

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, November 9, 2011, at 7:10 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mr. Fanucci.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Gruccio and Dr. Elliott, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Daniel Smith, Assistant Business Administrator, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director, press and public. Absent: Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary and Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel.

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:

Jessica Santiago, Kristina Torbina, Otis Harold and Yurily Polichchuk, students from Durand Elementary School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special

Presentation (s):

Dr. Banks introduced Don Robbins, Athletic Director, to present the Vineland High School Tennis Record Champion.

Mr. Robbins introduced, Blake Pescatore, who became the all time leader in wins for girls' tennis in the history of Vineland High School. He said Ms. Pescatore earned her 88<sup>th</sup> career win, which makes her the all time leader in wins. Mr. Robbins said Mr. Harry Silverstein has been the coach of the girls' tennis team for 28 of those years. He read a letter from Coach Silverstein who could not be in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Pescatore thanked the board for the recognition.

Mr. Ulrich thanked Coach Silverstein and Ms. Pescatore on her individual accomplishment. He said it is unbelievable what some of our athletes in Vineland High School are accomplishing.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Mercado, the minutes were approved from October 5, 2011, October 12, 2011 and October 26, 2011.

Mr. English asked if he was not in attendance at the meeting but read the minutes does he have to abstain. Mr. DeSanto said under *Roberts Rules* the abstention is generally supported by a statement.

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. English who “abstained” on the October 26, 2011 minutes and Ms. Rios who “abstained” on October 12, 2011 regular and retreat minutes.

Report of the  
Secretary/Custodian  
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. English, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of September 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 expressed his concern that the board meetings need to be conducted in a more respectful way. He respectfully requested that the president and vice president of the board see that all members of the board refrain from interrupting speakers along with making side remarks and whispering on the side. Mr. Burke said we cannot tolerate such dysfunctional happenings. He said the board gets too bogged down in many things that should be dealt with in a parliamentary way and he hopes that will be the rule of order for tonight’s meeting.

Lauren Savas

Ms. Savas said she was looking forward to becoming an assistant principal in the town that has given so much to her through the years. She cannot predict what the vote will be this evening but wanted to reinforce to the board why she became an educator. Ms. Savas said that she truly loves children and makes decisions every day that are in their best interest. She implored the board to please make their decision in the best interest of our students.

Dr. Banks said Dr. Elliott will present an update on the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Report

Dr. Elliott said at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting Vineland High School North/South and Wallace Middle School were not reported on the October Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Report. She said Vineland High School South had 7 total reports, 5 were substantiated and 2 were unsubstantiated. Vineland High School North had 9 total reports, 3 were substantiated and 6 were unsubstantiated. Wallace Middle School had 26 total reports, 20 were substantiated and 6 were unsubstantiated. Dr. Elliott said our new totals are 119 total reports for the month of October, 60 were substantiated and 59 were unsubstantiated.

Recommendations:

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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

**Dr. Banks said the assistant principal for the preschool program did not carry. She introduced Tina Morris, the new Assistant Principal for Wallace Middle School.**

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Mercado who voted “yes” on all items except on #23 new employment he voted “no” and Mr. DiGiorgio who voted “yes” on all items except #20 and #23 new employment he “abstained” and Mr. Medio and Dr. Mounier who voted “yes” on all items except the two assistant principals they voted “no” and Ms. Rios who voted “yes” on all items except #23 new employment she voted “no.” (8-0-0)

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.

All Members voted “yes.” (8-0-0)

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.)

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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 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)

**Dr. Mounier questioned the transportation cost listed for the National Association of School Psychologists Convention in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Gruccio said the cost includes reimbursement for registration, mileage, tolls and meals.**

5. Approval of the Foster Grandparents Program at IMPACT from September 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013

All Members  
voted “yes.”  
(8-0-0)

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ACTION

6. Approval of the establishment of a change in petty cash funds for the 2011-2012 fiscal year per the name provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board

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

7. The Board approve a recommendation requiring an employee, whose name is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board, to submit to a fitness for duty examination in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18:16-2, N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3 and the Vineland Board of Education Policy #3160

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

8. Approval of the Uniform Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement officials

All Members  
voted "yes"  
except for Mr.  
Ulrich who  
"abstained."  
(7-0-1)

