

An open work session of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Pauline J. Petway Elementary School gymnasium, 1115 S. Lincoln Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 6:40 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Franceschini presiding and the following members present: Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

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

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: Elisabeth DiGiorgio, Annalisa Franceschini, Ronald. J. Franceschini III, Alejandro Vega and Damario Young students from Petway Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Frederico, Principal and Mrs. Malatesta, Assistant Principal, were in attendance.

Special Presentations: Dr. Banks introduced Ms. Emily Marcello, Advisor to the Cap n' Dagger, to present and honor the Cap n' Dagger cast and crew.

Ms. Marcello introduced and presented certificates to each of the Cap n' Dagger cast and crew members.

Mr. Franceschini said the Cap n' Dagger members did an excellent job. He commented on how well behaved a group of Cap n' Dagger members were in a restaurant that he seen them in. Mr. Franceschini said that displays the kind of students that are in Cap n' Dagger. He congratulated them and wished them luck.

Dr. Banks thanked Ms. Marcello on an outstanding job.

Ms. Marcello said on behalf of Cap n' Dagger and her fellow directors she thanked the board for their continued support.

Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Mark Melamed, to recognize the middle schools cast and crew who participated in the play *Grease*.

Mr. Melamed introduced and presented certificates to each member of the play. He thanked the board and district for their support.

Dr. Banks thanked Mr. Melamed for all his work with the students.

Mr. DeWinne urged the present and future board members to continue to fight to make sure that funds are available for these types of activities. He asked Mr. Melamed to speak about a young man who touched the hearts of adults and students. Mr. DeWinne also asked Mr. Melamed to discuss what is he has planned with the Gabriel Project.

Mr. Melamed said Avy Cruz has a very rare disease called Mitochondrial Disease. He said this disease effects him by attacking his blood cells and taking the energy out of them. Mr. Melamed said Avy has a feeding tube and the students accepted him and are very careful of that. He said there is no cure for this disease so the Gabriel Project decided for his final year before retirement it would be wonderful to sponsor a local child. Mr. Melamed said we are going to make efforts this year to help Avy and his family. He announced that a Pasta Dinner/Celebrity Auction will be held at 6:00 p.m. Saturday night at Saint Anthony's Greek Hall. Mr. Melamed urged everyone to come out to support their efforts.

Mr. DeSanto arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – Mr. English asked what OT and PT stands for under extra-curricular home instruction. Ms. Greenfield said Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist. Mr. English asked if the rate is \$40.00 per hour. Ms. Greenfield responded yes. Mr. English asked if we ever spent over the \$70,000 budget. Ms. Greenfield said that is what the home instruction budget is and she does not think that we go over it. Mr. English asked if the summer weight room position is posted seasonally. Ms. Greenfield said yes. Mr. English asked if the weight room is open to all student athletes. Ms. Greenfield responded yes.

Mr. DeWinne asked if the weight room could still be utilized by a student who is not on a team. Ms. Greenfield said yes it is open through the summer.

Mr. Ulrich said you could see the impact that Mr. Melamed has on the students and staff. He wanted to recognize and congratulate, Arlene Stampa, who is retiring.

2. **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.

3. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
4. **Travel** – Dr. Mounier questioned why the June trip to the Cape May Zoo has a \$300 parking fee and the May trips do not. Dr. Banks said they will look into this for next week. Dr. Mounier noted grammatical errors and text overflows on the travel sheets. He said a trip to the Rainforest Café does not strike him as an educational institution. Mr. Ulrich said he knows that the elementary schools have been taking their students to the Rainforest Café for many years. He said even though it is a restaurant they do provide an environmental in nature program. Dr. Mounier said he would like more detail on this trip. Dr. Mounier asked if the trip to Morey's Pier is just an expensive fun trip to the shore. Mr. Ulrich said a lot of the trips are through the PTA and funded their activity fund.

Mr. DeWinne questioned why there is a cost for the Founders Day trip. Mr. Franchetta said it is to transport the students. Mr. DeWinne asked if there are any other staff members going on the safety patrol trip besides the safety patrol coordinator. Mr. Ulrich said the school nurses also go. Mr. DeWinne asked if the safety patrol trip is funded through fundraisers. Mr. Franchetta said the police department pays for a portion of the trip and the district pays the balance.

5. **Submission of Grants** – Mr. Franceschini asked for an explanation on the Safety Grant Program. Mr. Franchetta explained that the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group grants each of the participants annually an amount of funds to do safety projects within their school district. He said this year we utilized the funds to purchase cameras for the school buses. Mr. Franchetta said we will utilize these funds next year to do more card accesses and install camera systems in our schools.
6. **Acceptance of Funds** – No discussion.
7. **Bids** – Mr. DeWinne said when he first came on the board it seemed like we received a lot of bids and since Mr. Cox left the number has decreased. He questioned how much we were not saving for items that were not going out for bid. Mr. Franceschini said with this size district we need a purchasing agent. Mr. DeWinne commented that Mr. Franchetta is talented but is spread thin.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if it is more expensive through state contract then going out to bid. Mr. Franchetta said he has seen it both ways.

Mr. Ulrich said we probably do need that position to do that type of break out work and departmentalize a lot of things.

8. **State of NJ Tuition Contract** – No discussion.

9. **District Professional Development Plan for 2011-2012** – No discussion.
10. **Project Graduation Vendor** – Mr. DeWinne asked how close they are to meeting their financial goal. Mr. Ulrich said he does not know but they are holding a breakfast at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday at Vineland High School South. Mr. DeWinne asked what happens if they are short money. Mr. Ulrich said they always come through.
11. **Meal Prices for 2011-2012** – Mr. Franceschini asked if these prices have changed. Mr. Franchetta said what we are proposing for next year is to raise the paid lunches and breakfasts by ten cents. Mr. DiGiorgio asked how we get reimbursed for the free and reduced meals. Mr. Franchetta said through state and federal funds. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if there was a way to offer free lunches to everyone. Mr. Franchetta said he does not think the State of New Jersey permits free lunches to everyone. Mr. Franceschini feels it is an excellent idea to have breakfast in the classrooms at the elementary school. He said eating breakfast increases attentiveness, alertness and cognition. Studies have shown that children who eat breakfast are more likely to eat lunch.
12. **Revised Professional Evaluation Rubric for Teachers** – Mrs. Phillips asked for more information on this revision. Dr. Gruccio said a committee consisting of teachers, VEA president, administrators and myself reviewed the document and developed a new rubric based on Charlotte Danielson's book *Enhancing Professional Practice*. The rubric has not been updated for several years and it provided us with an opportunity to address concerns and develop a more up to date document.
13. **Pittsgrove Township Schools Natural Gas Jointure** – Mr. Franceschini asked for an explanation on this jointure. Mr. Franchetta explained that we will join Pittsgrove Township when they bid on natural gas.
14. **High School Final Exam Schedule for 2010-2011** – Mr. English asked if the format will be the same as last year. Dr. Banks responded yes. Mr. English asked if the calculators can be used. Dr. Gruccio said calculators are used for some sections of the exam, not all. Mr. English asked if final exams are based on curriculum that they learned throughout the year. Dr. Banks said absolutely. Mr. English asked what happens if students have a long term substitute and miss instruction. Dr. Gruccio said a substitute should be following the curriculum specially if they are long term or they should not be a long term substitute. She said if there is a particular situation that the board would like to discuss, please call her and she will share your concerns with Mr. DuBois.

Mr. DeWinne asked Dr. Banks if she foresees with the economic times some type of distant learning. Dr. Banks said it would be a wonderful opportunity to do something like this. She is familiar with districts that have piloted these learning programs and they work out beautifully.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if there are positions that are difficult to fill in every district. Ms. Greenfield said for hard to fill areas we had signing bonuses. She said math, special education and speech are difficult areas to fill in all districts. Mr. DiGiorgio asked what amount of time is a position vacant in an area like math. Ms. Greenfield said there is a process in place where people in the schools are notified immediately when we are going to have the vacancy. She said we do our very best to fill everything.

