

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 18, 2011, at 7:05 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillip and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mr. Fanucci.

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

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.

Flag Salute:

Linnette Bermudez Cruz, Andrea Glover, Alexis Maldonado, Mariah Mendez and Danae Wint, students from Landis Middle School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Sabio, Principal of Landis Middle School was also in attendance.

Special

Presentation (s):

Dr. Banks said she is pleased to present our PTO Presidents to the board for acknowledgement. She thanked all of the parents who give tirelessly of themselves through active participation on PTO's as well as the many, clubs, sports and extra-curricular activities sponsored by our district. Dr. Banks thanked the PTO's for their generosity in helping to fund class trips and assisting with school activities. She said their efforts on behalf of the Vineland students are gratefully acknowledged and everything they do is appreciated.

Mr. Ulrich thanked Mr. Craig Parrish from Petway Elementary School for giving the board the idea to recognize parents who are out there raising funds so that our children can be afforded extra-curricular activities outside of the classroom. He presented recognition certificates to each of the PTO Presidents.

Mr. English thanked the PTO organizations for their time and effort.

Mr. Mercado thanked Ms. Carrie Ellis for being his son's PTO President and soccer coach.

Mrs. Phillips thanked all the PTO Presidents and officers for everything they do.

Mr. DiGiorgio said the entire board realizes all the hard work and effort the parents and PTO organizations do. He said they truly are the unsung heroes and appreciates everything they do for the district.

Dr. Banks introduced Dr. Thomas McCann, Principal of Vineland High School, to present the VASA Administrator of the Year.

Dr. McCann said tonight we have the great privilege of recognizing the VASA Administrator of the Year, who is someone that is voted upon by all of us in VASA. He said that he is proud and honored to present Dr. Louise Karwowski as the VASA Administrator of the Year for 2011. Dr. McCann presented Dr. Karwowski with a recognition plaque for all the great work she has done for years and years.

Dr. Karwowski thanked Dr. Banks along with all the present and former board members. She also thanked the former superintendents, especially Dr. Valentine for hiring her and giving her the opportunity to serve the children, parents and staff of Johnstone Elementary School for the past fifteen years. Dr. Karwowski recognized every member of VASA for their efforts for creating environments in which the children of Vineland can strive and achieve.

Dr. Banks introduced Dr. McCann, Principal of Vineland High School, to present the Vineland High School CAPA Report.

Before Dr. McCann's presentation Mr. Ulrich asked for a moment of silence for Lorraine Capella, a Veterans Memorial School staff member, who passed away this week.

Dr. McCann said the CAPA review is a Collaborative Assessment for Planning and Achievement. He recognized and thanked the supervisors of instruction along with the high school assistant principals who helped with the CAPA Report. Dr. McCann reviewed the CAPA recommendations in the areas of Language Arts, English Language Learners, Mathematics, Special Education, School Culture, Support for the School, Professional Development, Leadership and the District. He said we have been very busy this year at the high school implementing the strategies of the Title I implementation, CAPA review and the Middle States. Dr. McCann said we have four major actions plans that are being headed by our four assistant principals.

Mr. English asked if the CAPA Report is public knowledge. Dr. McCann responded yes. Dr. Banks said it will be posted on the Department of Education website within 30 days of the board presentation. Mr. English asked if Dr. McCann can elaborate on the six corrective action plans that were given. Dr. McCann said we are always striving for the perfect common planning time and time for teachers to work during the day with fellow teachers. He said we tried to have all of the students in the major subject areas have the same time off each day so the core area teachers can do the lesson plans together. Dr. McCann said this year we have department chairs and we are in the process of placing students in the classes that they belong in. He said the articulation of everyone communicating is essential to successful growth with all the students.

Mr. Ulrich said the CAPA report states that the superintendent must take at least one of the following corrective actions:

- Institute a new curriculum grounded in scientifically based research and provide appropriate professional development to support its implementation.
- Extend the length of the school year or school day.
- Replace the school staff members who are deemed relevant to the school not making adequate process.
- Significantly decrease management authority at the school.
- Restructure internal organization of the school.
- Appoint one or more outside experts to advise the school (1) how to revise and strengthen the improvement plan it created while in school improvement status; and (2) how to address the specific issues underlying the school's continued inability to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Ms. Beck explained that the district recommendation is when you are in year 5 of school in need of improvement, which the high school is in year 8, at year 4 there is a CAPA visit. She said at year 5 there is a restructuring plan and year 6 the plan is implemented. Ms. Beck said because the high school was not part of Title I and did not receive any funding we were already at step 8 when we applied for funding. She said as soon as we received the Title I funding we were told that CAPA was coming, which usually does not happen that fast. Ms. Beck said we have essentially done a restructuring with the Small Learning Communities and the reconfiguration of grades 9 through 12.

Mr. Ulrich said we cannot continually be in need of improvement. He asked when do external actions happen where they are forced upon us. Dr. McCann said our two sub-groups have to meet the AYP, which is where we are currently. Mr. Ulrich asked what negative actions can be incurred to the district by not meeting that mark being in 8 years of needs improvement. Dr. McCann said we will be reviewed again next year to see what kind of growth we have had and what we have done with the recommendations. Mr. Ulrich asked what if we do not abide by the recommendations of the report. Mr. Carey Savage, Supervisor, said it is a recommendation and they want to see you implement in terms of good faith. He said in the six areas that were given to us to improve in we have to do at least one of them. Mr. Savage explained that CAPA can make suggestions or recommendations. He said if you choose not to follow them they can forward it to the Title I office and take a number of actions.

Mr. Medio asked if Title I is federal monies. Dr. Banks responded yes. Mr. Medio asked if CAPA is a state organization/committee. Dr. Banks said yes they follow the NCLB regulations and administer the Title I funds. Mr. Medio asked who has the authority to come in and take all these drastic measures with the high school. Dr. Banks said the federal government comes in and takes over if the state determines that significant improvement or changes have not taken place at the high school. Mr. Savage explained that the way No Child Left Behind works is the federal government sets the parameters and allows the state to come in and determine how they want things done. He said if things are not done according to the parameters set by the federal government the state has to take action. Mr. Medio asked if the state has ever taken over a school other than Patterson, Jersey City and Newark. Mr. Savage said also Camden. Mr. Medio said it scares him when he hears we are in danger of being taken over by the state. Mr. Savage said that is why you have to make the good faith effort to do something.

Ms. Rios asked how long Dr. McCann has been principal at Vineland High School. Dr. McCann said this is his fifth year. Ms. Rios asked if CAPA did their review when the high school was in the 9/10 11/12 configuration, would that configuration been effected. Mr. Savage said when the district decided not to make the high school a Title I school the funds were given to the lower grades in hopes that by the time the students attended the upper grades they would not need it.

Mr. Savage said if you were not a Title I school up until last year you were not required to do any of the mandates that came with the NCLB law. He said the state decided to require a Title I plan whether you decided to be a Title I school or not. Mr. Savage said it then became to our advantage to become a Title I school. He said once that happened everything that happened in the past kicked in and triggered the CAPA report. Mr. Savage said if your school is in year 8 it is almost inexcusable that you are there and something has to be done. Ms. Rios asked if these recommendations were made by CAPA four years ago, would the 9/10 11/12 configuration been effected. Mr. Savage said a study was done in terms of the achievement levels before and after the Small Learning Communities. What we have found is there was no change with either model. Mr. Savage said he thinks the school was trying to operate in the best interest of the students. Dr. McCann said in his opinion the Small Learning Communities are going very well at the middle school level. He said it was a larger task to implement the Small Learning Communities at the high school. Dr. McCann said it would have been very helpful to receive the Title I money earlier. Mr. Savage said one of the things that the CAPA recommendation clearly said was that the Small Learning Community model that we had at the high school was never implemented correctly therefore; it was doomed for failure.

Mr. Ulrich said he noticed a lot of the report on Mathematics and Literature focused on our ESL subgroups, which seemed a little bit critical of the direction that we are going in. He asked Mr. Savage if he sees a correlation to the root causes. Mr. Savage said he agrees with that to a large degree because unless you have a program designed that impacts all groups then you will have the problems that you have.

Mr. English said it is no secret that there seems to be an issue between our superintendent and high school principal. He asked if whatever has transpired between the superintendent and high school principal can be set aside to move this district forward in a positive way. Mr. DeSanto cautioned for this type of question not to be asked in public. He does not think that Dr. McCann should be questioned by the board on a matter in which he has counsel. Mr. English said he has not had a chance to speak with Dr. McCann. Mr. DeSanto said as a member of the board of education it would be inappropriate to have direct communication with Dr. McCann privately or in public.

Mr. Medio asked Mr. Savage what was wrong with the implementation of the Small Learning Communities. Mr. Savage said the two school configurations, scheduling, type of courses being offered, teachers not being on board with the change and professional development. Mr. Medio asked Dr. Banks if she has anything to add to this. Dr. Banks said not at this time. Mr. Medio said we had no chance of success when we started out if we had all of these problems. Mr. Savage said the state mandated Small Learning Communities and at the last minute pulled the funding. Mr. Medio said there were just too many problems to overcome when the change to the Small Learning Communities was implemented.

