

PUBLIC MEETING

April 11, 2023

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on April 11, 2023 at 7:09 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Jorge Cruz, Board Secretary.

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. Pamela Priscoe, President, Mrs. Diana Ferrera, Vice President, Mrs. Lisa Freschi, Denise Verzella and Mr. Christopher Wacha. Also present was Mrs. Diane DiGiuseppe, Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator.

There was 1 member of the public present. There were 0 members of the press present.



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION –6:00 pm
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS

April 11, 2023

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report - Diane DiGiuseppe
6. Student Representative Report - Reese Sahadow
7. Committee Reports -
 - Athletics
 - Governance and Policy
8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items
9. Discussion Items
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments

Live streaming link: <https://youtube.com/live/PIDjQIzU-Js?feature=share>

The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 25, 2023** beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session in the Verona High School Learning Commons.

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 3, 2023. The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provision of the act, the Verona Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published in the *Star Ledger*, posted with the Township of Verona and the Verona Education Association. 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. Copies of tonight's agenda and resolutions have been made available to the public via the Board of Education Website.

4. **Roll Call Attendance**

Mr. Wacha	<u> X </u>	Mrs. Verzella	<u> X </u>
Mrs. Ferrera	<u> X </u>	Mrs. Priscoe	<u> X </u>
Mrs. Freschi <u> X </u>			

5. **Superintendent Report - Diane DiGiuseppe**

Ms. DiGiuseppe has contacted Dr. Grip at Statistical Forecast to get an update on the demographic study. I will report on the status as soon as she gets one.

Ms. DiGiuseppe is actively working on setting up the folders at the NJ School Boards' website for Superintendent Self-Evaluation; it should be done by early May.

We have not had much time between spring break and the last meeting, so the bulk of the Board report for the public portion of the meeting is brief; the bulk of the Board update that consisted of issues was conducted during the confidential session.

6. **Student Representative Report - Reese Sahadow**

I. **Student Report**

- A. Spring break will be running from April 7 until April 16.
- B. With the final strategic planning session on the horizon, I'll be promoting it around the school via announcements, flyers, social media posts, and a link on google classroom.
- C. The marketing classes recently took a field trip to MetLife Arena, where they met with professionals to discuss careers and toured the stadium.

- D. Congratulations to the Spotlight Players for receiving two nominations to the Montclair Theater Night Awards, one for Outstanding Achievement by an Acting Ensemble of a Play with Elevated Language and another for Outstanding Achievement in Student Stage Management by Stephanie Zimany.

7. Committee Reports

- Athletics
 - Mrs. Priscoe provide an update regarding spring sports. Also discussion regarding facilities usage and possibility adding an additional tier. This will be discussed in finance and the policy committee as well. Due to track damage, one lane will not be used until the repairs are made.
- Governance and Policy - will meet after the break.

8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items - None

9. Discussion Items - Mrs. Ferrera asked about the strategic plan survey for middle school students. Mrs. DiGiuseppe confirmed that she'll share the sample survey with the rest of the board, for those that don't have students at HBW. Mrs. Verzella commented on the middle school play and performance. Staff and students did a fantastic job. Mrs. Freschi shared information regarding a VFEE event on May 12th honoring Verona nurses and staff.

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

11. Public Comments

Please note that the public participation portion of the meeting affords an opportunity for the public to share thoughts and comments about school related topics. By law, administrators and Board of Education members are not permitted to publicly discuss personnel matters, student discipline, or other issues requiring confidentiality. While we may not respond to comments during the meeting, all input that is shared with the Board of Education is taken very seriously, and helps inform future deliberations and work by the Board and its committees. Answers appear in many forms including, but not limited to: email, Superintendent/ Committee reports, Board statements, FAQs on website, or after public comment is closed. We appreciate and thank all members of the public for your input.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTIONS

April 11, 2023

I. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

- #1 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Regular Public Meeting March 28, 2023

Motion by: Mrs. Freschi

Seconded by: Mrs. Verzella

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1

Mr. Wacha X

Mrs. Verzella X

Mrs. Ferrera X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

III. PERSONNEL

- #1 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

- 1.1 New Hires** -pending successful completion of pre-employment paperwork.

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Abigail Nochimson	District	Sub Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 2022 - 2023
Robert Lynch	District	Sub Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 2022 - 2023
Maria Kennedy	District	Sub Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 2022 - 2023
Bernadette Marino	District	Sub Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 2022 - 2023
Ronny Denburg	District	Sub Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 2022 - 2023

Stephanie Herrmann	District	Sub Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 2022 - 2023
Catherine Giacomazza	FOR	Sub Lunch Aide	\$15.00/hr.	Education	SY 2022 - 2023

1.2 Permanent Substitute Teacher

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Marisa Zysk	FNB	Permanent Sub Teacher - Mon., Tues., and Fri.	\$125/per diem	Education	Apr. 3 - Jun. 22, 2023

