

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, May 9, 2012 at 7:10 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mr. English and Mrs. Phillips.

Also present: Dr. Guccio, Interim Superintendent, Ms. Barber, Interim Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Director of Special Education, press and public. Absent: Dr. Schneider, Interim Assistant Superintendent.

Mr. Ulrich 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 to be sent to the following, announcing time and place thereof, agenda, etc.: The Daily Journal, the Atlantic City Press, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Special

Presentations:

Students from All Kids First presented a musical presentation under the direction of Ms. Carol Deola.

Dr. Guccio thanked Ms. Deola and students.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. DuBois and Mrs. DeBello, Math Supervisors, to present the Math 24 students.

Mr. DuBois thanked and commended the students and parents for all the effort they put in. He also thanked all the coaches and volunteers along with Mr. Sbrana. Mr. DuBois introduced the Grade 4 and Grade 5 winners.

Dr. Guccio congratulated the students and thanked the parents for bringing the students tonight.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Robbins, Athletic Director, to present the recipient of the silver medal at the Penn Relays.

Mr. Robbins thanked Dr. Guccio and the board for honoring one of our student athletes. He introduced Mr. John Boykin, Mr. Greg Geraci and Ms. Carol Belfi the girls' track and field coaches. Mr. Robbins said Ms. Maria Jimenez the recipient of the silver medal for javelin at the Penn Relays will be attending Monmouth University. Ms. Jimenez threw the javelin six feet further than the Monmouth University all time record and is nine inches away from the New Jersey State record.

Ms. Jimenez thanked the board for honoring her tonight. She also thanked her coaches and family for their support.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Melanie Mark to discuss the Online Summer School Program.

Ms. Mark said she is from Educere, a virtual education service company, working with local school districts in offering numerous online course options for students. She said they have one of the most cost effective options for summer school, which is \$195 per course per student. Ms. Mark said this is a student parent pay program with no additional costs to the school district. Ms. Mark said the provider they use for summer school is Founders Education. She said every summer school program is customized for each school they work with.

Dr. Mounier asked how students are approached who are not performing in this program. Ms. Mark said there is a personal learning coach who sends weekly updates to the students and parents. She said automated phone calls are also made to the students who are in jeopardy. Dr. Mounier asked if in the future school buildings will be obsolete. Ms. Mark said she cannot say they will be obsolete because there is something to be said with face to face interaction with students. She said virtual education is not for every student.

Mr. Mercado asked what the success rate is for high school students. Ms. Mark said there is a 75% success rate for a summer school course. Mr. Ulrich asked Dr. Gruccio what the normal in class success rate is. Dr. Gruccio said she does not know but will find out.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked where students report for these online courses. Ms. Mark said this is designed to do in the student's home or a public library but the final exam can be locked for the student to take at the school.

Mr. Mercado asked what districts do when students cannot afford to pay for the course. Ms. Mark said there are some districts where the school elects to pick up the cost or works out a plan with the parent for reimbursement.

Dr. Mounier asked how accreditation works. Ms. Mark said the courses for the summer school provider they use are aligned to NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards and all of their teachers are NJ certified instructors.

Mr. Ulrich asked if there is a limit as to the number of courses a student can be enrolled in. Ms. Mark said it is a district decision.

Mr. Mercado asked if this program can be implemented in time for this year's summer school. Ms. Mark said absolutely.