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All Members  
voted “yes.”  
(8-0-0)

9. Approval of the submission of the following grants as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:
  - a. Subaru Foundation  
National Constitution Center  
Mennies Elementary School  
In the amount of -----admissions \$750.00  
“ “ “ ----- transportation \$400.00
  - b. Cumberland County Office of Employment and Training  
WIA Out of School Youth (under the direction of the New Jersey Youth Corps Program)  
From October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012  
In the amount of ----- \$30,000.00
  - c. New Jersey Department of Education – IDEIA  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act  
September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012  
Basic Allocation (3-21)  
In the amount of ----- \$2,803,907.00  
Preschool Allocation (3-5)  
In the amount of ----- \$96,064.00
  - d. No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)  
State of New Jersey Department of Education  
September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012  
In the amount of ----- \$4,565,476.00

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10. Approval of acceptance of funding:

- a. State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families  
Family Friendly Grant  
Sabater Elementary School  
July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012  
In the amount of \$45,463.00

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

11. Approval of Bids:

Approval of the following Extraordinary Unspecified Service (EUS) contracts in the amount to exceed \$36,000 in accordance with 18A:18A-5a(2):

- a. Teacher Training in alignment with Board approved curricula:
  - 1. Scholastic (Read 180)  
revised estimated - - - - - \$557,640.00
  - 2. Children's Literacy initiative  
revised estimated - - - - - \$445,000.00

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

12. The Board approve the bus evacuation drills completed in the month of October as per the list provided and on file with Secretary of the Board, in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:27-11.2

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



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13. The Board approve the Student Transportation Contract with Sheppard Bus Service Inc. for the 2011-2012 school year for Charter School, Private School and Preschool routes

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

14. The Board approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between Glassboro Public Schools and the City of Vineland Board of Education for the 2011-2012 school year

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

15. The Board approve the 2011-2012 Joint Transportation Contract between Salem County Cooperative Transportation Program and Vineland Public Schools

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

16. The Board approve the contract for the Vineland Non-Certificated Supervisors Association (VNCSA) for the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012

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

- a. Vineland Non-Certified Supervisors Contract
- b. Vineland Non-Certified Supervisors Contract – Revised
- c. Salary Guide - Final

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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17. The Board approve the memorandum between the Vineland Board of Education and the Non-Union Administrative/Supervisory/Auxiliary Personnel for the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012

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

- a. BAA 2010-2012 Staff
- b. Memorandum - Revised

18. The Board approve the Annual Maintenance Reserve Deposit Worksheet (form M-1) indicating the required deposit in the 2012-2013 budget

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

19. The Board approve the payment in the amount of \$2,060.00 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."  
(8-0-0)

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20. The Board approve district participation with Hannah’s House, Inc. in providing English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for parents of children enrolled in the Vineland Schools. Classes will be held in the evenings, 3 days per week at the Sabater Elementary School. There is no cost to the district. Hannah’s House is covering the cost of this service through the Even Start Family Literacy Program.

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (8-0-0)

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

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (8-0-0)

2010-2011	Actual	-----	\$995,100.00
2011-2012	Budgeted	-----	\$929,824.00
2012-2013	Planned	-----	\$943,711.00

22. The Board approve the award of a Supplemental Educational Services (SES) contract/agreement to the following provider(s), in a form approvable by the Superintendent and Board Solicitor, for tutoring services in Language Arts and/or Math, pursuant to the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation:

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (8-0-0)

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Rate Per Hour</u>
A.Y.P. Academy by Eldridge Overton School	\$70 indiv/\$60 group
Child and Family Solutions	\$58.00
Club Z! Tutoring Service	\$65.00
Ivy League Tutor, Inc.	\$65.00

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

1. **Creation of a new Ad Hoc Committee (Technology)** – Mr. Ulrich said he is requesting a compromise on this matter. He is asking for the Curriculum & Technology Committee to devote a specific period of time each month and require our technology services coordinator, Mr. Steve Dantine, to be present to give a report on our technology status for the board to be better informed. Mr. Ulrich said if that is not acceptable to the board we can move with a separate Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. English said his concern is that sometimes the additional facilities information takes more than an hour and would prefer to have a committee for just technology. Mr. Ulrich said it is within the Bylaws that an Ad Hoc Committee can be formed for technology. Mr. Medio asked if this could be discussed at the next work session. Mr. Ulrich said yes. Mr. Medio asked Mr. English if his concern is that he would like to have some sort of discussion about the interaction between the maintenance and technology department along with the principals. Mrs. Phillips agrees with Mr. English that technology is not all instruction and there is a technical part, which really would not have a place in the curriculum committee for discussion. She feels more time needs to be devoted to the technology issues. Mr. Ulrich said we can look at creating a separate committee in our Bylaws for technology. Mr. English said if the board wants to discuss this next month he is fine with that. He asked if in the future he wanted to invite district personnel to the meeting who would he copy. Dr. Banks said to let her know. Mr. English asked as a courtesy how much time needs to be given to request for someone to attend a meeting. Mr. Ulrich said a twenty or thirty day notice is realistic. Mr. English said he has no problem postponing this another month but we need a solution. Dr. Mounier said the Policy & Personnel Committee met twice this month and they were fairly productive meetings. He feels this is a possibility but scheduling could be a problem in terms of getting people together for the meetings. Mr. Ulrich said it is a scheduling issue and he was just throwing out a possible compromise. Ms. Rios said technology exists within the Curriculum & Technology Committee but if the committee does not know what issues are taking place then they are not able to address them.

Mr. DeSanto said this discussion highlights the distinction between standing committees and Ad Hoc Committees. He said the standing committees are in the Bylaws and have proven to be matters that are ongoing, continuous and annual. Mr. DeSanto said Ad Hoc Committees are usually single purpose limited time committees. Mr. DeSanto said if the Ad Hoc Committee were formed all these issues could be raised, some will be resolved and others will be ongoing.

Mr. DiGiorgio feels having an Ad Hoc Committee may address some of the technology concerns that we have. He agrees with Mr. English and feels technology is large enough to be its own committee. Mr. Ulrich said Mr. English has volunteered to chair this committee and we can meet and set a time limit of three months.

The Board took a five minute recess.

The meeting resumed.

Mr. Ulrich said an Ad Hoc Committee will be formed and the committee will meet three times. He said this issue will be revisited in January. He asked for two board members to volunteer to be part of this committee. Mr. DiGiorgio, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. English volunteered to be on the Technology Ad Hoc Committee along with Dr. Gruccio.

Mr. Medio said under “Proposed for review or discussion by Board Members” he wanted to propose adding board members to the interview committee for administrators. Mr. Ulrich said that would be a policy change and would have to funnel through Policy and Personnel. Mr. Medio asked if a vote could be taken to suspend policy and move forward on this. Mr. Ulrich thinks that is not a prudent thing to do and he would rather go through the process. Mr. Mercado asked if the committee sees a need for this could it be on next month’s agenda. Mr. Ulrich said no the policy has to be written. Mr. Medio said for the record he wants it clear that the board could vote tonight to suspend policy and put board members on these interview committees. Mr. DeSanto said we have no policy to suspend. He said this board is supposed to operate under policy and if you just change your mind and suspend policy every time an idea comes up then your policies are really immaterial. Mr. DeSanto said you have to create a policy in order to effectuate what it is you want to do. Mr. Ulrich said if the board is inclined to do this it is going to take time. He said this is a major step that borders on micromanaging. Mr. Ulrich said Ms. Rios will add this to committee for discussion and he will arrange for Ms. Zoerb, the NJ School Boards Association representative, to be in attendance. Mr. English asked if the discussion will be about creating a policy. Mr. Ulrich said it would be creating a policy that governed the process on how interviews are conducted in the district. He said we do have the authority to govern the process.

Ms. Rios asked if Mr. Medio should be in attendance at the Policy & Personnel Committee meeting. Mr. Ulrich said he would have to step out to create the vacancy. Mr. Medio said that has always been the case.

Mr. Ulrich said a Sodexo Food Service Ad Hoc Committee meeting also needs to be scheduled.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Mercado, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same (\$7,651,994.98). All Members voted “yes.”

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

Public: Michael Rossi, Vineland Resident  
Mr. Rossi said he is disappointed and embarrassed on what he saw at tonight’s board meeting. He expressed his concern that a vote tonight by the Board of Education went against the superintendent. Mr. Rossi said the board is supposed to support the administration and superintendent who know the professional ins and outs of the Board of Education.

