

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the auditorium of the Vineland High School South Campus, 2880 E. Chestnut Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 7:04 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:

Daqawn Hadley, Guadalupe Morales-Portillo, Jarrett Santiago, Justin Thomas and Tiana Villalongo students from Sabater Elementary School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Dannenberger, Principal, was in attendance.

Mr. Giordano said the work, effort and time that these students put into the play is beyond belief and he cannot say enough about their performance.

Special

Presentation (s):

Dr. Banks said she is pleased to honor and recognize the Vineland High School Cap ‘n Dagger cast and crew for their performance in *High School Musical*.

Emily Marcello, Play Director, on behalf of the cast and her fellow directors thanked Dr. Banks and the entire Board of Education for their continued support of the arts in this community. She introduced each of the cast members and presented them with a Certificate of Recognition.

Jennie Cresenzo, President of Cap ‘n Dagger, thanked the Board and Dr. Banks for their support.

Dr. Banks said she is pleased to honor the cast and crew of the middle schools who performed *Bye Bye Birdie*. She introduced Mr. Mark Melamed, Play Director.

Mr. Melamed echoed Ms. Marcello’s sentiments and thanked the Board of Education, Dr. Banks and middle school administration for allowing the students to come together.

Mr. Melamed congratulated Emily Marcello on her show. He also thanked Mr. Phillips, Principal of Veterans Memorial School along with Mrs. Myers, Assistant Principal of Veterans Memorial School, Mr. Brian DeWinne Board Member and Mrs. Pat Gill, Photographer. Mr. Melamed introduced each of the cast members of *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the Board approved the minutes from March 3, 2010, March 10, 2010, March 17, 2010 and March 22, 2010. All Members voted “yes” except Mrs. Phillips who voted “yes” on all minutes but “abstained” on March 22, 2010 and Ms. Rios who voted “yes” on all minutes but “abstained” on March 17, 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 February 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.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations: See page 3 of this document

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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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.

Mr. Franceschini said it was a pleasure to meet the six principal candidates at the Personnel & Policy Committee meeting. They are all very well qualified and the committee feels that these leaders will be excellent in the schools they were chosen to lead. Mr. Franceschini congratulated Dr. Banks for making the process fair and consistent.

Dr. Banks introduced and congratulated each of the new principals.

Ms. Tammy Monahan said she is happy and grateful to be provided with this opportunity and looks forward to the challenge of being the principal of Rossi Middle School. She thanked Dr. Banks and the Board for providing her this opportunity.

Dr. Juanita Davis said it is a pleasure for her to be appointed as the principal of Wallace Middle School. She thanked Dr. Banks and the Board of Education for their confidence. Dr. Davis said she is excited to join Wallace Middle School and has heard many great things about the school. She said that she looks forward to working with each and every one of you.

Mr. Cornelio Sabio thanked Dr. Banks and the Board for approving him as Principal of Landis Middle School. He looks forward to the challenge of being the head instructional leader at Landis Middle School and helping the school make AYP.

Mr. Mario Olsen thanked the Board and Dr. Banks for their support. He has learned so much from everyone, which has allowed him this opportunity to grow and become a principal.

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

Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – April 14, 2010

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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4. 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)

5. 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. New Jersey Child Assault
 Prevention Program (CAP)
 Grades Pre-K – 6
 FY 2010 – 2011
 In the amount of ----- \$11,644.00

- New Jersey Teen Child Assault
 Prevention Program (Teen CAP)
 FY 2010 – 2011
 In the amount of ----- \$ 6,471.00

- New Jersey Special Needs Child Assault
 Prevention Program
 FY 2010 – 2011
 In the amount of ----- \$ 3,238.00

- b. State of New Jersey
 Department of Children & Families
 Family Friendly Center Grant
 Sabater Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$45,463.00

- c. Municipal/Local Government Audit Program
 New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)
 (This grant will fund up to 75% of a District
 Energy Audit.)

Mrs. Phillips thanked everyone who applied for the grants especially Sabater School.

Vineland Board Of Education
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				2	1			
				2	1			

6. Bids:

- a. The Board approve an Extraordinary Unspecified Service (EUS) contract to Triad Associates of Vineland, New Jersey to provide consulting services relating to grants and/or other financing resources in an amount that may exceed \$29,000.00 in accordance with 18A: 18A-5.a(2).

