



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm

VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm

VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

January 26, 2021

Based on the recent attention with COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus, and the potential impact on our community, the Verona Public Schools will be conducting the Verona Board of Education meeting remotely via Zoom webinar. There will also be limited in person seating up to ten members of the public on a first come, first serve basis. This meeting is scheduled to occur with public access and participation availability to ensure the continued regular operation of government and the health, safety, and well-being of our community members. **The next meeting of the Verona Board of Education will be held via zoom webinar. The public shall utilize the following instructions to call into the meeting:**

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/95605898126>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13126266799,,95605898126# or +16465189805,,95605898126#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 518 9805 or +1 213 338 8477

Webinar ID: 956 0589 8126

- Anyone from the public wishing to address the Verona Board of Education on any matter, when prompted by the Verona Board of Education will be able to raise their hand using the Raise Hand button on their device or dial \*9 if you called in (please [click here](#) to determine how to raise your hand using your device). When you are advised it is your turn to address the Verona Board of Education, please state your name and address for the record. You will have time to address the Verona Board of Education. At the conclusion of your comments the Verona Board of Education and/or the Superintendent of Schools may address your comments and/or questions.
- Please make sure you have the current version of Zoom updated on your device in order to have the capability to use the Raise Hand function to make public comments or ask questions.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs recently stated that “the Division of Local Government Services reminds local units that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq., (the “Open Public Meetings Act,” or “Act”), public meetings may be held in person or by means of communication equipment, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), to include streaming services and other online meeting platforms. All meetings, including those held using communications equipment, must be noticed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Act, unless the meeting is for emergent circumstances and held in a manner consistent with the requirements set forth at N.J.S.A. 10:4-9(b). Local units should also provide guidance to the public for remotely accessing and providing comment at a meeting. Local units should still have an advertised meeting place, which is connected to the meeting through communications equipment, unless otherwise directed by state or local emergency management or health officials, consistent with Executive Order 103 (Murphy 3/9/2020).”

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**January 26, 2021**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on January 26, 2021 via ZOOM webinar at 7:02 p.m.**

**The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernest Turner. A statement was made that the meeting had been properly advertised in the designated newspapers and the agendas were posted at the appropriate locations.**

**The following members of the Board were present: Mrs. Lisa Freschi, President, Vice President, Mr. Jim Day, Mr. Timothy Alworth, Mrs. Pamela Priscoe and Mrs. Sara Drappi. Also present was Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent and Mr. Ernest Turner, Acting Board Secretary.**

**There were 56 members of the public present. There was 0 members of the press present.**



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VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE  
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January 26, 2021

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
6. Presentations - Mr. Merkler - Athletics - Fall Sports Awards  
Connor O'Brien - Update on construction
7. Committee Reports
  - Athletic/Co-Curricular - Pamela Priscoe/Timothy Alworth
  - Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
  - Facilities - Pamela Priscoe/Jim Day
  - Finance - Lisa Freschi/Jim Day
8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items to be Approved
9. Discussion Items
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 9, 2021** beginning with a Confidential Session at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session **via ZOOM webinar** pending the evolving nature of COVID-19.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Reading of Meeting Notice**

This meeting is being conducted in compliance with the open meeting session that the Verona Board of Education passed a resolution at its annual reorganization meeting held on January 5, 2021. The meeting set forth the schedule of its regular meetings which resolution was within 7 days of passage. The schedule was sent to the Verona Cedar Grove Times, the Star Ledger, the Township of Verona and the VEA. Postings of this meeting setting forth the time location and agenda were posted at the Verona Board of Education Office and on the Verona Public Schools district website. The Verona Board of Education operates under a consent agenda format, any board member has the right to have an item pulled to be voted upon or discussed separately. Copies of tonight's agenda and resolutions have been made available to the public and press.

**4. Roll Call Attendance**

Mr. Alworth	<u>  X  </u>	Mr. Day	<u>  X  </u>
Mrs. Drappi	<u>  X  </u>	Mrs. Freschi	<u>  X  </u>
Mrs. Priscoe	<u>  X  </u>		

**5. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools -**

Good evening everyone. Vincent DeLucia of NJSBA will be presenting at the next public Board of Education meeting on micro-aggressions and forms of bias.

VHS & HBW are operating on their revised school schedules since meeting with the reconvened committees. The elementary schools committee met again last week. Although there is no change to the schedule at this time due to the constraints and challenges with the schedule, our elementary principals will be presenting at a future Board meeting to provide the Board with an update. Thank you to all of our staff, parents, administrators and students who participated in the committees.

The Board has a resolution up for approval this evening finalizing the HVAC contract for HBW and our four elementary schools. Windows are being installed at HBW and FNB will follow shortly thereafter. Mr. O'Brien of Legacy Construction Management will now provide a more detailed update on the windows.

We have been conducting confidential interviews for a school business administrator. We have completed first round interviews and Mr. Turner is now working with me on second round interviews. We anticipate the process will run into March as we search for the new business administrator and Board secretary for our school district. The Board of Education will also interview the finalists for this position because of the Board Secretary role. I will continue to provide updates for the Board as we proceed throughout the process.

Mr. Turner and I have begun the budget process for the 2021-22 school year. We anticipate the Governor's Budget Address on State Aid in late February. We also hope to receive the increases to health care premiums in late February. In the meantime, Mr. Turner and Mr. Ballaj will work with me on the budget process and I will coordinate any requests with our administrative team.

As everyone is aware, the COVID vaccine is becoming more readily available and some of our staff have recently been contacted regarding appointments to be vaccinated. In anticipation of our staff receiving opportunities to receive the vaccine, the District communicated to our staff that they are permitted to schedule asynchronous instruction and/or have substitute coverage for in-person learning for the duration of the vaccination appointment if their appointment is scheduled during school hours. We are also going to be communicating adjustments to their schedule should they develop. In addition, the District is taking proactive measures and exploring any possible options with local, regional, and state governments regarding vaccine distribution for staff either in one of our schools or a local site to expedite staff vaccination, if possible.

Spring Break is the week of March 29th through April 2nd. We will be reviewing the transmission rate, monitor the impact to our schools in March, and discuss any quarantine that may be necessary or recommended by the Montclair Health Department at that time as the weeks unfold. We will provide an update on guidance as soon as we have the available information.

**6. Presentations - Mr. Merkler - Athletics**

**7. Committee Reports -**

Mrs. Priscoe updated on Athletics

Mrs. Drappi updated on Education

Mr. Day updated on Facilities

Mrs. Freschi updated on Finance

**8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items to be Approved - None**

**9. Discussion Items**

**10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**

**11. Public Comments -**

**Ron Mueller - 21 Linden Ave.** - on re-opening committee. Discussions still on-going.

**Jackie Fricke - 65 Grove Ave.** - Question, movement on the benchmarks and the reason for movement. What is the criteria? How do you move into stage 4?

Dr. Dionisio responded that all aspects are being monitored with the goal of moving into stage 4 which is the best situation for students.

**Chris Wacha - 85 Lynwood Rd.** - Planning could have been better.

Students will not be vaccinated by September. Suggests parental waiver to allow kids back in school.

**Daniat & Val Brava -6 Cliff St.**- Discussed affordable housing.

Concerned that the image of affordable housing will bring out the worst in people.

**Suzanne Welsh - 58 Hamilton Rd.** - Commended Mr. Merkler on his communication skills. Concerned that high school seniors are missing events. What planning is in place for graduation, prom, senior day, etc.?

Dr. Dionisio responded.

**Toral Patel - 169 Forest Ave.** - HBW team is recognized. Appreciates diversity task force. Recommends that curricular takes place in elementary school.

Mr. Miller responded on status of diversity council.

**Julia Allen - 116 Elmwood Rd.** - Is the district looking for lunch aides?

Dr. Dionisio responded - proactive measure for the future.

**Motion by:** Mr. Alworth

**Seconded by:** Mr. Day

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 17.**

Mr. Alworth   X                        Mr. Day   X  

Mrs. Drappi   X                        Mrs. Freschi   X  

Mrs. Priscoe   X  

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RESOLUTIONS**  
**January 26, 2021**

The following resolutions have been recommended by the Superintendent to the Board of Education.

**#1      RESOLVED** that the Board approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting    January 5, 2021

## **PERSONNEL**

#2 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

### **2.1 Reclassification of Days**

<b>Employee #</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>#103280</b>	Reclassify 5 Personal Illness Days to 5 Family Illness Days

### **2.2 Leave of Absence**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Begin Date</b>	<b>Estimated Return Date on or about</b>
<b>#103280</b>	NJFMLA	Jan. 11, 2021	Apr. 9, 2021
<b>#100238</b>	Unpaid Leave	Jan. 19, 2021	Feb. 22, 2021
<b>#100732</b>	504 Accommodation	Jan. 19, 2021	Sept. 1, 2021
<b>#102641</b>	504 Accommodation	Jan. 25, 2021	Sept. 1, 2021
<b>#100704</b>	Unpaid Leave	Feb. 5, 2021	Sept. 1, 2021

### **2.3 Extra Class**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Term of Employment on or about</b>
<b>Pete Foster</b>	HBW	Social Studies	\$5,103.56	Jan. 11, 2021 - Apr. 3, 2021
<b>Maggie Manning</b>	HBW	Social Studies	\$2,945.43	Jan. 11, 2021 - Apr. 3, 2021
<b>Carol Lynn Moy</b>	HBW	Social Studies	\$5,401.42	Jan. 11, 2021 - Apr. 3, 2021
<b>MaryBeth Sfraga</b>	HBW	Social Studies	\$3,203.20	Jan. 11, 2021 - Apr. 3, 2021

### **2.4 Resignation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective on or About</b>
<b>Daniel Corrado</b>	HBW	Health and Physical Education	resignation	March 23, 2021

## **EDUCATION**



- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the Superintendent's presentation of HIB report as follows:

HIB Case
VHS 220319
VHS 220223

- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Monthly Attendance Report for December 2020.
- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve **Christine Garson** to provide up to 17 hours of interpretation services as needed for IEP meetings, etc. for the 2020 – 2021 school year in an amount not to exceed \$800.00.
- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve **Christine Garson** to provide support in the Apex Spanish program for the 2020 – 2021 school year to specified students for one hour per week in an amount not to exceed \$1,160.00.
- #7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

**7.1 Mentor**

Novice Teacher	Location	Mentor	Stipend	# of mentoring weeks
Lauren D'Imperio	VHS	Erik Lynch	Waived	30 weeks

**7.2 Attendance at Conference**

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Amy Quinn	District	All-Access Subscription Through Summit	SY 20-21	\$229.00
Andria Rosenberg	FNB/Laning	All-Access Subscription Through Summit	SY 20-21	\$229.00
Dana Garcia	Laning	Therapeutic Services, Inc./webinar	Feb. 8, 2021	\$225.00

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

- #8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

**8.1 Home Instructor**

Name
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Derek Felano

## **8.2     Student Home Instruction**

<b>Student #</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Hrs./Week/Duration</b>	<b>Beginning on or about</b>
<b>#240016</b>	VHS	9	4-8 weeks	Jan. 5, 2021
<b>#322884</b>	FOR	1	40 hours	Jan. 27, 2021
<b>#232032</b>	VHS	10	2 hr. per week/ remainder of school year	Jan. 21, 2021

- #9     RESOLVED** that the Board approve to add Wilentz Attorneys at Law as a vendor for the Verona School District.

