

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, February 9, 2011, at 6:17 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Franceschini presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Fanucci, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. DeWinne and Mr. English.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Guccio and Mrs. Elliott, 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. 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:

Mia Arbona, Dylan Mercano, Janijah Rodriguez and Christopher Stewart, students from D'Ippolito Elementary School led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Gail Curcio, Principal of D'Ippolito Elementary School was in attendance.

Mr. DeWinne arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Special

Presentation (s):

Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Franchetta to present the 2011-2012 budget.

Mr. Franchetta said tonight's discussion will be on the district side of the budget, which is basically the general fund. He said the state has released the budget calendar with all dates included. The Governor's presentation of the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2011 and by state statute the Department of Education has 48 hours to release the funding figures to the school districts. The latest date the figures could be released is Thursday, February 24, 2011. Mr. Franchetta said the other dates determined were the initial budget draft has to be submitted to the executive county superintendent by Friday, March 4, 2011. He said a board meeting will have to be scheduled to approve the first draft of the budget for the executive county superintendent's approval. Mr. Franchetta said the public hearing on the budget can be held anytime between March 22, 2011 and March 29, 2011. Mr. DeWinne said he has been reading articles in the press that there are some towns in North Jersey who are having their public hearings in February. Mr. Franchetta said no these are the statutory dates and the public hearings have to be held between that timeframe. The reorganization of the board can be held anytime between May 2, 2011 and May 13, 2011.

Mr. Franchetta shared a memo with the board that he received from Yut'se Thomas, Acting Assistant Commissioner. He read the third paragraph regarding the possible reduction in state aid. Mr. DiGiorgio asked Mr. Franchetta if historically he has seen that statement in any of the previous governor's letters. Mr. Franchetta said this is the first time he has seen it in writing. Mr. Franchetta reviewed a school tax rate analysis from the 1992-1993 to 2010-2011 school years. He said the tax levy for 2010-2011 is \$21,619,781.00. Mr. Franchetta said due to the increase in ratables the tax levy could be increased to \$111,658.19. The other option is we can increase the tax levy up to 2%. A few years ago the state came up with what they thought was a local fair share for districts to pay. Mr. Franchetta said our tax rate is currently \$1.018 and the state feels our tax rate should be twice that amount. In the eyes of the state we are below where we should be as a community. Mr. Franchetta gave a basic overview on how the general fund is utilized. Mr. Franceschini questioned the large amount of money used for textbooks in one year. Dr. Gruccio explained that we have not purchased textbooks for several years and we are now to the point where some of our books are at least ten years old or more. Mr. DeWinne asked if early childhood is not included in these numbers. Mr. Franchetta said early childhood is a separate plan and is a special grant separately approved by the Department of Education. Mr. Franceschini said he read about the cutting of the preschool program. Mr. Franchetta said he also read about it and feels it would be a mistake. He reviewed changes in the non-personnel costs along with the changes in FTE. Dr. Mounier said last year the state confiscated 13 million dollars and asked if we are at risk for that happening again. Mr. Franchetta said we have not heard anything but if they do it would only be 2 million dollars because we do not have the surplus this year. Mr. DeWinne asked if the 2 million dollars was money that we did not spend in the last fiscal year. Mr. Franchetta said that is correct. Mr. DeWinne feels it would be wise to calculate a current surplus quarterly. Mr. Ulrich asked if the 2 million dollars in unexpended funds include open employee positions that generated salaries and benefits. Mr. Franchetta said the surplus comes from every line item in the budget. Mr. Fanucci asked Mr. Franchetta to elaborate on the maintenance reserve account. Mr. Franchetta said there is a window of time where a resolution could be passed by the board to put money aside in a maintenance reserve account. He said last year the state not only took money from the fund balance they also took money from the maintenance reserve account. Mr. DeWinne said as a committee of the whole we need more detailed information and to be pro-active.

Dr. Banks said if the state does cut 5% out of our budget it would be catastrophic. She said a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled next Tuesday and she proposes to Mr. Fanucci to take a look at what the worst case scenario would be. Mr. DeWinne asked if this is supposed to be done as a committee of the whole. Mr. Franceschini said the committee of the whole is an adjunct to the finance committee. Mr. DeSanto said the difficulty with the budget process as a committee of the whole is that you have to consider certain personnel matters. He cautioned the board and said you can talk in generalities broadly but not specific. Mr. DeSanto said as a practical matter a tentative reverse priority list will just be a working model for the full board. Mr. DeWinne asked if we have reversed priority lists established. Mr. Franchetta said the principals are issued a request to prepare a reverse priority list up to a certain percentage. Mrs. Phillips asked if the principals already have a cut list or have they not been asked to do that yet. Mr. Franchetta said no we will be meeting with them shortly. Dr. Banks said we will be meeting with the principals on February 24. Mr. DeWinne said board and finance meeting dates need to be scheduled to prepare and analyze this matter. Mr. Ulrich asked if the money that was budgeted in anticipation of employee contracts, settlements and health benefits is included in the 2 million dollar surplus or is it a separate amount. Mr. Franchetta said the 2 million dollars that was identified in the audit is another source of revenue that will be attributed to next year's budget unless the Governor takes it. Mr. Ulrich asked if we have money in an encumbered account that cannot be seized and could be used for salaries and benefits. Mr. Franchetta said no the money can be seized.

Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Craig Phillips, District String Ensemble Director, to present a student spotlight presentation.

Mr. Phillips introduced Alexandria Yeager, violinist, who was chosen for the second year in a row to the South Jersey Orchestra. Ms. Yeager played a musical selection on the violin.

Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Keith Nocco from Sodexo Food Management.

Mr. Nocco introduced the recipients of the City of Vineland 5-Star Food Service Awards.

Mr. Franchetta congratulated the cafeterias and noted that some of our locations have been recipients every year.

Mr. Nocco presented a food service update. He said the breakfast and lunch menus changed in November 2010. The elementary lunch menu now offers a daily hot entrée and a weekly hot alternate along with three cold entrée choices daily. The middle and high school menu now offers a daily hot entrée along with two hot alternates and two cold entrée choices day. Mr. Nocco said a very nice article about food service was written to the editor of *The Daily Journal* by Shavonne Davis. Also the Rossi School newspaper interviewed their school cafeteria and positive things were said. Mr. Nocco said there will be surveys given out in the schools in regards to the school lunch program. He said it is very good way to hear what the students have to say. Mr. Nocco compared the breakfast and lunch participation from this year to last year. Mr. DeWinne asked how the lunch participation is going. Mr. Nocco said we are at a 3% increase and it is just a matter of finding out what the students like. Mr. DeWinne asked if the improvements have been done and did we pick up some of the costs. Mr. Franchetta said the agreement did include some capital improvements and we are working on some changes at Vineland High School North. Mr. Franceschini asked how we are doing with breakfast in the classrooms in the elementary schools. Mr. Nocco said it will begin in March at Sabater School and a letter will be sent to the parents. Mr. Ulrich asked how quickly Sodexo achieved the participation/target rate at the other school districts. Mr. Nocco said it took about a year. Dr. Mounier asked if there was a way to account for the money when a bill is sent. Mr. Nocco said he does provide an executive summary and operating statement break down. Dr. Mounier said he has asked for an accounting and has not received it yet. Mr. Franchetta said he will take care of this.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the minutes were approved from January 5, 2011 and January 12, 2011. All Members voted “yes.”

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of December 2010, 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.”

Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, Seconded by Ms. Rios, a Certificate of Deposit was opened at Century Savings Bank on January 10, 2011 for one (1) year at a 1.100% interest rate in the amount of \$1,250,000.00. All Members voted “yes.”

Ms. Rios asked if the term on this certificate can only be for a year. Mr. Franchetta explained that quotes are received from all the banks that were approved at the reorganization meeting and we decide which rate and time is best for us.

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

FRANCESHINI	ULRICH	DEWINNE	DIWINGIO	ENGLISH	FANUCI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIOS
					1			2
						1		2
								2

1. The Board approve personnel items in accordance with the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members voted “yes” except Dr. Mounier who voted “yes” on all items except the new position under new employment line #11 he voted “no.” (8-0-0)

2. 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.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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.)

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

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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FRANCESCINI	ULRICH	DEWINE	DIGIORGIO	ENGLISH	FANUCCI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIOS
					1			2
					1			2
					1			2

4. 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

All Members voted “yes” except for Dr. Mounier who voted “yes” on all travel except the Athletic training Conference in New Orleans he voted “no.” (8-0-0)

5. Bids:

The Board approve the following Extraordinary Unspecified Service (EUS) contract in the amount to exceed \$36,000.00 in accordance with 18A:18A-51(2):

High/Scope (Numbers Plus)

All Members voted “yes” except for Dr. Mounier who voted “no.” (7-1-0)

6. The Board approve the following job descriptions:

- #4417 – Diesel Mechanic
- #4418 – Senior Diesel Mechanic

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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F R A N C E S C H I N I	U L R I C H	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	E N G L I S H	F A N U C C I	M O U N T A I N	P H I L L I P S	R I O S
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						1		2

7. The Board establish the following positions for budget and planning purposes effective September 1, 2011:

- a. One (1) 10 month Assistant Principal High School - South
- b. One (1) 10 month Assistant Principal High School - North

Salary and benefits will be in accordance with the terms of the contract between the Vineland Board of Education and the Vineland Administrators and Supervisors Association.

Mr. Fanucci asked what would happen to these positions if it was decided to revamp the administration in these buildings. Dr. Banks explained that we are just recreating positions that were eliminated.

All Members voted "yes."
(8-0-0)

8. The Board approve the list of professional/clerical staff as translators for district requirement on an as-needed basis.

- Richard Bermudez – Spanish
- Jeannie Cuevas - Spanish
- Madeline Galan - Spanish
- Deborah Hernandez - Spanish
- Vlada Jackson – Russian/Ukrainian
- Jessica Mercado – Spanish
- Rosa Mendez – Spanish
- Karolina Mills – Czech/Polish
- Mary Moi - Italian
- Virginia Reyes - Spanish
- Wanda Santiago - Spanish
- Shirley Santos – Spanish

All Members voted "yes"
(8-0-0)

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FRANCESHINI	ULRICH	DEWINE	DIWINGIO	ENGLISH	FANUCCHI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIOS
					1			2
						1		2
							1	2

9. The Board approve a professional services contract with South Jersey Hospital, Incorporated, for IMPACT health care services for the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in accordance with the form of contract approved by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

10. The Board approve the tuition contract between the Cumberland County Technical Education Center and the Vineland Board of Education for the 2010 – 2011 school year

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

11. The Board approve the School Psychologist in Training Agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and Fordham University

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

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FRANCHESCHINI	ULRICH	DEWINE	DIWIGLIO	ENGLISH	FANUCCI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIOS
					1			2
					1			2
					1			2

12. The Board approve the Teacher-in-Training agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and Immaculata University for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

13. The Board approve the cancellation of account receivables that are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

Dr. Mounier asked for an explanation on this item. Mr. Franchetta said this was for a student from the Passaic Public School District that we thought was in transition. After we billed for this student we found out that the student was our responsibility not Passaic's.

14. The Board approve the SECOND reading of the following Policies for adoption:

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

Policy #3219 – Criminal Charges Against a Teaching Staff Member (Revised)

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: None.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$6,827,450.83).

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

Public: Joanne Downey, VHS Student Assistance Counselor
Ms. Downey expressed her concern because she feels there is a great misconception happening with regard to education at the high school level. She believes we need to look at the problems from a different perspective. Ms. Downey said the state of our school system is a direct reflection from the state of our community and at this time we are a failing community. She said the reality is that our children are suffering and as long as they are suffering emotionally they are not learning academically.

Board Member
Remarks: Ms. Rios complimented Durand Elementary School for a job well done with the lock down, D’Ippolito Elementary School for the flag salute, violinist Alexandra Yeager and the 5-Star Award Food Service recipients. She also complimented Joanne Downey for expressing her concerns about the students and agreed with many of her comments.

Mr. DeWinne apologized to his son for cutting him short when he was speaking to him earlier. He thanked Ms. Downey for speaking and hopes she takes her comments to a city council meeting. Mr. DeWinne hopes his good friend, Mr. English, gets well soon.

Dr. Mounier applauded Ms. Downey for speaking and agrees that the health of the community is reflected in the health of the academic institutions. He thanked Ms. Yeager for the wonderful job she did playing the violin. Dr. Mounier hopes Mr. English gets well soon.

Mrs. Phillips congratulated Alexandra Yeager for the excellent job she did playing the violin. She said that Ms. Downey gave an excellent speech along with a very important message. Mrs. Phillips hopes Mr. English gets well and wished Mr. Franceschini good luck with his surgery tomorrow.

Mr. DiGiorgio congratulated the 5-Star Award Food Service recipients. He said that he thinks highly of tonight's speaker Ms. Downey and feels that we have some societal issues that we have to deal with. Mr. DiGiorgio said he hopes Mr. English feels better and Mr. Franceschini does well with his upcoming appointment.

Mr. Ulrich said being in law enforcement for approximately 29 years he has seen the side effects of not getting a grip on abuse problems, which cycles through generation. He agrees with some of the points brought up by Ms. Downey but some of the issues are greater than we can deal with. Mr. Ulrich said it is truly a societal issue and it would be nice to have additional counselors and people to do intervention. He said domestic violence services are available to Vineland residents along with emergency shelter and transportation services.

Dr. Banks thanked Ms. Downey for her comments. She congratulated Alexandra Yeager for being selected to the South Jersey Senior High Orchestra for the second consecutive year.

Board President

Remarks:

Mr. Franceschini thanked all the presenters along with Mr. Franchetta and Mr. Smith for their hard work. He wished Mr. English a speedy recovery and Mr. Ulrich a Happy Birthday.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, February 9, 2011 and Wednesday, March 2, 2011** regarding budget issues, personnel matters, contract negotiations, student residency/disciplinary matters and anticipated or pending litigation.

Motion:

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

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF/df