

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, May 14, 2008 at 7:03 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Ms. Arroyo, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Ms. Rios, Mr. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Bernardini.

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

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:

Divine Cardona, Cristian Cortes-Lopez, Henry Geftic, Jerry Griggs, Stephany Romero, students from Johnstone School, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. Louise Karwowski, Principal of Johnstone School, was also in attendance.

Special

Presentation (s):

Mr. Ottinger introduced Dr. Keith Figgs to present the Math 24 Champions.

Dr. Figgs said Math 24 is an activity that has been going on for the last several years in the elementary schools. He said students spend an entire school year preparing for the moment they can compete with other schools in the area of math calculations. Dr. Figgs said this year Petway School has won the championship. He introduced each of the champions and presented them with savings bonds.

Mr. Ottinger introduced Mrs. Lisa Arena and Ms. Kristen Estep to present Character Education at Mennies School.

Mrs. Arena said two years ago Mennies School began doing morning announcements on television and incorporated as part of the announcements was Project Wisdom. She said guest readers are brought in each day to read words of wisdom on the air every morning. Mrs. Arena said the underlying theme of Project Wisdom and what is said every day is "Make it a great day or not the choice is yours" which they had printed on shirts for the school.

Continued

Ms. Estep said Mennies School was one of five in the state selected to participate in a program through the Rutgers Center for Character Development. The goal of this grant was to create a positive school climate through Character Education. Ms. Estep said at Mennies they are focusing on being respectful, responsible and caring. She read a code of conduct that was developed, which was big goal of the project.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the Board approved the minutes of April 2, 2008, April 9, 2008, April 23, 2008 and April 30, 2008. All Members voted “yes” except for Ms. Arroyo who voted “yes” for all dates but wanted it clarified that she was absent during the April 30, 2008 special meeting but did arrive at 7:28 p.m. for the April 30, 2008 executive session and Mr. Spinelli who voted “yes” for all dates but “abstained” on April 30, 2008.

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Franceschini, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of March, 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: Mr. DeSanto said he would like to discuss with the board in executive session a pending grievance.

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, May 14, 2008**, regarding personnel matters, contracts, budget issues, negotiations and anticipated or pending litigation and on **Wednesday, June 4, 2008** regarding personnel matters, anticipated or pending and budget issues.

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

The board recessed to executive session at 7:22 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:41 p.m.

Mr. DeSanto said later in the meeting the board will be asked to pass an amendment to a policy where employees of the district who are provided vacation days will be required to use them and only be permitted to carry five days over to a subsequent year. He said Local 2327 filed a grievance indicating that it would be unfair to impose that policy at this time of the year. Mr. DeSanto said there have been extensive negotiations between administration and Local 2327 and as a result of those discussions he has prepared an agreement for the board's approval. He along with administration recommends that the board accept this agreement where by the policy provision of a five day carry over be suspended for one year. Mr. DeSanto said this will allow the #2327 employees to carry more then five days only for the 2008-2009. He said it would be expected that the days would be taken over the course of the year so it would not disrupt the operation of the school district. Mr. DeSanto is requesting that the board entertain a motion to approve an agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and Local #2327 to settle the pending grievance regarding vacation days subject to the terms of an agreement acceptable to the superintendent and solicitor as to its final form.

Mr. Spinelli said he is going to vote in favor of this only because of the amount of people who were not properly notified of this.

Mr. DeSanto explained that there was a class action law suit filed by 10 month employees and in that law suit notification was given by the attorney for the class. That notification indicated to the ten month employees that there will only be five carry-over days for this year. Mr. DeSanto said this is not notification that the district gave but notification that was given to the class by their attorney and there seems to be a lot of confusion. He said in order to address the confusion we are recommending for the board to adopt this and give an extra year for the carry-over.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. DeWinne, to approve the Local #2327 Vacation Day Agreement. All Members voted "yes" except for Ms. Rios who "abstained."

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations: Page 4

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	A R R O Y O	D E W I N N E	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	R I O S	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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1. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Kevin J. Franchetta as Board Secretary for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Furthermore, Edward J. Rochetti, Executive Controller, be designated Board Secretary in the absence of Kevin J. Franchetta.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

2. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Kevin J. Franchetta as Custodian of School District Records for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Furthermore, Edward J. Rochetti, Executive Controller, be designated Custodian of School Records in the absence of Kevin J. Franchetta.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

3. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Carmen DiGiorgio as Custodian of School Monies for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the rate of \$4,500 per annum.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

4. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Kevin J. Franchetta, Edward J. Rochetti, and Robert E. Cox as contract agents for the 2008 – 2009 school year, effective July 1, 2008 to prepare advertisements, to advertise for and receive bids, and to make awards for the Board of Education in connection with purchase contracts or agreements as permitted by 18A:18A-2.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

5. The Board appoint Robert Cox to act as liaison and serve as a Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

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9. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Dr. Keith C. Figgs Affirmative Action Officer for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

10. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Wayne Weaver ADA Coordinator for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

11. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Linda Santagata Section 504 Compliance Officer for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

12. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Dr. Keith C. Figgs Title IX Coordinator for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

13. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Robert A. DeSanto, Esquire, to the position of Solicitor for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

14. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Harold B. Shapiro, Esquire, to the position of VEA Negotiator/Alternate Counsel for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

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15. The Board approve a Resolution and Client Engagement Letter appointing the professional agency of Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr as Auditor for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 with charges not to exceed \$87,500. Furthermore, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 6A:23-2.2(i)1, the district is in receipt and has reviewed the most recent external peer/quality report completed within the time established by Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

All Members voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

16. The Board approve a Resolution appointing the professional agency of Manders/Merighi Associates as Architect of Record for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. (It is understood that the services of the Architect of Record in the Vineland Public Schools must be initiated by the Secretary of the Board of Education.)

All Members voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

17. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Daniel C. Hoffman as Attorney for Collection of Delinquent Accounts Receivables for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 on a contingency fee basis of 33 1/3% of any amounts collected.

All Members voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

18. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Biondi Insurance Agency as Insurance Broker for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

All Members voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

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19. The Board approve a Resolution appointing the following as Primary School Physicians for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009:

Vineland Medical Associates, PA
 Dr. Narasimhaloo Venugopal
 Dr. Kiritkumar A. Parmar

All Members voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

20. The Board approve a Resolution appointing the following as Alternate School Physicians for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009:.

- a. Advantage OccHealth Medical
 (Dr. Seth Silver and Dr. Joseph Bernardini)
- b. Dr. Joseph P. Bernardini
- c. Dr. Wasique Narvel, LLC
- d. Dr. Timothy Rhyme, LLC
- e. Dr. Rekha Sehgal, LLC

All Members voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

21. The Board designate The Daily Journal as the official newspaper. Further, The Daily Journal, The Press of Atlantic City, Su Voz and Nuestra Comunidad shall be designated to receive notices of meetings.

All Members voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

22. The Board approve the continued use of textbooks and courses of study as per list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

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23. The Board Secretary be authorized to enter into tuition agreements with other districts for homeless students as required during the 2008 – 2009 school year.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

24. The Board recognize the following bargaining units for the 2008 – 2009 school year:

- a. Amalgamated Local #2327 – UAW, AFL/CIO
- b. Vineland Administrators and Supervisors Association
- c. Vineland Education Association
- d. Vineland Non-Certificated Supervisors’ Association

All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Rios who “abstained.” (7-0-1)

25. The Board approve the following annual travel stipends for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009:

- a. Executive Director of Personnel 960.00
- b. Communications Coordinator 840.00
- c. Director of Special Education 840.00

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

26. The Board establish the petty cash funds for the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year per the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

- a. Administration and Schools
- b. Food Service

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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27. The Board authorize entering into partnerships with colleges and universities for the placement of students for student teaching, practicum, field internships and observations for the 2008 – 2009 school year as per list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members voted “yes” except for Ms. Arroyo who “abstained.” (7-0-1)

28. The Board approve a Resolution approving the dates, times and place of open work sessions and regular monthly meetings as per list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

29. The Board authorize the date, time and place for the 2008 Vineland High School Commencement Exercises as follows:

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

Monday, June 16, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Gittone Stadium

Rain Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2008

30. The Board approve the 2008 – 2009 school calendar for pupil attendance as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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31. The Board approve the following personnel items in accordance with the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. List of retirements
- b. List of resignations/terminations
- c. List of leaves of absence
- d. List of employment of personnel
- e. List of transfers, assignments and/or promotions
- f. List of student assistants and New Jersey Youth Corps
- g. List of substitute personnel
- h. List of extracurricular assignments
- i. List of summer employment
- j. List of summer hours
- k. List of summer curriculum

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Giordano who voted “yes” on all items but “abstained” on Summer Maintenance, Stephen Peale. (8-0-0)

32. The Board approve Dr. Buzz Mingin as a Consultant for Special Education for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

33. The Board authorize the distribution of Individual and General Notice of Layoff letters in accordance with the layoff plan approved by the State of New Jersey Department of Personnel in accordance with N.J.A.C. 4A:8-1.2 and 1.3.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

34. The Board authorize the Secretary of the Board and the Superintendent to issue “Reasonable Assurance” of continued employment for the 2008 – 2009 school year to substitute and federally-funded program personnel.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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35. The Board approve the reappointment of professional personnel for the 2008 – 2009 school year as list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

Mr. Spinelli asked where we are with the elementary school principal interviews. Mr. Ottinger said the schools have completed their interviews and have recommended five finalists to be interviewed on Monday.