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

7. 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)

8. The Board approve the extension of the existing contract as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

Cumberland County
 Office of Employment & Training
 Workforce Learning Link
 Adult Education Center
 January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010
 (No cost extension)
 In the additional contract amount of - - Balance of Funds

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

Vineland Board Of Education
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				2	1			

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

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

10. The Board agree to participate with the Cumberland County Educational Cooperative from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 for the purpose of coordinating and managing county-wide transportation services for the purpose of deducting districts' costs and facilitating said services.

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

11. The Board approve the educational specifications/schematic design for the Vineland High School South Life Skills Suite renovations. (New Jersey Department of Education Project #11-5390-050-100-1000).

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

Furthermore, the Board approve the modifications to the District Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) to accommodate the renovations of the Vineland High School South Life Skills Suite.

12. The Board approve the 2010 – 2011 School Calendar for Pupil Attendance as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

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

Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – April 14, 2010

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				2	1			
				2	1			
				2	1			

13. The Board approve the Teacher-in-Training Agreement between the Grand Canyon University and the Vineland Board of Education.

All Members voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

14. The Board approve the submission of the Vineland Public Schools Professional Development Plan for 2010 – 2011 to the County Department of Education for their approval.

All Members voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

15. The Board accept a donation from The Picket Fence for the cost of tickets and transportation to Sesame Place on Friday, May 28, 2010 (rain date Friday, June 4, 2010) for Petway Elementary School students in accordance with Board Policy #7230, “Gifts, Grants and Donations.”

All Members voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

Mrs. Phillips thanked Pat Luko, teacher, for acquiring this grant for our students.

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” (\$7,749,469.68).

Mr. DeWinne asked where old business falls on this agenda. Mr. Giordano said old business is on the work session agenda.

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

Public: Joseph Camardo, Adult Education Center Principal
Mr. Camardo said although the Adult Education Program is still on the list of cuts he is hopeful that the board will review his latest proposal, which is to allow the Adult Education Center to operate one more year and phase out gracefully or run just a few programs. He wanted to clear up a few misconceptions some in our community have. Although the district funds Adult Education over half of our current total funding comes in the form of federal and state grants. Many of our students are local residents, tax payers and are interested in improving their job skills. The Adult Education Center also takes in many of our districts high school non-completers and students expelled from our system. As we speak there is movement in Washington to provide funding to operate educational and training programs for youth in each state. New Jersey is at the forefront of these youth programs and Vineland’s program is one of the finest in the state. Mr. Camardo said with one of the highest unemployment rates in the state we cannot ignore our responsibility to the community. He is just asking for the opportunity to seek out more grants and ways to bring in additional funding so that we can relieve the district from its financial contributions to adult education.

Alan Mounier, Board Candidate

Mr. Mounier said on April 9 *The Press of Atlantic City* reported that Board Member, Brian DeWinne, devised a budget that was balanced without cutting jobs or programs. He said if one man working alone can compile a balanced budget with no cuts in a matter of days how is it that the entire board could not have done the same thing earlier before threatening layoffs and program cuts. Mr. Mounier asked why we have not heard anything more of Mr. DeWinne’s budget.

Continued

Mr. Mounier asked if consensus building is such a big deal with this board, then why the full board has not got behind Mr. DeWinne's effort to develop this cut free budget.

Nadja Zattoni, Adult Ed. Bilingual Literacy & Community Developer
Ms. Zattoni spoke in support of the ESL Civics Program at the Adult Education Center. She said it would be a shame to close such a successful school and disappoint so many citizens in the community who depend on the Adult Education Center to achieve their goals.

Bill McDevitt, Instrumental Music at Teacher Vineland High School
Mr. McDevitt thanked the Board for their financial and visible support of the arts programs in Vineland.

Monica Dannenberger, Sabater Elementary School Principal
Mrs. Dannenberger congratulated Dr. Banks and the Board for their foresight and wisdom in selecting Debra Bechtel as a principal in this district. She said that she has worked with Ms. Bechtel four years and has never met a more honest, genuine, thoughtful and wonderful person. Mrs. Dannenberger said that she looks forward immensely to being Ms. Bechtel's colleague for the next forty years.