Mr. DiGiorgio said if he recalls previous administration had no interest to apply for Title I for the high school.

Mr. Savage said one of the valuable things that came out of the CAPA report was it is the first time in the history of the district that you have a report from an outside independent agency detailing the exact problems.

Mr. Ulrich said in his opinion we have to figure out what the correct plan is based upon solid scientific data that is data driven. He said if we do this in a random way we are going to produce very random results.

Ms. Rios asked how long does it take for the planning of the Small Learning Communities to be implemented. Mr. Savage said three to five years.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Mercado, the minutes were approved from April 6, 2011, April 12, 2011 and April 13, 2011. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Mercado who “abstained” on all minutes.

Report of the Secretary/Custodian Of School Monies: Upon motion by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Mercado, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of March 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:

Mary Gruccio, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Gruccio said that she wanted to address her opinion on the 9/10 11/12 configuration. She said when the Small Learning Communities were dismantled in January central office and high school administration were given the charge to put in place an educationally focused program for September 2011. Dr. Gruccio requested for the board to allow the school improvement team and restructuring committee to work together on a model that would be best for Vineland High School. Although we may have eliminated Small Learning Communities we are still bound to provide some type of education that shows a small learning environment. Dr. Gruccio said to bring our high school back into compliance with the secondary education initiative one of the things discussed was a ninth grade academy. She said that would put us back into compliance for 2012 and show that we are working with one small group of students to help prepare them for the rest of their high school career. Dr. Gruccio requested for the board to give them the opportunity to work together with the high school, parents and staff to come up with a plan that they think as educators is sound for our students. She said if we turn the high school into a 9/10 11/12 configuration for September, without taking the time to do it properly, we are going to disrupt all of our students and impact many areas. Dr. Gruccio said to do this really does not seem like we are putting our students first. She hopes the board will put the students at the forefront and respect our staff and educators enough to allow us to do what we have been charged to do.

Dina Elliott, Asst. Superintendent for Administration

Dr. Elliott said we are 99.9% scheduled for next year based on the dissolving of the Small Learning Communities and the structure moving forward. She thanked the computer operations and guidance department staff for all the work they did and for coming this far so quickly. Dr. Elliott said many options were discussed as far as the configuration and deciding how to place the incoming ninth graders. She said they needed to maintain their school policy on assignment of pupils, which is also a federal and state mandate. Dr. Elliott said when Mr. Callavini came up with the first configuration it almost seemed unreal that it worked out so beautifully as far as the equitable balance that we need to maintain.

Dr. Elliott introduced Mr. Joe Callavini, Transportation Coordinator, to discuss the other 9/10 11/12 configurations.

Mr. Callavini said at our last meeting he presented our North South configuration to assign ninth graders for next year. He presented three scenarios one of which was recommended by a board member. Mr. Callavini said this board member asked if the city could be divided by the boulevard, which would be an East West division. He expressed his concern that there would be a great deal of fuel waste with an East West division. Mr. Callavini said using the boulevard and East Avenue as a division would not work because of the grade distribution. He stands by the original North South division as being the best as far as study body composition and transportation.

Victoria Mazzochi, VHS Student

Ms. Mazzochi spoke in support of keeping the current North South configuration.

Chris Mohan, VHS Teacher

Mr. Mohan expressed his concern about returning to the 9/10 11/12 configuration.

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS BY SUPERINTENDENT

It is recommended that:

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1. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Kevin J. Franchetta as Board Secretary for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Furthermore, Daniel M. Smith, Assistant School Business Administrator, 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, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Furthermore, Daniel M. Smith, Assistant School Business Administrator, 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, 2011 through June 30, 2012 at the rate of \$4,500 per annum

All Members voted "yes" except Mr. DiGiorgio who "abstained" and Mr. Mercado who voted "no." (6-1-1)

Mr. Mercado expressed his concern that this is a lot of money for a job that to his understanding is not being done appropriately. He requested for this item to be tabled and would like to review the job description to see if these duties are being done. Mr. Mercado said when you add up all the years we paid for this position \$4,500 is a lot of money. He said it is to his understanding that legislation has been passed that no longer requires this position. Mr. Mercado asked why we are paying someone to do this work if the job duties are something the board secretary can handle.

