Mr. & Mrs. Fisher, and Lily Fisher for acknowledging Tess Fisher on her accomplishments. Mr. Massaro said Tess is truly a role model for Vineland Public Schools and ultimate sportsman.

Miss Fisher thanked everyone for their support.

Dr. Gruccio said Tess makes the district very proud and we are thrilled with all of her accomplishments.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, to present testing information and scores.

Mr. Frey said the purpose of this presentation is to review the State Assessment Results and present an overview on how we utilize and collect data. He presented the testing results.

Mr. Medio asked how many years we have had coaches at Landis Middle School. Mr. Frey said two and a half years. Mr. Medio asked if we saw a mark improvement since they came in. Mr. Frey said marks no, improvement yes. Mr. Medio expressed his concern that we are taking a program that has not been proven to have significant impact in the middle school and we are expanding it into the elementary school.

Ms. Morello asked for an explanation on edConnect. Mr. Frey said it is a state instruction improvement system that puts model curriculum, model assessments and student data right at the teachers’ fingertips. He said edConnect is paid through the Race to the Top Grant at no cost to the district for two years.

Ms. Rios asked why the district has gone down so drastically in Math this year. Mr. Frey said the entire state went down this year and it could be multiple things that happened.

Mr. Ulrich asked what schools are in the district factor group. Mr. Frey said the schools that are measured like us such as urban districts. Mr. Ulrich asked for a list to be emailed to him.

Ms. Morello asked if we are going to start actively tracking the student data. Mr. Frey said yes we want to incorporate this into edConnect data. Ms. Morello asked Dr. Gruccio if there is going to be a day where all the teachers will be exposed to edConnect. Dr. Gruccio said she is sure that Mr. Frey and the supervisors are planning to go in that direction.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Matthew Stellar of Cenergistic to give an update on the energy savings.

Mr. Stellar thanked Dr. Gruccio and the Board for having them here tonight. He said the goals of the program are to save money the right way. Mr. Stellar presented the Energy Conservation Program results with the Vineland Board of Education.

Mr. Ivan Escobar, Energy Specialist for Cenergistic, also presented results.

Mr. English asked if all buildings are participating. Mr. Stellar responded yes.

Mr. Escobar said thermostats are being installed in the Reber Administration building. He said the thermostats will turn off and on and will only run when the building hits certain settings. Mr. Escobar said the settings cannot be changed without a password. He said these thermostats will be installed in four or five buildings including one school building.

Ms. Morello said they discussed in the Finance Committee meeting how to get students involved. She said the feeling was if you can get the students involved in this they will be busy turning off the lights and learning how to become good stewards of the earth while they are in school developing good habits. Mr. Stellar said that is a great point and we have programs in place for that.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he thinks everyone on the Board and Administration is very supportive of this program and he is happy to see the results. He asked if the equipment comes off of the savings such as the programmable thermostats. Mr. Escobar said he purchased 60 of them and he thinks it will pay for itself in less than six months.

Mr. Medio asked why the lights are on in the school hallways. Mr. Escobar said some of them are considered emergency lights and stay on. Mr. Stellar said the lights would have to be rewired. Mr. DiGiorgio asked for emergency purposes are we required by code for some of these lights to be on. Mr. Weaver, Executive Director of Facilities, said there is no code requiring the lights to be on and we will address this.

Mr. Baruffi asked if it were possible to go solar on some of the existing schools. Mr. Weaver said we were going to go into a partnership with the County Improvement Authority and there were pros and cons. He said when we looked at the 15 year Power Purchase Agreement it did not make sense for the district to enter into that long term contract. Mr. Baruffi asked how long ago that was. Mr. Weaver said three years ago. He said we can certainly revisit anything at this point in time. Ms. Morello asked if thought was given to the parking areas and walkways. Mr. Weaver said that was in our original plan to do the walkway three years ago.

Mr. English asked how we get access to this data. Mr. Stellar said Mr. Weaver and Mr. Escobar have access.

**Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB Report), Suspension Report, Cunningham Alternative School Report/Average Daily Attendance - No discussion.**

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Public Comments: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – Ms. Morello asked if we are almost done with extra-curricular submissions for the year.

