



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
February 9, 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/96342843547>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16465189805,,93642843547# or +13126266799,,93642843547#

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

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

US: +

Webinar ID: 936 4284 3547

- 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

February 9, 2021

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on February 9, 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 42 members of the public present. There was 1 member of the press present.



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February 9, 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 - Vincent R. De Lucia, Educator-in-Residence and Director of Mandatory Training/Professional Development at NJ Schools Boards Association - Inherent Bias & Microaggressions
7. Committee Reports -
 - Education/Special Education
 - Athletics/Co-Curricular
 - Facilities
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 23, 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 and welcome. We have certainly had our fair share of snow over the past week. I would like to thank our Verona Township Public Works and Mr. Higgins and the Verona Public Schools District Facilities Department for their efforts last week with snow removal. It was an incredible amount of snow totaling approximately 30 inches with little place to move it in a short amount of time. Thank you all for your efforts. On behalf of our school district, I had the opportunity to co-write a letter with our Essex County Superintendents to Governor Murphy petitioning him to prioritize COVID vaccine distribution for teachers and support staff who work closely with our students. We remain hopeful that we will have access to the vaccine as soon as possible. Additionally, our District has been collaborating with different medical providers and government officials in an effort to secure access to the administration of the COVID vaccine for our entire faculty and staff. Although we do not yet have confirmation on vaccine administration for our staff, we remain hopeful that it will become a possibility in the near future. Lastly, our elementary principals will provide an update on the progress and ideas from the elementary school reopening committee at the next Board of Education meeting on February 23rd.

6. **Presentations - Vincent R. De Lucia, Educator-in-Residence and Director of Mandatory Training/Professional Development at NJ Schools Boards Association - Inherent Bias & Microaggressions**

7. Committee Reports -

- Education/Special Education - Mrs. Drappi reported
- Athletics/Co-Curricular - Mr. Alworth reported
- Facilities - Mr. Day reported

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

9. Discussion Items

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

11. Public Comments - None

Motion by: Mrs. Drappi

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 8.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
February 9, 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 25, 2021
January 26, 2021

PERSONNEL

#2 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following pending pre-employment paperwork:

2.1 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Thomas Reid	VHS	Permanent Substitute Teacher	\$120/per diem	Education	SY 20-21
Ryan Brown	HBW	Physical Education Teacher	MA/Step 2/ \$57,084	Education	Mar. 23 - Jun. 30, 2021

2.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Sara O'Connor	HBW	5th Grade Math Teacher	Resignation	Sept. 1, 2021

2.3 Reclassification of Days

Employee #	Explanation
#102793	Reclassify 6 Personal Illness Days to 6 Family Illness Days

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

3.1 Home Instructor

Name
Derek Felano

#4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to request county approval to waive the district from participation in the 2021 – 2022 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) due to the district's estimated low eligibility rate.

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve that "The Verona Board of Education has reviewed and certified Verona School Districts Submission to the New Jersey Department of Education Student Safety Data System (SSDS) for Report Period 1 (9/1/20-12/31/20)."

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

6.1 Coaches

Name	Location	Position	Stipend	Step
Gina Condorelli	VHS	Strength and Conditioning	\$3,417.00	N/A
Ken Lilien	VHS	Head Ice Hockey	\$10,812.00	3
Stephen Ruggiero	VHS	JV Ice Hockey	\$6,866.00	3
Max Thiele	VHS	Asst. Ice Hockey	\$4,000.00	3

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$20,650.43	Referendum Check	February 5, 2021

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve a donation of \$500 from NJ Energy Corporation to be used for the Science Department at Verona High School.

#11 Public comments - None

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#9 **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: Mrs. Drappi

Seconded by: Mr. Day

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) 8:42 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS

February 9, 2021

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

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mr. Alworth

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 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Ryan Morik	District	Sub Teacher	\$90/per diem	Education	SY 20-21

1.2 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#102306	504 Accommodation	Feb. 8, 2021	Feb. 25, 2021

CO-CURRICULAR

#2 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

2.1 Spring Musical

Advisor	Club Name	Location	Stipend	Term of Employment	
Brian Michalowski	100% Spring Musical - Choral Director	HBW	\$4,041.00	SY 20-21	RESCIND
Marisa Albano	100% Spring Musical - Choral Director	HBW	\$4,041.00	SY 20-21	RESCIND
Brian Michalowski	87% Spring Musical - Choral Director	HBW	\$3,541.00	SY 20-21	APPROVE
Marisa Albano	87% Spring Musical - Choral Director	HBW	\$3,541.00	SY 20-21	APPROVE
Barbara Piercy	13% Choral Director	HBW	\$500.00	SY 20-21	
Barbara Piercy	13% Play Director	HBW	\$500.00	SY 20-21	

- #3 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the Interlocal Services Agreement between the Board and the Borough of Caldwell, dated and retroactive to February 1, 2021, and further ratifying and confirming Dr. Dionisio's execution of the same.