

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 17, 2010 at 7:04 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

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

Mr. Giordano 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

Alida Diaz, Cassidy Grablow, Destiny Jones, Ashley Priore, Breanna Suppi and Lea Westergaard students from the Mennies School Safety Patrol lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Arena, Principal was in attendance.

Presentation (s):

Dr. Banks introduced Ms. Linda Santagata, the guidance supervisor, to introduce the 2010 Giraffe Heroes.

Ms. Santagata said these students exemplify the qualities of the Giraffe Character Education Program, which are they have a big heart and selflessly serve others, look out for others, pursue goals and consistently attain them. She introduced each of the Giraffe Heroes and Heroines and also thanked their families for contributing to the incredible qualities of these young men and women.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the Board approved the minutes from January 13, 2010, January 20, 2010 and January 27, 2010 All Members voted "yes" except for Mrs. Phillips, and Ms. Rios who "abstained" on January 20 2010 and January 27, 2010 and Mr. Bernardini who voted "yes" on all minutes but "abstained" on January 27, 2010.

Report of the  
Secretary/Custodian  
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of December 2009, 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."

Solicitor's Report:

None.

Dr. Banks said that she would like to take this opportunity to explain why the Assistant Superintendent for Administration is a crucial position and why it needs to be filled. She assured everyone that this is not a frivolous position and the duties assigned to the Assistant Superintendent for Administration cannot be distributed among the current central office staff or to principals, as some members of the public have suggested. She said the person in this position is responsible for all state reports, time lines, and action plans related to the Corrective Action Plans for many of our buildings because of AYP issues. Additional duties include but are not limited to the Fall Enrollment Report, Violence & Vandalism Report, Comprehensive Equity Plan, QSAC Reports, District Professional Development Plan, District & Building Crisis/Emergency Management Plan and the end of the year attendance reports. Dr. Banks said much of our funding is based on the accuracy of these reports. She said there is also directed involvement with personnel hiring and termination, transportation enrollment, summer programs, development of schedules for report cards, state and district testing, development of the school calendar, staff development for administrators, Board of Education policy review/revisions, development of procedures/regulations that compliment the board policies, consultation with principals to resolve parent/student concerns and overall administrative issues related to the day to day operations of their buildings. Dr. Banks said this person is also responsible for Affirmative Action, Title 9 issues, harassment and turnkey training of other mandated programs. Dr. Banks said those who suggest that these duties can be divided among the current administrative staff or principals do not have a full understanding of the importance of this position. The duties of the Assistant Superintendent for Administration are crucial to the organizational aspects of the district.

Dr. Banks said there has been some criticism that she cannot possibly understand the needs of this district because of the short time that she has been here. She has been in this profession for almost forty years, twenty of which involve administrative experience at the building at the central office level. Therefore her best assessment, based upon her experience, is that this is an important position that needs to be filled. Dr. Banks said when she was hired to be Vineland's superintendent she was given the charge to organize the district and hold employees accountable for their job responsibilities. She assured everyone that she intends to do just that. Dr. Banks said there are those including writers on the *Daily Journal* staff who suggest that she is not showing fiscal responsibility because of her recommendation regarding this position. She pointed out that she has assessed other positions in the district, which she feels can be eliminated or reduced that will have no direct impact on classroom instruction. Dr. Banks said the cost savings regarding these positions will be significant and her action plan will be revealed and implemented in the coming months. She would like to state that she will not be bullied by the tactics of some members of the newspaper staff who in her opinion set out to influence the vote of individual board members and whose behavior seems to be at times more suggestive of a tabloid than a reputable journal. Dr. Banks said she respectfully submits her recommendation to the board for the hiring of Dina Elliott as Assistant Superintendent of Administration.

Mr. Giordano said as far as his vote he will be supporting this position. He said that he has never worked with a board more fiscally responsible than the individuals seated at this table. Mr. Giordano said this board asks questions, scrutinize and leave no stone unturned. He guarantees that fiscal responsibility is at the top of everyone's list seated at this table. Mr. Giordano said this is a budgeted position and the starting salary is \$118,000. In addition, one high school principal position is being eliminated, which is over \$132,000. Mr. Giordano said he knows for a fact the areas that Dr. Banks is looking into to streamline and cut costs. Unfortunately, those areas cannot be divulged at this time. Mr. Giordano said no teaching positions will be cut therefore he is supporting this position.

Mrs. Phillips said she was not influenced by the *Daily Journal*. She said that she totally understands and respects Dr. Banks opinion.

