

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 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Ms. Rios, Mr. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Evans.

Also present: Mr. Ottinger, Superintendent, Dr. Figgs and Dr. Gruccio, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel, Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director, press and public. Absent: Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor.

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:

Calli Ellison, Nelson Marrero, Moises Perez and Grant Young students from Durand Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Horner, Principal and Mr. Greco, Asst. Principal were in attendance.

Mr. DeSanto arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Special

Presentation (s):

Mr. Ottinger introduced Ms. Linda Santagata, the Supervisor of Student Personnel Services, to present the Giraffe Heroes.

Ms. Santagata said the Giraffe Heroes is the Character Education Program in the elementary schools. She said we use the giraffe to symbolize several qualities that we try to instill in our children. Ms. Santagata said the following students have demonstrated these qualities and were honored at a reception held at Cumberland County College: Brittany Stafford, Nicholas Grotti, Yeila Rivera, Floricelia Cordero, Steven Cramer, Shannon Hennessy, Billie Mattioli, Sarah Filippi-Field, and Elizabeth Oliveri.

Mr. Giordano thanked and congratulated the students.

Mr. Ottinger introduced Dr. Michele Torchia to discuss the Community Health Care Program that she is organizing throughout the county.

Dr. Torchia reported that there are two serious health problems in Cumberland County infant mortality rate and teen pregnancy. She said an initiative was created and launched in August 2008 by South Jersey Healthcare and Community Healthcare to deal with the teen pregnancy problem in Cumberland County.

Continued

Dr. Torchia said the concept of providing comprehensive gynecological care with contraceptive services in the context of primary care accessible to teens is the most important aspect of successful programs across the country. She said this concept is the centerpiece of the program, which was launched as a pilot program at Bridgeton High School in September 2008. Dr. Torchia said students are seen for these services only with parental consent. She said we are very much encouraged that this program has the potential to impact this problem in the county.

Mr. Ulrich said this was discussed at the Curriculum & Technology meeting and he does not see a down side to the program.

Mr. Bernardini asked if this has been started in our school district. Dr. Torchia said we are very much interested in offering services in the Vineland School District.

Mr. Giordano said the board retreat will be held at the end of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. Spinelli, the Board approved the minutes from February 4, 2009, February 11, 2009 and February 18, 2009. All Members voted “yes.”

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies: Upon motion by Mr. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month January of 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.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations: see page 3

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

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

- a. List of retirements
- b. List of resignations/terminations
- c. List of leaves of absence
- d. List of employment of personnel
- e. List of transfers, assignments and/or promotions
- f. List of student assistants and New Jersey Youth Corps
- g. List of substitute personnel
- h. List of extracurricular assignments

Mr. Ottinger introduced and congratulated Kelly Castellini, Madeline Galan, and James Camp on their promotions.

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Ulrich who voted “yes” on all items but abstained on A.1 (d) bus attendants name #40. (8-0-0)

2. The Board approve the following personnel item in accordance with the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board. The item is in accordance with Board Policy #3125.1, “Nepotism (Teaching Staff)” and/or Board Policy #4125.1, “Nepotism (Support Staff Member).”

- a. List of transfers, assignments and/or promotions

Mr. Giordano left the room for the vote.

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Spinelli who voted “no” and Mr. Giordano who was not present for the vote. (6-1-0)

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- 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.)

Mr. Giordano returned to the meeting.

- 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)

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

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

- a. True Value Foundation Grant
 Vineland High School North and South
 In the amount of ----- \$ 1,000.00
 (per school)
- b. The Dreyer’s Foundation
 Veterans Memorial School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 3,000.00
- c. Cumberland County
 Literacy for School Libraries
 In the amount of ----- \$26,259.00
- d. New Jersey School Boards Association
 Insurance Group
 Safety Grant Program
 In the amount of ----- \$78,186.00

Mr. Spinelli asked if we bear more costs then what the grants are worth. Mr. Franchetta responded no.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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

- a. New Jersey Department of Education
 Individuals with Disabilities Education
 Improvement Act (IDEIA)
 2008 – 2009 school year
 In the amount of
 Basic Allocation ----- \$2,806,655.00
 Preschool Allocation ----- \$ 92,976.00

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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	E V A N S	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	R I O S	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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7. Bids:

- a. The Board, in accordance with 18A: 18A-42, exercises the option to renew the following contract for the 2009–2010 school year:

Before and After School Program

Award:

Cumberland County Atlantic YMCA
Vineland, New Jersey

In the amount of ----- \$763,000.00
(Estimate)

- b. The Board, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 18A-5(7), select SNIIP Telecommunications of Pennsauken, New Jersey as phone carrier for local, local toll, intrastate and interstate. (Subject to legal review of the service agreement.)
- c. The Board, in accordance with 18A: 18A-5.a(2), approve an Extraordinary Unspecified Service (EUS) contract to Rowan University of Glassboro, New Jersey to train teachers and students as follows:

Veterans Memorial Middle School ----- \$28,350.00
Wallace Middle School ----- \$ 9,450.00
Totaling \$37,800.00

- d. The Board, in accordance with 18A: 18A-5.a(2), approve an Extraordinary Unspecified Service (EUS) contract to LL Teach, Inc., of Bridgewater, New Jersey for professional development of the teaching staff as follows:

Veterans Memorial Middle School ----- \$35,230.00
Wallace Middle School ----- \$46,600.21
Totaling \$81,830.21

Mr. Spinelli asked Mr. DeSanto if he reviewed the contract. Mr. DeSanto responded yes.

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

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8. 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."
 (8-0-0)

9. The Board accept the results of the Department of Education's review of the student enrollment and record-keeping procedures of the FY 2008 – 2009 Early Childhood Program as of October 15, 2008.

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

10. The Board approve the contract modification with the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, Office of Education, for tuition of State responsible eligible students under the New Jersey Facilities Education Act. (State Child Study Team Placements.)

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

11. The Board approve an Agreement with Catapult Learning to enter into a Non-Public Services Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 and 2009 – 2010 school years in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and Superintendent of Schools. (This service is authorized under P.L. 1977, Chapters 192 and 193.)

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

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12. The Board approve a Teacher-in-Training Agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and the following colleges and/or universities:

- a. Camden County College
- b. Immaculata University of Pennsylvania
- c. LaSalle University (speech/language students)

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

13. The Board approve the Settlement Agreement between Elwyn and the Vineland Board of Education that is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

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

14. The Board approve legal attendance days for pupils during State testing days as follows:

- Middle Schools April 28, 29, 30, 2009
- Elementary Schools May 5, 6, 7, 2009

The afternoons will be used for staff development activities at each school.

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

15. The Board authorize the awarding of a contract to Secret Service Band in accordance with Board Policy #3230, Guideline #5, "Outside Activities."

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

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16. The Board approve the Resolution authorizing the settlement agreement for the employee whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board.

Mr. DeWinne voted “yes” on this item and said they are not happy about this because it is taking money away from the students.

Mr. Franceschini voted “yes” and echoed the comments made by Mr. DeWinne.

Mr. Ulrich said he voted “yes” strictly to protect the board and members of the public from further liability however; he is totally displeased with the manner in the way the investigation was conducted and the legal representation.

Mr. Bernardini voted “yes” and echoed the comments made by Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Franceschini, and Mr. Ulrich.

Mr. Giordano voted “yes” with great reservations and echoed the comments made by his colleagues.

17. The Board approve the agreement between the Community Health Care, Inc. (CHCI) and the Vineland Board of Education to provide healthcare services in a form of contract acceptable to the Board Solicitor and Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Giordano asked if there was a contract at this time.

Mr. DeSanto said no the contract has not been finalized and is subject to a form acceptable by Mr. Ottinger and himself.

All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Fanucci, Ms. Rios and Mr. Spinelli who voted “no.” (5-3-0)

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$6,317,677.44).

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

Public: Rahim Caldwell, Vineland Resident
Mr. Caldwell expressed his concern in regards to employees who abuse their positions by taking tax money away from students. He also had a list of questions that he wanted the school board to answer.

Mr. DeSanto said any information or records that Mr. Caldwell is requesting must be requested through the Open Public Records Acts through Mr. Franchetta’s office.

Board Member
Remarks:

Mr. Franceschini said discussed at tonight’s Personnel & Policy Committee meeting was creating a policy for the selection of professional staff. He said the first reading of this policy should be available at the next meeting. Mr. Franceschini said a slight revision was made to the cell phone policy, which was also discussed. He said Dr. Figgs reviewed the middle school discipline guide and is actively working on updating the district’s Policy & Procedure Manual.

Mr. Spinelli said discussed at the Finance Committee meeting was the final budget. He said questions were asked in regards to athletic maintenance and over time. Mr. Spinelli said the issue of whether or not to replace the assistant superintendent was discussed.

Mr. Franchetta reported that the district received good news this afternoon in regards to the budget and changes were minor. He announced that a Special Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** to approve the tentative budget. He said the budget will be subject to county and state review and a Public Hearing will be held on **April 1, 2009** before the Work Session.

Mr. Ottinger mentioned that the budget is a flat funded budget with no tax increase or cuts. He said that we cut sixty five positions this year and will be submitting our supplemental funding request. Mr. Ottinger said we testified before the court because we need those positions back.