15. **Bus Evacuation Drills** – No discussion.

16. **Folsom Board of Education Agreement** – No discussion.

17. **Home Instruction Tracking Module** – Mr. Franceschini asked for an explanation on this. Dr. Elliott said a program was created to streamline the home instruction process. She said this will save a lot of time and we will see a quick return as far as tracking how many students use Alternatives Unlimited and home tutors.

18. **Dallago Preschool Playground** – Dr. Mounier asked for an explanation on this. Mr. Weaver said this is a cold process and a much finer rubber top coat is put over the existing course rubber. He said when the product is finished it will look like this gym floor. Mr. Weaver said this was done at Leuchter School and is a very nice product.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked when Dallago School was being contemplated was a poured in place playground ever considered. Mr. Weaver said yes that was their first choice and after the project was balanced they settled for a loose fill safety service.

Ms. Rios said this is actually better because it is safer and cleaner.

19. **Participation in the USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP)** – Mr. Franceschini asked if this is the first time we are doing this. Mr. Franchetta said yes this is new. Dr. Mounier asked if other schools can apply. Mr. Franchetta said the deadline has past. Mr. Franceschini said next year all the schools should be encouraged to apply.

20. **Cumberland County Educational Cooperative Agreement** – No discussion.

21. **City of Vineland 150th Anniversary Celebration** – Mr. English mentioned that during the month of August there will be a lot of activity in the parking lot. He asked if the city knows where they want to set up. Mr. Franchetta said we will make sure that we work around that.

22. **Waiving of Time Requirements for Adoption of Policy #3223 Evaluation of Administrators** – No discussion.

23. **Revised School Calendar for 2010-2011** – No discussion.

24. **School Calendar for 2011-2012** – Mr. English asked if the Easter vacation was shortened. Dr. Banks said we have built in the spring break in conjunction with other schools in the county. Dr. Elliott said a calendar committee was established and met a few weeks ago. She said the first part of the discussion was based on the Cumberland County common calendar that was distributed to all the county superintendents and agreed upon by them. Dr. Elliott said the calendar was established based on the mandated holidays, district in-service days, early dismissal, contractual obligations for professional development and religious holidays. Dr. Banks mentioned that Civil Service districts have to pay attention to specific holidays that are listed in some of the negotiating contracts.

25. **First Reading of the following Policies/Regulations: Policy #9181, Policy #1140, Policy #1523, Policy #1530, Regulation #1530, Policy #1550, Regulation #1550, Policy #2260, Policy #2415.01** – Dr. Mounier said he has made comments and it would be nice to receive a response. Mr. Ulrich said if there is a revision, standard procedure is if it does not affect the actual policy the revisions are just made. Dr. Elliott said she is in the process of reviewing Dr. Mounier’s recent recommendations. She said the Policy & Personnel Committee will receive a revised version of the policies that Dr. Mounier has reviewed.

B. Board

1. None.

Review of Bills: Mr. DeWinne questioned the Promedia Technology Services and Tozour Energy purchases.

Public Comments: Lee Burke, Vineland Resident
Mr. Burke said he is happy that the board meetings have been held at different schools and hopes that more members of the public attend the meetings. He is surprised that out of seven board candidates only one is in the room. Mr. Burke said he has not heard any resolution on the bilingual situation and hopes the committee will have a report. He said from a public perception our websites leave a lot to be desired and are embarrassing. Mr. Burke feels the board and city administration need to get together on more things than just the budget. He encouraged everyone to vote in the board election for the candidates and budget.

Committee Reports: Mr. Ulrich said the Policy & Personnel Committee met tonight and he will email everyone a copy of the policies that were discussed. He said there are some new policies and revisions. Mr. Ulrich said a couple reclassification positions were also discussed and there will be ongoing discussion in regards to facility naming.

Unfinished

Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary