

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the auditorium, at Vineland High School South, 2880 E. Chestnut Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 7:05 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Giordano presiding and the following members present: Mr. Bernardini, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Franceschini, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Rios, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. DeGiacomo, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Franchetta, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, Mr. Shapiro, Associate Solicitor, Ms. Greenfield, Executive Director of Personnel, Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. Giordano 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:
Special

Joseph Parker, Lauren D'Ottavio, William Flores and Sacha Borrero, students from Vineland High School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. Thomas McCann, Principal was in attendance.

Mr. Giordano announced that Petway Elementary School was in the recent Vineland Christmas Parade and took second place for their float. He introduced Principal, Jennifer Frederico, to discuss the theme and work that went into the float.

Mrs. Frederico said she is so proud to be here tonight. She said the Petway Parent Staff Organization worked very hard this year with the help of so many families including the children. Mrs. Frederico thanked the Parrish, Giordano, Ortega, Centeno and Ellis families along with Mr. Franceschini for making the float a success.

Presentation (s):

Mr. Giordano introduced Lori Cummines, Select Choir Director, along with members of the Select Choir to perform musical selections.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the Board approved the minutes from November 16, 2009 and November 18, 2009. All Members voted "yes."

Mr. Franchetta requested for the board to approve the purchase of two 5 million dollar Certificate of Deposits with a 90 day expiration date, expiring on February 18, 2010 at an interest rate of .65%.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, to approve two 90 day Certificate of Deposits for 5 million dollars. All Members voted “yes.”

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of October 2009, 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:

Mr. DeSanto said he was contacted by the attorney representing the board in connection with the lawsuit filed by Richard Panas. The New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group has requested the board’s authorization to proceed with the settlement. Mr. DeSanto said based upon the request made by New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group he is requesting for a motion to be entertained to approve the Resolution.

Mr. Giordano entertained a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the settlement for Richard Panas.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, to approve the Resolution authorizing the settlement for Richard Panas. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Fanucci, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich who voted “no.” The motion passed.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

Louis Russo, VEA Representative

Mr. Russo said tonight he is speaking on behalf of the Vineland Education Association. He is expressing concern in regards to the superintendent’s recommendation regarding the baseball coaching position. Previous laws stipulated that in-district candidates received first priority in extra-curricular employment. Mr. Russo said since these positions are listed under Schedule B in the VEA Contract it seems logical that they are reserved for VEA members. He distributed to the board VEA member resumes and hopes that these points are considered before a decision is made this evening.

Recommendations:

See page 3

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.

Mr. Ulrich said he is voting “yes” for the baseball coach position with a comment. He said Mr. Malatesta is an established employee in the district as a swim coach however; Mr. Russo’s points are very well taken. He thinks that it is an advantage if coaches at the varsity level are part of the high school system. However this is the recommendation of Mr. Robbins so he votes “yes.”

Mr. Bernardini said our Athletic Director, Don Robbins, did a lot of soul searching when he made this decision. The students who are involved in baseball, football and basketball are students from center city and for some of them this may be the only outlet to show their abilities. Mr. Bernardini said this is a reason why he thought a coach who was a full-time employee here in the district would have more control over the students during the day.

Mr. Giordano said he would be glad to explain the reason for his vote to each of the individuals interested in the baseball coaching position.

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 who voted “yes” on all items except he “abstained” on the Pole Vault Asst. and voted “no” on the baseball coach position and Mr. Ulrich who “abstained” on leave of absences for his sister and mother who are school bus drivers. (9-0-0)

All Members voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

G I O R D A N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – December 9, 2009

G I O R D A N N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
				2	1			
				2	1			
				2	1			

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." (9-0-0)

- a. General Fund
- b. Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA)

4. The Board accept funding in the following amount(s):

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

- a. State of New Jersey
 Department of Human Services
 100% Insured for Sure Grant
 In the additional amount of ----- \$15,000.00
- b. Cumberland County
 Office of Employment & Training
 WIA Out-of-School Youth
 Adult Education Program
 October 12, 2009 to September 30, 2010
 In the amount not to exceed ----- \$50,000.00

5. 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." (9-0-0)

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				2	1			
				2	1			
				2	1			

6. The Board appoint Robert Cox to act as liaison and serve as a Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

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

7. The Board approve cancellation of the list of checks provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and remit the fund to the department of Treasury, Unclaimed Property.

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

8. The Board approve the 2008 – 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial report (CAFR) and Auditor's Management Report by Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr.

