

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 14, 2011, at 7:04 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 and Dr. Elliott, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel, Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director, 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.

Flag Salute: Katelyn Deem, Rebecca McDonald, Jordan Walker and Trinitee Walker, students from Wallace Middle School, lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. Davis, Principal of Wallace Middle School, was in attendance.

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, September 14, 2011** regarding personnel matters and pending litigation.

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 7:07 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:41 p.m.

Special Presentation (s): None.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from August 3, 2011, August 10, 2011 and August 31, 2011. All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. English who voted "yes" on all minutes except August 10, 2011 he "abstained" and Dr. Mounier who voted "yes" on all minutes except August 31, 2011 he "abstained."

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 July 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:

Lee Burke, Vineland Resident

Mr. Burke asked in regards to the Option 2 Program are we dealing with an interpretation of a practice versus a policy, which this board has not approved. He asked if the board has considered the implications of other forms of learning outside the classroom such as on-line technologies and communications.

Matthew McGill, VHS Senior

Mr. McGill expressed his concern in regards to the implementation of Option 2 and hopes the board considers all students when making a decision.

Albert Vargas, Vineland Police Department

Mr. Vargas thanked the board for the bus that is being donated to the PAL Program.

Wendi Carlon- Wolfe, Parent

Mrs. Wolfe expressed her concern in regards to Option 2 and the preferential treatment given to select students which will enable them to manipulate their class rank.

Matthew Wolfe, VHS Senior

Mr. Wolfe suggested a fair solution to the Option 2 problem that would allow students to expand upon their interests while maintaining an equitable and competitive environment. He said students should only be permitted to replace courses with courses of the same weight, which would allow students to replace their non-weighted courses taken at the college with AP courses preserving the weight factor.

Mr. Wolfe said he personally believes that courses required for graduation should be taken at Vineland High School. This alternative maintains fairness while allowing the two students who took college courses not to let their credits go to waste. Mr. Wolfe said otherwise Option 2 might as well be called Advantage 2.

Recommendations:

Dr. Banks said she will be presenting a preliminary report on the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Law that went into effect on September 1st. She said the law requires for the superintendent to report all incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying that have been investigated at the next board meeting. Dr. Banks said from this point forward, at every work session, in addition to the monthly suspension report the board will receive a report on all reported incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying. She said from the beginning of the school year to today we have had twelve reported incidents of bullying that needed to be investigated. There was one at Vineland High School South, two at Wallace Middle School, four at D'Ippolito Elementary School, one at Mennies Elementary School, two at Petway Elementary School, one at Sabater Elementary School and one at Barse Elementary School. Dr. Banks said before the reports are sent to Dr. Elliott there is a form that she reviews to determine if appropriate action has been taken, which she signs off on.

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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

Mr. Medio said we cannot afford to hire any more administrative positions and his vote will be “no” on the new administrative position. He would like to know when the board will be a committee of the whole to allocate the six million dollars we received from the Supreme Court ruling.

Mr. DiGiorgio echoed Mr. Medio’s sentiments regarding supervisory positions. He said that he does not know the individual and wishes her well in the event that she is approved. Mr. DiGiorgio agrees that we need to be a little bit cautious with our budget.

Dr. Banks congratulated and introduced Lauren DeBello the district’s new K-5 Math Supervisor.

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.

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.)

All Members voted “yes” except Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado and Dr. Mounier who voted “yes” on all items except #9 on transfers they voted “no.” (9-0-0)

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

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 Report to the Board – September 14, 2011

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

Mr. Medio asked what our current surplus is. Mr. Franchetta said he does not know because the fiscal year just began and will get the current information.

