

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, June 6, 2012 at 7:10 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Schneider, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Ludy, Board Secretary, Mrs. Barber, Interim Business Administrator, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Director of Special Education, press and public. Absent: None.

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.

Flag salute:

Special

Presentations:

Dr. Gruccio and Dr. Schneider recognized and presented certificates to the following teachers who received the 2012 Teacher of the Year Award: Mr. Albert Porter, Ms. Stacey Musey, Mr. Ismael Bermudez, Mr. Joseph Morello, Ms.Carolynn Foote, Ms. Lisa Basile, Ms. Linda Fields, Ms. Kristin McMackin, Ms. Diane Berezin, Ms. Brittany Tomlin, Ms. Anna Porretta, Ms. Joanne Wargo, Mr. Brian Anthony, Ms. Virginia Toal, Ms. Jennifer Ricci and Mr. Michael Bechtel.

Dr. Gruccio introduced the Vineland High School Madrigal Singers, Select Choir and Women's Choir under the direction of Lori Cummines to present a musical selection.

Comments by
Board Solicitor:

None.

The Board recessed into executive session at 7:35 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:40 p.m.

Dr. Gruccio said that she will be pulling all employee transfers off of the agenda this evening.

Public Comments

on Agenda Items: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **Personnel Items** – No discussion.
2. **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
3. **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
4. **Travel** – No discussion.
5. **Bids** – Mr. Ulrich asked what the rebids are for. Mr. Weaver explained that recommendations were made to rebid the contracts based on multiple classifications that were added.
6. **Submission of Grants** – No discussion.
7. **South Vineland Demolition Project** – Dr. Mounier said a variety of pictures were taken of the school and he recommended photographing the attic framing. Mr. Ulrich asked Mr. Sbrana to follow up on the pictures before the building is torn down. Dr. Mounier asked if the site is proposed for a new pre-k center. Mr. Weaver said it is in our Long Range Facilities Plan. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if a new pre-k center is based on some type of need. Mr. Weaver said yes it is based on our pre-k enrollment and attendance.
8. **Agreement between VBOE and VASA** – Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this agreement is stating that the vice principals are going back to twelve months. Dr. Gruccio said yes this was discussed a while ago. Mr. Fanucci said it is important to note that not many people are affected by this. Dr. Mounier said the second sentence under Recitals item one should be modified.
9. **Catapult Learning Agreement** – No discussion.
10. **Agreement between VBOE and Atlantic Cape Community College** – Ms. Rios asked who is paying for the application fee and credits. Dr. Gruccio said the students pay at a reduced rate given by the college. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this is part of Option 2. Dr. Gruccio said no.

11. **Salem County Special Services School District Agreement** – Ms. Rios asked if this is less costly going this route. Mrs. Polof said this is for non-public school students.
12. **Bayada Nursing Contract** – Mr. Mercado asked if this was put out for bid. Dr. Gruccio said she does not think so. Mr. Mercado asked if it can go out for bid. Dr. Gruccio said she will ask Ms. Williams, the district's Nursing Supervisor.
13. **Bus Evacuations for May** - No discussion.
14. **Southern Regional Institute (SRI) and Educational Technology Training Center (ETTC) Hours** - No discussion.
15. **Waste Management of NJ, Inc Services** – Mr. Mercado asked if this was put out for bid. Mr. Zorzi said yes this is the third year of the contract at our option to renew. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this is a monthly rate for all of the facilities in the district. Mr. Zorzi said that is correct.
16. **Agreement between Alfred I duPont Hospital and the Vineland Board of Education** – No discussion.
17. **Resolution Authorizing the Membership of the Subfund of the NJ School Boards Association Group (Educational Risk Insurance Consortium)** – No discussion.
18. **Reasonable Assurance of Continued Employment for 2012-2013 Substitute Personnel** - No discussion.
19. **Approval of the following Contracts** – Ms. Cherie Ludy, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Nathan Frey, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Joseph Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Dr. Mary Gruccio, Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Ulrich said this will be discussed in executive session later this evening.
20. **Approval to waive time requirements for review according to Policy #0131 and Adoption of the following Policies – Policy #2361/Reg #2361** - No discussion.
21. **First Reading of Following Policies/Regulations: Policy #1631, Policy #2431, Policy #5600, Reg #5600, Policy #9270** – No discussion.
22. **Payment to Employees as a result of the Reduction in Force** – Mr. Mercado asked for an explanation of this item. Mr. Rossi explained that a layoff plan was submitted and we have to compensate employees who were not notified by May 15th.

23. **Use of Vineland High School South Complex for Fireworks on July 4, 2012** – No discussion.
24. **Tentative Tuition Charges for 2012-2013 School Year** – No discussion.
 - A. Board
 1. None.

Review of Bills: No discussion.

Public Comment: Mario Olsen, Principal
Mr. Olsen asked if all transfers were pulled from the agenda. Dr. Gruccio said all transfers. Mr. Olsen expressed his concern that this will cause a major delay in scheduling movement as far as the high school. Mr. Ulrich said there will be more deliberations by the board and superintendent and some transfer items may be put back on the agenda for next week. Mr. Olsen said in the event this does not happen you should expect difficulties with moving the classrooms back and forth. Dr. Gruccio said she does not believe the board anticipates any change at this time with the employees Mr. Olsen is speaking about. Mr. Olsen said he hopes the board approves those transfers next week so they can move on.

Debra Vena, Teacher at Wallace Middle School

Ms. Vena said students in her writing initiative class wanted to write to the school board regarding new playing fields at Wallace Middle School. She said every other middle school has playing fields and the students have expressed inequality about not having playing fields at their school

Mr. Weaver said he read the letters from the students, which were very good. He explained that when Wallace Middle School was built playing fields was not part of the funding component. Mr. Weaver said we do need to take a look at funding the fields from our budget. Mr. Mercado asked Mr. Weaver if his staff has the capabilities to do something in-house in the future. Mr. Weaver said we do not have the equipment to do the work. He said we could get some quotes on the cost. Mr. Fanucci said this could be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting. Mr. English said he will make sure that it is also on the Facilities Agenda to be discussed. He said that he would like the Wallace School students polled to get their feedback as to what they want.

Bill McDevitt, Instrumental Music Teacher VHS

Mr. McDevitt distributed a packet to the board that he along with the other instrumental teachers in the district put together on the programs they had since March.

Committee Reports: Mr. English said discussed at the May Facilities meeting was the feasibility and review of the Divine Mercy facility as a potential pre-k center, the Almond Road Preschool, energy curtailment program revenue, tennis court update, partial roof replacement at D'Ippolito and summer projects.

Ms. Rios said discussed at the May Policy & Personnel meeting was Policy #2431-Sports Participation. She said it was decided to keep the policy as is. Mr. English said he would love to see 100% of the students in clubs, athletics and extracurricular activities maintaining a 2.0 average. Ms. Rios said in reference to Social Promotion Policy #5410, after discussion it was recommended for Dr. Schneider to meet with the middle school principals along with the Vineland High School North principal to review students with failing grade levels. Ms. Rios said also discussed was school uniforms and the policies that are on tonight's agenda. She said there was a discussion concerning Policy #3212.1 Sick Leave Donating. Ms. Rios said the committee would like to discuss with representatives from the union the idea of donating sick time.

Unfinished

Business:

Mr. English asked if there was a way we could make lunch mandatory for the incoming freshman. Dr. Gruccio said to her knowledge there is no policy but a meeting was held with high school representatives to discuss this issue. She said we will be moving forward with further discussion to make a decision. Mr. Medio questioned why lunch is not put on the students schedule automatically. Dr. Gruccio said when discussions were through at the high school she was going to bring this to the Policy and Personnel Committee because there has to be a policy in place.

Mr. DeSanto said if there is a policy in place then there will be no exceptions.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the hourly rates for food service substitutes could be reviewed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. English asked if we still offer String Ensemble 1 through 4 at the high school. Dr. Gruccio said everything has been put back in place. Dr. Rossi said on the advice of the superintendent that piece of the layoff plan was withdrawn. Mr. English questioned why the number of students taking string assemble has dropped drastically. Ms. Cummines said one of the reasons is as the students get older they are more involved in the AP classes.

New Business: Mr. English asked how we strengthen the curriculum for the sports that are lacking. Mr. Robbins, Athletic Director, said that team sports are part of the physical education curriculum. He said depending how in depth you want go he does not think it is something fiscally that we are going to do in one year.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Ludy
Board Secretary

CL:df