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

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				2	1			

9. The Board approve and direct the Secretary of the Board to implement each of the following recommendations from the 2008 – 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Auditor’s Management Report in accordance with the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) which is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board:

- a. A Position Control Roster containing the required components, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:10A-2.1(d)9 and N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-6.8, will be maintained.
- b. Due-to-Grantor balances will be returned to the Grantor in a timely manner.
- c. Parental consent forms for the SEMI program will be obtained and maintained prior to eligible services being provided.
- d. Duplicate claims will not be entered for SEMI services rendered.
- e. Board policies, as required by N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A, et. seq., will be updated and adopted by the Board of Education.
- f. Free and reduced lunch applications will be reviewed by district personnel and properly classified as free, reduced or paid.
- g. Proper supporting documentation and approvals will be maintained for all student activity cash disbursements.

10. The Board approve the Standard Operating Procedures for Business Function in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.6.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

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				2	1			
				2	1			
				2	1			
				2	1			

11. The Board approve an Agreement with Community Health Care, Inc. to provide dental services to students of Vineland Public Schools from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 in accordance with the contract on file with the Secretary of the Board.

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

12. The Board approve the Clinical Education Agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and Cumberland County College (CCC) Nursing Department to permit CCC nursing students to participate in a clinical practice experience within the district.

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

13. The Board approve a change in the rate per hour for the following Supplemental Educational Services (SES) contract/agreement for tutoring services in Language Arts and/or Math, pursuant to the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation:

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

Educational Instruction Resource Center (EIRC)
 From \$50.00 per hour to \$55.00 per hour

14. The Board approve the Action Research Project proposal in conjunction with the New Jersey Leader-to-Leader Program as requested by Michael Sullivan, Assistant Principal at Vineland High School South.

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

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G I O R D A N N O	B E R N A R D I N I	D E W I N N E	D I G I O R G I O	F A N U C C I	F R A N C E S C H I N I	P H I L L I P S	R I O S	U L R I C H
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15. The Board accept the donation of jackets from Rennoc Corporation for the benefit and use of the students in the district in accordance with Board Policy #7230, “Gifts, Grants and Donations.”

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

16. The Board approve a Resolution authorizing the settlement for the employee whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board.

This motion was passed during the Board Solicitor’s report.

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$6,167,225.55).

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

Mr. Franceschini said discussed at tonight’s Personnel & Policy Committee meeting was a grievance as well as a review of the December-Section 2000 Programs for our policy and procedure updates. He said the committee also discussed the adding of additional personnel items after the work session, which seems to be an on-going issue. Mr. Franceschini said the committee thought that it would be acceptable that on the Friday prior to the regular voting meeting all revisions should be received. Any emergent item should be received by noon from the superintendent through email the day of the meeting. Mr. Franceschini said the committee reviewed the hiring of employees related to board members/administrators and will review Policy #4125.1 at the next meeting.

Mr. Giordano expressed his concern in regards to additional items added to personnel every month. He said it used to be a situation where that was an exception because it was an emergent item but now it is more of the norm then the exception. When you are at a board meeting like tonight you are given a personnel item prior to the meeting. Mr. Giordano said it is not the same as having the ability or capability of discussing it at a work session because you know by the end of the night you have to make that decision. He said we have to revert to the way it was done in the past where we there are exceptions with adding personnel items. Mr. Giordano said we should push a little harder with deadlines, whether it means setting up interviews within the time frames and not for the convenience of those members that are on the interview committee. He is not in favor of the continuous additional lists of employees being added at the board meetings.

Mr. Ulrich said it almost disenfranchises the public from making comments during a work session or addressing an item. He feels additional personnel items should be an exception because it is a good practice that allows conversation and oversight over policies and procedures.

Continued

Mr. Ulrich said it does not make administration look good nor does it make the board look good when we debate items the last minute.

Mr. Giordano said rather than have something pulled from the agenda because of more questions than answers he feels we could make a better effort. He is not presuming to know the work of the personnel director or department but we need to move back in the other direction or at least make the effort.

Mr. Franceschini said we should all agree that the procedure will be what is presented at the work session is what we vote on with no exceptions.

Mr. Giordano said exceptions will be made for a real emergent item but no one is going to convince him that the additions every month are emergent items.

Mr. Franceschini said he agrees with Mr. Giordano and said we just have to define what emergent would be.

Mr. Giordano said that needs to be worked on. We are not going to put ourselves in a situation that if a critical position comes up we will not make an exception.

