



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm  
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm  
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR  
April 13, 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 in-person access for the public. 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/96439349574?pwd=V0hpYkFvR1pPV0FNS0ZOVit4aXE4Zz09>

Passcode: 320059

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16465189805,,96439349574# or +13126266799,,96439349574#

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: 964 3934 9574

- 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**

**April 13, 2021**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on April 13, 2021 via ZOOM webinar at 7:00 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 59 members of the public present. There was 1 member of the press present.**



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm  
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm  
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR  
April 13, 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 - Preliminary Budget Presentation
7. Committee Reports
  - Athletic/Co-Curricular - Pamela Priscoe/Timothy Alworth
  - Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
  - Facilities - Pamela Priscoe/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, March 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** - We have several resolutions tonight regarding staff members worth noting. We are sad to see a resignation from Mrs. Abovitz as she will be relocating with her family. Thank you for your service to our students over the past several years. Congratulations to Mrs. Foley Administrative Assistant at Laning, Mrs. Gero 2nd Grade teacher at Forest Avenue School, and Mrs. McNeal HBW Principal, and Mrs. Quick VHS English teacher on their retirements. Thank you for all that you have done for our schools and students and we wish you well in the next chapter of your retirement.

Thank you for the Sustainable Jersey Grant awarded to HBW for the community garden and to Mrs. Thomas and so many other community volunteers who have been instrumental in making the HBW community garden project possible.

The elementary schools have transitioned to one cohort 5 days a week in-person instruction effective last Tuesday April 6th based on the recently updated guidance from the CDC and NJDOH which allows for 3 feet distance in between students. The daily schedule runs from 8:30-12:30 pm in-person with remote learning in the afternoon. The updated NJDOH guidance allows movement to 3 feet distance between students instead of 6 feet. It is great to see our students in school every day resulting in a lot of smiles on people's faces. The classroom teachers and administration continue to monitor the pros and cons of the desk shields as an additional

mitigation strategy. Principals emailed parents an update yesterday on this matter. Desk shields continue to be placed on individual student's desks. Shields were ordered as an additional mitigation strategy several weeks before the CDC removed it from their guidance in anticipation of a possible reduction to 3 feet. This mitigation strategy still exists in the NJDOH guidance. However, the classroom teachers and administration continue to monitor the pros and cons of the desk shields. The desk shields have been a visual reminder of one's physical space for students as we transitioned from six feet to three feet. Students have been successfully adhering to the three feet of social distancing so far. We will continue to evaluate the necessity of this additional mitigation strategy in the weeks ahead as students become more accustomed to the revised social distancing classroom guideline. There will be more follow up in the future from principals and the district.

The middle school recently shifted from a 3 day cohort to a 2 day cohort effective Monday April 5th while maintaining CDC/NJDOH guidance of 6 feet student to student distancing with remote learning in the afternoon.

Verona High School is currently on a 2 cohort in-person schedule with remote learning in the afternoon. Effective April 22nd, VHS cohorts will attend in-person for a full day. The high school will shift to an open campus for students to eat lunch at home/off campus with an option of eating on campus outdoors. Our food service company will provide grab and go lunches for our students.

Last but not least, congratulations to Dean Palmer on 100 career wins in high school wrestling at VHS. This is a major accomplishment. Dean Palmer, John Pavia and Jayden Czupak have also all advanced to Regions. Congratulations. That concludes the Superintendent Report.

**6. Presentations - Preliminary Budget Presentation**

**7. Committee Reports - Athletics - Mr.Alworth/Mrs. Priscoe - gave update on school sports**

**Education - Mr.Alworth/Mrs. Drappi- gave update**

**Facilities - Mrs. Priscoe/Mr. Day- gave update**

**8. Public Comments on Agenda only - None**

**9. Discussion Items**

**10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**

**11. Public Comments - Mike Dupree - 47 Cypress Ave.- Pleased that kids are back in school**

**Julia Allen - 116 Elmwood Rd. - Commented on the desk shields**

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Drappi

Be it **RESOLVED** the approval of Resolutions #1 - 13.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RESOLUTIONS**  
**April 13, 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 March 23, 2021