Mr. Spinelli asked if the cuts were through attrition. Mr. Ottinger said in some cases but there were people who lost their jobs. He said we are in good shape for our 2009-2010 budget but still need to go after the positions that are very important to our district. Mr. Spinelli explained that he voted “no” in regards to the settlement because he was unhappy with the attorney representation. He does not think the case was investigated thoroughly and feels administration should write a letter of complaint to the law firm. Mr. Ottinger said we can write to the insurance company because they hired the attorney. Mr. Spinelli said he voted “no” on a position because of who sat on the hiring committee. He said both candidates were excellent and he wished the gentleman who was promoted to the position the best of luck.

Mr. Franceschini asked what the \$80,000 was for that was cut from Adult Education. Mr. Franchetta said it was for the post graduate Adult Education Program.

Mr. Bernardini congratulated and thanked Mr. Franchetta, the Finance Committee and everyone who worked on the budget.

Mr. DeWinne said late this afternoon he received the administrative position posting and he will have questions. Mr. Ottinger said there are some board members who are not certain as to what the responsibilities of the position are and they should ask questions.

Mr. Giordano asked if the job description that is online is more detailed than the actual posting. Mr. Ottinger said the job description is more detailed online.

Mr. Ulrich asked what the status is on the track. Mr. Bernardini said the track was finished and there was extensive patching that needed to be done. He said as soon as the weather stays above 50 degrees the track will be striped. Mr. Bernardini said the public needs to know that we want them to use the track but bicycles, skateboards, roller blades and strollers should not be on it.

Mr. Franceschini mentioned that he saw many geese along with one dog on the baseball fields. Mr. Bernardini said new dogs that swivel with the wind are going to be made.

Mr. Giordano asked if the request for the supplemental aid will be appealed like what was done in the past. Mr. Ottinger said yes and we should know in early April.

Mr. DeWinne congratulated the girls basketball team along with the boys and girls swim team. He said that he attended the middle school play *Oliver*, which was a fun time.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Giordano announced that the play *Once Upon a Mattress* will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening in the Vineland High School South auditorium.

Mr. Ulrich announced that on Friday evening an Art Display will be held at Mennies School

The board took a recess at 7:53 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:21 p.m.

Mr. Giordano introduced Ms. Charlene Zoerb, Field Service Representative with the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Ms. Zoerb said the month of March is the busiest for Board of Educations with all the budget work, evaluations, election and reorganizations. She said the statutory deadline for evaluating the superintendent is April 30, 2009 and the summary narrative is due on that date. Ms. Zoerb said the Vineland district ranked number #2 after the NJQSCA Review. She said the keys for effective goal-setting are that the board evaluates the superintendent and themselves as a board of education. Ms. Zoerb said from the results of those evaluations the goals should be set for the coming year in either May or June. She emphasized how important it is to be a committed team with the work that needs to be accomplished. Ms. Zoerb said the greatest student achievement occurs in districts where there is a high level of team work and trust among the board and superintendent.

Continued

Ms. Zoerb mentioned that the New Jersey School Boards Association does a terrific communication workshop. She said the workshop is about communication between the board, superintendent, community and parents. Ms. Zoerb said boards need to focus on where they want to be, goals and high standards/expectations for students. She said it is very important for board members to support each other when they agree and disagree. Ms. Zoerb said board members need to promote accountability in working better with administration and staff. She said presently there are tremendous challenges being faced. Board members have to answer to many people and need to be sensitive to factors that can cause dissatisfaction. Ms. Zoerb said we are all here for the students so forgive the small offenses and celebrate all the successes. She said it is very easy to fall into micro-management the more involved board members are in the school district and the more they care. Ms. Zoerb said it is very important that the board works with the superintendent to get things accomplished in the district. She said the superintendent is the action person in the district. Ms. Zoerb asked the board to set some goals collaboratively with the superintendent to discuss when she returns. She said only the majority opinions of the board are taken to form the narrative for the Superintendent Summary Report.

Mr. Giordano asked if an improvement plan needs to be done on the board's self-evaluation. Ms. Zoerb said yes that can be done in one night.

Mr. DeWinne asked if the election date will be moved. Ms. Zoerb said there is a lot of discussion currently going on and right now it seems to be split.

Mr. Bernardini feels if the board election is on the November ballot it becomes political and it starts division on the board.

Mr. Franceschini asked when the next Delegate Assembly will be held. Ms. Zoerb said it is sometime in May and the date is on the New Jersey School Boards Association website. Mr. Franceschini asked if the new building is still on hold. Ms. Zoerb said the latest word is that they will renovate where they are.

Mr. Giordano asked Ms. Zoerb if he needs to contact her to schedule a communications workshop. Ms. Zoerb responded yes.

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Tuesday, March 17, 2009** regarding budgets issues and student residency/disciplinary matters and **Wednesday, April 1, 2009** regarding budget issues, personnel matters and anticipated or pending litigation.

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

Adjournment: The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df