Mr. Franceschini asked if the exception would be in our packet the Friday before we vote. Mr. Giordano said preferably and we can continue to iron it out.

Mr. Fanucci said you have to weigh this out on a case by case basis. There will be exceptions where a position needs filled and school has been closed due to the holidays or teacher conventions. Mr. Fanucci said there are rare exceptions and we have to be cognizant of them.

Mr. Bernardini said at the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting they received an update on the new science labs at Vineland High School North. The committee also received an update on Middle School #2. The bid opening scheduled for December 3, 2009 has been postponed until December 17, 2009 due to items that needed clarified.

Continued

Mr. Bernardini said the committee discussed with an engineer the costs for the secondary bus loop at Dallago School, which would be \$32,000 for the engineer fees and \$150,000 for the construction costs that we do not have in this year's budget. He said Mr. Franchetta stated that maybe we could attempt to get a 13A grant. Mr. Bernardini said the Vineland High School South V-Wing life skills room project was discussed. He said a proposal was presented by Dr. McCann to the committee to purchase a circular desk to be located in the center of the "mushroom" for security at Vineland High School South. He said that Mr. Provenzano, Director of Security, said you would have good corridor visibility and be able to see down each of the wings. Mr. Franceschini asked if this would cause more congestion in the area. Mr. Bernardini said he was there and suggested this. He said the chairs are there and signs will be placed above the cameras. Mr. Franceschini asked how many security staff members will be in this area. Mr. Bernardini said one person. He said the new location will require all visitors to go directly to this desk prior to entering the building. Mr. DeWinne asked if it would be easier to put cameras at the end of each hall. Mr. Bernardini said he has been there during a class change and it is working. Mr. Ulrich said he does not know why a buzzer could not be installed to buzz people into the school. Mr. Bernardini said this is not etched in stone. He wants Dr. Banks to see this and then the concerns can be discussed with the board. Mr. Ulrich said careful consideration needs to be given before a structure is put in the middle point of the central evacuation areas.

Mr. DeWinne asked if the budgeted amount was correct for the science labs. Mr. Bernardini responded yes we had no extras at all. Mr. Weaver said we had zero change orders on the project. There were some issues where there were conflicts on the actual drawings and the contractor had to make the adjustments with no cost to the district.

Mr. Bernardini mentioned that the Anthony DiTomo sign is being constructed.

Public:

None.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mrs. Phillips congratulated Petway Elementary School on the fantastic job they did with the parade float. She also congratulated the Select Choir on their performance. Mrs. Phillips wished everyone a happy holiday and urged students to read and practice their math during the holiday.

Mr. DeWinne congratulated the Vineland High School Academic Team on their win. He wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Mr. Franceschini wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy safe holiday.

Mr. Fanucci wished every a happy safe holiday season. He announced that Mennies Elementary School received an award for the celebration they held the first day of school. Mr. Fanucci said Chris Hannah a Mennies School teacher created a great program for the veterans and the students did a fantastic job. He thanked everyone who was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Rios thanked the Select Choir for their wonderful performance. She also thanked Dr. DeGiacomo for the great job she did in leading the district during this time of need and addressing issues quickly. Ms. Rios wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Ulrich said this past week he attended a fund raiser for the South Jersey Youth Alliance. He urged everyone to lend a donation to this group of individuals who provide mentoring and programs for children.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked Linda Santagata and all the schools who helped with the Rennoc jacket donation. He wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Bernardini thanked Dr. DeGiacomo for getting things done and listening to both sides. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year. Mr. Bernardini wanted to clarify that it is easier when a coach is in the district when a student is in trouble.

Dr. DeGiacomo wished everyone a happy holiday. She thanked the board for giving her the opportunity to work in Vineland, which has been an interesting experience.

Continued

Dr. DeGiacomo said the district has wonderful people working in it and she could not have gone through these last six weeks without Mr. Franchetta, Dr. Gruccio, Ms. Greenfield and Mrs. Rafferty. She thanked them publicly for the assistance they have given her.

Report/Remarks by
Board President

Mr. Giordano asked his colleagues to please contact him because he needs board representation on the negotiating teams. He sincerely thanked Dr. DeGiacomo for the excellent job that she did during the past six weeks.

Resolution:

Mr. Franchetta read a resolution to recess into executive session on **Wednesday, December 16, 2009** and **Wednesday, January 6, 2010** regarding budget issues, personnel matters, contract negotiations, student residency/disciplinary matters and anticipated or pending litigation.

Motion:

Upon motion by Mr. Franceschini, seconded by Mr. Fanucci, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df