

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, December 5, 2012 at 6:06 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. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Figgs, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Ludy, Board Secretary, Mrs. Polof, Director of Special Education, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, 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 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:

Ms. Ludy 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 purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed; the status of acquisition issues relating to 1350 S. W. Boulevard. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. 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 (If pending or anticipated litigation, the matter is : proposed resolution of PERC claim by a teacher, proposed resolution of litigation filed by Robert Miller. 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 tenure charges against a teacher; recommendation for position of Assistant Superintendent and contractual increase for classified employee. **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 advised 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: A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to approve the Resolution. All Members voted “yes.”

The Board retired to executive session at 6:08 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

### Special

Presentations: Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Keith Nocco from Sodexo Food Management to present an update.

Mr. Nocco updated the board on Sodexo Food Management.

Mr. Ulrich asked for an update on open food service positions and substitutes. Mr. Nocco said currently there are two open positions, ten substitutes and in January there will be some retirees.

Mr. Fanucci asked if we are looking to increase outside catering with other districts. Mr. Nocco said yes but we needed to see if the other schools want us and if we could accomplish it. Mr. Fanucci asked if there will be a plan in place to increase revenue in the district. Mr. Nocco said definitely. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if substitutes are on Sodexo’s payroll. Mr. Nocco said yes the new substitutes.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Larry Merighi to present options on district restructuring.

Mr. Merighi gave a presentation on the existing and proposed elementary and middle school configurations.

Mr. Ulrich said we do not have the funding for salaries to add new classrooms in the district. Dr. Gruccio said we would use the middle school teachers who have an elementary certification. Ms. Rios asked if in these plans all the bilingual students will be consolidated in one school. Mr. Merighi said yes k through 5 would all be at Sabater School. Ms. Rios asked if we still have equitable distribution in the district. Mr. Medio said he would like to see paperwork on what equitable distribution means. He said with the Rossi School plan, a couple years from now we will have overcrowding in the middle schools. Mr. Medio said there are other plans that could be put in place that will go more slowly.

Mr. Medio said we have the community providers that could take three and four year old students so we can convert some of our current in-house preschool classrooms to regular classrooms. Mr. Ulrich asked for the number of available classrooms the preschool providers have. Mr. Ulrich said we may have to max out our providers to gain space. Dr. Gruccio said as of today we have two available provider classrooms that we can fill. Ms. Rios asked if there are any children on the preschool waiting list. Dr. Gruccio responded no. Mr. Ulrich said Mr. Medio makes a valid point that we have to consider maxing out the providers, which may free up additional space for elementary students. Mrs. Phillips feels that Cunningham School should not be an elementary school. Ms. Rios does not agree with all the bilingual students being housed in one school. Mr. Callavini said the way our city is you would still have to bus some students into the schools.

Comments by  
Board Solicitor:

Mr. DeSanto wanted to update the board on the status of the school uniform discussion. He said that he attended a meeting with Dr. Gruccio, staff members and principals. Mr. DeSanto said all of the principals have submitted letters requesting school uniforms and the next step would be a school uniform policy. He said a decision was made to recommend to the board three different colors for the shirts and khaki for the pants. Mr. DeSanto said the introduction for the policy is scheduled for the January 9, 2013 meeting. He said the public hearing and second reading on the policy will be held on February 13, 2013. Mr. DeSanto said the policy will become effective 90 days later in May and will be there for implementation for the September school year. He said there was a lot of discussion regarding assistance that we are required to do under the law. Mr. DeSanto said forms have been developed for the parents to sign off on. He said it appears that the consensus is that most of the parents will purchase the uniforms. Mr. DeSanto said we will have to fund some purchasing of the uniforms.

Mr. Mercado asked if the colors that were chosen were decided in policy. Mr. DeSanto said the three colors were proposed by the principals. Mr. Medio said Vineland's colors are red and gray for as long as he can remember. He said that if everyone wore red and gray it would solve the logistics problems and everyone would come to school dressed the same. Mr. Medio expressed his concern that gangs could be identified when there are various colors to choose from. Mr. DeSanto said that issue was thoroughly discussed with the principals and it was felt that red and gray was very difficult to implement.

Mr. DeSanto said the cost of gray pants would be much higher and khaki was a standard color and affordable. He said it was concluded that every color could be a gang color. Mr. Ulrich said there are too many options on the colors and groups could stand out. Mr. Mercado said he was approached by several special education teachers who told him that the color red is not good. He said autistic children do not do well with the color red. Dr. Mounier feels the less variability the better.

Mr. Ulrich said Mr. English was not feeling well and did not return from executive session.

Public Comments: Lisa Arena, Mennies Principal  
Mrs. Arena said she has half the bilingual program at Mennies School and the population comes from Park Town and Chestnut Square Apartments. She said the only transportation those students have to arrive at school is the school bus. Mrs. Arena said the students would still have to be bused to Sabater School. She said her class size average is between 26 and 27 students per classroom. Mrs. Arena said they have 710 students at Mennies School, which is the most students the school has had in the 27 years she has been employed there. She said we are filled to capacity and it is imperative that we do something to reduce class sizes at the elementary level.

