

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, April 13, 2011, at 7:02 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Franceschini presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. DeWinne.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Gruccio and Dr. Elliott, 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. 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:

Mariangeli Feliciano, Bryana Juarez, Edward Parks and John Taormina, students from Rossi Middle School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tammy Monahan, Principal was in attendance.

Mr. DeWinne arrived at 7:04 p.m.

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

Special
Presentation (s):

Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Jeff DuBois, Supervisor of Instruction, to introduce the Math 24 winners.

Mr. DuBois thanked all the students and parents that participated in the tournament along with the coaches and volunteers for their help. He introduced each winner of the Math 24 tournament and presented them with a certificate. Mr. DuBois gave a special thank you to Rosemarie Spada the Petway coach.

Ms. Spada said it is her honor and pleasure to coach Math 24 students. She said when she retires coaching the Math 24 students is what she will really miss. Ms. Spada thanked all the parents because without them this would not be possible.

Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Joe Callavini, School Transportation Coordinator, and Dr. Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent, to give a presentation on the 8th grade transition to the high school.

Dr. Gruccio said she has been presenting committee updates regarding the restructuring of the high school for September. She said the big question was what they thought was an appropriate way to place our 8th graders into the high school. Dr. Gruccio said they are going to share what they think the best proposal will be to place students who are entering Vineland High School.

Mr. Callavini said a committee was formed to discuss the transition of our 8th graders to 9th grade. The following were the Main Objectives of the committee:

- Continued to maintain 9th-12th grade students in each building
- Keep present high school students in their current building assignments
- Determine the best way to assign 8th grade students transitioning to the high school
- High school placement for students transferring into the district

Mr. Callavini said many ideas were discussed and the three key ideas were:

- Student names pulled by random computer selection
- Placement of students based on their choice of electives
- Creating school zones based on enrollment numbers and student body composition

Mr. Callavini said after a great deal of debate they felt it would be best to go with creating school zones. He said school zones are currently in use for all other grade levels in the district and is the most expeditious way to assign students. Mr. Callavini said creating school zones allows for easy school assignments of incoming students. He said there are a couple caveats that they wanted to bring to the board's attention. Current high school students' siblings would not always be assigned the same building, due to the fact that current high school students will remain in their current locations. Students' first and last periods would need to be scheduled in the same building. Mr. Callavini said the positives are that assigning students in the future will be uniform throughout the district. Transportation costs will be reduced each year that this plan is implemented.

Mr. DeWinne asked if the breakdown can be mapped any other way. Mr. Callavini said the numbers came out so well the way it was done that he did not try east/west.

Dr. Banks said we have a special recognition that she would like to do later in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the minutes were approved from March 2, 2011, March 9, 2011, March 16, 2011, March 23, 2011 and March 30, 2011. All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Rios who voted “yes” on all minutes but “abstained” on March 16, 2011 and Mr. DeWinne voted “yes” for all minutes except the meeting he was not present for he “abstained” and Mr. English who voted “yes” on all minutes except March 23, 2011 he “abstained” and Mrs. Phillips who voted “yes” on all minutes except March 16, 2011, March 23, 2011, and March 30, 2011 she “abstained.”

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of February 2011, 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:

After item #8 on the board agenda Dr. Banks introduced Mr. Ulrich, Board Vice President, to give a special presentation.

Mr. Ulrich said whenever there is an outgoing board member the tradition is to recognize them. He said he was very fortunate to serve on the board with Mr. Franceschini who was one of his mentors when he came on the board. Mr. Ulrich said it was a challenging sad time for the board when Mr. Giordano past away. He said Mr. Franceschini asked him to be his vice president and sounding board during a critical time when we all had to change gears.

Mr. Ulrich said Mr. Franceschini's dedication the past six years is unparallel. He said Mr. Franceschini cares about the teachers and students. Mr. Ulrich presented Mr. Franceschini with his portrait and a recognition plaque for his six years of service on the board.

Mr. Ulrich said when Mr. DeWinne was elected to the board he did not know him. He said what he found out is whether you agree with Mr. DeWinne or not he is dedicated to fiscal responsibility. Mr. Ulrich said in his mind Mr. DeWinne opened up a new awareness of what the budget process should be. He always found Mr. DeWinne to be a straight forward person who would say what he felt and at times disagree with him. Mr. Ulrich said it takes a special person to volunteer their time. The people who step up should be recognized and counted because without them we would not have the district that we have. Mr. Ulrich presented Mr. DeWinne with a recognition plaque for his service on the board.

Dr. Banks expressed her gratitude to Mr. Franceschini and Mr. DeWinne for being instrumental in bringing her to Vineland. She sincerely appreciates their faith and confidence in her. Dr. Banks said she is going to miss Mr. Franceschini and Mr. DeWinne a great deal and is sorry that they are leaving. She thanked them for their service to the students and staff in the Vineland School District.

The board returned to the approval of the recommendations.

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$8,733,792.62).

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

Public: Joe Profetto, Vineland Resident

Mr. Profetto said he represents the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee for Vineland’s 150th Birthday Celebration. He thanked the board for allowing them to utilize the facilities at the high school. Mr. Profetto said they will work along with the district as far as details and what they can or cannot use in the area. He said that August 8th is Vineland’s actual birthday but it was decided to hold the celebration on Sunday, August 7, 2011. Mr. Profetto said during that celebration there will be a carnival, barbeque, fireworks and a parade. He said it is a celebration that we should all be proud of and involved in.

Carlos Mercado, School Board Candidate

Mr. Mercado congratulated Mr. Franceschini and Mr. DeWinne for their service. He said that he is a full-time Vineland firefighter, taxpayer, husband and father. Mr. Mercado said he is currently the chairman of the Cumberland County Board of Social Services, which has about 300 employees. He said he is familiar with sitting on a board and being a volunteer. Mr. Mercado said he has dedicated his entire life to community service and wants to continue by being a representative on the Vineland School Board. He urged everyone to come out and support the budget.

Maria Laboy, Vineland Resident

Ms. Laboy discussed the advantages of having the bilingual magnet school at Sabater Elementary School. She feels the bilingual magnet school is a win win situation. Ms. Laboy said the benefit of having the program in one location is that you will have one principal with one philosophy and delivery of services. Therefore, there will not be differences of how things are done. Ms. Laboy said the NJ Department of Education informed the district that the K-5 magnet school would not be a violation of segregation laws. She requested for the board to give the bilingual school concept full consideration and support the model for a better delivery of services to our children.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Phillips thanked Dr. Guccio for having all of her supervisors write up a brief report on their areas to keep the Curriculum & Technology Committee updated on what is going on in the various subjects. She said at the meeting tonight they discussed the new teacher evaluation rubric, which will be in place September. She said Joe Callavini presented the 8th Grade Transition Plan and Carey Savage presented an overview on the district's professional development plan for next year. Mrs. Phillips said Dr. Guccio presented a schedule on the final exam dates for Vineland High School.

Ms. Rios said discussed at the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting was the Dallago court yard safety surface that was approved tonight. She said also discussed was the Life Skills Room at Vineland High School South, which has be completed. All purchase orders have been processed for the Veterans Memorial School sound booth. Ms. Rios said Mr. Weaver provided and update on the solar panel project. She said Mr. Franchetta provided an update on the use of the Veterans Memorial School temporary classroom units.

Ms. Rios said the first asphalt base has been installed in the hard ball batting cage and the final coat will take place the last week in April. She said that Mr. Franchetta is still working on the Safe Routes to School Grant. Ms. Rios said Mr. Weaver provided and overview on several summer projects. She said Dr. Banks stated that she wants to replace the lockers at Landis School. Ms. Rios said that Mr. Weaver stated that the tennis courts will be resurfaced this summer.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Fanucci thanked Mr. Franceschini and Mr. DeWinne for their dedication the last several years.

Mr. English wished the seven board candidates the best of luck in the upcoming election. He said that he would like to speak about three of our board members. Mr. English said the first board member is Diarmaris Rios. He said Ms. Rios has always been honest with him. Sometimes we may disagree on certain issues but we both share the same passion for all the students in the district. Mr. English thanked Ms. Rios for having the courage to run for a second term and wished her good luck. He said being the president of an organization is not easy. Mr. English said that Mr. Franceschini sacrifices time with his family to help all the children in the school district. He said that Mr. Franceschini has guaranteed him that he will stay very involved.

Mr. English thanked Mr. Franceschini for his years of service and words of wisdom. Mr. English said Mr. DeWinne has been his best friend since the third grade. He said those who know Mr. DeWinne know that he will not speak unless he feels that people need to know the facts. Mr. English said Mr. DeWinne assured him that he can contribute more as a parent than as a board member. He said Mr. DeWinne is the most honest man that he knows and sometimes that can intimidate some people. Mr. English hopes that he can be half the board member that Mr. DeWinne has been.

Ms. Rios said that the Rossi Middle School students did a great job with the flag salute. She congratulated the Math 24 winners along with Dr. Elliott and the Personnel & Policy Committee for a job well done on updating and revising the district policies. Ms. Rios said Mr. DeWinne will be missed and she thanked him for all his help with the budget. She thanked Mr. Franceschini for taking on the responsibility of Board President and for volunteering his time to the district. Ms. Rios said it has been a pleasure working with Mr. English. She said that she cares about the children and educators in this district. Ms. Rios hopes everyone supports her in the upcoming election.

Dr. Mounier said a lot of time goes into being a board member especially being board president. Dr. Mounier said that he has known Mr. DeWinne for about a year and found him to be a smart honest man of integrity and great personal courage. He said these are attributes that anyone can and should admire. Dr. Mounier thanked Mr. Franceschini and Mr. DeWinne for their service to the district. He also thanked the candidates for advancing themselves for public service.

Mrs. Phillips congratulated all the Math 24 winners. She said when it comes down to the Math 24 season Rosemarie Spada always gets her students to do the best. Mrs. Phillips said she is totally amazed with what Mr. Franceschini and Mr. DeWinne do having young children and full time jobs. She wished them the best along with Ms. Rios in her run for re-election. Mrs. Phillips wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Mr. DiGiorgio said what would this world or community be like without volunteers. He said Mr. Franceschini and Mr. DeWinne have faithfully served this community and represented this board very well. Mr. DiGiorgio said he is grateful to have served on the board with both of them.

Mr. DeWinne said as a board member at times he feels that he really does not have much power. He believes as a parent you have the most power to get things done for you children. Mr. DeWinne said he is a parent who knows how the system works and knows policies. He is hoping he does not have to rely on this knowledge to make sure things are going right. Mr. DeWinne thanked Mr. Ottinger and Mr. Franchetta for stepping up to improve the theatre at Veterans Memorial School. He thanked Ms. Laboy for sharing her knowledge. Mr. DeWinne said he is proud to be a resident of Vineland and is looking forward to Vineland's 150th Birthday Celebration. He congratulated the Math 24 winners. Mr. DeWinne thanked Mr. Franceschini for his service on the board and for the sacrifices he made. He also thanked all current and former board members, Mr. Franchetta, the voters, his parents, Marie Adair, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, his wife, daughter and son. Mr. DeWinne said maybe in the not too distant future he will throw his hat back into the ring if the voters will have him. He said that he loves his family dearly and looks forward to spending more time with them.

Mr. Ulrich said Ms. Rios is a very sincere person and anyone who knows her knows that she is dedicated to this district. He said at the work session a conversation was brought up by Mr. Burke and Mr. Melamed about fund raising. Mr. Ulrich said at the Board Candidate Forum, Mr. Parrish said one of the things the board can do to improve is recognizing the efforts of the Parent Teacher Organizations in the district. He said that Mr. Parrish is 100% right because without those efforts our children would be lacking so much. Mr. Ulrich said May is the fund raising month for The Relay for Life. He said during the month of May any staff member who makes a donation to The Relay for Life can wear jeans every Friday. He thanked the staff, parents, PTO and administration who work hard in these organizations.

Dr. Banks thanked Mr. DeWinne and Mr. Franceschini for their service on the board. She said it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with them. Dr. Banks wished Ms. Rios well. She congratulated the Math 24 students and staff. Dr. Banks wished everyone a safe and restful spring break.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Franceschini said during his six years on the board he served as NJSB Assembly Delegate, Chair of Policy/Personnel and Curriculum/Technology, had the honor of opening 3 new schools, was involved in redistricting the schools, advocated for all schools to have an AED, participated in 2 contract negotiations, was involved in hiring 2 superintendents and had the honor of serving as school board president. He said during his tenure as a board member and president he has treated everyone with respect and professionalism, at times with a humorous touch. Mr. Franceschini thanked his wife and children for their support and understanding. He also thanked his parents, Valorie Francisci, Allan Bernardini, Bob DeSanto, the entire board and central administration. He said it has been an honor to closely work with all of you. Mr. Franceschini said he plans to volunteer for the district as a consultant in the areas of Emergency Preparedness, Physical Fitness and Childhood Obesity. He said that he is going to take his children fishing and be involved with everything they do. Mr. Franceschini said his advice to the board is to keep your eye on the big picture, be respectful to yourselves, the staff and administration. He said remember it is not a sprint it is a marathon. Mr. Franceschini wished everyone in this district the best of luck.

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, April 13, 2011** regarding personnel matters.

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

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df