

An open work session of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 7:04 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Fanucci, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Franceschini.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mrs. Polof, Director of Special Education, Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel, Mrs. Evans, Supervisor, Mr. Savage, Supervisor, Mr. Steve Barse, Attorney in for Mr. DeSanto, press and public. Absent: Mr. DeSanto, Board 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:

Mr. Giordano welcomed Attorney Steve Barse who is filling for Robert DeSanto tonight.

Special

Presentations:

Dr. Banks introduced Major Robert Simpson to give a presentation on the district's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Program.

Major Simpson said he along with Master Sergeant Pierre Charles are the two new Air force Junior ROTC instructors at the high school. They presented the board with a plaque for their support in establishing the Air Force Junior Reserve Office of Training Corp Unit NJ2091 at Vineland High School.

Mr. Ulrich mentioned that enrollment in the Junior ROTC Program exceeded expectations for the first year.

Dr. Banks introduced Dr. Thomas McCann, Principal of Vineland High School South, to present the student spotlight.

Dr. McCann congratulated the Junior ROTC Program. He presented a brief history on the Poetry Out Loud Grant that the teachers in his school applied for and received. Dr. McCann congratulated and recognized the Vineland High School poets who took part in this grant recitation contest along with their teachers Ms. Marcello and Ms. Panichello.

Jamal Feliciano Jr., who was the third place winner at the state level, said Poetry Out Loud changed his life and he has learned the real purpose for poems. He thanked all his teachers for their help.

Dr. McCann thanked the teachers for applying for this grant.

Mr. Bernardini asked Major Simpson to introduce each of the cadets who are in the Junior ROTC Program.

Major Simpson introduced each cadet along with parents who are in attendance.

Mr. DeWinne asked for the teachers of the poets to be introduced.

Ms. Noel Panichello, Vineland High School English Teacher, said that she along with Ms. Emily Marcello took part in the Poetry Out Loud Grant. She said they were really impressed with the students and how they rose to the challenge.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – Mr. Ulrich said Mr. Franceschini who is the chair of the Personnel & Policy Committee meeting could not attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Ulrich said that Mr. Franceschini wanted him to relay the message that he commends Dr. Banks for her openness in presenting the new principal candidates to the Personnel & Policy Committee so the committee could get an idea on who they are proposing.
2. **Abolishment of Non-Tenured Professional Staff** – Dr. Banks said two individuals have received Rice Notices and requested for this matter to be discussed in public. She said one of the individuals is Mr. Joseph Camardo, Adult Education Center Principal. Dr. Banks said with the impending closing of the Adult Education Center Mr. Camardo has tenure rights to placement in a principalship in the district. The second individual is Mr. David DiCostanzo, who is a non-tenured principal at the Cunningham Alternative School. Dr. Banks said Mr. Camardo will be bumping Mr. DiCostanzo and will be transferred to the Cunningham Alternative School. She said the transfer will be effective July 1, 2010 and the reduction in force of Mr. DiCostanzo will be effective June 30, 2010.
3. **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
4. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.

5. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
6. **Bids** – No discussion.
7. **Travel** – No discussion.
8. **Extension of Cumberland County Office of Employment & Training Contract** – Mr. Giordano asked if this is extended for a year. Mr. Franchetta said we just received the paperwork for this extension, which should have been done a while ago.
9. **NJ Department of Human Services Tuition Contract** – No discussion.
10. **Participation with Cumberland County Educational Cooperative** – No discussion.
11. **Life Skills Suite Educational Specifications/Schematic Design** – No discussion.
12. **School Calendar 2010-2011** – Mr. Giordano asked why there is no snow days built in to the calendar. Dr. Banks said there are no snow days built in however; we have a full week spring break built in. She said the June calendar has ten additional school days we can tap into if necessary.
13. **Grand Canyon University Teacher-in-Training Agreement** - Mr. Giordano asked if this was a new agreement. Mr. Ulrich said it is a private online Christian for profit school. Mr. Ulrich asked how many students are enrolling in this university. Dr. Gruccio said one. Mr. Giordano asked if the universities approach the district. Dr. Gruccio responded yes.
14. **Vineland Public Schools Professional Development Plan for 2010-2011** – No discussion.
15. **The Picket Fence Donation** – Mrs. Phillips commended Pat Luko a special needs teacher at Petway Elementary School for going above and beyond to find money to send her students to Sesame Place.

B. Board

1. None.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Public Comments: Dr. Thomas McCann, Principal of Vineland High School South  
Dr. McCann said the number of students who work in the School to Career Program under Jim Smith has increased 100% every year.

Dr. McCann said at this moment we have over 500 students employed in the Vineland School District in different jobs throughout the community. Dr. McCann said every year the district receives \$246,000 grant through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program that supports the School to Career Program. During the last seven years the district has received over a million dollars in grants from the Schools to Career Program. Dr. McCann spoke in support of keeping the School to Careers Program.

Mr. DeWinne asked what the \$246,000 is spent on that Dr. McCann mentioned. Mr. Franchetta said he will get back to him with that information. Mr. Ulrich asked if that money is separate from the Adult Education money. Mr. Franchetta said he is not sure what program that is.

Committee Reports: Mr. Fanucci said the Finance Committee meeting is continually working on the budget numbers and looking at any other areas where we can make a savings.

Mr. Bernardini said there was no Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting this month but tonight the Life Skills Suite renovations was discussed.

Mr. Ulrich said the Curriculum & Technology Committee will meet in May. He said the sole function of the Personnel & Policy Committee meeting was to meet the final candidates for the principal positions at the middle and elementary schools, which will be recommended to the full board for a vote next week.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Mr. Giordano reminded everyone that next week's board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Vineland High School South auditorium.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA  
Board Secretary

KJF:df