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

4. 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."
 (9-0-0)

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

- a. The Gannett Foundation
 D'Ippolito Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$1,200.00
- b. General Mills Foundation
 Mennies Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$4,000.00

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

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6. Bids:

- a. Change Order #1
 Project #10044 and #10050
 Contractor: Straga Brothers
 In the amount of ----- \$887.00
- b. Change Order #2
 Project #10044 and #10050
 Contractor: Straga Brothers
 In the amount of ----- \$2,381.00
- c. Change Order #3
 Project #10044 and #10050
 Contractor: Straga Brothers
 In the amount of ----- \$11,349.00
- d. Change Order #4
 Project #10044 and #10050
 Contractor: Straga Brothers
 In the amount of ----- \$3320.00

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

- 7. The Board approve a Resolution authorizing the reimbursement of Board Members for cost of criminal history background check and an amendment to Bylaws #0142

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

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8. The Board approve an agreement between Little Smiles, P.C. (Farmington Hills, Michigan) and the Vineland Board of Education for the period of September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

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

9. The Board approve an agreement with Catapult Learning to enter into a Non-Public Service Agreement for the 2011-2012 school year for Evaluation and Determination of Eligibility Services in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools

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

10. The Board approve an agreement with Catapult Learning to enter into a Non-Public Services Agreement for the 2011-2012 school year for Nursing Services in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools (This service is authorized under P.L. 1991, Chapter 226)

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 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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11. The Board approve an agreement with Catapult Learning to enter into a Non-Public Services Agreement for the 2011-2012 school year in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools (This service is authorized under P.L. 1977, Chapters 192 and 193)

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

12. The Board approve an agreement with Catapult Learning to enter into a Non-Public Service Agreement for the 2011-2012 school year for IDEIA (Part B) Services for Cumberland Christian School in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools

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

13. The Board approve the transfer of a 1999 GMC Blue Bird 54 Passenger Bus, VIN 1GDL7T1C4WJ516041, to the Vineland Police Department for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) effective September 1, 2011

All Members voted "yes" except for Mr. Ulrich who "abstained."
 (8-0-1)

Mr. Fanucci said that he is glad that this bus will go to great use and thanked the district's PAL and Juvenile Officers.

Mr. Ulrich said our Juvenile Unit is one of the best.

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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 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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14. The Board approve payment in the amount of \$1,530.00 to an employee whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board for legal fees that were provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-6.1

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

15. The Board approve the Vineland Public Schools Bilingual/ESL Three (3) Year Program Plan for school year 2011-2014

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

16. The Board approve the Perkins Secondary Consolidated Fiscal Spending Plan for 2011-2012 in the amount of \$105,740.00

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

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 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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17. The Board approve the Option 2 program at Vineland High School, which serves as an alternative to traditional high school courses, to become effective January 2012

Item 17 withdrawn by the Superintendent

Mr. Medio requested for this to be pulled from the agenda to be discussed in an open public meeting in view of the events that transpired over the past week. He thinks there were some valid points raised and he would like to hear public input on this.

Mr. DeSanto said if the mover and the second would withdraw the motion then the superintendent can remove this item.

Mr. Fanucci and Mr. English withdrew their motions.

18. The Board approve the return from suspension the employee whose name is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and the reassignment of that employee to Rossi Middle School effective September 15, 2011

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

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 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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19. The Board approve the second reading of the following policies:

[REG #7430](#) – School Safety (Revised) (**This Regulation is required by statute or administrative code to be adopted by the Board of Education**)

[Policy #2431.4](#) – Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries (NEW)

[REG#2431.4](#) – Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries (NEW)(**This Regulation is required by statute or administrative code to be adopted by the Board of Education**)

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

20. The Board approve to place on administrative leave, effective September 7, 2011, the employee whose name is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board; and furthermore, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2, N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3 and Vineland Board of Education Policy #3160, the Board is requiring that said employee submit to a fitness for duty examination

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” (\$5,738,534.25).

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

Public: Teresa Rivera, Parent
Ms. Rivera expressed her concern in regards to her son and other students being denied an education, held in the auditorium and denied food, water and lavatory breaks.

Mr. Ulrich said these are very serious allegations and he asked Ms. Rivera to meet with Dr. Elliott tonight.

Nicholas Griffie, Parent
Mr. Griffie expressed concern that his daughter is attending Johnstone Elementary School. He said that he was told by his realtor that his child would be attending Petway Elementary School, which was one of the reasons he purchased his house.

Ronald Walker, Parent
Mr. Walker thanked Dr. Banks, Dr. Elliott and Dr. Gruccio for addressing concerns that he brought before the board. He congratulated Wallace, Veterans Memorial and Johnstone Schools for making AYP.

Lee Burke, Vineland Resident
Mr. Burke asked the board to consider, at their retreat, making an amendment to the bylaws dealing with clarification of the board’s role to be more effective and efficient in its operations. He said under the bylaws any board member, school employee or citizen can propose an amendment to the bylaws. Mr. Burke offered to serve as a community advisor to the Personnel & Policy Committee. He said the public gets confused as to the role of a board member believing they are the bosses of the employees and these misconceptions have led to problems. Mr. Burke expressed his concern that it is not the responsibility of any board member to question employees and putting them on the spot. He hopes the board will pay more attention to words, actions and role understanding as they perform their duties.

Mr. Ulrich announced that the Board Retreat will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 before the regular meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Board Member

Remarks:

Dr. Mounier said he is hoping to be able to view Option 2 in a historical context. He said that it seems silly to allow the substitution of outside courses at the college that are offered at the high school. Dr. Mounier said theoretically it would be possible for a student to have a Vineland High School diploma without ever crossing the threshold. He expressed his concern that we permit students to skip lunches to pursue courses. Dr. Mounier thanked Mrs. Wolfe along with her son, Matthew, for speaking tonight. He said if true, the point raised by Ms. Rivera is shocking and there is no excuse for this behavior. Dr. Mounier said that he trusts that the problems raised by Mr. Griffey are resolved as well.

Mrs. Phillips thanked everyone who spoke tonight and hopes issues these will be resolved. She also thanked all teachers and staff members for working so hard to get their rooms ready for the students.

Mr. DiGiorgio thinks we can tighten things up to make our policy stronger in regards to Option 2. He thanked everyone who spoke tonight.

Mr. Fanucci wished Mr. English a Happy Birthday and thanked everyone for their concerns for his son during the month of July when he was having a difficult time.

Mr. English thanked Matthew Wolfe and Matthew McGill for giving the students prospective in regards to Option 2. He also thanked Mr. Medio for making a strong recommendation tonight. Mr. English said he is a taxpayer, board member and proud parent of two high school students. He said as long as he sits on this board he will do his best to make sure that what happened at the high school with the scheduling will not happen again. Mr. English said we are in week two of school and there are still students who have not received their classes. He said there are people who are getting paid big bucks to get the job done right and this is being put on the back burner.

Ms. Rios asked if there are updated pictures of all board members in the lobby. She thanked the Wallace Middle School students for doing the flag salute. Ms. Rios also thanked those who voiced their concerns tonight. She congratulated Lauren DeBello on her promotion as a K through 5 Math Supervisor and hopes with this additional staff member we will be able to make AYP.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich thanked and commended Matthew Wolf and Matthew McGill for having the courage to speak before the board. He said they represent the best of what Vineland High School is and no matter which way the issue goes they had the courage to speak and be part of a solution. Mr. Ulrich read a letter that he received from Mr. Kevin Kirchner, Co-Chairman of Vineland's 150th Celebration, personally thanking school district employees for all their help with the celebration. He said the concerns brought up by Ms. Rivera are shocking and the district will treat this very seriously.

Dr. Banks announced that she along with Dr. Elliott will be holding a Town Meeting for parents on the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy during the first week of October at Vineland High School. She said with regard to the Ninth Grade Academy a meeting will be set up with Dr. McCann, the School Improvement Team and parent volunteers to prepare for a Town Hall Meeting.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df