Mrs. Phillips said when she was running for a position on the board one of the questions asked at the forum was “Would you be in favor or against cutting Dr. Figgs position?” Mrs. Phillips said her answer was that she would be in favor of cutting the position. She is concerned for the finances and students who have had many programs cut. Mrs. Phillips said this is nothing against the superintendent or the candidate but she feels right now we need to wait.

Mr. Franceschini said there are over 2,000 employees and 10,000 students in this district along with 100 state and federal mandates that are required to be upheld. He feels this position is critical and very important.

Mr. Ulrich said for the three years that he has been on this board he has never been fiscally irresponsible. He has questioned and voted no against other board members. Mr. Ulrich said what he believes is in order to have an efficiently run district you need to have a top management team. How could we succeed or be more efficient if we do not allow the superintendent to have that management team. Mr. Ulrich said he has confidence in his short term association with Dr. Banks that she will make changes and he supports this position.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he will be voting “no” on this position. He said when he was running for school board there were opportunities to review a lot of things as far as management. Mr. DiGiorgio said his vote is not a reflection of Dr. Banks or the candidate. He said we just lost 13 million dollars and face a difficult budget process, which is where his concerns are.

Mr. DeWinne agrees with Mrs. Phillips and Mr. DiGiorgio. He said this is an opportunity to not fill a position and not dismiss anyone from the job. Mr. DeWinne expressed his concern that on July 1 we are going to get shortchanged.

Mr. Bernardini said he is voting “yes” tonight to support Dr. Banks as she puts her team together to move this district forward. He said this is the beginning because there will be other important positions that she is going to fill. Mr. Bernardini feels very strong that Dr. Banks is making the right decision. He said as Mr. Giordano stated there are other things that are going to happen in this district that will surprise people and save a lot of money.

Mr. Bernardini said that he wishes the *Daily Journal* would just print the news instead of trying to make the news and badgering this board in voting the way they think it should go.

Ms. Rios said she respects Dr. Banks informative speech. She will support Dr. Banks as long as she can guarantee that the state aid we are not receiving will not affect the people employed by this district who deal on a day to day basis with our children.

Mr. Giordano said the general public does not know all the ins and outs. He said his telephone number is in the book and he will be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. DiGiorgio said anyone that knows him knows that he does not get easily mind changed by a newspaper that he does not even read.

Public Comment on  
Agenda Items:

Lee Burke, Vineland Resident

Mr. Burke said the board has tough choices and when the district was designated an Abbott district certain reform requirements had to be accepted. He said what disturbs him the most is during the nine years he has lived in Vineland there has been four superintendents. Mr. Burke said most people read the *Daily Journal* and there are perceptions and misperceptions. He urged the board and public to give the superintendent the support that she needs.

Recommendations: See page 6 of this document.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

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

**Dr. Banks introduced and congratulated Dina Elliott the new Assistant Superintendent for Administration.**

**Ms. Elliott said she respects all the board votes and the job they are here to do. She said that she looks forward to working with the Vineland Board of Education.**

**Dr. Banks also introduced the new supervisor for Science/Music Kathleen Palermo.**

**Mr. Giordano wished them both a long successful tenure with Vineland Public Schools.**

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.

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" except Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio and Mrs. Phillips who voted "yes" on all items except the Assistant Supt. position they voted "no." (9-0-0)

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

Vineland Board Of Education  
 Report to the Board – February 17, 2010

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

4. The Board approve submission of the following grant(s) as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. Kohl’s A-Team Grant  
 Barse Elementary School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 500.00
- b. Target Field Trip Grant  
 Durand Elementary School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 800.00
- c. Community Action Council Grant  
 Wallace Middle School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 4,975.00
- d. Teaching American History Grant  
 In the amount of ----- \$500,000.00

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (9-0-0)

5. The Board accept funding in the following amount(s):

- a. Target Field Trip Grant  
 Durand Elementary School  
 In the amount of ----- \$ 800.00

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (9-0-0)

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			2	1				
			2	1				

6. Bids:

- a. The Board approve a list of contracts on file with the Board Secretary that is bid by the State of New Jersey and/or Cumberland County for use by local entities for materials and supplies that are expected to exceed \$29,000.00 from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10 and 11.
- b. The Board authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary to advertise and receive competitive bids for the 2010 – 2011 school year. The list of the potential bids is on file with the Board Secretary.
- c. The Board acknowledge receipt of bids for the following and reject and award as follows:

**Non-Food Supplies**

Reject:

Dubin Paper Company  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Award:

South Jersey Paper  
 Vineland, New Jersey  
 In the estimated amount of ----- \$67,585.42

- 7. 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."  
 (9-0-0)

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)



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

8. The Board approve the tuition contract between the Cumberland County Technical Education Center (CCTec) and the Vineland Board of Education for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)

9. The Board approve an Agreement with Salem County Special Services School District to enter into a Non-Public Services Agreement for the 2009 – 2010 school year in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools. (This service is authorized under I.D.E.I.A. – ARRA.)