Mario Olsen, VASA President  
Mr. Olsen asked if the assistant principal position that was not approved tonight will be reposted on Monday. Dr. Banks said we will post this as quickly as we can. Mr. Olsen asked if a substitute administrator can be provided in the interim. Dr. Banks said she is not sure if she can answer that question. Mr. Olsen said hopefully this will move quickly and the best candidate will be found to help Ms. Bleistine.

Lee Burke, Vineland Resident  
Mr. Burke quoted an article that appeared in the *Daily Journal* on May 16, 2011 titled School Boards Watch Word Must Be Cooperation.

Board Member  
Remarks: Mr. English said with Veterans Day approaching on Friday he wanted to thank all the men and women for fighting for what we all take for granted freedom.

Continued

Mr. English congratulated and wished Dr. Gruccio the best of luck on her new venture as freeholder. He thanked Blake Pescatore for her dedication in the classroom and on the tennis courts. Mr. English wished the Vineland High School football team good luck on Thanksgiving Day. He also thanked all the athletes, parents, coaches, volunteers and fans for supporting Vineland High School fall sports. Mr. English wished all the students good luck on their report cards and a happy safe Thanksgiving to everyone.

Mr. Medio said he read in a newspaper article that clubs have been limited and intramural sports have been disbanded. He would like to make a motion that we put enough funding aside for the winter sports programs and clubs that fall into the previous guidelines. He asked Dr. Banks for a cost estimate on what this will involve. Mr. Ulrich asked for courtesy busing to also be included on this cost estimate.

Dr. Mounier said the 2012-2013 budget will begin with a 1,658,907 dollar shortfall, which is money we do not have. He said tonight we spent a million dollars on two reading programs and proposing to spend less than a million dollars for maintenance. Dr. Mounier said he applauds public members who stand up and speak their peace but he has not heard anyone on this board say they know more than the superintendent. He said that is not his attitude because he is here to try to do a responsible job for the citizens, community and children. Dr. Mounier said board members have an obligation to use the resources that we have in the most effective way that we can manage. He said one of the problems faced in this district is we have a tremendous bureaucratic burden, which we need to find a way to streamline. Dr. Mounier said we cannot afford consensus for its own sake because each of us have the responsibility to exercise judgment as good citizens and to speak our mind. He said if that happens to be contrary to the opinions of others, well that is just the way it is. Dr. Mounier said he joined this board to become a productive responsible citizen and resents the implications that there is something else involved.

Mrs. Phillips congratulated Blake Pescatore on her tennis championship. He said that she had the pleasure today to attend the Mennies Elementary School Veterans Celebration, which was the most spectacular presentation.

Continued

Mrs. Phillips commended Mrs. Arena and her staff for the veterans celebration show. She announced that Veterans Memorial School will be having a veterans show next Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Phillips wished all of our families a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. DiGiorgio said his responsibility on this board is not to second guess the superintendent. He said unfortunately there are instances when a situation arises, an opinion is formed and you vote in such a way that not everyone is looking for. Mr. DiGiorgio apologizes for that and said he is not here to make a decision that is in his best interest but the district's best interest. He thanked all the veterans for their sacrifices and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich thanked the men and women in our armed forces that have fought for the very rights we spoke about tonight and experienced yesterday in our election. He said there is a point he agrees with, which is we have to respect each other's opinions. Mr. Ulrich said everyone in the audience and on the board at some point in time has displayed body language about a situation. He said it is a natural human reaction to have body language. Mr. Ulrich said he agrees that expressions and body language should be controlled to conduct ourselves in a professional manner. He said in his view it is important that the professional administration is supported. Mr. Ulrich reminded everyone that we do have to respect the process whether we disagree or not. He feels it is extremely important to support the recommendations to the best we can of our superintendent. Mr. Ulrich said Dr. Banks is an outsider but she is an ethical person who wants to do the best thing for the students in our district and hire the best personnel. He would like to see mentoring, growing and promotion from within because it is good for moral and the community. He said everybody has a right to their vote and we need to respect that right. Mr. Ulrich wished everyone a good Thanksgiving and to enjoy their families.

Dr. Banks thanked all of our veterans for their service to our country and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.



Adjournment:           The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel M. Smith  
Assistant Business Administrator

DMS:df