Dr. Gruccio said if the district decides to pursue this how quickly do they need to let Educere know. Ms. Mark said she can work as quickly as you need her to work. Dr. Gruccio asked if there are form letters that Educere has that goes out to parents and students or is that something we need to create. Ms. Mark we have a handout that we send out that has every course offered with scheduling information or it could be posted to the school website.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Appointment of Board Secretary** – No discussion.
2. **Appointment of Custodian of School District Records** – No discussion.
3. **Appointment of Custodian of School Monies**- No discussion.
4. **Appointment of Contract Agents** – No discussion.
5. **Appointment of Qualified Purchasing Agent** – No discussion.
6. **Appointment of Legal Depositories**- Mr. Mercado asked how we choose the banks. Mrs. Barber said because of the changes in so many personnel positions this year the banks were kept the same.
7. **Appointment of Bank Depositories** – No discussion.
8. **Appointment of Assistant Business Administrator (TBD) to fill the following positions in the absence of Cherie Ludy for the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013: a. Board Secretary, b. Custodian of School District Records, c. Contracting Agent, d. Transfer/Investment of funds at authorized district depositories** – No discussion.
9. **Appointment of Conscientious Employee Protection Act Contact Person** – No discussion.

10. **Appointment of Certifying Officer/Appointing Authority for the NJ State Civil Service System** – No discussion.
11. **Appointment of Section 504 Employee Compliance Officer** – No discussion.
12. **Appointment of Section 504 Student Compliance Officer** – No discussion.
13. **Appointment of Working Papers Issuing Officer** – No discussion.
14. **Appointment of Title IX Coordinator** – No discussion.
15. **Appointment of Affirmative Action Officer** – No discussion.
16. **Appointment of Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator** – No discussion.
17. **Appointment of Right to Know Officer** – No discussion.
18. **Appointment of Integrated Pest Management Coordinator** – No discussion.
19. **Appointment of Indoor Air Quality Designee** – No discussion.
20. **Appointment of PEOSHA Officer** – No discussion.
21. **Appointment of Asbestos management Officer** – No discussion.
22. **Appointment of Chemical Hygiene Officer** – No discussion.
23. **Appointment of Auditor** – No discussion.
24. **Appointment of Architect of Record** – No discussion.
25. **Appointment of Solicitor, Collective Bargaining & Alternate Counsel** – No discussion.
26. **Appointment of Alternate Counsel** – No discussion.
27. **Appointment of Attorney for Collection of Delinquent Accounts Receivables** – No discussion.

28. **Appointment of Insurance Broker** – Mr. Fanucci said the insurance broker in our district is Biondi Insurance Agency and they handle all of our property and casualty claims. He said they are part of the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) through the New Jersey School Boards Association, which keeps our premiums lower. Mr. Fanucci said a regular carrier who did not belong to JIF would be very costly. He said if anyone in the public would like further clarification to please feel free to contact him.

Mr. Mercado asked if these contracts could be extended until the new board is elected. Mrs. Barber said the new law that came into effect allows boards of education to elect new members at the November election. She said it makes sense to put these people in place on a budgetary annual basis rather than a calendar basis.

Mr. DeSanto said he did not advise administration on what to recommend in either option. He said the options are to do a six month appointment if you want to start on January 1st approving the professionals on a calendar year or you can continue to do this on a fiscal year basis which is July 1st through June 30th.

29. **Appointment of Official Newspapers** – No discussion.
30. **Agreement to enter into tuition agreements for homeless students** – No discussion.
31. **Recognition of Bargaining Units** – No discussion.
32. **Approval of annual travel stipends** – Dr. Mounier feels that when we are paying someone over \$100,000 a year they should arrange for their own transportation. Dr. Gruccio said the contract amount is based on the average amount of travel each month. Mrs. Barber said the employees use their own vehicles during the day to travel between buildings and for professional development. Mr. Ulrich asked if collective bargaining allows for reimbursement. Dr. Gruccio said certain employees need to fill out a time sheet to be reimbursed for travel and others have a designated amount listed in their contract based on the average amount they travel.
33. **Establishment of Petty Cash Funds** – No discussion.
34. **Approval of Partnerships with Colleges and Universities** – No discussion.
35. **Approval of Textbooks and Courses of Study** – No discussion.
36. **Approval of date, time and place of 2013 Commencement Exercises** – No discussion.