Mr. Ulrich asked Mr. Mercado if he would like to entertain a motion to table item #3 on the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Mercado to table item #3 on the agenda. There was no second therefore item #3 will stay on the agenda for a vote.

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4. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Kevin J. Franchetta and Daniel M. Smith contract agents for the 2011 – 2012 school year, effective July 1, 2011 to prepare advertisements, to advertise for the 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 approve a Resolution appointing Kevin J. Franchetta as the district’s Qualified Purchasing Agent, and establish the bid threshold at the amount pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3a and any increase authorized in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3b

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

6. The State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund, the Century Savings Bank, Colonial Bank, PNC Bank, TD Banknorth, Bank of America, Susquehanna Bank, Newfield National Bank, Sun National Bank, The Cape Bank and the Capital Bank of New Jersey be declared legal depositories for the investments of school district funds and that Kevin J. Franchetta and Daniel Smith be authorized to transfer funds

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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10. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Maryann Greenfield Certifying Officer/Appointing Authority for the New Jersey State civil Service System for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

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

11. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Maryann Greenfield Section 504 Employee Compliance Officer for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

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

12. The Board approve Candida Díaz as the temporary Appointing Authority and Civil Service Hearing Officer for the period of May 2, 2011 through June 6, 2012, in the absence of Maryann Greenfield

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

13. The Board approve Kevin Franchetta as the temporary Conscientious Employee Protection Act Contact Person for the period of May 2, 2011 through June 6, 2012, in the absence of Maryann Greenfield

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

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14. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Ruth Ann Polof Section 504 Student Compliance Officer for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

15. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Dina L. Elliott Working Papers Issuing Officer for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

16. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Dina L. Elliott Title IX Coordinator for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

17. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Dina L. Elliott Affirmative Action Officer for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

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18. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Wayne Weaver Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

19. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Wayne Weaver Right to Know Officer for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

20. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Wayne Weaver Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

21. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Wayne Weaver Indoor Air Quality Designee for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

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22. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Wayne Weave PEOSHA Officer for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

23. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Wayne Weaver Asbestos Management Officer for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

24. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Wayne Weaver Chemical Hygiene Officer for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

25. 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, 2011 through June 30, 2012 with charges not to exceed \$93,675. 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” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

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26. The Board approve a Resolution appointing the professional agency of Manders Merighi Portadin Farrell Architects, LLC as Architect of Record for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. (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" except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

27. The Board approve a Resolution appointing the Law Firm of Gruccio, Pepper, DeSanto and Ruth, P.A. as Solicitor/Collective Bargaining/Alternate Counsel for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

28. The Board approve a Resolution appointing the Law Firm of Frank DiDomenico as Alternate Counsel for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

29. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Daniel C. Hoffman as Attorney for Collection of Delinquent Accounts Receivables for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 on a contingency fee basis of 33 1/3% of any amounts collected

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

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30. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Biondi Insurance Agency as Insurance Broker for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

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

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

32. The Board Secretary be authorized to enter into tuition agreements with other districts for homeless students as required during the 2011 – 2012 school year

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

33. The Board recognize the following bargaining units for the 2011 – 2012 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 for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

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34. The Board approve the following annual travel stipends for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012:

- a. Executive Director of Personnel \$1,200.00
- b. Director of Special Education \$1,200.00

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

35. The Board establish the petty cash funds for the 2011 – 2012 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” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

36. 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 2011 – 2012 school year as per list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

37. The Board approve the continued use of textbooks and courses of study as per the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board for the 2011 – 2012 school year

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

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38. The Board authorize the date, time and place for the 2012 Vineland High School Commencement Exercises as follows:

**Thursday, June 14, 2012
 6:00 p.m.
 Gittone Stadium**

Rain Date: Friday, June 15, 2012

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

40. The Board approve the hourly rates for substitute personnel for the 2011 – 2012 school year

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

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who was not present for the vote. (7-0-0)

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42. The Board approve travel for district members as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:10A-8.3 and school field trips as per lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

Mr. Medio said he agrees one hundred percent with comments made by Dr. Mounier. He does not feel that some of these trips are right but they are already in progress, which is why he voted “yes.” Mr. Medio said he will be bringing this up for discussion at the next work session.

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Mercado who voted “yes” on all travel except b.75 he “abstained” and Dr. Mounier who voted “yes” on all travel except the Success Program field trips on page 59 and 60 he voted “no.” (8-0-0)

43. The Board authorize the Secretary of the Board and the Superintendent to issue “Reasonable Assurance” of continued employment for the 2011 – 2012 school year to substitute and federally-funded personnel

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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U L R I C H	R I O S	D I G I O R G I O	E N G L I S H	F A N U C I	M E D I O	M E R C A D O	M O U N T A I N E R	P H I L L I P S
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44. 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.

Further, the Board approve the acceptance of tuition pupil(s), whose names are on file with the Secretary of the Board, for placement in special education programs offered in Vineland with tuition costs to be borne by the sending district(s)

(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.)

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

45. The Board approve submission of the VHS Tennis Court Resurfacing Project (#5390-050-11-3000) to the Department of Education. This project is considered an "Other Capital Project" for which no state funding is requested. Additionally, it is recommended that the Board approve an amendment to the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) to include this project

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

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46. The Board approve the use of the IMPACT center building at the Casimer M. Dallago, Jr. Preschool Center by South Jersey Healthcare as a mass care shelter for victims of disasters for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, in accordance with the contract on file with the Secretary of the Board

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

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if there was ever a disaster could we conduct business and have the shelter there at the same time. Dr. Elliott said the evacuation plan that is in place provides for our children that are at that site. She said it stipulates what would occur during and after school hours.

47. The Board approve a Resolution that will allow private schools to provide free nutritional breakfast and/or lunch for students with disabilities

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

48. The Board approve in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:27-11.2 the bus evacuation drills completed in the month of April as per the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

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

49. The Board approve submission of a request to develop a preschool through first grade elementary program for students with hearing impairment, as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

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

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50. The Board approve a contract with Bayada Nurses in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 in the following amount:

One (1) LPN @ \$39/hour
 May 7, 2011 – June 30, 2011
 Approximately 33 days @ 7 hours per day
 In the amount of ----- \$9,009.00

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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

- a. The Courtyard School, Inc.
- b. Little Lamb Preschool/Keener Kids, Inc.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

52. The Board approve the Summer 2011 Programs, preschool through grade 12, as per the list provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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53. The Board approve submission of the Annual Statement of Assurances for the Comprehensive Equity Plan for the 2011 – 2012 school year

All Members voted “yes.”
(8-0-0)

(We will continue the implementation of the CEP submitted by the District for 2007 – 2010.)

54. The Board approve submission of the Amended FY 2011 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Application to the State of New Jersey Department of Education in the amount of \$5,632,061.43 for the period of September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011

All Members voted “yes.”
(8-0-0)

55. The Board approve submission to the Department of Education Office of Early Childhood the revised ECPA Budget that was approved by the State

All Members voted “yes.”
(8-0-0)

56. The Board approve submission of the following grant as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

All Members voted “yes.”
(8-0-0)

ING Unsung Heroes Grant
 D’Ippolito Elementary School
 In the maximum amount of ----- \$25,000.00

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57. The Board approve the ratification of the Agreement between the Vineland Administrators and Supervisors Association (VASA) and the Vineland Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013

Mr. Medio asked if this was the second union the board has ratified with. Mr. Ulrich said that was correct. Mr. Medio said he hopes that the VEA agreement comes to fruition very soon.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked VASA, Dr. Banks and Mr. Pepper for all their hard work.

Mr. Ulrich said both sides acted extremely reasonable and he thanked everyone involved with the process.

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

58. Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and the Vineland Administrators and Supervisors Association (VASA). This Memorandum resolves the Unfair Practice Charge filed by VASA under Docket No. CO-2011-434 and outlines the terms and conditions of the contract between the Vineland Board of Education and Vineland Administrators and Supervisors Association for the period of July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013

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

U L R I C H	R I O S	D I G I O R G I O	E N G L I S H	F A N U C I	M E D I O	M E R C A D O	M O U N T A I N E R	P H I L L I P S
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59. Bids/Professional Service Contracts:

- a. The Board acknowledge receipt of bids as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the following items in the amount shown:

BID

VHS Locker Room Renovations
 Straga Brothers, Inc.
 P. O. Box 216
 Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-0216
 In the amount of ----- \$94,250.00

- b. The Board approve a Professional Service Contract to the following accordance with 18A:18A-5.a(2AS):

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT

Instruction to Homebound students
 Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.
 8508 Loch Raven Boulevard, Suite E
 Baltimore, Maryland 21286
 In the amount to exceed ----- \$36,000.00

Part b. withdrawn by the Superintendent

Mr. Medio asked if that is the amount not to exceed. Mr. Franchetta said it is a professional service contract that will exceed the bid threshold in the next school year. Mr. DeSanto said the contract still needs to define the amount. Mr. Franchetta said it is based on the number of students who need home instruction services. Mr. DeSanto said there should be some reasonable cap so the board knows how much they are approving. Mr. Ulrich asked if this could be taken off the agenda and dealt with in June. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.