Mr. Ulrich asked if there is any way board members could be present during the final interview stages. Mr. Giordano said board members can be there during those interviews as long as there is not a quorum. Mr. Ulrich said he would like to be present for the interviews. Mr. Giordano said that should not be a problem. Mr. Ottinger said the board is entitled to be there but he does not like that idea and feels the board should not be involved. Mr. Ulrich said in order for the board to approve employment a name on a sheet of paper means nothing to him unless he knows something about the person. Mr. Ottinger said that is an insult to those who submit the names for approval. Mr. Ulrich said he would like to have all the available information in order to make an informed decision.

36. The Board approve the reappointment of non-tenured administrative/supervisory/auxiliary personnel and teachers for the 2008 – 2009 school year as lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Fanucci who voted “yes” for all names but “abstained” on employee #6435. (8-0-0)

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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37. The Board Secretary be instructed to notify the non-tenured professional personnel, whose names are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board, that they will not be offered a contract for employment for the 2008 – 2009 school year. This action is based upon the projected return of tenured teachers from leave of absence, reduction in the number of pupils, reasons of economy, budgetary considerations, change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the district, restructuring of program components, current limited contract, and/or other good cause.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

38. The Board Secretary be instructed to notify the non-tenured professional personnel, whose names are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board, that they are not recommended for reappointment for the 2008 – 2009 school year because of lack of supervisory level recommendations N.J.S.A. 18A:27-10 (b).

All Members
 voted “yes”
 except for
 Ms. Arroyo
 who voted
 “yes” on all
 names except
 name #1 she
 voted “no.”
 (8-0-0)

39. The Board authorize the assignments of the pupils, whose names are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board, to special education programs outside the district with tuition costs to be borne by the Board.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

(Tuition payment and assignments shall be regulated by Chapter 46, Laws of 1966, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the State Department of Education.)

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40. The Board approve budgetary transfers in accordance with the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. General Funds;
- b. Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA)

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

41. The Board approve submission of the following grant(s) as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. City of Vineland
 Recreation Opportunities for Individuals
 With Disabilities Grant
 Special Olympics Program
 January 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008
 In the amount of ----- \$ 2,145.00
- b. Verizon Grant
 D'Ippolito Elementary School
 August 1, 2008 to August 1, 2009
 In the amount of ----- \$ 20,000.00
- c. 21st Century
 Community Learning Center Program
 Rossi Middle School
 Veterans Memorial Middle School
 Wallace Middle School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 425,000.00
 (This is a five-year grant, submitted in partnership with the Cumberland County Improvement Authority.)
- d. Department of Labor & Workforce Development
 Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated
 English Literacy Civics Education Grant
 Through Adult Education Program
 In the amount of ----- \$ 660,452.00

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

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41. Submission of grants (Continued)

- e. IDEIA (Amended Application)
September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008
- Basic ----- \$2,930,586.00
(Revised amount with carry over)
- Preschool ----- \$ 113,942.00
(Revised amount with carry over)

2

1

42. The Board accept funding in the following amount(s):

- a. Phillips Medical Systems Grant
Petway Elementary School
One (1) Automatic External Defibrillator
In the amount of ----- \$ 2,225.00
- b. New Jersey Office of Human Services
Strengthening Families Program
Durand Elementary School
January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008
In the revised amount of ----- \$44,722.00

All Members
voted "yes."
(8-0-0)

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43. Bids:

The Board acknowledge receipt of bids as lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and reject and approve as follows:

a. **54 Passenger Buses**

Award:
 American Bus and Coach
 Trenton, New Jersey
 In the amount of ----- \$77,300.00
 (per bus)

**24 Ambulatory Passenger and/or
 9 Wheelchair Buses**

Reject:
 Jersey Shore Bus Sales, Inc.
 Toms River, New Jersey

Award:
 Wolfington Body Company
 Mt. Holly, New Jersey
 In the amount of ----- \$92,700.00
 (per bus)

b. **Annual Electrical Services**

Award:
 G. M. White Electrical Contractor
 Vineland, New Jersey
 In the amount of ----- \$ 82.67
 (per hour/regular time)
 \$149.30
 (per hour/ premium time)

c. **Annual HVAC Services**

Award:
 Marlee Contractors, LLC
 Hammonton, New Jersey
 In the amount of ----- \$ 73.65
 (per hour/regular time)
 \$110.48
 (per hour/premium time)

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (8-0-0)

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45. The Board approve the following Transportation Agreement with Sheppard Bus Service for the 2007 – 2008 school year:

- Bid SHEP 5 Contract Preschool Routes
- Route #17604 IMPACT
- Route #19094 IMPACT North (Oak & Main)

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. DeWinne who voted “no.” (7-1-0)

46. The Board approve the PCG (Public Consultant Group) SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) Compliance Agreement.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

47. The Board approve and direct the Secretary of the Board to implement each of the following recommendations from the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Compliance Investigation, from the reports of examination on the following Abbott Early Childhood Education Centers in accordance with the Corrective Action Plan which are provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. All Kids First
- b. Tri-County Community Action Agency, Inc.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

48. The Board approve the rates for Summer School 2008.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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49. The Board approve the participation of D’Ippolito Elementary School in the Early Childhood Education “Books on Tape” Program for 2008 – 2009. Grades kindergarten through second will participate. This is part of a grant for the Even Start Family Literacy Program. There is no cost to the district for participation in this program.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

50. The Board authorize the submission of the Anticipated School Change Form to the State of New Jersey Department of Education for the following schools:

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

- a. Designation of Vineland High School South and Vineland High School North as one comprehensive high school, grades 9 through 12, effective September 2008.
- b. Change Cunningham Elementary School to a Middle/High School Alternative Program.

51. The Board approve the Service Learning Agreements for Internship Programs for Computer Technologies in conjunction with Cumberland County College and Atlantic Cape Community College.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

52. The Board grant permission for the City of Vineland to use the Vineland High School South complex for fireworks on July 4, 2008 (rain date July 5, 2008).

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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53. The Board approve the Healthy Schools Program Memorandum of Understanding.

54. The Board approve the Second Reading of the following Policies for adoption:

- a. Policy #4433.1 “Vacations (Support Staff Members) Local 2327 (Revised)
- b. Policy #5120 “Assignment of Pupils” (Revised)
- c. Policy #7232 “Acquisition and Use of Donated Vehicles in Educational Automotive Programs (New)

55. The Board accept the donation of six (6) fiberglass flagpoles from the Korean War Veterans to be placed in the front area of Veterans Memorial Middle School in accordance with Board Policy #7230, “Gifts, Grants and Donations.”

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

All Members voted “yes” except for Ms. Rios who voted “yes” for policies b. and c. but “abstained” on (a.) Policy #4433.1

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$8,400,728.54).

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

Public: Jenny Paterno, Vineland High School senior
Ms. Paterno said she has been involved with Odyssey of the Mind for six years and it has created the most positive memories of her high school experience. She thanked the board for approving the Odyssey of the Mind trip and appreciates their support.

John Obelenus

Mr. Obelenus said his child competes on the Odyssey of the Mind team and he thanked the board and school system for producing this dream team.

Board Member
Remarks:

Mr. Spinelli congratulated the Character Education Teachers, Math 24 Champions and Odyssey of the Mind Team.

Mr. Ulrich wanted to clarify that in no way did he mean to disrespect or diminish administration’s role in putting forth a principal. However, he does take the hiring of personnel seriously and feels in order to make an informed opinion he needs more than a name submitted on a piece of paper. He respects all of our administrators and people on the committees that put the recommendations forward. Mr. Ulrich said in no way did he want to insinuate that they are not doing a great job because obviously they are.

Mr. DeWinne agrees with the comments made by Mr. Ulrich. He thanked the Odyssey of the Mind team and said they have made everyone in Vineland proud. Mr. DeWinne said Ms. Rasmussen must be a tremendous teacher to develop these minds. He announced that a play will be held at Landis Middle School tomorrow and Friday and a musical performance will be held at Durand School on May 22. Mr. DeWinne congratulated Coach Elliott DeShields on his 100th victory. He wished all the teams’ good luck on their playoffs along with Odyssey of the Mind.

Ms. Arroyo wished the Odyssey of the Mind team good luck and congratulated Mennies Character Education teachers.

Mr. Franceschini congratulated the Odyssey of the Mind team.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Giordano on behalf of his colleagues congratulated Ms. Mayra Arroyo on winning a seat on city council. He will ask the board secretary to post the vacancy by the middle of June with resumes to be sent to the board by the last day of June.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df