



SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 4:00 pm
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
March 18, 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. The meeting will be conducted fully via remote teleconference. 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/94051002463?pwd=M2Jsa2FVQ1BLbWNNSkdFdHRNY3kzd09>

Passcode: 856170

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16465189805,,94051002463# or +13126266799,,94051002463#

Or Telephone:

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

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

Webinar ID: 940 5100 2463

- 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

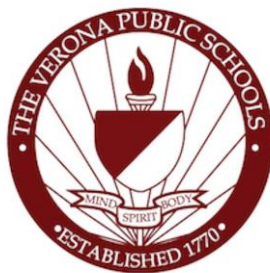
March 18, 2021

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on March 18, 2021 via ZOOM webinar at 4:00 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 48 members of the public present. There was 1 member of the press present.



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1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call Attendance
4. Presentations - Submission of Preliminary Tentative Budget to
Essex County Superintendent of Schools
5. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items to be Approved
6. Roll Call Vote on Resolution
7. Public Comments

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 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. Roll Call Attendance**

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

- 4. Presentations - Submission of Preliminary Tentative Budget to
Essex County Superintendent of Schools**
- 5. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items to be Approved**
- 6. Roll Call Vote on Resolution**
- 7. Public Comments - None**

Motion by: Mr. James Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Sara Drappi

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolution #1

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
March 18, 2021

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

FINANCE

- #1 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the tentative budget be approved for the 2021-2022 School Year using the 2021-2022 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2021-22 Total Expenditures	\$38,148,540	\$868,390	\$5,219,633	\$44,236,563
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$ 2,514,391</u>	<u>\$868,390</u>	<u>\$1,384,151</u>	<u>\$ 4,766,932</u>
Taxes to be Raised	\$35,634,149	\$0	\$3,835,482	\$39,469,631

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Star Ledger in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held virtually via ZOOM link will be found on district website, on April 27, 2021 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement
2021-2022**

WHEREAS, the Verona Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$10,000 for all staff and board members.

- #7 Public comments - Laura Siligato - 31 Grove Ave.** - CDC guidelines have reduced distancing from 6 ft. to 3 ft. How will this affect the school environment?
Dr. Dionisio responded - replied that Verona will follow guidelines.
Ron Mueller - 21 Linden Ave. - Asked about the budget. Dr. Dionisio responded that this is a preliminary budget and will be approved by the Department of Education.

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

- #2 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: Mr. Alworth

Mr. Alworth X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe -

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: NONE

This meeting is adjourned at 4:19 PM.