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)

10. The Board accept the donation of computers from the Internal Revenue Service to Mennies Elementary School in accordance with Board Policy #7230, "Gifts, Grants and Donations."

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)

11. The Board approve the 2009 – 2010 REVISED School Calendar for Pupil Attendance as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members  
 voted "yes."  
 (9-0-0)

**Dr. Banks said because of the snow and the loss of six school days the school calendar had to be adjusted. Also the high school lost an additional day because of the flooding issue. Dr. Banks said historically whenever time was lost due to inclement weather it was added to the end of the school year with plenty of days left.**

G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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Continued

**Dr. Banks said we are running out of days in June and the revised calendar will remove the two days we would have had following the Easter break. She said school will be in session on those two days. Dr. Banks said as we get into June and the weather gets really warm we will entertain the possibility of going to single session days due to the fact some of the buildings are extremely hot. She said we only have three more days left in the month of June so that is why she felt it was important to take the two days from the spring break. Dr. Banks said she never said that we were going to have school on Saturdays. She thanked the UAW for giving the district back Easter Monday since it is a legal holiday.**

**Mr. Ulrich said his only concern is that employees who planned a vacation around the Easter holiday should, under these unusual circumstances, be given some lenience with supporting documentation.**

**Dr. Banks said absolutely individual circumstances will be reviewed. She is hoping by giving this early notice to staff, parents and the community they will have enough time to make any adjustments.**

**Mr. Giordano said Dr. Banks for next year has looked into building days in the school calendar for snow.**

**Mr. DeWinne asked if graduation will be held on a Friday, June 25. Dr. Banks said that is correct.**

**Mrs. Phillips feels it was a great decision to take the two days off the calendar at Easter because they are excellent teaching days. She recommends having more half days in June.**

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$7,343,860.28).

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

Public: Lee Burke  
Mr. Burke suggested for the board along with the mayor and council to meet at least twice annually to discuss various matters that affect the community. He also suggested for Dr. Banks and her staff to meet with Dr. Isekenegbe the President of Cumberland County College along with his staff. Dr. Banks said she has done that already.

Board Member  
Remarks: Mr. Ulrich said Mr. Burke’s idea of meeting with city officials is a good idea that will filter down. He said you have better options available if you have greater numbers to get them from. Mr. Ulrich said one example of shared services is the intranet between the Police Department and the City that run off of the Board of Education backbone. He said the concept of shared services is a good idea that will save the tax payers in the long run. Mr. Ulrich said our board meetings are televised and there are some people who are in attendance at every meeting. He said it is incumbent upon people to have a voice and he encourages everyone to come forward to reflect what they have to say.

Mrs. Phillips announced that the Project Graduation Dance will be held on Friday night, Mennies Elementary School is having their annual Lip Sync Show on Thursday, February 25 and Sabater Elementary School is having a Dinner Dance on Friday, February 26. She congratulated the Giraffe Heroes who were honored tonight.

Mr. Franceschini congratulated and wished the best of luck to the new hires.

Mr. DeWinne announced that the girls swim team will be in the South Jersey Group A finals tomorrow night at Gloucester County Institute of Technology. He requested for directions to be posted on the *Channel #9* website or the newspaper. Mr. DeWinne congratulated Ms. Elliott and Ms. Palermo.

Mr. DiGiorgio congratulated the new hires and wished Cheryl Warfle health and happiness on her retirement.

Mr. Bernardini commended Chief Pagnini of the Fire Department for bringing in all the fire pumps that he could find because without them we would still be pumping water out of the high school. He said a commendable job was done on the snow removable by our maintenance department. Mr. Bernardini mentioned that the Vineland High School Wrestling Team is back. The team had a winning season and he congratulated Mr. Homiak and his staff with the work they have done with them.

Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

None.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, February 17, 2010, Wednesday, February 24, 2010 and Wednesday March 3, 2010** regarding budget issues, personnel matters, contract negotiations, student residency/disciplinary matters and anticipated or pending litigation.

Motion:

Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA  
Board Secretary

KJF:df