

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at 6:39 p.m., in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios. Absent: Dr. Mounier.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Gruccio and Dr. Elliott, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel and Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor. 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.

Flag Salute:

Mr. Ulrich announced that the board retreat scheduled for tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Special

Presentations: None.

Public Comments: None.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Recommendations:

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A. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE 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

Dr. Banks advised the board that she is withdrawing the name of Kristi Pennypacker who is a speech and language new hire.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the positions in the new position column exist or are newly created. Ms. Greenfield said they are newly created budgeted positions. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we compared FTE's in next year's budget will they be close. Mr. Franchetta said they would have increased by those positions. Mr. Medio asked what a FTE is. Mr. DiGiorgio said Full Time Equivalent.

Mrs. Phillips asked if some of the summer employment should have been approved before they worked. Ms. Greenfield said yes they were not submitted in time for approval.

Mr. Mercado asked who makes the determination as to what step individuals are hired on. Ms. Greenfield said after review with the superintendent she makes that determination. She said the individuals being hired at a higher salary are bringing years of public school experience.

Mr. Ulrich asked if a step for step increase is a practice throughout New Jersey. Ms. Greenfield said she thinks most districts do it.

Mr. English asked if we are posting the technology position immediately. Ms. Greenfield said yes but she has to see if there is an outstanding civil service certification for this position. Mr. English asked if in this job description there should be fire alarm system technician approved. Ms. Greenfield said there is another classification of positions where this can be listed. She said that she will look into it.

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Fanucci who voted "yes" on all employment except employee #6435 high school department head he "abstained." (8-0-0)

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Mr. English asked when the technology position will be posted. Ms. Greenfield said she is waiting to hear from Civil Service as to if there is an outstanding certification. Mr. English asked if there is a food service employee that resigned. Ms. Greenfield said if there is it may be for September.

Mr. Ulrich asked if the individuals hired for short term contracts receive benefits. Ms. Greenfield said yes they receive benefits.

Mr. Mercado asked if exit interviews are conducted when people leave the district. Ms. Greenfield responded yes.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if staff members being hired at the high school are positions that need to be created. Ms. Greenfield said yes there were additional positions created due to the class schedule.

Dr. Banks introduced Kristina Craig the new assistant principal at Winslow Elementary School.

Mrs. Phillips said as far as teaching goes Ms. Craig is in a class all her own. She said other teachers aspire to be the caliber of teacher that Ms. Craig is and she will be a leader among the leaders.

2. 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

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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

- a. NCLB (No Child Left Behind)
 State of New Jersey Department of Education
 For the period of September 1, 2010-August 31, 2011
 In the amount of ----- \$5,635,241.43

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

4. The Board approve the Partners in Pediatrics, L.L.C. as Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapists for Section 504 students at the rate of \$77 per hour, not to exceed \$61,600 (i.e. 800 hours) for the 2011-2012 school year in accordance with 18A-18A5.a.1

All Members
 voted "yes"
 except for Mr.
 Mercado who
 voted "no."
 (7-1-0)

Mr. Mercado asked if this went out for bid. Mr. Franchetta responded no.

Mr. Medio asked what this was for. Mr. Franchetta said this is for occupational, physical and speech therapy services for 504 students that we cannot accommodate if a need arises. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this is for a current or anticipated need. Mr. Franchetta said he thinks both. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this approval is because we do not have the capacity in-house to provide these services. Mr. Franchetta responded yes.

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5. The Board approve the following Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2011-2012 school year

- a. Cumberland County Educational Cooperative
- b. Glassboro Public Schools
- c. Gloucester County Special Services District

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

6. The Board approve a Resolution appointing Dr. Dina L. Elliott Anti-Bullying Coordinator for the period of September 1, 2011 through June 12, 2012

Mr. Medio asked what this appointment involves. Dr. Elliott explained that she acts as a liaison between the school based anti-bullying specialist, superintendent, and board. She organizes trainings for individuals at each school. Mr. Ulrich asked Dr. Elliott if she will be handling the board training. Dr. Elliott said currently NJ School Boards will be providing that training. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this falls under the duties and responsibilities of the assistant superintendent for administration. Dr. Elliott said this is a new position for each district.

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

7. The Board approve the Anti-Bullying Specialists for the period of September 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 as per the list provided and on file with the Anti-Bullying Coordinator

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

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8. The Board approve the 2011-2012 Bell Schedules for the High School, Middle Schools and Elementary Schools

Mrs. Phillips asked if this is different from last year. Dr. Banks said the teachers lunch period has been shortened on the single session days.

Mr. English asked if there has always been an eighth period lunch. Mr. Ulrich said he did not know.

Mr. Mercado asked if there was a requirement that you had to take a lunch. Dr. Banks responded no.

9. The Board approve the creation of a 12-month Principal position at Vineland High School North

Mr. English asked if this could be “tabled” to discuss in executive session as to why we are doing this. Mr. Ulrich said this was already discussed in public. This is to vote on whether or not to create the position.

Mr. Mercado said with today’s budget he thinks it is appropriate that any time we need a position filled we justify it. Mr. Ulrich said it is Dr. Bank’s responsibility to make sure that we are not over staffed.

Mr. English said he has several questions for himself and for the public to understand. He asked if he can ask the questions now. Mr. Ulrich said that he can make a motion to “table” this item.

Mr. Medio said this is a special meeting to approve hiring. He does not see any board member having an objection to put this on next week’s work session for further discussion. Mr. Medio said this position was not filled last year and two assistant principals were hired in June. He said if he had known that we had the alternative to hire a principal he would have never voted to hire the two assistant principals at the high school.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

This item has been “tabled.”

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Mr. Medio asked if this could put on next week’s agenda so questions can be asked.

Mrs. Phillips said she objects to tabling this item because this has already been discussed. She said this is a school level position that is needed for the students.

Mr. Medio said no one on this board or administration needed this position two months ago. He said if a little more forethought would have gone into this you could have hired a principal without spending \$230,000 on two assistant principals. Mr. Medio said he is in favor of the position but he is also in favor of looking at cutting other positions in some matter such as moving personnel around to save money. He is not going to vote “yes” to continuously hire more and more administration over the next three months. Mr. Medio said there may be some other solutions or another way to have a principal.

Mr. Fanucci said he remembers months ago listening to members of the high school administration requesting the two vice principals. Mr. Fanucci said he does not agree with the fiscal issue because if he was to vote on this tonight he would vote “no.”

Mr. Mercado asked if it would be appropriate to have one of the assistant superintendents, the first week of school, spend time at the high school and then report back to the board. Dr. Banks said Dr. Elliott has already been assigned to the high school. Mr. Medio asked if Dr. Elliott is in charge of one of the buildings. Dr. Banks said Dr. Elliott has been sent to the high school to assist in any way that she is needed.

Mr. DiGiorgio said an issue of this magnitude deserves a discussion and should not have been on this agenda.

Dr. Banks said she was directed by this board to put this on the next agenda.

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Ms. Rios said she is voting “no” because this topic has already been discussed and we have had time to ask questions.

A motion was made by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Medio, to table item #9 until the September 7, 2011 work session on the agenda. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Ulrich and Ms. Rios who voted “no.”

Item #9 “tabled.”

2 1

10. Approval of Bids:

a. Sheppards Bus Service

35 Rockville Road

Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302

In the amount of ----- \$1,346,320.00

b. Approval of the following contract in the amount to exceed \$36,000.00 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A- a(5) and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5a(19) funds to be provided through the IDEA Grant:

Scholastic Education

Upgrade of Read 180 in Special Education - - - \$93,518.00

Additional classroom setups - - - - - \$314,122.00

Mr. Medio asked what are the classroom setups. Mrs. Polof explained that the classroom set ups are for the Read 180 Program. She said the setups are throughout the special education classrooms at the middle school level to enhance our scores.

All Members
voted “yes.”
(8-0-0)

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11. The Board approve waiving the time requirements for review according to Policy #0131, Bylaws and Policies, and adopt the following Policies (as mandated by the State of New Jersey, Department of Education to be in effect by September 1, 2011)

Policy #5512 – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

Mr. Medio asked if this is a minimal policy. Dr. Elliott said we were advised by the legal department at Strauss Esmay to at this point do the minimum components as the law requires and revise as we go along.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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

1. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.2 the Board approve the improvement plan for the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) for the Governance District Performance Review (DPR) and authorize the Secretary of the Board to submit the improvement plan to the New Jersey Department of Education before the September 1, 2011 due date.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to approve the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) for the Governance District Performance Review (DPR) and authorize the Secretary of the Board to submit the improvement plan to the New Jersey Department of Education before the September 1, 2011 due date. All Members voted “yes.”

Public: Wendi Carlon-Wolfe, Parent
Ms. Wolf expressed her concern in regards to the proposed implementation of the Option #2 Program at Vineland High School.

Ron Walker, Parent
Mr. Walker expressed his concern in regards to his son’s high school schedule.

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, September 7, 2011** regarding personnel matters, contract negotiations, and pending litigation.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary