

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, September 10, 2008 at 7:02 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Ms. Rios, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Evans and Mr. Spinelli.

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

Mr. Giordano announced that in compliance with the New Jersey meeting law commonly referred to as "The Sunshine Law," the Vineland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting.

Flag Salute: Justin Fearon, Emily Munoz, Luis Reboyras, and Kaitlyn Reska, students from Sabater Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special
Presentation (s): None.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. Franceschini, the Board approved the minutes from August 6, 2008 and August 13, 2008. All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Ulrich who voted "yes" on August 6, 2008 but "abstained" on August 13, 2008.

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. DeWinne, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of July 2008, 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: None.

Recommendations: See page 2

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G I O R D A N N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	E V A N S	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	R I O S	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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		2	1					

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."
 (7-0-0)

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

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (7-0-0)

- a. Cumberland County
 Office of Employment & Training
 WIA Out-of-School Youth Program
 Vineland Adult Education Program
 October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009
 In the amount of ----- \$ 36,000.00

- b. State of New Jersey
 Department of Children and Families
 Family Friendly Center Grant
 Sabater Elementary School
 September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009
 In the amount of ----- \$ 45,463.00

- c. Cumberland County
 Office of Employment & Training
 WIA In-School Youth Program
 Vineland Adult Education Center
 July 1, 2009 – August 31, 2009
 Summer Component
 October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009
 School-Year Component
 In the amount of ----- \$263,987.20

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G I O R D A N N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	E V A N S	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	R I O S	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
				2	1			
				2	1			

5. The Board accept funding in the following amount(s):
- a. New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
 REBEL School-Based Tobacco Prevention Initiative
 Vineland High School
 Landis Middle School
 Veterans Memorial Middle School
 Wallace Middle School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 1,000.00
 (each)
 (In accordance with the form of contract approved by
 the Superintendent and the Board Solicitor.)
 - b. State Farm Insurance
 Children’s Literacy Initiative Grant
 Three days of professional development
 D’Ippolito Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 3,500.00
 - c. City of Vineland
 Recreation Opportunities for Individuals
 with Disabilities Grant
 Special Olympics Program
 January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008
 In the amount of ----- \$10,900.00
 - d. 21st Century After School and Summer
 Youth Program
 Landis Middle School
 July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009
 In the amount of ----- \$65,572.00
 This is the fifth year of a five-year grant in
 collaboration with the Cumberland Empowerment
 Zone Corporation (CEZC).

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (7-0-0)

6. 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.”
 (7-0-0)

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G I O R D A N N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	E V A N S	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	R I O S	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
				1		2		
				2	1			
				1		2		

7. The Board accept the results of the Department of Education’s review of the student enrollment and record-keeping procedures of the FY 2007 – 2008 Early Childhood Program as of March 31, 2008.

*The amount owed from Granny’s has already been recovered by the district (page 3, paragraph 2, last sentence).

8. The Board authorize payment to current and previous employees who are not a party to the class action law suit, the cash equivalent of vacation days earned by Civil Service rules with the list that is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.

9. the Board approve tentative tuition charges for the 2008 – 2009 school year and the Secretary of the Board be authorized to notify the sending districts:

	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Daily</u>
Preschool/Kindergarten	\$ 6,661.00	\$ 37.01
Grades 1 – 5	6,950.00	38.61
Grades 6 – 8	7,623.00	42.35
Grades 9 – 12	6,939.00	38.55
Cognitive Mild	14,713.00	81.74
Cognitive Moderate	25,301.00	140.56
Learning Language Disabilities	12,990.00	72.17
Auditory Impairments	51,516.00	286.20
Behavior Disabilities	16,784.00	93.24
Autism	49,441.00	274.67
Preschool Disabilities/Full Time	2,186.00	12.14

All Members
voted “yes.”
(7-0-0)

All Members
voted “yes.”
(7-0-0)

All Members
voted “yes.”
(7-0-0)

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G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	E V A N S	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	R I O S	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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			1	2				
			1			2		
			1	2				

10. The Board approve the Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year with the Cumberland County Educational Cooperative for Route #65001936.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (7-0-0)

11. The Board approve an Agreement with Salem County Special Services School District to enter into a Non-Public Services Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year in a form acceptable by the Superintendent and Board Solicitor. (This service is authorized under P.L. 1991, Chapter 226, Non-Public Nursing Services.)

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (7-0-0)

12. The Board approve the contract addendum to operate a GED Testing Program through the Vineland Adult Education Center.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (7-0-0)

13. The Board approve an Agreement with Catapult Learning to enter into a Non-Public Services Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year for Cumberland Christian School, in accordance with the form of contract approved by the Superintendent and Board Solicitor. (This service is authorized under P.L. 1991, Chapter 226, Non-Public Nursing Services.)

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (7-0-0)

G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	E V A N S	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	R I O S	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
		2	1					
			2		1			

14. The Board reject the Settlement Agreement for the student whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board.

All Members voted "yes."
(7-0-0)

15. The Board reaffirm the use of the following physical facilities by the American Red Cross as mass shelters for the victims of disasters:

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Franceschini who "abstained."
(6-0-1)

- D'Ippolito Elementary School
- Durand Elementary School
- Mennies Elementary School
- Petway Elementary School
- Landis Middle School
- Rossi Middle School
- Veterans Memorial Middle School
- Vineland High School North and South

Mr. Giordano said on a couple of the agenda items the stipulation was upon agreement with the board solicitor and superintendent. He asked if that was because the agreements were not intact. Mr. DeSanto said no it is because he reviewed the agreements and had certain recommendations to the administration. Mr. Franchetta notified those particular individuals of the changes but they have not been accepted yet. Mr. Giordano asked are the contracts null and void if something falls through. Mr. DeSanto responded yes it is a conditional approval.

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. Franceschini, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$5,788,760.69).

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

Public: Laura Surgent, D’Ippolito School PTO President
Ms. Sturgeon said that she was notified by T & F Camera that student pictures will be a PTO fund raising event rather than a school day event. She asked the board for an explanation.

Mr. Giordano asked Mr. Ottinger for an update on the student photographs.

Mr. Ottinger said an email was sent to the principals notifying them to hold off on any picture taking arrangements until we could consult with Mr. DeSanto. He said we met with Mr. DeSanto twice and he wants to bring to the board and public administration’s reasoning for reviewing this situation. Mr. Ottinger said they are very concerned with the lack of oversight that is involved with this program. He said presently the arrangements are made strictly through the principals and as the board knows is not permitted. Mr. Ottinger said for that reason we do not know what the arrangements are and in most cases our vendors have been very good to the schools. He said as a result of being associated with the schools the vendor has donated towards the purchase of agendas or contributed a thousand dollars to the school activities and any number of things. Mr. Ottinger said the problem is that when a contribution is made to the school district it has to be accepted and approved by the board, which has never taken place in reference to this particular issue. We presently take pictures of all of our students in school and there are probably some parents who do not agree with this. Mr. Ottinger said we are very fortunate that up until now all of our local vendors are handling this and we never had to worry about any problems occurring. In light of all the recent things that have happened, if we are to continue with this we have to proceed with notifying our parents. Mr. Ottinger said there are a number of issues that we have regarding the oversight of this program, which is the reason why we are consulting with our solicitor to make sure we are all on the same page.

Continued

Mr. Ottinger said the district has not advised the principals or anyone to contact the PTA's to undertake doing this. He said we were advised by Mr. DeSanto not to direct our principals to do this. Mr. Ottinger said we are currently in the process of reviewing the entire situation. He said if there is a process for our local vendors to take pictures of our students then we will make sure it is handled appropriately.

Mr. DeSanto explained that this situation arose as a result of a particular event that occurred, which came to Mr. Franchetta's attention. He said there was never any intention to eliminate this process because there was never anything being done improperly. Mr. DeSanto said there were technical irregularities involved, such as the elementary schools not having activity funds. He said that is a problem because we are under increased scrutiny by the Department of Education and audits are being done all the time. Mr. DeSanto said there are a number of checks and balances that have to be in place in order to make this particular process appropriate. He realizes that this has been done for a long time but in light of the accountability regulations that have been recently passed we are dealing with a whole new landscape. Mr. DeSanto said he is working with the New Jersey School Boards Association legal department in regards to this matter. He said except with respect to the yearbook at the high school this service is probably a situation that may require a bid process. Mr. DeSanto said even though the money does not come from the school budgets it does not make this any less a contract situation. He said that we want to consider the interests of the students first along with the school, parents and vendors to make sure we do this right.

Mr. Giordano said all of the points that Mr. Ottinger and Mr. DeSanto made are well taken. He asked if this means that this issue will be researched for an entire year before anything can be done. Mr. Giordano said that he does not understand how this became an issue after so many years.

Mr. Ulrich questioned what would stop a PTO from doing this process themselves. He said the whole point of this is to memorialize your school years and he does not think that anything evil or criminal is going on.

Continued

Mr. Giordano said there is no logical sense in holding this up and requested for this to be put in high gear to have it done once and for all. He agrees with Mr. DeSanto that there needs to be a process and a procedure to follow.

Mr. Franceschini questioned if there is a timeframe.

Mr. Bernardini asked if there will be choice of vendors. Mr. DeSanto said no one said this will take a year. He said at the meeting last week there was discussion to leave things the way they are for a year. Mr. DeSanto said if he thinks there is something inappropriate about the process he can not sit here mute. He expects this entire issue to be resolved by the next meeting.

Mr. Ulrich asked what will stop the PTO from taking pictures or sponsoring a fund raiser. Mr. DeSanto said that was discussed as an immediate option but was not a directive.

Mr. Bernardini asked if there was a policy that states we can take photos. Dr. Figgs responded no.

Board Member
Remarks:

Mr. DeWinne thanked the D'Ippolito School PTO President for speaking. He invited everyone to come out on Friday to the Vineland High School Football game. Mr. DeWinne asked everyone to please slow down when driving through school zones or approaching school buses.

Mr. Fanucci said he was too busy to contact Mr. Giordano or Mr. Ottinger beforehand in regards to a complaint he received today about customer service in our transportation department. Mr. Giordano said customer service has been an issue in that department since he has been on the board. He said the primary problem in the transportation department has a lot to do with the procrastination on the part of the parents. Mr. Franceschini suggested having customer service training. Mr. Fanucci announced that Wallace School will be having a golf tournament fund raiser the end of the month. He mentioned that he along with Mr. Bernardini and Mr. Ottinger attended the Mennies School first day celebration and a fantastic job was done.

Mr. Ulrich asked if there has been an update on the Education Law Center’s hearing on the appeal of the funding. Mr. Ottinger said it will be on September 22. He mentioned that there was a ruling today on the superintendent contracts and the judge upheld the suit.

Mr. Bernardini said he had a great time at the Mennies School celebration. He said at this celebration there were vendors in the auditorium and he picked up an immunization flyer which states, vaccines are free for children without insurance or who are under insured between the ages of two months to eighteen years old. Mr. Bernardini said these vaccines are given the third Wednesday of each month and you need to call the Vineland Health Department for an appointment.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Giordano asked how it worked out with the opening of school for the students who were not allowed to attend because of the lack of immunization. Dr. Figgs said there were only a handful of students without the proper immunization and it worked out well. Mr. Giordano asked if there were many students to begin with. Dr. Figgs said yes there were significant numbers.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, September 17, 2008** regarding contractual issues and **Wednesday, October 1, 2008** regarding personnel matters and pending litigation.

Motion:

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

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA

Board Secretary

KJF:df