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

U L R I C H	R I O S	D I G I O R G I O	E N G L I S H	F A N U C I	M E D I O	M E R C A D O	M O U N I E R	P H I L I P S
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60. The Board waive the time requirements for review according to Policy #0131 “Bylaws and Policies” and adopt the following Policies:

Policy #3270 Professional Responsibilities

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

61. The Board approve the **SECOND** reading of the following Policies/Regulations for adoption:

- Policy #9181 – Volunteer Athletic Coaches (*Revised*)
- Policy #1140 – Affirmative Action Program (*NEW*)
- Policy #1523 – Comprehensive Equity Plan (*Revised*)
- Policy #1530 – Equal Employment Opportunity (*Revised*)
- Reg #1530 – Equal Employment Opportunity (*Revised*) (For information only)
- Policy 1550 – Affirmative Action Program for Employment and Contract Practices (*Revised*)
- Reg #1550 - Affirmative Action Program for Employment and Contract Practices (For information only)
- Policy #2260 – Affirmative Action Program for School and Classroom Practices (*Revised*)
- Policy #2415.01 – Academic Standards, Academic Assessments and Accountability (*Revised*)

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Medio who “abstained” and Dr. Mounier who voted “yes” on all items except for Policy #1530, Policy #2260 and Policy #2415.01 he voted “no.” (7-0-1)

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

1. A motion was made by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Mercado to approve twenty-seven (27) paid sick days for the individual whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board in accordance with the provisions in N.J.S.A. 18A:30-6. All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. DeSanto said at the work session Mr. Medio requested the opportunity to make a motion regarding the configuration of the high school. It is his opinion that this is a matter for board vote however; he expressed his concern that because of the secondary school initiative and the CAPA report you need to be compliant in 2012-2013 with those requirements. He cautioned the board and requested for them to please consider this motion to reconfigure the Vineland High School to a 9-10 and 11-12 configuration for the year 2011-2012.

Dr. Banks thanked the high school administration, guidance department, Dr. Elliott, Dr. Gruccio, supervisors and Mr. Callavini for all of their efforts in moving forward very quickly once the charge was given from the board to dismantle the Small Learning Communities. She appreciates their efforts very specifically with regard to the scheduling aspect, which was an enormous task. Dr. Banks said in January 2011 the board voted to dismantle the Small Learning Communities and directed her to develop a new model for the high school. She said she stated at the time for the record that she did not recommend the dismantling of the Small Learning Communities. Dr. Banks said she indicated that she felt strongly that a major part of the problem was that the model had not been implemented properly. She requested at that time to be given the opportunity to redesign the Small Learning Communities. Dr. Banks also pointed out that she felt that it was important to wait for the results of the CAPA visit. She said the first high school restructuring meeting was held on January 18 and at that meeting Dr. McCann recommended keeping the student body and teachers in their current physical locations leaving the 9-12 concept in both buildings. Dr. Banks said Dr. McCann also recommended keeping all of the electives and courses in tact for next year in the event the board wants to return to the Small Learning Communities model. She said we all agreed that whatever was to take place in September 2011 had to be a plan that was least disruptive to all and we should focus on the instructional program during the next school year. She said what was left for discussion was the transition of the 8th graders to the high school.

Dr. Banks said they already agreed that the 9-12 concept would remain in place therefore; we needed to devise a plan to evenly divide the incoming 9th graders between the two buildings. Mr. Callavini worked up a plan that utilizes our current zone to effectively place students in their schools. Dr. Banks said our concern was to insure that students were evenly divided by race and gender. She stressed that the plan presented by Mr. Callavini provides the best distribution of students as they transition to the high school. Dr. Banks also stressed that this plan is for this coming school year only because we will have a plan in place that will put us back in compliance with the CAPA report findings. She said last week a board member recommended that we not wait and vote to return to a 9-10 11-12 configuration for this September. Dr. Banks said in her opinion a move to a 9-10 11-12 configuration for the 2011-2012 school year is not practical nor sound from an educational or instructional perspective. She said the scheduling process has already begun for next year and we are 99.9% complete. Dr. Banks said for us to scrap that now would create staffing and scheduling issues that may not be resolved by September. She said her plan for the 2012-2013 school year is to work next year to plan for the implementation of a ninth grade academy. The concept of a ninth grade academy is a national movement with proven success for student retention and completion of the high school course of study. It specifically involves activities that students engage in that are designed to acclimate 8th graders to the expectations of the high school curriculum before they even step foot in the high school. There are strong parent orientation components as well that are designed to encourage and increase parent involvement. Dr. Banks said once at the high school 9th graders are divided into smaller groups thus providing opportunities for stronger teacher student bonds. In addition to the core curriculum students would have a built in study skills elective. Dr. Banks said at risk students would also be provided with tutorials and supplemental instruction. She said also looped into this elective period is a strong career component. Dr. Banks said she is recommending additionally that an extended school year program be developed as an extension of the ninth grade academy. This plan provides for academic rigor and opportunities for ninth graders taking English and math to take additional electives along with the study skills electives. Dr. Banks said the ninth grade academy will address the restructuring component of the CAPA report. She said it is a model that has proven success with regard to academic achievement, improvement of attendance, and the reduction of discipline issues.

Dr. Banks said this model provides the staff with the opportunity to sustain a collective focus on student learning. She is investigating the possibility of creating a two year vocational program that is designed to compliment and prepare students for attendance at the county vocational school. Dr. Banks said she is also investigating the possibility of creating an academic magnet, a school within a school, for students in grades 10 through 12. Dr. Banks respectfully requests for the board to give her the opportunity to properly plan for the implementation of the ninth grade academy for the 2012-2013 school year and also give her the opportunity to further develop her concepts of a vocational and academic program. Dr. Banks said for these reasons she does not recommend a return to the 9-10 11-12 concept in September 2011.

Mr. Medio asked if Dr. Gruccio stated in public session that the plan for 2012-2013 is to come from the committee that CAPA said should be set up. Dr. Gruccio said the committee was a recommendation of the CAPA report and they should be involved in the planning for the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Medio said it amazes him that we are going to have a ninth grade academy but we are not willing to take the first step, which is to have a 9-10 and 11-12 building. He does not understand how these things do not go hand in hand. Mr. Medio commended Dr. Banks on working together with the board. Dr. Banks said for the record that is not what her recommendation is.

Mr. English said the common denominator he has received from staff from both buildings is the lack of communication between staff and administration, lack of consistent discipline policies and rushing into another poorly implemented model. He questioned how we can rush into a new model without the superintendent, assistant superintendents, supervisors, principals, assistant principals, staff, parents, students and board members not being on the same page for what is best for all the students at our high school. Mr. English said he is very passionate on the 9-10 11-12 concept but is also very understanding. He said if the ultimate goal is to move these students forward and we have all this knowledge then why are we afraid to speak. Mr. English said he feels if we are not on the same page it does not matter what model we put in place. He said it is very hard for him to vote to return to the 9-10 11-12 concept in a rush fashion.

Dr. Mounier said it seems that the motion that is before us just provides an alternate distribution of students between two buildings. He does not understand how the redistribution of students in any way invalidates future educational prospects. Dr. Mounier thinks the traditional break down of 9-10 11-12 makes more sense than having two high schools in this district.

Mrs. Phillips said what Dr. Mounier said is true however; her husband taught at the 9-10 building when it was 9-10 and thought it was the worse idea ever. She worked at the 11-12 building and absolutely loved it because there were no immature 9th and 10th graders. Mrs. Phillips said in her house they have a divided perception of 9-10 11-12. She definitely gives Dr. Banks credit for coming up with a vision that we could work around. Mrs. Phillips loves Dr. Banks idea of an academic magnet and would like to give her a chance to have a year to work on it before we change.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he has been looking for some concrete ways to change the present status of what we have. He said whatever we do we have to keep the tax payer in mind. Mr. DiGiorgio said he did not hear from Dr. Banks if we can afford to do her vision for the district. He said this is a one year decision and if it works we have the opportunity to expand upon it. Mr. DiGiorgio feels that Mr. Medio brings up a very valid point and has the highest respect for his opinion but thinks we have an opportunity to consider what the superintendent is doing.

Mr. Ulrich said no matter how each board member votes he is certain that in their prospective they are voting in the best interest of what they believe the school district needs. He said the student that spoke tonight basically said that the board is not listening to the people that matter, which are the students. Mr. Ulrich said we have the opportunity to let our superintendent be accountable. He said in his mind Dr. Banks is trying to figure out what we can do with this urban district. Mr. Ulrich told Dr. Banks the other day that she has an opportunity to be a trend setter in this district. He said with support from the board she can take a district that is failing and turn it around. Mr. Ulrich urged his colleagues to please give Dr. Banks a chance to be accountable. He said if it does not work out in the end it was the educators who made the decision and the board can act on that accountability piece.

2. A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Mr. English, to approve the reconfiguration of Vineland High School South and North buildings to a 9-10 and 11-12 reconfiguration for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English Mr. Mercado Ms. Phillips and Mr. Ulrich voted “no.” Mr. Medio, Dr. Mounier and Ms. Rios voted “yes.” The motion did not pass.

Ms. Rios said she spoke with students, staff, parents and the community and not everyone is in favor of keeping 9 through 12. She is also not in favor of dividing the ninth graders by where they live so her vote is “yes.”

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Mercado, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$6,830,738.67).

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

Public: Jackie Huster, Wallace School Librarian
Ms. Huster expressed her concern in regards to teaching a library block and feels it is not in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Ulrich said this matter is going to be presented to the board at the June work session.

Mr. Medio asked if board members on a committee have to approve moving an issue forward. Mr. Ulrich said we are on the public comment part of the meeting.

Buzz Mingin, Educational Consultant
Mr. Mingin expressed his concern in regards to the non-renewal of his contract and the effect it will have on the Behavior Disabilities (BD) Program. He would like to put a program together that will allow him to train someone to take his place and carry the torch.

Mr. Ulrich said the district will be hiring an employee to do this some point in time.

Carrie Ellis, Petway School PPSA President

Ms. Ellis thanked the board and Dr. Banks for recognizing presidents of PTO's and PTA's in general. She personally thanked Mr. Ulrich for voicing his opinion about the importance of the PTO's in the schools and for following up on the recognition. Ms. Ellis said parental involvement is the most important element for children succeeding in school. She said we must take responsibility to help our children do better.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Phillips said discussed at tonight's Curriculum & Technology meeting was the elementary bilingual program plan, which is on hold until more research can be done. She said Mr. Olsen, Principal of Veterans Memorial School, spoke about the middle school block schedule. Mrs. Phillips said Mr. Olsen will be making a presentation in June about the middle school block schedule. She said the library block schedule is not a done deal and the board has to vote on it. Mrs. Phillips said Mr. Callavini discussed the restructuring plan and Mr. Dantine discussed staff card access at the high school and the parent portal.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Medio asked why Mr. Olsen is giving a report next month on the middle school block schedule. Mr. Ulrich said that is a full board vote on a curriculum change. Mr. Medio asked why we have a committee if they do not do anything. Mr. Ulrich said generally things do not come out of committee unless it is something that has to come out to the full board. Mr. Medio said the committee was not satisfied with what we were told so the consensus was that this is not acceptable. Mr. Ulrich said he would think it would be prudent to reexamine this issue.

Dr. Gruccio said she feels it is an educationally sound proposal and she would like the board to hear it.

Mrs. Phillips agrees with Mr. Medio and said the impression she got was that there were four people against this proposal at the committee.

Mr. English said the library block schedule was discussed and we found that there were some alternative routes that we should be looking into.

Mr. Medio said there was discussion and the library block schedule is not ready to be brought to the board. Mr. Ulrich said he agrees.

Dr. Banks said the library block schedule will stay in committee.

Mrs. Phillips thanked the PTO presidents and members especially Ms. Ellis for her excellent speech. She congratulated Dr. Karwowski on receiving the VASA award.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked the PTO's and appreciated Ms. Ellis's comments. He congratulated Dr. Karwowski on her award.

Mr. English congratulated Dr. Karwowski on her achievement. He commended all the PTO members. Mr. English said we need to move forward together to get things done. He thanked all the staff, students and administration for their school presentations.

Ms. Rios thanked the Landis Middle School students for the flag salute. She congratulated the PTO presidents and thanked them for all their work. Ms. Rios said it is important to get involved in your child's education and be part of their everyday process. She said appreciate your children and be there for them because they are our future leaders.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich congratulated Dr. Karwowski on her award. He said the PTA members are the unsung heroes of our financially strapped city. Mr. Ulrich said he attended talent night at Veterans Memorial School, which was great. He said Mr. Olsen told him that the students donated the proceeds from the talent show admission to Relay for Life a fundraising effort that he is involved with. Mr. Ulrich said the school district has contributed over \$2,000 towards the Relay for Life. He thanked everyone who spoke tonight.

Dr. Banks acknowledged the work of our PTO parents and thanked them for all of their efforts on behalf of our children. She congratulated Dr. Karwowski on being selected VASA Administrator of the year.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, June 8, 2011** regarding personnel matters.

Motion:

Upon motion by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Mercado, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df