## **ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR**

- #10     RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following for the 2020-2021 school year:

### **10.1     Coaches**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b>Step</b>
<b>Jackie Iannucci</b>	VHS	Head Swim	\$5,997.00	3
<b>Alexandra Domanski</b>	VHS	Assistant Swim	\$3,711.00	1
<b>Gene Leporati</b>	VHS	Girls Winter Track	\$6,770.00	3
<b>Laura Palmerezzi</b>	VHS	Boys Winter Track	\$6,770.00	3
<b>Jake Farrell</b>	VHS	JV Boys Basketball	\$5,635	1
<b>Greg Davidson</b>	VHS	Volunteer - JV Boys Basketball	NA	
<b>Mike O'Neill</b>	VHS	Assistant Football	TBD	3
<b>Sarah Weber</b>	VHS	Head Varsity Field Hockey	TBD	1

- #11     RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following Hold Harmless Agreement between the Verona Board of Education and the Caldwell Community Center for the Verona High School Swim Team.

## **REFERENDUM**

- #12     RESOLVED** that the Board approve Change Order #1 with Open Systems Integrators, Inc. to provide upgrades to the Fire Alarm system at Laning Ave. School in the following manner:

Original Contract Amount	\$104,785.00
Change Order #1	\$11,222.00
Total Revised Contract	\$116,007.00

- #13 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Change Order #8 with Picerno Giordano Construction to provide repairs to rubber surfacing at FN Brown School due to vandalism which occurred on July 30, 2020. Repair includes removal and replacement of affected areas. Contract to be amended in the following manner:

Original Contract Amount	\$796,238.00
Previous Change Orders	\$91,306.28
Change Order #8	\$5,000.00
Total Revised Contract	\$892,544.28

### **FINANCE**

- #14 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the enclosed checklist(s) in the following amounts:

<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Check Register Date</u></b>
\$3,683,513.00	Vendor Checks	January 22, 2021
\$ 381,486.97	Referendum Checks	January 22, 2021

- #15 RESOLVED** that the Report of the Secretary for the period(s) as follows be approved:

December, 2020

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.13(e), that as of July 31, 2020 after review of the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund, has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C 6:20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- #16 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the following month:

December, 2020

### **#11 Public comments**

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

- #17     **RESOLVED** that the Board meet in private session, from which the public shall be excluded, to discuss the topics of negotiations and personnel or potential litigation which private discussion is being held pursuant to Section 7b and 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act. The matters under discussion will be disclosed to the public as soon as final decisions are made and voted upon.

**Motion by:**     Mr. Day

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Drappi

Mr. Alworth       X                        Mr. Day               X  

Mrs. Drappi       X                        Mrs. Freschi         X  

Mrs. Priscoe       X  

**All in Favor:**       AYE  

**All Opposed:**       NONE  

**This meeting is adjourned at (TIME)   8:28   P.M.**

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS**

**January 26, 2021**

The following resolutions have been recommended by the Superintendent to the Board of Education.

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Drappi

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolutions #1 - 3.**

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

## **PERSONNEL**

**#1 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

### **1.1 Resignation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective on or About</b>
<b>Kimberley Petersen</b>	FNB	Paraprofessional	resignation	Feb. 8, 2021
<b>Diana Romano</b>	LAN	Paraprofessional	resignation	Feb. 5, 2021

### **1.2 New Hire**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Term of Employment on or about</b>
<b>Kimberly Craven</b>	VHS	Permanent Substitute Teacher	\$120/per diem	Education	SY 20-21

## **CO-CURRICULAR**

**#2 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

### **2.1 Clubs**

<b>Advisor</b>	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b>Term of Employment</b>
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Lauren D'Imperio	Music Honor Society	VHS	\$350.00	SY 20-21
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### **REFERENDUM**

- #3      **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the contract with Environmental Climate Control, Inc. in the amount of \$6,200,000 consistent with the award of the work on December 22, 2020.