Dr. Guccio said most of Schedule B should be done at this point in time but it usually takes the first month or so for people to apply and most are approved in October or November the latest. Ms. Morello asked if we are good with all the people we need for our students to have a certified person in place for the balance of the year. Dr. Rossi said special education remains a concern and we are trying to find people who meet certification requirements. Ms. Morello asked how many open positions do we need to fill. Mrs. Godlewski, Director of Special Education, said four positions. Mr. Medio asked if they are new or budgeted positions. Dr. Rossi said they are budgeted for however; the population changes. He said a special education position has been added to the agenda for next week.

Mr. English asked if the diesel mechanic will be starting immediately if approved. Dr. Rossi responded yes. Mr. English asked if this will bring us where we need to be. Dr. Rossi said budget wise we have an arrangement where there is an acting supervisor that is holding off hiring for the position of helper and mechanic that are budgeted vacancies. Mr. English asked who will fill the food service position slot in place of the person who is transferring. Dr. Rossi said Mr. Patel, Sodexo Manager, has addressed all five of our 3.5 hour employees asking them to step up.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked what the net savings is as a result of the promotion on the agenda. Dr. Rossi said there is a position open in special education and we have asked Ms. Biagi to do both jobs including her summer role. He said we are probably saving in the twenties plus benefits.

Ms. Morello asked for a schedule for the literacy coach. Dr. Guccio said she will share that information when she receives it.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we are making all attempts to have professional development when students are not in school. Dr. Guccio said we make every effort we can so it does not interrupt the school day.

Ms. Morello asked when the calendar is done for next year. Dr. Guccio said around February or March. Ms. Morello said she would like to discuss having full day professional development in-district days where we could start taking the information that Mr. Frey presented tonight and start moving things forward. She said we need to think about having school on Veterans Day and having activities about veterans as opposed to another day off in November. Dr. Guccio said that is on our list for next year.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

- 2.1 **Travel** - No discussion.
- 2.2 **Bus Evacuation Drills** – No discussion.
- 2.3 **Revision of Job Description #3006 Health/PE Teacher** – No discussion.
- 2.4 **First Reading of Policy 1522, Policy 5306, Reg. 5306, Policy 5308, Reg. 5308, Policy 5310, Reg. 5310, Policy 5339, Policy 5530, Reg. 5530, Policy 5600, Reg. 5600, Policy 8505, Policy, 7250, Policy 5756** – No discussion.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** – None.

4. **FINANCE**

- 4.1 **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
- 4.2 **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
- 4.3 **NJSIAA Membership Renewal** – No discussion.
- 4.4 **Centris Group Agreement** – Ms. Morello asked if what we are using now conflicts with Genesis. Dr. Gruccio said what we are using now takes a long time to be compatible. She said this program interchanges with Genesis more quickly and smoothly without a delay. Mrs. Godlewski said the current program we are using is a district hosted server based program and many times if there are changes they do not mesh well.

Mr. Medio asked why this was not found last year because this is the second year for Genesis. Mrs. Godlewski said correct we have taken this year to look at all IEP Programs.

Ms. Morello asked what the cost of Contour is. Mrs. Godlewski said the maintenance year is similar but it is the first year conversion that brings the total to what it is. Ms. Morello would like the numbers so we can see what we are talking about.

- 4.5 **Amendment to Sheppard Bus Service Contract** – Mr. English asked why the Vineland Charter School works on a 200 day cycle. Dr. Gruccio said the Charter Schools can extend their year.

- 4.6 **Mennies Wetlands Institute Grant** – No discussion.
- 4.7 **Rossi Roof Replacement Change Order #1** – No discussion.
- 4.8 **Winslow Roof Replacement Change Order #2** – No discussion.
- 4.9 **Donation of Books from Sally Ride Science** – No discussion.
- 4.10 **Agreement between City of Vineland and VBOE for gasoline** – Mr. Medio asked why we have to do this. Mr. Weaver explained that we were using the state contract for acquiring gasoline for quite a few years. He said the contract expired and we were caught between contracts and asked the city if we could tap into their sources to use their fueling station until we receive the paperwork for the new contract. Mr. Weaver said we are currently utilizing the state contract and this is a secondary source in case we need it. Mr. Medio asked if we are going back to the original provider. Mrs. Haley responded no we have a different provider after it went out to bid. Mr. Medio asked how much we are saving on this contract. Mr. Weaver said he is not sure what the savings are but the fees are fixed. Mrs. Haley said the nice thing is that we are not locked into one gas station. Mr. Vassallo, Substitute Assistant Business Administrator, said the price is based on a national posted price. Ms. Morello said it fluctuates with the market. Mr. Weaver responded yes.  
  
Mr. DeSanto said he has not completed his discussions with Mr. Tonetta because there are a couple provisions of this contract that he does not think are favorable to the Board. He said if he cannot successfully negotiate it by next week he may request the Superintendent to withdrawal this until the next meeting.
- 4.11 **Little Smiles Agreement** – No discussion.
- 4.12 **Mennies Young Citizens Scholarship Grant** – No discussion.
- 4.13 **Petway Fender Music Grant** – No discussion.
- 4.14 **Gloucester County Technical Contract** – Ms. Morello asked how many students attend. Dr. Gruccio said she thinks it is one student.
- 4.15 **Donation of Eiffel Tower** – No discussion.
- 4.16 **Buena Regional Joint Transportation Agreement** – No discussion.
- 4.17 **Glassboro Joint Transportation Agreement** – No discussion.
- 4.18 **Barse Young Citizens Grant** – No discussion.

- 4.19 **Blackboard Inc. Contract** – Ms. Morello asked what this is for. Dr. Gruccio said this is because preschool cannot be a part of Erate. Ms. Morello asked if the community providers can have websites that hang off of our sites if they wanted to post information for families. Mr. Frey said yes they could and he will discuss this with Mrs. Bleistine.
- 4.20 **Annual Maintenance Reserve Deposit Worksheet (form M-1)** – No discussion.
- 4.21 **Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report** – No discussion.
- 4.22 **Annual Parking Lot Paving Bid** – No discussion.
- 4.23 **Bus Repair Bid** – No discussion
- 4.24 **Tyco Integrated Security Maintenance Contract** – Mr. Ulrich asked if this is the same company that inspects the fire suppression systems. Mrs. Haley said no this company checks all of our alarms. She said with Mr. Vassallo’s help we have been analyzing all the purchases and we are addressing all of the situations to make sure we are in compliance. She said some of the people we dealt with, which were on state contract, are now on national contract so we have to advertise in a different manner to award. Mrs. Haley said we always worked with Tyco but we cannot use them in the way we had in the past.
- Mr. DiGiorgio asked if Tyco and Simplex Grinnell are two separate entities. Mrs. Haley said they split their names. Mr. DiGiorgio said on tonight’s bill list we have payments approaching \$100,000 going to each of them for different amounts. Ms. Haley said yes a meeting was held to try to match up all the invoices for payment.
- 4.25 **City of Vineland Shared Services Agreement** – No discussion.
- 4.26 **Outdated Textbooks**– No discussion.
- 4.27 **2015 National School Lunch Equipment Grant** – No discussion.
- 4.28 **Rossi Energy for the Arts Grant** – No discussion.
- 4.29 **Sabater Energy for the Arts Grant** – No discussion.
- 4.30 **NAPA Auto Parts Agreement** – No discussion.
- 4.31 **Middle Schools Target Young Audiences Grant** – No discussion.
- 4.32 **Canceled Checks to Department of Treasury** – No discussion.

4.33 **21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grant Funding** – Ms. Morello asked if this was in addition to the original \$60,000.00. Dr. Guccio responded yes. Ms. Morello asked if this is only available at Landis Middle School because of where they are located in the urban enterprise zone. Dr. Guccio said correct.

4.34 **VHN Filtration System Change Order #1** – No discussion.

4.35 **Leuchter Whole Kids Garden Grant** – No discussion.

4.36 **Winslow Whole Kids Garden Grant** – No discussion.

## 2. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR REGULAR AGENDA:

- a. **Secretary’s Report August 2014** – No discussion.
- b. **Treasurer’s Report August 2014** – No discussion.

