

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, March 10, 2010 at 6:52 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:

Justin Arbona, Annalisa Franceschini, Jeremiah Muray and Mackenzie Nash, students from Petway Elementary School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance Mrs. Frederico, Principal was in attendance.

The board recessed to executive session at 6:54 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:14 p.m.

Mr. Giordano asked for a moment of silence for Greg Hughes, a teacher at Petway Elementary School, who passed away yesterday. Mr. Giordano also said our hearts and prayers also go out to Peggy Jones, a Petway Elementary School teacher, who tragically lost her mother and son a couple of weeks ago.

Special
Presentation (s):

Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Ross Stanger, Supervisor of Social Studies/Literacy Media, to present the Cumberland County Mock Trial Champions.

Mr. Stanger announced that the Vineland High School Mock Trial Team won the Cumberland County Mock Trial Competition for the second year in a row. He introduced each of the champions along with their volunteer attorney coach and former Vineland High School graduate, Mr. Michael Testa.

Mr. Testa thanked the board for having him here this evening. He said these young men and women displayed poise and experience beyond their years. He congratulated the students and said they were very receptive of all the suggestions made by him and Mrs. Romano.

Mr. Stanger also introduced Mr. John Howard, the team captain.

Mr. Giordano congratulated the Mock Trial Champions on behalf of his colleagues.

Dr. Banks introduced Ms. Cathy DeMarco to give a presentation on the Netherlands Student Exchange Program.

Ms. DeMarco thanked the board for their support of the International Student Exchange Program. She said last spring she started an International Student Exchange Club. The purpose of the club is to help students find ways to realize this experience, through contacts with schools in other countries who would like to work with student exchanges. Ms. DeMarco said we have nine students who will be participating in a trip to Holland and nine students from the Netherlands who will be coming here. She said the students from the Netherlands will be coming here and attending classes April 1 through April 10. Ms. DeMarco said our students will be going to the Netherlands May 20 through May 30.

Mr. Ulrich said it is a great program and it would be nice to hear from the students about their experiences.

Mr. Giordano said our board solicitor, Mr. DeSanto, will give a brief presentation on what can and cannot be discussed at a public meeting in regards to personnel items. He urged anyone who hears a rumor and needs clarification to please call him.

Mr. DeSanto said employee record and rights are governed by a number of laws, statutes, regulations and decisions. He said the basic scope of these laws is to try to keep in balance the rights of employees to their privacy and right of the public to know. Mr. DeSanto said sometime in the seventies Governor Byrne issued Executive Order 11, which tried to help out districts in terms of what can be disclosed in terms of an employee's record. This Executive Order has been adopted over the years by subsequent governors and now it is codified and becomes part of Open Public Records Act (OPRA). Mr. DeSanto said under this statute employee records are basically not public records. Employee records are kept in private and the public is entitled to certain information and these are the exceptions.

Continued

Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L. 1963, c.73 or any other law to the contrary, the personnel or pensions records of any individual in the possession of a public agency, including but not limited to records relating to any grievances file by or against an individual, shall not be considered a government record and shall not be made available for public access. Mr. DeSanto said the public is allowed to know an individual's name, title, position, salary, payroll record, length of service, date of separation and the reason therefore, and the amount and type of pension received shall be a government record. Furthermore, data contained in information which disclose conformity with specific experiential, educational or medial qualifications required for government employment or for receipt of a public pension, but not including any detailed medical or psychological information, shall be a government record. Mr. DeSanto said the Sunshine Law is the law that governs what we do and say about an individual at a board meeting. Under the Open Public Meetings Act the following are the areas that remain in executive session. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, 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 the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. Mr. DeSanto said if an employee is going to be discussed they are given a "Rice Notice," which is required by the Open Public Meetings Act. He said a "Rice Notice" is given only if you intend to speak about a person in executive session. If a person wants to exercise their rights they can have their discussion in public, which is called your "Rice Right." Mr. DeSanto said as long as you are dealing with your published agenda that person's name has now been advanced for public discussion. He said anything that is on the agenda and will be voted on in public is available to the public and press.

Mr. Giordano asked if the superintendent is going to discuss several positions do all of those individuals who hold those positions need to be "Riced." Mr. DeSanto said the "Rice Notice" only applies if the individuals will be discussed in executive session.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the Board approved the minutes from February 3, 2010, February 8, 2010, February 17, 2010 and February 24, 2010. All Members voted “yes” except for Mrs. Phillips and Mr. Ulrich who voted “yes” on all minutes but “abstained” on February 8, 2010 and Mr. DeWinne and Mr. Bernardini who voted “yes” on all minutes but “abstained” on February 24, 2010 and Ms. Rios who voted “yes” on February 3, 2010 and February 17, 2010 and “abstained” on February 8, 2010 and February 24, 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 January 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.”

Solicitor’s Report:

None.

Mr. Giordano wanted to clarify that the Civil Service item has been taken off the agenda indefinitely.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

Michael Adams, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Adams said being an administrative assistant has been a tremendous experience and maybe the hardest thing he has ever done. He said that he has seen a dramatic improvement in the operations of the Small Learning Communities. He asked if the board is open to being creative on how they collaborate and try to come up with an optimal decision that is in the best interest of all the children. Mr. Adams said he is here to help in any way that he can and thanked the board for giving him the opportunity to be the Arts Administrative Assistant.