Val Francisci, Vineland Resident
Ms. Francisci said that Mr. Giordano, Mr. Bernardini and Mr. Ulrich have done an incredible job during their time on the Board. She said they are always willing to listen and have shown a great devotion to the students and staff in this district. Ms. Francisci said they have her support in Tuesday's election and she wished them the best.

Ronald Walker, Vineland Resident
Mr. Walker commended and thanked Dr. Banks and the Board for their minority selection of administrators.

Johanna Santiago
Ms. Santiago spoke in support of the Adult Education Program.

Arlene Cattafi, Counselor Adult Education Center
Ms. Cattafi spoke in support of the Adult Education Program.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. DeWinne said there has been a lot of discussion about food services. He would like to propose that we take our top employees in the district and have them present their thoughts to the entire board on food service. Mr. DeWinne said the cafeteria workers are a fabric of the school and they help cheer a lot of students up. He said in today's mail he received his school board election ballot asking for a vote on the budget, which he will be voting yes. Mr. DeWinne said there were articles in Saturday's newspaper and rumors going around that he would like to set the record straight on. He said the two articles are about a proposal that he submitted. Mr. DeWinne said that ethics charges will be filed against him because of what appeared in the newspaper articles. He assured everyone that the news media contacted him first and when he first received a hint of any wrong doing he reached out to our solicitor who assured him that the budget was part of our process as a board member. Mr. DeWinne said he read the Code of Ethics and believes that he did not violate any ethics. Furthermore, he contacted the legal department of the New Jersey School Boards Association and explained the plan that he submitted. He said the attorney that he spoke with saw no issues that he had with ethics and even stated that he had some rights that had to do with free speech. Mr. DeWinne said that he believes he did nothing wrong in fact he believes that the ideas he submitted are exactly what he is supposed to do as a board member. He said our adopted Board Policy #6220 states that adequate time be allowed for preparation and review of the budget and Board Policy #6230 states we should answer questions from the members of the public during the public hearing about the budget. Mr. DeWinne said after reviewing some New Jersey School Boards Association Guidelines it was stated that the budget process is an open process, which should be discussed openly and frequently keeping the public informed. Mr. DeWinne said the reasons he voted yes on the budget twice is because the tax rate needed to be set. He said the business administrator advised the board that the budget is a fluid document and the tax rate needed to be set so he voted "yes" with no increase in taxes. Mr. DeWinne said the county superintendent made some changes to the budget and it was presented again on March 30, which he voted "yes" again understanding that this budget is a fluid document. He said that he did not submit a new budget but a theoretical plan where he wanted administration to prove him wrong. Mr. DeWinne said his plan calls for the restoration of programs and most positions slated to be cut by allocating dollars.

Continued

Mr. DeWinne said when the state aid figures were received on March 17 and a Finance Committee was held on March 18. He said at the meeting a cut list was provided, which had minimal information. Mr. DeWinne said the business administrator informed the committee at that time that the budget surplus for this year is 20 million dollars. The business administrator stated that this is a fluid document and could be changed at the March 22, 2010 Board Meeting. On March 19 the Finance Committee met again and a cut list was provided with updated figures. Mr. DeWinne said the Finance Committee was diligent in going through adding and removing items. During all that time the fund balance was in his head. The meeting ended with the discussion of an updated list that the committee hoped to receive over the weekend but no list was received. On Monday at 9:00 a.m. the updated list was sent however; it was different from what was discussed on Friday, March 19. Mr. DeWinne said a few higher level positions that were slated for cuts by the committee were removed. On March 22 the board voted “yes” to set the tax levy with no tax increase. Mr. DeWinne said on Sunday, March 28 he is reviewing the sports page in the newspaper and happens to see the school budget printed in the back of the newspaper. He said this was the first time that he saw the budget with the appropriations because only the revenue side was received. Mr. DeWinne said that he immediately made a list of questions and emailed the board, superintendent and business administrator about 14 items in detail. He shared his thoughts about past fund balance and surplus that we have for this year. Mr. DeWinne said in his opinion with the surplus generated he believes that we still have an inflated budget that is not realistic. With a lean budget for this coming year we could probably delay some of these cuts and or increase funding in areas such as LEAP, instruction, technology, intramurals and athletics. Mr. DeWinne said on Tuesday March 30 at 4:00 p.m. he received responses from a number of the questions that he sent on Sunday. Mr. DeWinne said at the budget meeting on March 30 the Chairman of the Finance Committee stated that he came up with a plan that may save some secretarial positions. He said our board president state publicly that the budget is a fluid document and can be changed. Also prior to that our business administrator informed board members that we have until the end of June to make changes, vote and send the budget to the county superintendent for approval.