**PERSONNEL**

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

**2.1 New Hires**

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Jacquelyn Fricke	District	Sub teacher	\$90/per diem	Education	SY 20-21
Jacquelyn Fricke	District	Sub/Perm. Lunch Aide	\$13.50/hr.	Education	SY 20-21
Hysen Myrtolli	District	Bus Driver	\$92/per trip	Athletics	SY 20-21
Hysen Myrtolli	District	Bus Driver	\$21/per hr.	Spec. Ed	SY 20-21

## 2.2 Retirement

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective Date of Retirement</b>
<b>Allison Quick</b>	English Teacher	VHS	Retirement	Jul. 1, 2021
<b>Yvette McNeal</b>	Principal - Olmsted House	HBW	Retirement	Sept. 1, 2021
<b>Deborah Gero</b>	2nd Grade teacher	FOR	Retirement	Jun. 30, 2021
<b>Elizabeth Foley</b>	Admin. Asst.	LAN	Retirement	Jul. 1, 2021

## 2.3 Leave of Absence

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Begin Date</b>	<b>Estimated Return Date on or about</b>
<b>#105360</b>	Maternity leave	Sept. 1, 2021	Sept. 1, 2022
<b>#102149</b>	Medical leave	Jun. 10, 2021	Sept. 1, 2021

## 2.4 Without Pay

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date/s</b>	<b>No. of Days</b>
<b>#105435</b>	Apr. 6, 2021	1 day

## 2.5 Resignation

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective on or About</b>
<b>Ilissa Abovitz</b>	Laning	Speech Language Therapist	Resignation	Jun. 30, 2021
<b>Zachary Wekilsky</b>	VHS	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Apr. 16, 2021

## **EDUCATION**

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

### **3.1 Mentor**

<b>Novice Teacher</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b># of mentoring weeks</b>
<b>Jacquelyn Carsillo</b>	Laning	Pamela Banta	Waived	30 weeks

### **3.2 Curriculum Writing**

<b>Name</b>	<b>No. of Hours</b>	<b>Amount per hour</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Marla Burns</b>	20	\$45.00/per hr.	\$900	Life skills transition ESY program

### **3.3 Movie Adoption**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Grade</b>
The Emperor's New Groove	VHS	Spanish Club	9-12

### **3.4 Attendance at Conference**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Event/Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Brooke Raskin</b>	LAN,BRK,FOR	BCBA certification maintenance/Virtual	Apr. 16, 2021	\$175.00

**#4 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a University of the Cumberlands student (former middle math school teacher at HBW) is working on her dissertation. Her research project is titled: "TPACK Knowledge Base for High School Mathematics Teachers in Online Education"

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**#5 RESOLVED** that the Board approve participation in the Joint Transportation Agreement with Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for Special Education, Athletic, and Field Trip Transportation for the 2021 – 2022 school year per attached contracts.



**#6 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to contract with the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for Nursing Services for Nonpublic Schools, IDEA-B Services, Instructional Services for Chapters 192/193, Public School Home Instruction Services and Public School Child Study Team Services for the 2021 – 2022 school year as needed.

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

**7.1 Student Home Instruction**

<b>Student #</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Hrs./Week/Duration</b>	<b>Beginning on or about</b>
#210025	VHS	11	10 hrs.	Mar. 23, 2021
#231567	VHS	10	10 hrs./wk./6-8 wks.	Mar. 18, 2021

**7.2 Home Instructor**

<b>Name</b>
Lee Ann Rivera

**FINANCE**

**#8 RESOLVED** that the Board accept a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by NJEA awarded to H. B. Whitehorne Middle School.

**#9 RESOLVED** that the daily rate for Verona High School permanent substitute teachers will be increased to \$168 per diem, the daily rate for Verona High School per diem substitute teachers will be increased to \$126 per diem and the F. N. Brown childcare teachers rate will be increased by \$24 per hour effective April 22, 2021 - June 25, 2021.

**#10 RESOLVED** that the Verona Board of Education approve the submission and acceptance of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSR II) funds provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Acts, effective through September 30, 2023 per the amounts listed below:

<b><u>ESSR Allocation</u></b>	<b><u>Learnings Acceleration</u></b>	<b><u>Mental Health Support &amp; Services</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
\$600,906	\$38,563	\$45,000	\$684,469

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

February 2021

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

February 2021

- #13 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of individual transfers of line items in the 2020-2021 budget for:

February 2021

March 2021

**#11 Public comments**

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

- #14 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:** Mrs. Priscoe

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.**