37. **Approval of dates, times and location of Open Work Sessions/Regular monthly meetings**– No discussion.
38. **Approval of Hourly Rates for Substitute Personnel for the 2012-2013 school year** – No discussion.
39. **Personnel Items** – No discussion.
40. **Travel** – No discussion.
41. **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
42. **Bids** – No discussion.
43. **Private School Free Nutritional Breakfast and/or Lunch for Students with disabilities Resolution** – No discussion.
44. **City of Vineland Water Tower Painting** – No discussion.
45. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
46. **Local School Tax Requisition** – No discussion.
47. **Cumberland County Educational Cooperative Agreement** – Mr. Fanucci said we need to audit our transportation from top to bottom to make sure everything is at its optimum.
48. **Genesis Student Information System** – Mr. Ulrich asked for an explanation on this. Dr. Gruccio said Genesis is a new student information system that will replace Fusion. She said they are currently working with the high school staff now on scheduling. Mrs. Barber said it includes attendance, scheduling, grades and a parent portal.
49. **Tiny Tots Preschool CAP** – No discussion.
50. **Project Graduation Trip** – Mr. Ulrich asked how we are doing with raising the funding for this trip. Dr. Gruccio said we are still short. Mr. Medio asked if the board would be in favor to supplement the remainder of the money. Mr. Ulrich said we have in the past.
51. **Cumberland County Educational Cooperative Joint Agreement** – No discussion.
52. **Legal Fees** – *Withdrawn by Superintendent.*
53. **Bus Evacuation Drills April** – No discussion.

54. **Sheppard Bus Service Student Transportation Contract** – No discussion.

55. **System 3000** – No discussion.

56. **Transfer of Ownership of Butler Avenue, Maurice Fels and South Vineland Schools to the City of Vineland and cancel Insurance on buildings** – Mr. DeSanto said the Board has already approved the actual transfer this is to cancel the insurance.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked what we are doing with South Vineland School. Mrs. Barber said the school will be approved for demolition.

Dr. Mounier requested for a photo documentation to be done for South Vineland School.

57. **Closing of South Vineland School** – No discussion.

58. **Submission of D’Ippolito School Roof Replacement Project** – No discussion.

59. **Allstate Benefits Voluntary Insurance Program**- No discussion.

60. **Approval of Landis School 4H Project** – Dr. Mounier asked what the purpose is of the fence. Mrs. Barber said the plan called for the fence because of safety issues. Mr. Medio expressed his concern that we are creating a safety issue. Mrs. Barber said after the specifications were reviewed the insurance company was ok with the project.

61. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.

62. **Acceptance of Funds** – No discussion.

Mr. Ulrich requested for the disks to be examined to make sure all the links are functional for the board.

Board

1. No discussion.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Ms. Rios said discussed at the Early Childhood Provider meeting on April 23rd was parental choice and student progress. She said a chart was given to the providers that showed the number of parental requests and the percentage that was honored.

Ms. Rios said Michelle Bocchetti presented a detailed report on student achievement by school and how it compares to the state expectations and assessment tools. She said Mrs. Piatt, Director of Little Lamb, requested for the district to release an advance on their payments to cover benefits during the summer, which was approved last year by the state. Ms. Rios said classroom availability space will be provided to the board next week.

Unfinished

Business:

Mr. Mercado asked if Dr. Gruccio can have a follow-up report on summer school for next week. Mr. DeSanto said he would like to see the proposal. Mr. Ulrich said we would incur some costs unless we decide we are going to do physical education online.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the board can have an update as to how long our current auditors have been providing their service. Mrs. Barber said yes. Mr. Fanucci said this was looked into in the past and at that time there were very few firms that wanted to address Vineland. Mrs. Barber said that Ms. Ludy the new Business Administrator can do some comparisons for the board.

New Business:

None.

Dr. Gruccio said a special meeting needs to be scheduled for Friday, May 11, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of personnel matters and finalizing the 2012-2013 appointments.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Barber
Interim Board Secretary