Eric Reissek, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Reissek acknowledged the administration and members of the board for having the courage to forge forward despite opposition three years ago in implementing the Small Learning Communities. He said that he has had the pleasure of serving as administrative assistance first for the Liberal Arts Community and recently Math, Science and Engineering. Mr. Reissek said his personal thanks go out to all the students who he served for their patience and understanding during the development of this program. He also thanked Dr. McCann and Ms. Burke for their support and assistance. Mr. Reissek said he knows the decision to abolish the administrative assistant positions was a difficult one and stands ready to help out any way that he can.

VHS Student Government

Members of the Vineland High School Student Government said they have issues that they would like to address. Their first concern is that administrative assistants are necessary, help students with their needs and handle discipline. If the administrative assistants are moved back to teaching positions will there be enough people retiring to avoid teacher cuts as well. Another concern is that what will happen to the Small Learning Communities if the administrative assistants are cut. A couple suggestions that the student government had were to combine buses and cut down or combine sports teams. The student government said the administrative assistants are the glue that holds everything together and students look up to them.

Mr. Giordano commended each of the students for having the courage to stand before the board and make their concerns known. He said even though the positions will be abolished none of the individuals will lose their jobs.

Jeannette Wallace, Parent

Ms. Wallace expressed her concern in regards to the instruction of our students, academic rigor that we are trying to maintain and the advocacy that we want to have for our students in class. She said the students at Vineland High School do not have a stronger advocate than Ms. Burke.

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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.

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

Ms. Rios asked if there is anything on the agenda in regards to the assistant principal positions. Mr. Giordano said no there is absolutely no action that is being taken in regards to assistant principals.

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."
 (9-0-0)

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."
 (9-0-0)

- a. General Fund
- b. Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA)

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

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

- a. Lowes Tool Box Grant
 D'Ippolito Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$2,053.03
- b. General Mills Foundation Grant
 Mennies Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$3,300.00

5. Bids:

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

a. The Board exercise the option to renew the Internet Access and Related Equipment contract for two years in accordance with 18A: 18A-42 as follows:

Award:
 Data Network Solutions
 Red Bank, New Jersey
 In the amount of ----- \$110,880.00
 (base plus one option)

b. The Board acknowledge receipt of bids for Janitorial Cleaning Products (re-ad) and award as follows:

Class 1
 Interline Brands
 Pennsauken, New Jersey
 In the estimated amount of ----- \$ 37,154.45

Class 2
 General Chemical & Supply
 Maple Shade, New Jersey
 In the estimated amount of ----- \$ 15,018.75

Class 3
 South Jersey Paper Products
 Vineland, New Jersey
 In the estimated amount of ----- \$ 72,789.67

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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5. Bids (Continued)

- c. The Board acknowledges receipt of bids for school buses as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and reject and award as follows:

54 Passenger Buses

Award:

Wolfington body Co., Inc.
Mt. Holly, New Jersey

In the estimated amount of ----- \$582,376.00

**24 Ambulatory Passenger and/or
9 Wheelchair Buses**

Reject:

Wolfington body Co., Inc.
Failure to offer a firm bid price and
Delivery Timeframe

Award:

H. A. DeHart
Thorofare, New Jersey

In the estimated amount of ----- \$299,583.00

- d. The Board approve the Change Order for the Vineland High School North science lab renovations. The contract was awarded to RMS Construction, Inc. by the Board on July 8, 2009 in the amount of \$411,000.00. This Change Order will decrease the contract by \$9,305.00. Therefore, the adjusted contract amount will be \$401,695.00.

Mr. Ulrich complimented Mr. DeWinne on his efforts of pushing for the janitorial supplies to be broken up per item to bring the cost down.

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				2	1			

6. 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)

7. The Board approve the submission of the Amended FY 2010 ARRA Title I Application to the State of New Jersey Department of Education in the amount of \$3,142,473.00 for the period July 1, 2009 to August 31, 2011.

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

8. The Board approve a Resolution requesting additional Federal aid to the States.

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

9. The Board approve the transportation agreement with the Cumberland County Office of Employment & Training and Wawa, Inc. to provide transportation services to the work-study students FY 2009.

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

Mr. Giordano asked if this was after the fact. Mr. Franchetta said we finally received the contract.

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 I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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10. The Board abolish the following positions effective June 30, 2010:

- a. Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education and Special Programs (Job #1403)
- b. High School Executive Principal (Job #1503)
- c. High School Associate Principal (Job #1503.1)
- d. High School Administrative Assistant (Job #1507.1)

Furthermore, the Board abolish the title of Assistant Superintendent for Business (Job #1301) effective immediately and establish the creation of the title of School Business Administrator effective immediately.

Mr. Giordano said the School Business Administrator position is just a title change and is not a new position.

11. The Board waive the time requirements for review according to Policy #0131 (By-Laws and Policies) and adopt Policy #1110 (Organizational Chart).