Continued

Mr. DeWinne said at the end of the March 30 meeting he stated that he would like to have the Finance Committee meeting sooner because he has some ideas about the budget that can benefit us. On the following day Mr. DeWinne said he sent the superintendent an email that his goal is to present a plan to her that would be clear and concise. Mr. DeWinne said at 1:22 a.m. on Thursday he sent his proposal, which includes an email message with a coversheet explaining how he came up with these numbers along with a potential cut list. He believes that he is doing everything that he is supposed to be doing as elected by the taxpayers. Mr. DeWinne said he will present a summary of his theory.

Mr. DeSanto said that he mentioned to Mr. DeWinne before he spoke that the county superintendent has some concerns about his handling of the budget and the subject matter about which he spoke. He again reminded Mr. DeWinne that if he proceeds he proceeds at his own risk.

Mr. DeWinne said he appreciates that but if it means that ethics charges will be filed upon him for his hopes of saving programs and jobs then he will lose his position as a board member. Mr. DeWinne presented a summarization of his plan. He said that this is a one year hope for him because he really fears next year is going to be brutal. Mr. DeWinne thanked everyone for their time.

Mr. Franceschini congratulated our new principals and thinks they are going to have a very positive affect in our district. He said we are all in this together and should all be open to ideas and opinions. Mr. Franceschini wished all the candidates the best of luck in the election and urged everyone to vote.

Mr. Ulrich thanked Mr. Camardo for coming forward and said his points were valid. He said the Adult Education Program is a successful program and he hopes that we can continue to explore funding sources, grants and user fees for certain programs. Mr. Ulrich said one of the programs that has been useful in our district is the School to Careers Program. He said when you hear that there are 500 students that take advantage of that program it is an incredible potential loss for the district. Mr. Ulrich said these are the important things that affect our community and it is not always about dollars and cents.

Continued

Mr. Ulrich thinks that information being shared between committees is a process that involves good conversation. He said it is important to have dialogue and conversation. Mr. Ulrich said everyone on this board has different ideas but the common thread is everybody cares about the educational process in Vineland. He said it is not easy to approve potential layoffs and the amount of time the full board has to reconcile this is very short. Mr. Ulrich said it is not the board's job to run the day to day operations of the Vineland Board of Education. He said he personally does not see an issue with having dialogue about different ideas. He might not agree with everything on Mr. DeWinne's list but he does agree that there should be a forum and this is more about board protocol than anything. Mr. Ulrich said he welcomes any ideas that the other board members may have. He thinks we are dealing with a procedural issue and urged everyone to calm down, take a deep breath and embrace the fact that we have people that care about this district.

Mrs. Phillips announced that Sabater Elementary School will be having their musical on April 16 and 17 followed by their dance on April 23. She announced that Petway Elementary School will be having their fashion show this Sunday on this stage at 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Phillips congratulated the six new principals and wished them success in their new positions. She urged everyone in the public to get out and vote in the School Board Election on Tuesday. Mrs. Phillips commended every board member for the time and effort that they put in for the children of Vineland.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked Mr. DeWinne for his diligence and wished the new principals success.

Mr. Fanucci announced said the Vineland Mini Wrestling Program is having their first annual car show on Saturday, May 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, May 2 at Bennigan's on Landis Avenue. For vendor information you can contact John Viola at jviolavxm1@gmail.com. Mr. Fanucci congratulated the principals and thanked everyone who is in attendance this evening.

Ms. Rios congratulated the newly elected principals and reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, April 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Bernardini congratulated the new principals and wished them success. He said that several suggestions were made tonight by Mr. DeWinne and probably some of them were good. Mr. Bernardini said during his twelve years on the board the thought was that you worked within a committee. He feels if Mr. DeWinne had all these good ideas then why did he not argue within the Finance Committee instead of doing it publicly, which he does not feel was right.

Dr. Banks congratulated the six new principals and looks forward to working with them.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Giordano reminded the voters of the importance of the School Board Election. He wished the new principals good luck.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, April 28, 2010** and **Wednesday, May 5, 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 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df