

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, October 12, 2011, at 7:02 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 and Mrs. Phillips. Absent: Ms. Rios.

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: Students from Mennies Elementary School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, October 12, 2011** regarding personnel matters and property negotiations.

The board recessed to executive session at 7:08 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:10 p.m.

Special Presentation (s): Dr. Banks introduced Dr. Frank DeMaio and Mrs. Elaine Greenberg to present a donation to the archives.

Mrs. Greenberg said they are present this evening because of a substantial contribution that has been given to the archives. She said Dr. DeMaio has restored, preserved and framed the thirteen images. Mrs. Greenberg said the photographs are from the Vineland High School senior class trips from years 1924, 1927, 1934, 1949, 1950 and 1955. In addition they have an image of Mary Rossi who taught mathematics and chemistry at Vineland High School for seventeen years. Mary Rossi was also the Dean of girls for ten years and appointed to Vice Principal for one year becoming Principal of Vineland High School, which she remained in for twenty two years. Mrs. Greenberg said they also have a picture of the Vineland High School football team with Coach Nello Dallolio, a turn of the century grade school picture, a 1950 class photograph and a 1927 class photograph.

Dr. DeMaio said years ago he began restoring photographs, which would take him an entire Sunday using an airbrush and chemicals. He said now with technology it is unbelievable and fun to do.

Mr. Ulrich personally thanked Dr. DeMaio on behalf of the residents of the City of Vineland for all the work and dedication he put into Vineland's 150th Celebration.

Dr. Banks introduced Dr. Mary Guccio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Mr. Carey Savage, Title I Supervisor, to give an annual presentation on the NJ State Assessment Results.

Dr. Guccio said at this time every year the district test scores are presented. She thanked Mr. Savage, Ms. Evans, Mr. DuBois and all the supervisors who helped review the data. Dr. Guccio said this is another transition year because the benchmarks have changed substantially in language arts and mathematics. Dr. Guccio said the elementary schools scored better in mathematics than in language arts. At the middle school level there was an increase in mathematics in sixth grade and language arts remained the same. Dr. Guccio said seventh grade declined slightly in languages arts but increased in math and eighth grade declined in both mathematics and language arts. She said at the high school there was a five percent growth in English and a three percent in mathematics. Dr. Guccio said Vineland is a District Factor Group A and compared to other DFG A's Vineland is above all of the districts locally in Cumberland County and same the type of districts throughout the state. She said Johnstone Elementary School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) at the elementary level. Dr. Guccio said as a district we had an eleven percent increase in language arts at grade three for our regular education students and a five percent increase in math for grade four. She said Wallace and Veterans Memorial School's both made AYP and the district showed an eleven point gain in grade six in math for regular education students. Dr. Guccio said including the Cunningham Alternative Program we had an eight point gain in language arts for our total population and a five point gain for our general population. She said without including the Alternative Program our eleventh graders met the benchmark of ninety two percent proficiency in language arts for our general population, which is wonderful. Dr. Guccio said as a district we challenge our students in molding instruction to make it the highest possible level.

Dr. Gruccio said we are consistently scoring above our District Factor Group at the county and state level. She said Vineland tries very hard and does a good job. Dr. Gruccio thanked all the teachers and administrators who work hard every day in trying to provide the very best for our children.

Mr. Savage reviewed the results and breakdown of the scores.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from September 2, 2011 and September 14, 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 August 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: None.

Recommendations:

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

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English to untable 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 of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in a form acceptable by the County Superintendent. All Members voted “yes.”

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 of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in a form acceptable by the County Superintendent.

Dr. Mary Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Dina Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Mr. Kevin Franchetta, Business Administrator

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to 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 of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in a form acceptable by the County Superintendent. All Members voted “yes.”

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” (\$6,399,298.96).

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

Public: Carol Deola, Owner of All Kids First Preschool
Ms. Deola said she is here tonight to inform the board that she has four rooms available to accommodate the waiting list for the preschool children. She expressed her concern in regards to the need for more open communication between the district and providers. Ms. Deola feels the district could have been saved thousands of dollars by using what All Kids First currently has available. She said that the providers are more than willing to offer their services and it is really frustrating when you know you can help and no one asks. Ms. Deola would like the board to know that these rooms are available if needed and she would like to change her available room number to accommodate these children.