Mr. Franceschini said the Personnel & Policy Committee met this evening and Dr. Banks requested for the new organizational chart to be approved. He said there were some changes that Dr. Banks will discuss. Mr. Franceschini said in agreement with the Bylaws they were able to do this as an emergent item.

Dr. Banks said the new organizational chart reflects the titles that were recently abolished. She said there was some movement in terms of direct line of authority. Dr. Banks said in the past the principals had a direct line of authority to the Assistant Superintendent for Administration and she feels the direct line of authority should be to the Superintendent.

Mr. Franceschini said the committee reviewed this and was in agreement.

All Members voted “yes” except for Ms. Rios who voted “yes” on all items except (d) high school administrative assistants she voted “no.”

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

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” (\$5,872,520.85).

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

Public: Eric Way
Mr. Way said Mr. & Mrs. Phillips are two of the best individuals that you could ever have in our community and are really concerned about our children.

No name provided

This individual expressed his concern in regards to the elimination of positions and the hiring of a new assistant superintendent.

Mr. Giordano said the responsibilities of the positions that were eliminated will be looked into and Dr. Banks will be meeting with staff to discuss those responsibilities.

Lisa Arena, Principal Mennies Elementary School

Mrs. Arena said she is here to address the possibility of any future budgetary cuts which might affect the status of the assistant principals. She spoke in support of the assistant principals and addressed each of their responsibilities. Mrs. Arena asked the board to reconsider and evaluate plans for staff changes.

Mr. Giordano said the board is not taking any action against assistant principals.

Dr. Thomas McCann, Principal, Vineland High School South

Dr. McCann said assistant principals are the heart of the school. He said the Vineland Administrators and Supervisors Association (VASA) are proud of our assistant principals and he commended them for their hard work.

Dorothy Burke, Assistant Principal, Vineland High School South
Ms. Burke said she mentored Administrative Assistants, Mr. Reissek, Mr. Adams and Mr. Perez who are good hard workers. She said these individuals go above and beyond what you ask of them. Ms. Burke asked the board to remember the leaders that you have and the strength in those leaders. She asked if there is a way to keep them as leaders because they make the connections to the students. Ms. Burke urged everyone to attend the Cap 'n Dagger Club production of "High School Musical" on stage at the Vineland High School South auditorium on March 11, March 12, and March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Banks said she had the privilege of a command performance at Monday night's dress rehearsal and the students were fantastic. She congratulated and thanked the staff who worked so hard with the students.

Board Member
Remarks:

Mrs. Phillips mentioned that she was Gregg Hughes' principal at Petway School for two years. She said it is not very often that you get a man like Gregg Hughes. Mrs. Phillips said Gregg came to school every day early with a smile and a song. He absolutely loved his fourth grade children and they loved him. Mrs. Phillips commended Mrs. Frederico, Mrs. Malatesta and Ms. Santagata on the tremendous job they did in handling this situation. She thanked the Petway School students who did the flag salute tonight.

Mr. Ulrich congratulated the Mock Trial Team on their championship and the Student Government for coming forward and having the courage to speak in front of their peers. He urged everyone to attend the Project Graduation fundraiser breakfast at Vineland High School South on Sunday, March 14 at 7:30 a.m. Mr. Ulrich said we need to put a system in place that rewards employees who come up with ideas that save the district money.

Mr. Franceschini said there are a lot of people in Vineland who complain about Vineland and do nothing about it. He said he did not want to be one of the complainers, which is why he ran for school board. Mr. Franceschini said the board volunteers and works very hard and if someone has a good idea to please let the board know.

Ms. Rios thanked the Petway Patriots for the flag salute and popcorn. She congratulated the Mock Trial champions on a job well done. Ms. Rios complimented the teachers in the district for their participation in the Parent Portal System and the parents who are enrolled for taking the initiative in being part of their child's education. Ms. Rios thanked Dr. Banks and Steve Dantine for allowing her to translate the Parent Portal System from English to Spanish.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked all the employees for their continued dedication to our children in the district. He believes that some of the employees who are present tonight will land on their feet and will continue to be an important force in our district.

Mr. Fanucci said he agrees with Mr. Franceschini's statement. He said it is extremely important that our children are first and that is why he is here. Mr. Fanucci said everyone on this board is human, has a heart and an opinion. He said the board is working hard and is here to listen. Mr. Fanucci thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work. He announced that there will be a Dance for a Cure fundraiser for autism held at the Heritage House on Friday, April 9.

Mr. Bernardini thanked the Mock Trial students. He said everyone on this board works hard to make things good for the students in this district. Mr. Bernardini said he is getting tired of hearing the rumors on the street every day. He said the people who start these rumors are evil. Mr. Bernardini said we did not lose thirteen million dollars it was money that we had in reserve for an emergency such as payroll. He said the money would just be applied against the state aid payment. Mr. Bernardini said we are fighting for the students and faculty in this district so please when you hear a rumor ask the people who are in charge.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Giordano asked everyone to please contact him if they hear something that they are not sure about.

- Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, March 10, 2010, Wednesday, March 17, 2010, Wednesday, March 22, 2010** and **Wednesday, April 7, 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 the meeting by voice vote at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df