

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 13, 2010, at 7:03 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Franceschini presiding and the following members present: Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Fanucci.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Guccio and Mrs. 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. Franceschini 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:

Anita English, Spencer Brown, Cody Geisser, Morgan DeWinne students from Veterans Memorial School let the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Mario Olsen, Principal was in attendance.

Special

Presentation (s):

Dr. Banks introduced Dr. Thomas McCann, Principal of Vineland High School, to present the Student Spotlight.

Dr. McCann introduced and recognized Gina Trivellini, a student at Vineland High School, who received the Commended Scholar from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Mr. Franceschini congratulated Ms. Trivellini on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Banks introduced Mrs. Dina Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, to present the 2009-2010 Violence and Vandalism Report.

Mrs. Elliott presented the 2009-2010 Violence and Vandalism Report. She said based on Statute 18A:17-46 and 6A:16-5.3(f) we are required to give a report during the month of October on all acts of Violence and Vandalism for the previous school year. Verification of the annual report is part of monitoring of the school district under the NJ Quality and Single Accounting System (NJQSAC). Mrs. Elliott said data for the 2009-2010 school year has been verified under the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System (EVVRS). She said the reporting categories are violence, vandalism, weapons possession and substance abuse.

Continued

Mrs. Elliott said assaults, fights, robbery, extortion, sex offenses, criminal threats, harassment, intimidation/bullying threats and kidnapping are included in the violence category. Vandalism can include arson, burglary, damage to property, fireworks offenses, fire alarm offenses, theft, fake bombs, bomb threats, and trespassing. Under the Weapons Possession category is explosive device detonated, explosive device not detonated but capable, possession of firearms, firearms used in offense, other weapons used in offense, possession of other weapons and sale and distribution of weapons. Mrs. Elliott said there are three categories under Substance Abuse which are use confirmed, possession and distribution. She said the incidents vary involving cost to the district depending on the nature of the act of vandalism and exactly what was destroyed. Mrs. Elliott said during the 2009-2010 school year there were three incidents of vandalism. She said to help reduce the acts of violence and vandalism we do the following interventions in the district: Enforcement of school/district discipline policies, Peer Mediation (currently under review), Student Assistance Counselors, Health and Social Service Coordinators, Giraffe Program Positive relationships between schools, Juvenile Officers/Fire Department, Random Acts of Kindness Week, Bullying/Harassment Policy and Anti-bullying Programs. Mrs. Elliott said next week, due to state mandates, we will hold Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week. The district will hold various presentations, assemblies and programs. Mrs. Elliott said the District Safety Committee will continue to hold monthly meetings and conduct this year's Safety Needs Assessment to be completed by the end of the year. There will be on-going training for staff, students and pre-school providers. Mrs. Elliott said there will be continued collaboration with local and state safety agencies.

Dr. Mounier asked if firearms were mentioned in the list. Mrs. Elliott responded yes. Dr. Mounier asked why there is the provision "other than a firearm." Mrs. Elliott said because the breakdown of that section also includes fireworks and areas of that type. Dr. Banks said it means weapons possession including items other than firearms. Mr. Ulrich said there has not been one instance of a real firearm taken off a student, only a number of imitations.

Mrs. Elliott said if anyone is interested or has questions she would share the entire report with them.

Mr. DeWinne asked if any training is done with the Principals and Assistant Principals about the incidents that happen so when they are filling out these reports there is no gray area. Mrs. Elliott said it was reviewed during this summer's new Administrator's Academy. She said the principals and assistants have been very active in contacting her if there are any gray areas.

Mrs. Phillips commended Mrs. Elliott on her excellent presentation and work ethic. She thanked Mrs. Elliott for what she is doing for Vineland.

Dr. Mounier asked if there was a special significance to the Giraffe Program name. Mrs. Elliott said giraffes have very long necks and stick out their neck to assist others.

Mr. DiGiorgio echoed the remarks made by Mrs. Phillips. He said that he would like to spend some time with Mrs. Elliott to review the Bullying Harassment Policy and how our programs work.

Dr. Banks introduced Dr. Guccio and Mr. Savage to give a presentation on the test results.

Dr. Guccio thanked Carey Savage, Jeff DuBois, Andrea Evans and Steve Dantine for all their hard work on this presentation. Dr. Guccio said the test results will be for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11. She will be comparing general population results versus our total population. General population does not include special education and bilingual. Dr. Guccio emphasized that it has been very difficult for our staff because we are fighting a moving target. She said not only has the test changed and become more rigorous but the benchmarks are constantly changing as well. Dr. Guccio said a lot of emphasis is placed on the NJASK and HESPA State tests but we also use many other means of assessing out students. At our elementary level our students scored better this year in math than they did in language arts. Dr. Guccio said our middle school eighth grade students showed progress in both language arts and math. In seventh grade we had a decline in both language arts and math. Dr. Guccio said in sixth grade we remained stable and consistent with not much change. She said at the high school level we had 5% growth in English and a 2% decline in mathematics. Dr. Guccio said Vineland has performed above all other district factor groups throughout the state. She said 60 of our New Jersey districts including Millville and Bridgeton are districts in need of improvement and fortunately Vineland is not.

Dr. Gruccio said our students need to score a 200 to be proficient. We have approximately 400 students who are scoring between 190 and 199, which means this is a group that we really need to target. She said when reviewing our state scores we found that the state also went down from three to seven points at every grade level in language arts and seven to eleven points in math. Our goal will be to continue to provide the very best teaching and learning that we can for all of our students and our hope is for next year to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all of our schools. Dr. Gruccio said our teachers deserve kudos for all the work they are doing.

Mr. Savage presented a summary on the testing results.

Mr. DeWinne questioned what is being done to get the students who are in need to take advantage of the after school and tutorial type programs we have in the district. He also asked what plan we have to turn the schools around that are trending downward and how can we realistically expect to achieve the benchmarks in 2014. Mr. Savage said the No Child Left Behind Program has to be adjusted and we have to know exactly what it is that we are doing. He said the after school programs are very important and this year we sent out a massive mailing to the parents of our free and reduced lunch students. Mr. Savage said we are receiving massive amounts of calls per day about the programs.

Mr. Ulrich said he can attest that he was a board member when several elementary schools made AYP along with all four middle schools.

Mrs. Evans said for the schools that had a negative trend in terms of achievement we are working with the teachers on indentifying the students that scored between 190 and 199. She said in the area of language arts at every level from kindergarten through high school one of the main goals is looking at ways to improve instruction to make the most effective use of time. Mrs. Evans said we do that through professional development.

Ms. Rios asked if sending the children to pre-school has made an improvement in the elementary level. Dr. Gruccio said through a study that was done a couple of years ago we saw a significant difference in the children that attended pre-school for two years. She said it definitely is having an impact.

Dr. Guccio said we have a lot of good things that are already in place and we all know that excellent teaching all day every day is what makes the difference for our children. She said that 99% of our teachers are good teachers who are working hard in trying to make a difference for our children. Dr. Guccio said it is important to remember that the after school programs and transportation are gone, which makes it difficult for parents that may want to take advantage of it.

Mrs. Phillips thanked Dr. Guccio for the excellent report and for her comments commending our Vineland teachers who are hard working people that do give 100%. She said a lot of us forget that New Jersey is number #1 in the country as far as education and we set the bar.

Dr. Banks thanked Dr. Guccio, Mr. Savage, Mr. DuBois and Mrs. Evans for working so hard to put this presentation together. She believes it is a positive report based on the work that we have ahead of us and the work that our teachers and administrative staff have been doing to meet the AYP challenges. Dr. Banks said she will be recommending that we hire an additional math coach along with two additional RTI tutors. She said in addition we need to look at our activity buses.

Public Comments
on Agenda Items:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion Mr. DeWinne, seconded by Ms. Rios, the minutes were approved for September 1, 2010, September 8, 2010 and September 22, 2010. All Members voted “yes” except for Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Philips and Mr. Franceschini who voted “yes” for all minutes but “abstained” on September 22, 2010 and Ms. Rios who “abstained” on all minutes

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. DeWinne, seconded by Ms, Rios, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of August 2010, 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.

Recommendations:

FRANCESCINI	ULRICH	DEWINE	DIGIORGIO	ENGLISH	FANUCCI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIOS
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RECOMMENDATIONS

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. Mounier said that substitute bus driver #4 is not a relative of his.

Mr. Ulrich said he is hesitant in approving the retirement of one of his friends, Diane Lillia, who has been a very dedicated teacher at D'Ippolito Elementary School for 27 years. He congratulated all the retirees and said he hopes they enjoy their lives.

Dr. Banks congratulated and introduced the new World Language/Bi-Lingual Supervisor Al Cores.

Mr. Cores thanked Dr. Banks and the Board for this opportunity and looks forward to servicing the Vineland community.

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 Dr. Mounier who voted yes on all items except name #17 under new employment he voted "no" and Ms. Rios who voted "yes" on all items but "abstained" on name #4 under terminations. (8-0-0)

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

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FRANCESCINI	ULRICH	DEWINE	DIGIORGIO	ENGLISH	FANUCCI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIO
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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.

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

4. The Board approve the revised Art curriculum for grades K through 5.

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

5. The Board approve the revised Mathematics Grade 6 curriculum.

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

6. The Board approve the Teacher in Training Agreement between Western Governors University (online) and the Vineland Board of Education.

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

7. The Board approve the Teacher in Training Agreement between Widener University and the Vineland Board of Education.

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

FRANCESCINI	ULRICH	DEWINNE	DIORGIO	ENGLISH	FANUCCI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIOS
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8. The Board approve the SECOND reading of the following Policy for adoption:

Policy #3126 – Induction Program for Provisional Teachers (Reg included for info only)

All members voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

9. Bids:

a. The Board approve the following Extraordinary Unspecified Service (EUS) contracts in the amount to exceed \$36,000.00 in accordance with 18A:18A-51(2):
 Staff Development Workshops

All Members voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

b. Mobile Surveillance Cameras and Mobile Digital Video Recorders Systems:

Reject:

New Jersey Solutions and Electrical LLC

Award:

Gatekeepers Systems, Inc.

10. 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” except for Dr. Mounier who voted “yes” for all field trips except for the Success Program field trips he voted “no.”
 (8-0-0)

FRANCESCINI	ULRICH	DEWINE	DIGIORGIO	ENGLISH	FANUCCI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIOS
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11. The Board approve the acceptance of the following amounts and accept the following donations in accordance with Board Policy #7230, “Gifts, Grants and Donations:”

Donations:

- a. The Davis Company
 In the approximate amount of ----- \$ 750.00
 (Fifty backpacks filled with supplies valued at approximately \$15 each to Barse Elementary School)
- b. Walmart
 With a value of ----- \$1,000.00
 (Ten \$100 Teacher Reward Cards and gift bags filled with school start up supplies)

Funding:

- c. Starter Grant SMART Technologies
 Barse Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$3,500.00
- d. New Jersey Youth Corps
 Department of Labor and Workforce Development
 In the approximate amount of ----- \$5,220.00
- e. Target Foundation
 Petway Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$772.50

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

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

- a. Annie’s Grants for Gardens
 D’Ippolito Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 250.00
- b. Target Foundation
 Petway Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 772.50
- c. Starter Grant SMART Technologies
 Barse Elementary School
 In the amount of ----- \$ 1,556.00
- d. NJ IDEIA
 September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011
 Basic Allocation (3-21) ----- \$ 2,741,958.00
 Preschool Allocation (3-5) ----- \$ 96,115.00

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (8-0-0)

FRANCESCINI	ULRICH	DEWYNNE	DIGIORGIO	ENGLISH	FANUCCI	MOUNIER	PHILLIPS	RIOS
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13. The Board approve the establishment and appointment of the Quality Single Accountability Continuum committee members to assist in the completion of the District Performance Review in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(b)1 with the list that is on file with the Secretary of the Board.

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

14. The Board approve the Annual Maintenance Reserve Deposit Worksheet (form M-1) indicating the required deposit in the 2011-2012 budget.

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

15. The Board approve the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report for the following period:

2009-2010 Actual	\$ 816,479.00
2010-2011 Budgeted	\$ 1,030,094.00
2011-2012 Planned	\$ 1,280,600.00

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

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	P	E	S	O	N	C	H
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	I	R	H	I	S	H	
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16. The Board approve in accordance with *New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:27-11.2* the bus evacuation drills completed in the month of September for the following schools:

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

School Name	Drill Date	Drill Time	Drill Location	Route # (Grade)	Supervisor Name
Barse	9/20/10	AM	School Property	K & 1 st	N. Johnson
Barse	9/28/10	AM	School Property	1 st – 5 th	N. Johnson
Mennies	9/21/10	AM	School Property	K	K. Estep
Sabater	9/15/10	AM	School Property	K	M. Dnbrger
Winslow	9/23/10	AM	School Property	K	S. Morano
Johnstone	9/22/10	AM	School Property	K	J. Poma
Durand	9/27/10	AM	School Property	K	E. DeJong
Petway	9/13/10	AM	School Property	K	K. Malatesta
D'Ippolito	9/14/10	AM	School Property	K	G. Curcio

Mr. DeWinne asked how the notices that went home have been received. Dr. Banks said that so far she has only received one phone call.

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17. The Board approve that the Board Secretary, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1(a) be instructed to notify the non-tenured professional employee, whose name is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board that his contract be terminated sixty (60) days from today. Furthermore, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:27-9, the employee be notified that during the sixty (60) day period he will be on administrative leave with pay.

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

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. DeWinne, seconded by Ms. Rios, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$5,775,395.38).

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

Public: None.

Committee Report: Mrs. Phillips said discussed at tonight’s Curriculum & Technology Committee meeting was a School to Careers Grant for 180,000 dollars for 60 Vineland High School seniors. The students would receive 40 hours of training and work maturity, 10 hours of career planning and 150 hours of actual employment. Mrs. Phillips said a student could earn up to \$1,150 during their senior year. She said this program offers a support service. They go into the homes, get the parents involved and provide counseling to high school seniors who are classified or at risk students. Mrs. Phillips said this grant will be on the November agenda for approval.

Mr. Franceschini said this is a wonderful thing.

Ms. Rios said discussed at the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting was the Life Skills room at VHS. The project is two weeks behind schedule due to asbestos, which has been abated. Ms. Rios said the Veterans Memorial School sound booth project is running behind due to staffing issues. She said we are looking into substitute custodial staff to cut the overtime and overall costs of custodial services. A meeting has been scheduled for October 26th to discuss the procedures for the disposal of furniture and equipment. Ms. Rios said the door frame and all hardware have been replaced at Vineland High School North. A meeting was held in the Winslow School library in regards to water infiltration and the committee agreed that the remediation for the site work should be done. Ms. Rios said Mr. Weaver provided to Mr. English for his review the contract for the Use of School Facilities. She said repairs have been made to the Veterans Memorial School gym floor and the floor has been re-finished.

Ms. Rios said Mr. Weaver is going to contact the city in regards to applying for a grant for additional sidewalks at Wallace Middle School. She said the completion date is November 26, 2010 for the track re-surfacing. Ms. Rios said we are continuing to develop the Solar Panel Request for Proposal (RFP) process and have met with the Cumberland County Improvement Authority to see if we can partner with them. She said the tennis court windscreens have been installed.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. English said it did not matter if it was night or day or what the weather conditions were the Vineland High School Band always gives their all and it shows when you attend the football games. He urged everyone to please visit and enjoy the band website.

Ms. Rios thanked the students who led the flag salute tonight and Gina Trivellini for receiving the 2011 Commended Scholar Award. She complemented the teachers for the excellent work they have done through the years in trying to keep up with the student state test scores along with the parents and students.

Mr. DeWinne commended the flag salute students. He said a member of the audience asked him what the status was in regards to having the budget discussed as a full board. Mr. DeWinne requested for this to be put on the agenda for next month.

Dr. Mounier said there seems to be differences between information that is provided on diskette to the board for the work session and information they receive for the regular meeting. He requested for any changes that are made to be highlighted. Dr. Mounier said he is not sure that the tests that were discussed this evening actually tell us much of anything. He said it is really difficult to make any sort of predictive sense out of the results particularly since the tests as presented do not contain any range and variation in the scores.

Mrs. Phillips agrees with the comments made by Dr. Mounier about testing. She said it is very frustrating that if you are a failing school you get all of the expensive after school programs to send your students to. However, if the parent does not want their child to attend these programs to receive the extra help they do not have to. There is no obligation on the parent's part to make their child get the extra help they desperately need but the schools job is to make the child's score go up. Mrs. Phillips congratulated the Vineland High School band along with Gina Trivellini on the award she received.

Mr. DiGiorgio echoed the sentiments of his fellow board members. He said the government's involvement in education somehow creates more issues. He feels sometimes we have to utilize resources that could be spent bettering the district and students instead of trying to evaluate and gather data all the time. Mr. DiGiorgio is thankful for the efforts put forth by the supervisors and teachers in the district.

Ms. Rios reminded everyone about the Community Meeting that will be held on Monday, October 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Sabater Elementary School. She asked if a call out can be done to remind the parents of the meeting. Dr. Banks said we plan to do one between tomorrow and Friday.

Dr. Banks thanked everyone who worked so hard on the presentations this evening. She also commended the teachers and administrators in the district for their hard work on behalf of the students. Dr. Banks said she agrees that the test scores do not tell us everything. She said that she needs to correct something that she stated last week. Dr. Banks said we ran our own Vineland buses for the 3:00 p.m. activities and 6:00 p.m. athletics. We contracted out with Sheppard for the private runs that we were responsible for such as private and parochial schools. Dr. Banks said we let Sheppard go and picked up our own private run which is the problem with the 3:00 p.m. bus situation. That is why we are working on trying to put something together to bring back some kind of combination of the 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. bus run. Dr. Banks said we are still looking at ways to make this happen at least a few days a week.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Franceschini thanked the administration and said Mrs. Elliott and Dr. Gruccio are doing an excellent job in trying to change this district. He thinks we will see a big improvement by the end of this year. Mr. Franceschini also thanked the board for their commitment and all the time they put in attending committee meetings and negotiations. He expressed his concern in regards to safety at Halloween and urged parents to watch their children when they go trick or treating.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, October 13, 2010 and Wednesday, November 3, 2010** regarding budget issues, personnel matters, contract negotiations, student residency/disciplinary matters and anticipated or pending litigation.

Motion: Upon motion by Mr. DeWinne, seconded by Ms. Rios, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session by voice vote at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df