**HIB/Suspension Report/Cunningham Alternative School Report /Cunningham Alternative ADA (Average Daily Attendance) Report** – Dr. Figgs said at the request of some board members there were some changes made to the HIB (Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying) Report. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if Vineland High School South has in-school suspension. Dr. Gruccio said they have detention.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – Dr. Rossi reviewed a few modifications made to the personnel items.
2. **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
3. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
4. **Travel** – No discussion.

5. **Bids** – Mr. DiGiorgio asked what vending services the district has. Dr. Zorzi said there was discussion about vending machines throughout the district. He said there are several different vendors involved throughout the district and we are looking at the benefits to the district by consolidating them. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this applies to cafeteria vending machines. Ms. Ludy said anything sold in the cafeteria is separate. Dr. Zorzi said he has a list of the school vending machines that he can provide to the board. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the district benefits from having the vending machines. Dr. Zorzi it is his understanding that the money remains at each school. He said this Request for Proposal (RFP) was initiated so we have a better handle on what is going on with the services. Mr. Ulrich asked if the vendor will send us a centralized check that we will distribute to the appropriate schools for their activity accounts. Dr. Zorzi responded yes. Mr. Fanucci said we were cited in our audit on several occasions for non-proper recording of those funds. Mr. Mercado asked if only one vendor responded to the RFP. Dr. Zorzi said we had two but the other vendor did not fill out their paperwork correctly. Mr. Mercado asked if the out of county vendor who is going to receive this bid has someone local to service and fill these machines. Dr. Zorzi said that information was not put in the RFP but he can discuss this with the vendor. He said the vendor has several large accounts in this area. Mr. Fanucci asked if Coca Cola's paperwork defect is curable. Dr. Zorzi said they decided not to put anything on their price list and they only provide soda. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if there is any way we can utilize our local suppliers and vendors. Dr. Zorzi said we reach out to local vendors first. He said at his previous job at Rowan University he held a meeting open to all vendors to discuss how to do business with them, which he can do here. Mr. DiGiorgio thinks that is a great first step and opportunity for the local vendors.
6. **Early Childhood Program Five Year Preschool Plan for 2013-2014** – No discussion.
7. **ECPA Budget for 2013-2014** – No discussion.
8. **Bus Evacuation Drills for November** – No discussion.
9. **GED Testing Services Contract** – No discussion.
10. **Annual Maintenance Reserve Deposit Worksheet (Form M-1)** – No discussion.
11. **Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report** – No discussion.
12. **Cancellation List of Checks**- No discussion.
13. **Archway Academy Settlement** – No discussion.

14. **FIRST Reading of Bylaw #0164, Policy #2431, Policy #2431.4, Reg #2431.4, Policy #6470, and Reg #6470** – Mr. Ulrich mentioned that the link to Bylaw #0164 is not working. Mr. DeSanto said that was prepared in a redline form so the board can follow the substantial changes that we made. Mr. Ulrich asked if in the future the online links can be checked prior to the meeting.

B. Board

1. None.

**Review of Bills/Report by the Secretary of the Board:** Ms. Ludy said it was a daunting task to reconcile Keystone for the end of the year. She thanked the board for allowing her to employ Lisa Beatty, CPA. Ms. Ludy said having a seasoned accountant on staff has helped her move forward with these reports. She respectfully requested to add the September/October Board Secretary/Treasurers Report to next week's agenda. The board was in agreement to add the September/October Board Secretary/Treasurers Report to next week's agenda.

Committee

Reports:

Mr. Ulrich said discussed at Mr. English's Facilities Committee Meeting was the condition of the athletic indoor/outdoor facilities, update on mat rack and baseball pitching tunnel, VHS band field lighting, covered walkway to high schools, new warehouse update, VHS North locker shortage and irrigation for front courtyards at Vineland High School North and South. Mr. Mercado asked if the covered walkway is something the board is interested in pursuing. Mr. Weaver said Mr. Merighi was asked to give us a schematic drawing and we did a cost analysis to get an idea as to what we are looking at. Mr. Ulrich asked for an update on the warehouse. Mr. Weaver said he thinks that we are completely out of the old building and all the materials have been transitioned to the new location. Mr. Ulrich asked Mr. Weaver if there is inventory control so everyone knows what is in that building. Mr. Weaver said we may be using School Dude software that has an inventory control component module that we can purchase. Mr. Ulrich asked if all receivable supplies will come into the warehouse. Mr. Frey said in the past it has been a combination of building driven and the warehouse for big loads. Mr. Ulrich said employee theft is a big issue in every corporation and we have a lot of goods coming into our buildings. He said no one ever knew the answer to exactly what do we have. Mr. Weaver said each school should have a laydown area for items to be recorded as they are coming in and leaving. Mr. Mercado said his recommendation is that when equipment is ordered installation is included in the bid.

Mr. Fanucci said a couple housekeeping items were discussed at today's Finance Committee meeting to set up for the new committee in January.

Ms. Rios said at today's Policy & Personnel Committee meeting they discussed an additional social worker at Vineland High School. She said Mr. DeSanto presented an update on school uniforms. Ms. Rios said the use of facilities was discussed and it was decided to enforce the policy but leave as is. Ms. Rios said they are going to look into evaluating the cost that currently exists.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Ludy  
Board Secretary

