

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, July 13, 2011, at 6:31 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. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director, press and public. Absent: Dr. Elliott, Assistant Superintendent and 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:

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, July 13, 2011** regarding personnel matters and contract negotiations with Sodexo.

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

The board recessed to executive session at 6:34 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:32 p.m.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Banks publicly acknowledged and congratulated Christine Schneider from Vineland High School South and Beverly Messoro, from Vineland High School North for having been selected Teachers of the year at the high school complex.

Dr. Banks introduced Ms. Jacqueline Cheli, Assistant Principal of Cunningham Alternative School, to present their teacher of the year.

Ms. Cheli said it is her pleasure to introduce and present Ms. Kirstie Greene who is a very dedicated, kind, compassionate teacher with the Teacher of the Year award.

Dr. Banks said she is going to give a brief presentation to the board on the Governance portion of the QSAC Report.

Dr. Banks said the Governance piece of the QSAC Report is an area where the board was required to develop a corrective action plan and there are still issues that need to be addressed. She said the Governance score remained at 67% and the board had the opportunity to appeal the findings, which Mr. Ulrich did. Dr. Banks said we received a notice that the scores will stand as they are. As a result of that, tonight the board can begin discussions with the assistance of Charlene Zoerb, a representative from the NJ School Boards Association, to address the current corrective action plan. Dr. Banks said there are nine areas that the board is scored in Governance. We received the highest score in all sections but three. The three sections were Standard School Board Practices, Annual Evaluative Process and School Board/Administration Collaboration. Dr. Banks said this goes back to the 2008 year, which was when the initial QSAC Report was done. Dr. Banks said in November 2010 she was required to do an update of our district performance review and the committee consisted of Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Ulrich and Dr. Elliott. After reviewing the items they felt strongly that the board did everything that they were supposed to do with regard to addressing the corrective action plan. Dr. Banks said they scored themselves 100 points on those aspects, which was submitted to the county superintendent. In February 2011 a meeting was held with Dr. Stepura and he reviewed the Governance area and said he may have some concerns but did not at that time say anything about losing points.

Dr. Banks said we received a letter in June stating that the points would stay at 67%. She said Mr. Ulrich appealed and the appeal was denied. Dr. Banks said the District Improvement Plan that the board developed in 2008 is the plan that was revised for the 2009-2010 school year. She said this is the plan the board will review for possible revision. Dr. Banks said information was supplied to the county superintendent documenting all of the board's efforts to take corrective action.

Mr. Ulrich asked if the Department of Education is saying that once you receive a negative QSAC you cannot get out of it for three years. Dr. Banks said that is her understanding as well. Mr. Ulrich said then why go through the process. Ms. Zoerb, NJ School Boards Representative, said when she read the letter from the commissioner she said they were referring to the three prior years.

Mr. Medio asked exactly what QSAC is. Ms. Zoerb explained it is a monitoring system to monitor performance areas in school districts and to identify those areas in a district where they are deficit. Mr. Medio asked how you can fail monitoring for the actions of board members who are no longer here. Ms. Zoerb said because it looks back at three years of board performance.

Mr. Fanucci asked how we received a zero if we met the deadline on the board self-evaluation. Dr. Banks said she believes it was because of the professional development plan. Ms. Zoerb said the whole purpose of the QSAC Governance section is to help you operate better and more effectively as a team to improve student achievement in your district.

Mr. Medio said the goal of actually helping children is not being achieved. Instead of this board or other boards spending time talking about improving education they are talking about why they are being punished because someone who is no longer here made a mistake. Ms. Zoerb said the QSAC process is from the Department of Education and she is here to help the board understand it. She said you need to focus on going forward and what you can do as a team together.

Mr. Ulrich said the county superintendent did cite a vote by the board on the Small Learning Communities. However, no one has ever ruled in any position of authority that the vote was illegal or improper. Mr. Ulrich said to cite us on a lawful action does not make sense. Mr. DeSanto said he does not think the criticism was that the board did not have the power or authority to do what they did. He said the county superintendent was strongly opposed to changing it prior to the CAPA Report. Mr. DeSanto said it was the manner and timing in which the board did this not necessarily because it was illegal to do.

Mrs. Phillips thinks QSAC and the Governance part has nothing to do with raising student achievement.

Dr. Mounier said if there is no penalty then why can we not move on to something else. Ms. Zoerb said the system is not meant to be punitive of penalties. She said it is meant to get the board assistance to correct things the Department of Education has deemed to be critical to the overall governance of your district. Dr. Mounier asked if there are districts who do not give themselves high scores on the self-evaluation. Ms. Zoerb said yes.

Mr. English asked Ms. Zoerb if she is the board's checks and balance system. Ms. Zoerb said no, she is the board's support technical assistance help person and has no authority over them. She said the only authority is the Ethics Commission. Ms. Zoerb said the board has to move forward and focus as a new team developing a vision as to what you want for this district. She said the board makes all the difference in student achievement. Ms. Zoerb said the National School Boards Association has developed a framework of eight key areas that are important in high achieving districts. She reviewed the following eight key areas: Vision, Continuous Improvement, Collaborative Partnerships, Climate, Alignment, Accountability, Assessment and Standards. Ms. Zoerb said boards in high-achieving districts exhibit habits and characteristics that are markedly different from boards in low-achieving districts. Ms. Zoerb reviewed each of the characteristics found in effective school boards and each characteristic found in ineffective boards. She said the more time that the board puts into planning the less time the board will have spending on things that are not positive.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from June 1, 2011, June 8, 2011 and June 15, 2011. All Members voted "yes."

Report of the  
Secretary/Custodian  
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of May 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:

Mr. DeSanto said as part of the superintendent's recommendations there are two resolutions relating to last week's discussion concerning board property being conveyed to the city. He said the resolutions clearly authorize that conveyance on condition that the properties remain in the name of the city and continued for public purposes. The deeds will contain the reverter that was discussed that the property will revert to the board in the event that those provisions are violated.

Public Comment on  
Agenda Items:

No discussion.

Recommendations:

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RECOMMENDATIONS BY SUPERINTENDENT

It is recommended that:

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

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

**Mr. Medio requested a five (5) minute recess.**

**The board recessed at 8:47 p.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 8:52 p.m.**

**Mr. Ulrich said the personnel director's leave of absence is listed on the agenda until the end of the month. Dr. Banks said that will be revised because she will be returning on Monday.**

2. 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."  
 (9-0-0)

Further, the Board approve the acceptance of the 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.)

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

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

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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	P H I L L I P S
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4. The Board approve travel for district members as required by NJAC 6A:10A-8.3 and school field trips as per lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

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

5. Bids

a) The Board approve Change Order #6 in the amount of (\$6,401.00) to reduce contract for unused contingency amount.

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

Change Order

Contract: Vineland High School South  
 Life Skills Renovations Project 29067  
 Contractor: Capri Construction Company, Inc.

b) The Board approve the following Extraordinary Unspecified Service contract in the amount to exceed \$36,000.00 in accordance with 18A:18A-5.a(2)

Teacher Training in alignment with the Board approved curricula:

1. Pearson – estimated \$45,000.00

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

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

a. New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP)  
Grades Pre-K to 6  
FY 2011 – 2012  
In the amount of ----- \$11,644.00

New Jersey Special Needs Child Assault  
Prevention Program  
FY 2011 – 2012  
In the amount of ----- \$3,238.00

b. New Jersey Department of Education Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) Carryover Amendment  
September 1, 2010–August 31, 2011  
Basic Allocation Carryover (3-21) ----- \$1,426,472.00  
(Nonpublic Share) ----- (\$83,406.00)  
Preschool Allocation Carryover (3-5) ----- \$5,911.00  
(Nonpublic Share) ----- (\$5,415.00)

7. The Board approve to petition the Cumberland County Superintendent of Schools to approve the following for use as temporary facilities for the 2011-2012 school year:

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

a. **Landis Middle School** – Relocatable classroom; small group and special education classrooms

b. **SUCCESS Program** – Entire Facility

c. **Veterans Memorial Middle School** – Five temporary classroom units (10 classrooms)

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8. The Board approve a request for a waiver of the toilet room facilities for the following:

- a. Max Leuchter School      Rooms 1 through 11, 13, 15 and 16
- b. Golan Learning Center (formerly Nazarene)      Rooms 19 & 21
- c. Sabater School      Rooms 232
- d. Durand School      Room 12
- e. Barse School      Rooms 5 and 6

(This request is required in order to continue State approval of our use of these classrooms).

**Mr. Medio asked what we use the Golan Learning Center for. Mr. Franchetta said they are a preschool provider.**

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

9. The Board approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between Glassboro Public Schools and the City of Vineland Board of Education for the 2010-2011 school year

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

10. The Board approve the Partnership Agreement between PathStone, Child & Family Development Services (Migrant Head-Start Program) and the Vineland Board of Education for students entering kindergarten for the period of May 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013 in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools

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



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

Nine (9) LPN's @ \$39/hour  
 July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012  
 Approximately 210 days @ 7 hours per day  
 In the amount of ----- \$515,970.00

**Mr. Medio said after all the discussion last week about this it will be closely scrutinized in the coming year.**

**Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this does not get approved what will be the options for the upcoming school year for these services. Mr. DeSanto said a provision would have to be made because some nurses will be needed for these special needs children.**

**Mr. Mercado voted "no" because he believes this should be going out for bid.**

12. The Board approve a tuition contract with the Atlantic County Vocational School District for the 2010-2011 school year

13. The Board approve an agreement between Salem County Special Services School District and the Vineland Board of Education for Itinerant/Shared Services Program for the period July 2, 2011 to June 30, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Mercado who voted "no." (8-1-0)

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

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

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14. The Board approve the Requisition to the City of Vineland for Local school taxes according to the schedule provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board. (This meets the requirement recommended by the State auditors for requisition of local district taxes for school purposes).

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

15. The Board approve a Resolution for the conveyance of the following schools as provided by the Board Solicitor:

- a. Butler Avenue School
- b. Maurice Fels School

All Members  
 voted "yes"  
 for Butler  
 Avenue  
 School .  
 (9-0-0)

All Members  
 voted "yes"  
 for Maurice  
 Fels School.  
 (9-0-0)

16. The Board approve appointments of staff of Federal Programs' salaries and funding percentages for the 2010-2011 school year as per the names provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

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

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

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

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18. The Board approve the hourly rates for substitute personnel for the 2011-2012 school year

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

19. The Board approve the meal prices as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board for the 2011 – 2012 school year

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. English, Mr. DiGiorgio and Dr. Mounier who voted "no."  
 (6-3-0)

20. The Board approve the option to execute the lease with the Hallissey Corporation for the SUCCESS Building for three (3) years. The term of the lease will be from December 12, 2009 to November 30, 2012 with two one-year continuation options in accordance with the signed Addendum #4. (This motion will correct the August 12, 2009 motion which erroneously approved the lease for a four (4) year period).

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

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21. The Board approve the contracts for the Assistant Superintendents of Schools and the Business Administrator pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1 for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in a form acceptable by the County Superintendent
- a. Dr. Dina Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Business
  - b. Dr. Mary Gruccio, Asst Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
  - c. Mr. Kevin Franchetta, Business Administrator

*This item was withdrawn by the Superintendent*

22. The Board approve the contracts for the Assistant Superintendents of Schools and the Business Administrator pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1 for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 in a form acceptable by the County Superintendent
- a. Dr. Dina Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Business
  - b. Dr. Mary Gruccio, Asst Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
  - c. Mr. Kevin Franchetta, Business Administrator

*This item was withdrawn by the Superintendent*

23. The Board approve an Indemnity Agreement between the City of Vineland and the Vineland Board of Education to monitor ground water at Sabater School

**Mr. Weaver said the engineering controls that are required by the district are nothing more than maintaining the non-pervious surface that is over the contaminated area.**

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

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$6,021,934.17).

Emergent Item(s)  
(with prior approval)

None.

Public:

Matt Thomas, Vineland High School teacher  
Mr. Thomas expressed his concern in regards to classes being cancelled for the upcoming school year due to the small enrollments and suggested combining classes.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Fanucci said he has been on the board for both portions of the QSAC. He feels that the QSAC Report and its process is a tremendous waste of time and money. Mr. Fanucci thinks this is someone’s idea in Trenton to come up with something to create job security. He does not feel it is fair to attack our administration, teachers, staff members or board of education. Mr. Fanucci has faith in this board to move the district in the right direction.

Mr. English echoed Mr. Fanucci’s sentiments. He said our committees are outstanding, work hard and are dedicated to what we do. Mr. English challenges the county superintendent to attend a finance or facilities meeting.

Mr. Medio said politicians can never go wrong by attacking people from outside the community and he agrees with Mr. Fanucci and Mr. English 100%. He said since there are no punishments he would like to let this go. Mr. Medio said he is curious to see what happens down the road with the nursing situation.

Mrs. Phillips said Mr. Fanucci made some great comments about the QSAC. She feels QSAC has nothing to do with raising student achievement. Mrs. Phillips said the music teacher that spoke brought up a great point to combine classes. She announced that there are 55 days left of summer vacation.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he agrees with his colleagues in regards to QSAC and is thankful it is every three years. He congratulated Mr. Gigliotti on his retirement.

Ms. Rios said it is very disappointing when Vineland School Board Members devote so much of their time to the district and receive a 67 from the Department of Education. She personally thanked all former and current school board members for all their hard work and dedication.

Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich said he does not agree with QSAC but Dr. Banks has reminded him that we are obligated as a professional board to institute a corrective action plan.

Mr. Medio asked if we are required to discuss a corrective action plan or can Ms. Zoerb bring in a plan for us to vote on. Mr. Ulrich said it is going to include discussion with Ms. Zoerb on how we are going to improve. He said he will contact Ms. Zoerb for some prospective dates to hold the board retreat.

Mr. Ulrich thanked the people who are working hard this summer to make sure this school year goes off without a hitch.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned by voice vote at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA  
Board Secretary