

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 10, 2010, at 7:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Franceschini presiding and the following members present: Mr. Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. DeWinne.

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

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: Donald Patterson, Sophia Santos, Dylan Sanford and Nettadya Young students from Barse Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Nedd Johnson, Principal of Barse Elementary School was in attendance.

Special Presentation (s): None.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the Board approved the minutes from October 6, 2010 and October 13, 2010. All Members voted "yes."

Report of the Secretary/Custodian Of School Monies: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of September 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.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: James Firm
Mr. Firm said he is on tonight's agenda to be approved as the German Teacher at Vineland High School and wanted to thank the board for giving him the opportunity.

Recommendations:

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$6,204,429.63).

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

Public: Lee Burke, Vineland Resident
Mr. Burke commented that according to Dina Elliott’s report at the last meeting the safety of students has been confirmed and student performance has shown a lot of progress. He is very proud to have been a part of the forums held by Dr. Banks and hopes that Dr. Banks will hold additional forums on the fiscal process in developing the budget going forward. He mentioned that he will be attending a press conference tomorrow at the State House at the request of the Citizens Campaign. At the press conference they will be introducing the Peoples Tool Kit, which is a list of model ordinances and resolutions that other towns have used in having very successful cost cutting measures promoted by citizens and adopted by various municipalities/ school boards. Mr. Burke said an important model ordinance/resolution on insurance matters will be issued involving school board processes. He discussed this with the city and Roxanne Tosto, the City Controller, asked him to ask the school board to consider working with her on a self insurance program that the city is considering. Mr. Burke thinks this is an issue of more efficiency and better use of funds that can develop between the board and city.

Mrs. Phillips said discussed at tonight’s Curriculum Committee meeting was the CAD I, II, III Program, which is a dual credit program with Cumberland County College. She said they also discussed two new curriculum areas at the high school along with the Parent Portal System

Mr. Ulrich said in regards to the Parent Portal System it is difficult to do computer training when you are putting it on power point. He feels for it to be beneficial there should be more hands on training. Mrs. Phillips said that is an excellent suggestion.

Mr. Weaver, Executive Director of Physical Facilities, presented a quick overview on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for solar energy. He said we entered into an agreement with Tozour Energy and have been working with them every day. Mr. Weaver said site drawings of each building were provided to identify the locations where the panels will go. Mr. Weaver said the RFP is finished and a draft will be emailed to him tomorrow. Mr. Weaver feels it is imperative to hold a pre-bid conference to generate possible questions or changes.

Mr. Ulrich asked if the consultant knew and agreed that we were on a tight deadline with this. Mr. Weaver said yes they knew about the deadline and thinks they met the obligation. Mr. Ulrich asked if any other districts in New Jersey have this currently going on. Mr. Weaver said not that he is aware of.

Board Member

Remarks:

Dr. Mounier asked where we stand with the Small Learning Communities survey and when will we be able to take action on it. Dr. Banks said we are currently tallying that information and the results will be presented to the board at the December work session. Dr. Mounier asked if there was a large response. Dr. Guccio said the responses were mostly from students.

Mrs. Phillips asked Dr. Guccio if she visited the Ocean City School District to observe their Small Learning Communities. Dr. Guccio said yes. Mrs. Phillips said she was invited by Debra Bechtel, Principal of Winslow Elementary School, to visit the school. She had a nice visit and the school has made such a tremendous change. Mrs. Phillips thanked Ms. Bechtel and her staff for a great experience. Mrs. Phillips said she also attended Mennies Elementary School Veterans Day celebration. She commended Mrs. Arena and her staff along with the Fine Arts Department for giving such a powerful performance. Mrs. Phillips announced that Veterans Memorial School will be holding their Veteran's Day Celebration on Friday. She wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he is glad that progress is being made on the Small Learning Communities surveys. He is also glad that we are taking a proactive approach with regard to the dual credit courses. Mr. DiGiorgio said it is good to see that we have dedicated personnel in our district that continually strive to put our district ahead. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Fanucci wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. He thanked all veterans along with his family members who have served in the service. He also thanked the children who are looking for careers in the armed services.

Mr. English thanked the Mennies School Fine Arts Department for their outstanding tribute to veterans. He also thanked all the veterans for protecting what we take for granted. Mr. English wished good luck to the Vineland High School Academic Bowl students along with the Vineland High School football team. He wished everyone a safe and healthy Thanksgiving season.

Mr. Ulrich thanked and congratulated the retiring teachers. He also thanked his wife for suggesting a trip to Washington D.C. this weekend. Mr. Ulrich said it is important that we as Americans visit Arlington Cemetery and the National Monument to realize the sacrifices made by these men and women throughout the history of our country. He thanked all of our veterans and said without them none of us would be sitting here.

Dr. Banks thanked Mrs. Arena along with her staff and students for a very powerful performance this afternoon. She also thanked the veterans for all that they do and feels Veterans Day should be the real Thanksgiving Day.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Franceschini said he is very pleased with the Governance score of 100. He reminded everyone of the board roles and urged citizens and staff members to resolve issues within the chain of command before approaching the board. Mr. Franceschini said he expects to see everyone at the Thanksgiving Day football game at 10:30 a.m. and wished everyone a good Thanksgiving.

- Resolution: Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, December 1, 2010** regarding budget issues, personnel matters, contract negotiations, student/residency/disciplinary matters and anticipated or pending litigation.
- Motion: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Ms. Rios, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.
- Adjournment: The Board adjourned by voice vote at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df