Kerrie Ellis, Parent

Ms. Ellis expressed her concern as to why her child cannot attend All Kids First, which is the reason she moved from Atlantic County to Vineland.

Victoria Druziako, 2009 VHS Graduate

Ms. Druziako said she is speaking on behalf of her sister, Stephanie Druziako. She expressed her concern that her sister is being wrongfully penalized for a mistake made by a guidance counselor that was not under her control. Ms. Druziako is requesting for Stephanie to receive the full weight that the courses she took are worth and credit for her hard work.

Kristina Tenio, Parent

Ms. Tenio expressed her concern as to why her son cannot attend All Kids First when there is room available. She urged the board to reconsider the All Kids First requests.

Victor Druziako, Parent

Mr. Druziako thanked the board, teachers, educators and Vineland High School administrators that gave his daughter, Victoria, a quality education and made it possible for her to be admitted to a prestigious University in New York. He discussed similarities between his daughter, Stephanie's, case and a case that happened in 2002/2003 Blair L. Hornstine v. Township of Moorestown. Mr. Druziako said litigation followed that and the court found that it was an inappropriate retroactive application of policy. He said the denial of full weight and credit of Stephanie's course is prohibited by Horstine.

Mr. Ulrich said this information will be forwarded to our Associate Board Solicitor, Frank DiDomenico.

Wendi Carlon-Wolfe, Parent

Ms. Wolfe said she was not aware that there was a policy at Vineland High School that allows students to take courses outside of the high school and replace with weighted courses. She reminded the board that every student has an opportunity to meet with guidance to discuss the courses that they choose, which parents sign off on. Ms. Wolfe said if in fact Ms. Druziako did not receive good advice on her selections her parents signed off on her choices. She hopes the board keeps in mind that allowing Ms. Druziako's replaced courses to be weighted gives her advantage over all the other students at Vineland High School.

Bill Jannarone, Parent

Mr. Jannarone said the dual credit policy has been available to all students for decades. He said there is no discrimination or leg up and no one took advantage of something that no one else was aware of. Mr. Jannarone said the dual credit policy is very well known amongst the student body.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Medio said in regards to last week's special meeting concerning the Almond Road lease he would like to change his vote from a "yes" to a "no."

Mr. DiGiorgio said he would like to change his vote to "no" as well on the Almond Road lease.

Dr. Mounier thanked the members of the public who took the time and waited their turn to speak their piece courageously. He also wanted to applaud Ms. Druziako for an extremely eloquent statement.

Mrs. Phillips echoed Dr. Mounier's sentiments and thanked all of the public speakers, especially the students. She wished all the Vineland students a very safe, happy Halloween.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked Ivan Escobar a long time district employee for his service to the district.

Mr. English said the common denominator that he is seeing is a lack of communication in this district. He expressed his concern that if we do not communicate we will not succeed.

Mr. Mercado sent his condolences to Diamaris Rios, Board Vice President and the Rodriguez family on the passing of her grandfather, Juan Rodriguez.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich said what we have seen with Victoria Druziako, Matthew Wolfe and Matthew McGill is the best of Vineland High School. He wished Ms. Druziako the best of luck in college. Mr. Ulrich said it takes a lot of courage to speak before your peers, which is what the system is about. He thanked all the parents who came forward and said their concerns are not on deaf ears. Mr. Ulrich said communication is going to be one of the board goals for the coming year.

Mr. Ulrich agrees that Ms. Deola runs a fine program and he commends her for that. He said we hear everyone and are going to try to work within our policies to meet everybody's needs. Mr. Ulrich said our district goals have to be focused on student achievement, supplying technology and giving support to our aging buildings.

Dr. Banks thanked everyone who spoke this evening along with Dr. Gruccio and Mr. Savage for their presentation on our district assessment results. She urged Victoria Druziako to attend law school.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df