1.3 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105691	Mar. 27, 2023	1 Day/Unpaid
#102166	Mar. 29, 30, 31, 2023	3 Days/Unpaid
#105604	Mar. 29, 30, 2023	2 Days/Unpaid
#105348	Apr. 3, 2023	1 Day/Unpaid
#105597	Apr. 3, 2023	1 Day/Unpaid Sick
#105701	Apr. 3, 2023	1 Day/Unpaid Sick
#101451	Apr. 6, 2023	1 Day/Unpaid

1.4 Extra Pay

Name	Dates From/To	Position	Pay rate	Reason
Norma Palmer	Mar. 22-23-24-25-26, 2023	School Nurse	64.6 hrs. at \$43.00/per hr. Total \$2,777.80	VHS Band Trip/Orlando, FLA

1.5 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about	Notes
#100559	Leave of Absence	Aug. 31, 2023	Sept. 1, 2024	M. Perri

Motion by: Mr. Wacha

Seconded by: Mrs. Freschi

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 1.5

Mr. Wacha X

Mrs. Verzella X

Mrs. Ferrera X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

IV. EDUCATION

- #1 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

1.1 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Tania Symmons	Bd. Ofc.	NJASA/NJAPSA Spring Leadership Conference	May 17-19, 2023	Registration \$550.00 Hotel \$241.26 Mileage \$194.26 Meals \$147.50 Total \$1,133.02

- #2 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that Garden State Audio L.L.C. to provide audio and live stream services for the 2023 VHS graduation and HBW promotion ceremony at Verona High School with an estimated cost of \$9,000.00.

- #3 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

3.1 Recommendation for Video Adoption

Name	Location	Course	Grade
Jerry and Marge Go Large	VHS	CP Stat/Discrete Math	11-12

Motion by: Mrs. Ferrera

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 3.1

Mr. Wacha X

Mrs. Verzella X

Mrs. Ferrera X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

V. SPECIAL EDUCATION

#1 RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

1.1 Home Instructor

Name
Yan (Jenny) Qin

#2 RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

1.2 C.H.I.L.D. Grants

Grant Recipients	School	Name of Grant	Amount of Grant
Corisa Walker	BRK/FNB	C.H.I.L.D.	\$400.00
Sage Nardi	LAN	C.H.I.L.D.	\$400.00
Crystal Cruz	LAN VPP	C.H.I.L.D.	\$400.00

Motion by: Mrs. Ferrera

Seconded by: Mrs. Verzella

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 1.2

Mr. Wacha X

Mrs. Verzella X

Mrs. Ferrera X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

VI. ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#1 RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

1.1 Field Trip

Name	School	Club/Destination	Date of Field Trip	Notes
Mordkovich/Hou	VHS	French/Mandarin/ UN Headquarters, NY	Jun. 9, 2023	
C. Nevill	VHS	Band/Lincoln Center & St. John the Apostle Church, NY	Apr. 15-16-27, 2023	
Mrs. Shust/ Mrs. McHugh/ Mrs. Halliday	VHS	Band/Lincoln Center & St. John the Apostle Church, NY	Apr. 15-16-27, 2023	VHS Parent Chaperones

1.2 Coach

Name	Location	Position	Stipend	Committee	Employment Date/s
John Freedman	VHS	Boys' Lacrosse Volunteer	NA	Athletics	SY 22-23

Motion by: Mr. Wacha

Seconded by: Mrs. Ferrera

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 1.2

Mr. Wacha X

Mrs. Verzella X

Mrs. Ferrera X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

VII. FINANCE

- #1 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the enclosed checklist(s) in the following amounts based on the recommendation of the Superintendent:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$ 4,123.34	HBW	April 11, 2023
\$ 49,038.58	Food Service	April 11, 2023
\$ 3,932.00	VHS	April 11, 2023
\$349,470.20	General	April 11, 2023

- #2 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a donation from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation for \$500.00 for FNB Peer Mediation.

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Report of the Secretary for the period(s) as follows:

February 2023

- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the following month:

February 2023

- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the attached list of individual transfers of line items in the 2022-2023 budget for:

February 2023

Motion by: Mrs. Freschi

Seconded by: Mrs. Verzella

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 5

Mr. Wacha X

Mrs. Verzella X

Mrs. Ferrera X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

VIII. GOVERNANCE & POLICY

- #1 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve to accept the HIB report for March 28, 2023 to April 10, 2023.

Motion by: Mrs. Freschi

Seconded by: Mrs. Ferrera

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1

Mr. Wacha X

Mrs. Verzella X

Mrs. Ferrera X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please note that the public participation portion of the meeting affords an opportunity for the public to share thoughts and comments about school related topics. By law, administrators and Board of Education members are not permitted to publicly discuss personnel matters, student discipline, or other issues requiring confidentiality. While we may not respond to comments during the meeting, all input that is shared with the Board of Education is taken very seriously, and helps inform future deliberations and work by the Board and its committees. Answers appear in many forms including, but not limited to: email, Superintendent/ Committee reports, Board statements, FAQs on website, or after public comment is closed. We appreciate and thank all members of the public for your input.

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

- #1 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 to adjourn the meeting:

Motion by: Mrs. Freschi

Second by: Mrs. Verzella

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: None

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 7:32 P.M.