

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, December 14, 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, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios. Absent: None.

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

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: Mohammad Kuzmi, Kiada Cruz and Neel Patel students from the Vineland High School Student Government Association, lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board recessed to executive session at 7:04 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:04 p.m.

Special
Presentation (s): None.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from November 2, 2011, November 9, 2011 and November 29, 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 October 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:

Brian DeWinne, Vineland Resident

Mr. DeWinne said that Mr. Sam Irizarry deserves a lot of credit for getting involved as a parent and not taking no for an answer. He hopes that the board votes for the Chess Club because he believes the Chess Club along with many of the other extracurricular activities that we can offer are very vital to the development of our youth and minds. Mr. DeWinne presented a couple ideas on how the Chess Club could be financed.

Recommendations:

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. Medio said last week the board approved a salary around \$75,000 for the new technology coordinator, with no questions or discussion. He noticed that the salary has now been reduced to \$67,000. Mr. Ulrich said there was an error made by the personnel department, which has been modified. Mr. Medio requested additional information on the error. Ms. Greenfield explained that when another review was done of the salary she realized that she made an error in the progression. She said that she placed the individual on the wrong step and was advised that it needed to be corrected. Mr. Medio said it is very disappointing that we give someone the impression that they are getting a promotion and salary to find out a mistake was made. He expressed concern that this seems to be happening far too often because salary adjustments are made every month. Mr. Medio would like to look at what goes on in the interviews so issues can be resolved before hand so employees are not disappointed by the fact that they are losing money when they believe they are receiving a higher salary. Mr. Ulrich said he will have Dr. Gruccio complete an investigation on the number of times this has occurred and proper action will be looked into.

Ms. Greenfield said many times there are salary amendments on the agenda because of teachers receiving their verification of experience. She said the network administrator salary was an error on her part, which she acknowledges and is not happy about.

Ms. Rios said name #21 under new employment has nothing listed except a start date. Ms. Greenfield said it is being amended because it is a maternity leave and the individual left earlier due to complications.

All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. DiGiorgio who “abstained” on the chess club advisor and second name listed under transfers/ assignments/ and promotions the guidance counselor at VHS North. (9-0-0)

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 E R	P H I L L I P S
			2	1				

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 I	M E D I O	M E R C A D O	M O U N T A I N E R	P H I L L I P S
			2	1				

Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – December 14, 2011

Continued

Mr. English asked what would happen with the network administrator’s salary error if the position was voted on before the error was found. Ms. Greenfield said it would be brought to the attention of the superintendent. Mr. Ulrich said it would probably become a union grievance.

Mr. DiGiorgio stated that last week he was singled out by Mr. Burke, a member of the community, on a vote he made. He wanted to clear up why he made that abstention on a past vote. Mr. Ulrich said he can explain this under board comments.

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.”
 (9-0-0)

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

Vineland Board Of Education
Report to the Board – December 14, 2011

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
Transfer Worksheets
- b. ECPA Transfers

4. The Board approve travel for district members as required by NJAC 7A: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”
on all travel
except for the
Success field
trip he voted
“no.”
(9-0-0)

5. The Board approve submission of the following grants:

All Members
voted “yes.”
(9-0-0)

- a. Subaru Foundation
National Constitution Center
Barse Elementary School
In the amount of (75 admissions @ \$7.50) - - - \$562.50
(maximum transportation cost) - - - -\$400.00
- b. New Jersey Department of Education
Office of Licensure and Credentials
GED Testing Center
Vineland Public Schools
January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013
In the amount of - - - - - \$15,540.00

Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – December 14, 2011

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 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
			2	1				
			2	1				
			2	1				

6. The Board approve the acceptance of funds
 - a. Subaru Foundation
 National Constitution Center
 Barse Elementary School
 In the amount of (75 admissions @ \$7.50) - - - \$562.50
 (maximum transportation cost) - - - \$400.00
 - b. Cumberland County Office of Employment & Training
 WIA Out-of-School Youth
 (under the direction of the NJ Youths Corps Program)
 October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012
 In the amount of - - - - - \$30,000.00
 - c. Federal Supplemental Education Jobs Fund
 In the amount of - - - - - \$141,651.00

7. The Board approve the agreement to appoint Stanley H. Allen, Inc., t/a/Allen Associates for broker/consultant of employee health services for the period January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012 in accordance with the contract on file with the Secretary of the Board in a form acceptable by the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools

8. The Board approve the agreement between the Youth Advocate Program, Inc. (YAP) and the Vineland Board of Education to provide career planning/work ready experience services in a form of contract acceptable to the Board Solicitor and the Superintendent of Schools

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

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

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

Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – December 14, 2011

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 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
			2	1				
			2	1				
			2	1				

9. The Board approve the tuition contract with Salem County Vocational Technical Schools for Dance and Visual Arts Academy for the 2011-2012 school year

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

Mr. English commented that he would like to see more vocational classes in Vineland in the future.

10. The Board approve a contract with Bayada Nursing in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 in the following amount:

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

- a. One (1) LPN @ \$39/hour
 November 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012
 Approximately 153 days @ 7 hours per day
 In the amount of ----- \$41,769.00

11. The Board authorize a Resolution authorizing the Vineland Board of Education to enter into an Inter-local Services Agreement with the City of Vineland to assist in providing free influenza vaccines to eligible preschool students enrolled in the Vineland Public Schools Preschool Programs to help meet the State requirements

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

Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – December 14, 2011

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 I	M E D I O	M E R C A D O	M O U N T A I N E R	P H I L L I P S
			2	1				
			2	1				
			2	1				

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

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

13. The Board approve the cancellation list of checks provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and remit the funds to the Department of Treasury, Unclaimed Property

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

14. Approval of Bids:

It is recommended that the Board approve the following Extraordinary Unspecified Service (EUS) contract in the amount to exceed \$36,000.00 in accordance with 18:A18A-5a(2):

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

- A. Teacher Training in alignment with Board approved Curricula:
 - 1. Pearson – in the estimated amount of - - - \$447,910.00

It is recommended that the Board acknowledge receipt of bids as provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board and award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the following items in the amount shown:

- B. Award: (Landis School Computer Lab/Locker Replacement)
 - Puente Construction Enterprises, Inc.
 - 48-50 Newton Avenue
 - Woodbury, New Jersey 08096-4610
 - In the amount of - - - - - \$421,000.00

Vineland Board Of Education
 Report to the Board – December 14, 2011

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 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 I P S
			2	1				
			2	1				
			2	1				

15. The Board approve a recommendation to suspend the employee whose name is provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board without pay for ten (10) days to be served as recommended by the Superintendent and to withhold the 2012 pay increment for said employee.

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

16. The Board approve a Resolution terminating participation under the State Health Benefits Program effective February 29, 2012. Furthermore, the Board approve participation for health benefits with Amerihealth New Jersey, Inc. effective March 1, 2012

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

17. The Board approve the SECOND reading of the following policies/regulations:

REG #5530 – Substance Abuse (no changes/annual approval)

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

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

Mr. Medio said there was a proposal last week for the board to fund intramurals and dinners. Mr. Ulrich said as he understood it we have to wait for the money from the activity busing and it would then be discussed at a finance committee as a whole meeting. Mr. Medio said the money is currently available in surplus. Mr. Fanucci asked if the money could be moved. Mr. Franchetta asked the board if they are asking to reappropriate excess surplus to fund these items. Mr. Ulrich said he would like to know what the total cost would be to do this. He said Dr. Gruccio would have to request for her staff to compile a list of intramurals that would be reactivated and we would need the cost of the activity buses and how the advisors would be selected. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the savings from the health care move is going into surplus. Mr. Franchetta said yes unless it is reappropriated. Mr. Medio said we are short changing the people who are in winter sports programs in the district. Mr. Ulrich said we will have ample time for the January meeting to compile the list and post the openings. Mr. DeSanto said that should be a work session discussion. Mr. Ulrich said yes and we can vote on this at the January meeting. Mr. English asked if the end of the year dinners are included as well. Mr. Ulrich responded yes. Mr. Medio asked if we still have summa cum laude and magna cum laude dinners. Mr. Ulrich said we only have summa cum laude. He said the magna cum laude dinner is held at Vineland High School North with pizza served. Dr. Gruccio said she thought summa and magna were combined and cum laude was held at the high school. Mr. Ulrich said that could be. Mrs. Phillips asked Mr. Medio if he is also saying that Project Graduation should be funded, which is something that was also done in the past. Mr. Medio said he does not want to be too pushy. Mr. Ulrich said this will be a discussion of the full board and we have to know the exact costs. Dr. Gruccio said she will have the costs for the next work session.

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” (\$7,354,639.95).

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

Public: Tim Davis, Treasurer of VHS Parent/Teacher/Student Organization
Mr. Davis said the Parent Teacher Student Organization is trying to make positive changes in the district and are not fund raising. Mr. Davis read a letter from the members of the Vineland High School PTSO requesting remediation of a damaging situation that has progressed at the campuses of Vineland High School. He said they are appealing to the board to intervene with the policy that will place the authority for admissions to the alternative education program to the highly qualified professionals at the school level.

Mr. Davis said the PTSO looks forward to working with the board to substantiate their claims concerning the present situation and are anxious to make the future an optimal situation for everyone.

Sam Irizarry, Parent

Mr. Irizarry said there needs to be something in writing as to what the process is for an appeal. Mr. Ulrich said we can certainly address this. Mr. Irizarry thanked the board and Dr. Guccio for reinstating the chess club and hopefully having Mr. Gallo as the advisor.

Craig Parrish, Vice President of VHS PTSO

Mr. Parrish said the discipline statistics are appalling and what is being done currently at the high school is not working. He said that he reviewed Board Policy #5600 Pupil Discipline and Code of Conduct. Mr. Parrish said this policy allows the principal to assign alternative education but he is being told that it is now being done at the upper administrative level. Mr. Parrish said Policy #5610 Suspension Procedures is vague and can be loosely interpreted. He said we cannot allow disruptive students, who have not learned their lesson, to return to the school and intimidate other students or staff members.

Gina Davidson, VHS Graduate

Ms. Davidson expressed her concern in regards to her brother, who is a student at Rossi School, not having a math textbook.

Brian DeWinne, President of VHS PTSO

Mr. DeWinne said in his opinion part of the problem with discipline is that there seems to be a disconnect with eighth grade students who are moving up. He announced that a PTSO meeting will be held tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. in the VHS South cafeteria. Mr. DeWinne urged parents to attend the meeting and said the guidance department will be speaking about what to expect and what the needs are for students moving forward after the high school. He said in January Sergeant McLaughlin, the Juvenile Officer, from the Vineland Police Department will speak about the dangers of social media and texting. Mr. DeWinne said that he is disappointed that Dr. Banks is leaving and does not know how serious you can take her recommendations to vote on. He said it would be nice if the money tied up in Dr. Banks three year contract can be offset because of her leaving early. Mr. DeWinne said there has been discussion in regards to moving the tennis courts and said the courts were placed where they are for a reason.

Mr. DeWinne expressed his concern that money will be spent on designing the tennis courts at another site and the costs will exceed what was approved in the budget. He said the budget should be started now and if there is a surplus it should be spent. Mr. DeWinne suggested putting the board agenda online so more people could participate and discuss certain topics. He thanked the board for their time and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Medio said if students do not have a textbook he believes the reason is because there is not one in the curriculum. He said Dr. Gruccio will look into this matter. Mr. Medio wished everyone a happy holiday.

Dr. Mounier thanked Mr. Davis and Mr. Parrish for speaking up about discipline, which is a very serious problem in the school. He feels the discipline problems at the middle schools are not being dealt with properly or in a timely manner and they become a problem at the high school. Dr. Mounier said we need to take a very serious look at discipline from the very beginning and he would like to see the discipline policy uniformly observed. He said that he hopes everyone enjoys their holiday.

Mrs. Phillips commended the three speakers from the high school for the work they are doing. She said it is a valuable asset at the high school to have an active parent association. Mrs. Phillips also commended Ms. Davidson for the issue she spoke about tonight. She wished all students, staff, parents and community members a very happy holiday and healthy new year.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked the high school parents for their involvement as well as Ms. Davidson for her comments. He said that Mr. Burke pointed out at a previous meeting that he abstained on a vote for the assistant principal positions at the preschool and middle school. Mr. DiGiorgio said he wanted to explain his votes. He said that he abstained tonight on the chess club because his son is going to be a member of that club. Mr. DiGiorgio said his wife is an employee in the district and works in the preschool where the assistant principal was going to be hired. He said any other time he abstained on personnel decisions was probably because there was someone close to him involved.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he does not work in any gray area when it comes to conflicts of interest and apologized if he offended anyone in the public when he abstained. He wished everyone a happy holiday and new year.

Mr. Fanucci wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Buon Natale.

Mr. English thanked Ms. Davidson, Mr. Irizarry and members of the Vineland High School PTSO for stepping up to the plate and batting for the students. He said the question is why the authority of transferring students to the alternative school was taken from the high school administration. Mr. English said he would like to see the superintendent or assistant superintendent invited to a future PTSO meeting. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe new year.

Mr. Mercado thanked Mr. DeSanto and Dr. Gruccio for responding to his questions in regards to the assistant principal position at Dallago School. He said that he voted no for that position because the posting incorrectly stated that the position required early childhood experience. Mr. Mercado said he did not believe that part time substituting or non-continuous teaching employment met that code. He sends his condolences to the Acosta family on the passing of their son, Joe Acosta, a security guard at the high school. Mr. Mercado thanked Mr. Davis, Mr. Parrish and Mr. DeWinne and hopes we can get on top of the discipline issues at the high school. He wished everyone a happy holiday and new year.

Ms. Rios wished everyone a safe and joyous holiday, Felix Navidad.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich thanked the parents for their participation. He said the entire board is concerned about discipline and want a safe nurturing environment where students can be free of intimidation. Mr. Ulrich said we have a very diverse population and there are a lot of problems. He said we can all work together to accomplish the goals of the VHS PTSO. Mr. Ulrich said discipline has to be consistent, fair and include due process. He said we can modify and change the policy along with making people accountable for not following the discipline code. Mr. Ulrich said if the board can be mindful of decorum, procedure and due process we will arrive at more solutions than problems. He said tonight we had an excellent first technology ad hoc committee meeting.

Mr. Ulrich stated that Mr. DiGiorgio always contacts him when there is a conflict and he is going to abstain on a vote. He wished all the staff and students a safe and happy holiday.

Dr. Gruccio thanked the board for their patience with her as she is filling in for Dr. Banks. She wished everyone a very healthy happy blessed holiday season.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned to executive session at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin J. Franchetta, CPA
Board Secretary

KJF:df