

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 5:37 p.m., in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. Franceschini presiding and the following members present: Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Dr. Mounier, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Fanucci, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Charlene Zoerb, NJ School Boards Association Representative and press.

Mr. Franceschini 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:

Public Comments: None.

Recommendations:

Vineland Board Of Education
Report to the Board – February 3, 2011

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Board approve travel for district members as required by N.J.A.C. 7A:10A-8.3 and school field trips as per lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

All Members
voted "yes."
(6-0-0)

FRANCESCINI	ULRICH	DEWINE	DIGIORGIO	ENGLISH	FANUCCI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIOS
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Mr. Franceschini introduced Ms. Charlene Zoerb the Field Representative from the NJ School Boards Association.

Ms. Zoerb said the goal tonight is to discuss Chain of Command, which was on the QSAC Correction Action Plan. She said a problem, issue; concern or question should be addressed and resolved at the level closest to where it occurs. Ms. Zoerb said sometimes board members get put in positions where a community member or parent wants you to address something for them. She said thank them and value what they are saying to you but make sure the communication is first relayed to the superintendent to direct it down the chain where it really belongs. Ms. Zoerb said there is never a situation where a board member should go directly to a staff member. She said it is a very risky dangerous practice for board members to get involved at the staff level because it creates chaos in the district. Ms. Zoerb said board members are responsible for looking out for the best interest of every child in the district. She said board members should follow up to see what was being done about a situation. Mr. English asked if the best way to do this is through an email. Ms. Zoerb said it depends and this would be a good question for the superintendent. Dr. Banks said she prefers emails because it is easier and she has a record of it unless it is a highly sensitive personnel issue it is probably best not left in an email. Ms. Zoerb said you have to know that confidentiality is somewhat at risk any time something is put in an email so be cautious. Dr. Banks cautioned the board if they are sending her an email on a concern they have to be careful with the editorializing part of it because this is the kind of thing that ends up being OPRA requested. Ms. Zoerb said also with the Chain of Command there has to be some respect for an organizational structure. Mr. DeWinne asked if all questions go through Dr. Banks first even if they are non-teaching related. Dr. Banks said she asked for everything to come through her with the exception of questions about bills, you may go directly to Mr. Franchetta. Mr. DeWinne asked if questions about the budget should go directly to Dr. Banks. Dr. Banks said she does not have a problem with budget questions going directly to Mr. Franchetta just copy her on them. Ms. Zoerb said the norm for most districts is that everything goes through the superintendent. She said board members have closet contact to the business administrator so sometimes they go directly to the BA with questions. Ms. Zoerb cautioned the board that as a single board member you have no authority to direct or request. She said you need to bring it to the board table and the board is the only entity that has the authority to request information and direct. Mr. DeWinne asked if this should be done under new business. Ms. Zoerb responded yes. Mr. DeWinne said one of his concerns now is how can we become more effective in committees. Ms. Zoerb said there is a recommended structure for committees. Dr. Banks said agenda items for committees should be sent to the committee chairs. Mr. Franceschini feels a committee agenda should not be as long as the board agenda. Ms. Zoerb said most of the things that board members deal with are big picture global things.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if board members should not be visiting schools or making comments about what they observe while at the school. Dr. Banks said it is fine to visit the schools as long as she knows. She said if a board member notices something that needs to be brought to her attention, please do so. Dr. Banks cautioned the board that they may be entering in a gray area if they start asking questions about personnel and other issues. She said if it starts to come back to her that board members are directing people to do things or asking them for information then you have crossed the line. Ms. Zoerb said if a board member is in a school and notices a problem; instead of coming back to the board table, ask to look at the policy regarding the issue to see if it is consistent across the board throughout the schools. She said then it can go before the appropriate committee for discussion. Mr. DeWinne said it would be very helpful if each of the committees had a three ring binder about their discussions for new board members to review. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if it is in our bylaws to establish certain committees. Ms. Zoerb said yes. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if there are a certain number of committees that a board should have. Mr. Franceschini said it is in our bylaws to have four committees. Ms. Zoerb said after reorganization you can look at the committees to see if they are getting the work done for the board and if you want to make any changes for the coming year. She said personnel is the one committee that New Jersey School Boards does not recommend because it is administrative. Mr. Ulrich said the personnel committee discusses grievances. He said also Dr. Banks presents prospective candidates to be hired for the committee to meet and ask questions of. Dr. Banks said when she came to this district, with the history of concerns the board had in regards to hiring practices, she felt it was important to change that all together. She thinks it strengthens the support of the candidate by presenting them to the personnel committee. Ms. Zoerb said when you assign committees you need to look at what your work is going to be like in the coming year. She said sometimes one committee is going to have a more central role than another.

Ms. Zoerb reviewed “Is this your role?” statements with the board to determine appropriate actions to take as board members.

Public

Comments: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

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