B. **Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board President or Board Members:** Mr. Medio said at next week’s meeting Dr. Guccio will need to be given a “Rice” Notice for discussion because by December 31, 2014 we have to notify her whether or not her contract will be renewed.

Ms. Morello said Mr. DeSanto sent an email out in regards to something that occurred last week and Mr. DeWinne, who is not present tonight, requested for Mr. English to have it put on the agenda. Mr. DeSanto said it is on the executive session agenda for tonight.

**Review of Bills – September 2014** – Mr. DiGiorgio said he has questions but will send them to Mrs. Haley.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Ms. Morello said the Early Childhood Committee met on October 27<sup>th</sup>. She said we discussed parental choice and the October 15<sup>th</sup> number showed that all the preschool classrooms that we have are contracted full. Ms. Morello said it was a very positive and productive meeting.

Ms. Rios complimented Mrs. Morello on her idea in regards to parents and outside providers having access to the website.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Mr. English said the he received an email concerning the elimination of the swim program. He asked if this could be discussed at the curriculum committee meeting. Ms. Morello said she has already handled it. Mr. English asked for an update on the Visual & Performing Arts Academy for the 2015-2016 school year for broadcasting and dance. Ms. Morello said on the curriculum agenda is the succession plan and how it will integrate, which has to be up and running in time for course selection. Mr. English asked if we have an idea on the cost. Ms. Morello said it was discussed but she does not know.

Mr. Medio asked if at curriculum meeting we discussed eliminating the swim program for elementary students. Ms. Morello said no. Mr. Medio asked Dr. Gruccio where this came from. Dr. Gruccio said there has not been a swim program for elementary students in several years. Mr. English said the email was concerning the high school curriculum. Mr. Medio asked where the elimination of the swim program at the high school came from. Ms. Morello said she does not know but since the pool is redone we should take a look at this. Mr. English expressed his concern that there was no communication with the physical education teachers and they found out the first day of school that swimming was not being offered. Dr. Gruccio said that is incorrect and asked Mr. Frey if he would like to address this. Mr. Frey said we had extensive discussions about this last year with the curriculum and instruction committee. He said the ultimate goal is to make swimming a choice, which was discussed in detail with the athletic director and department chair. Mr. Medio said the discussion at the curriculum meetings had to do specifically with if you know how to swim you do not have to take the class. He does not believe the discussions ever involved eliminating, offering or requiring the class for those who could not swim. Mr. Frey said he disagrees. We had that conversation as to what was going to happen with that program. Mr. Medio asked why the decision was made to eliminate it for everyone. Mr. Frey said it was an administrative decision and that was the end result. Mr. Medio asked what administrator made the decision. Mr. Frey said it was a combined decision among many administrators. Ms. Morello said there was discussion and the swim program was moved from our plate because it was no longer our concern. Dr. Gruccio said in conversations they had it was decided there were better ways to utilize the pool that students can participate in. Ms. Morello said it is a lot different now that we have one unified administration in that complex and maybe something new will come to light.

Ms. Morello would personally like to see the pool used to teach a lifesaving course.

Board Member

Comments:

Ms. Rios thanked the members of the public for re-electing her and will work hard for another term for the district and community.

Mr. Baruffi congratulated Tess Fischer on her accomplishment.

Dr. Gruccio said we are very proud of Petway School for being recognized as a National School of Character and they have been published in a magazine. She thanked the Board on behalf of Mr. Frey and herself for giving them the opportunity to attend the ASCD Convention. She said it was truly a wonderful opportunity with excellent speakers.

Mr. English said Tess Fischer is ranked number two in the state. He said that he is happy that she chose to attend Vineland schools for the right reason.

Mr. Medio congratulated Ms. Rios for being re-elected. He thanked the people of Vineland for not re-electing him. Mr. Medio said he along with a couple Board members have attended Tess Fischer's tennis match and said she is a gifted athlete. He congratulated Mr. Casadia on having the pool named after him.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Morello, seconded by Ms. Rios, to adjourn the meeting to executive session at 9:02 p.m. All Members voted "yes."

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley  
Interim Board Secretary

