

PUBLIC MEETING

June 8, 2021

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey,

convened in regular session on June 8, 2021 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. Timothy Alworth, Mrs. Pamela Priscoe and Mrs. Sara Drappi, Mr. Day was absent. Also present was Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent and Mr. Ernest Turner, Acting Board Secretary.

There was 1 member of the public present. There was 1 member of the press present.

Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

Presentation - None

Superintendent Report -

Good evening everyone. I have a few updates this evening for the Superintendent's Report.

The recent weather has created a decision to shift to remote learning today and tomorrow. All students and staff Kindergarten through Grade 8 for tomorrow, Wednesday, June 9th will operate on a full remote learning day from home due to excessive temperatures and the impact to our classrooms. We expect regular in-person learning for all students on Thursday, June 10th.

Please note that Laning Pre-K and LLD/LSS programming at the elementary and middle schools will attend school in person on a regular schedule. These rooms either have established climate control and/or the building principal has located a climate controlled area to accommodate these students. YMCA aftercare is cancelled tomorrow. Verona High School is fully air conditioned and will operate on a regular full day schedule.

Although the majority of students and staff were not in our buildings today, the District opened classroom windows to increase air flow and monitored classroom temperatures. Temperatures in many classrooms were above 85 degrees and approached 90 degrees in a number of areas. The use of fans was tested today and had zero effect on reducing classroom temperatures when measured.

The HVAC project went out to bid as scheduled in Spring 2020. Unfortunately, the timing coincided with the height of the pandemic. As a result, the HVAC project bid came in over budget in the Spring due to the global crisis and impact on the economy. In December, the District was able to approve a contract within budget once the market became more stabilized providing more certainty to construction firms bidding on the project.

We recognize these adjustments to the school schedule may pose challenges for some families. We appreciate and thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

For September, the school schedule will be full day with lunch. The administration is currently working on the lunch schedule for next school year. The plan will be shared with staff and parents once it is finalized.

Lastly, the HBW principal search continues. We will continue with the completion of first round interviews this week. A total of 16 candidates out of 58 applications will be interviewed in the first round. Successful candidates will proceed in the process and move onto the second round. Finalists for the position will move onto advisory committee interviews with staff and admin in the third round. We will continue to appease the Board of our progress over the coming weeks as we aim to have the new principal in place before the start of next school year.

That concludes the Superintendent Report for this evening.

Committees -

- Athletic/Co-Curricular - Pamela Priscoe/Timothy Alworth
- Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
- Facilities - Pamela Priscoe/Jim Day
- Community Resources - Lisa Freschi/Jim Day

Discussion Items -



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm

June 8, 2021

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REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm

VERONA HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS

June 8, 2021

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Presentations - None
6. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
7. Committee Reports
 - Athletic/Co-Curricular - Pamela Priscoe/Timothy Alworth
 - Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
 - Facilities - Pamela Priscoe/Jim Day
 - Community Resources - 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, June 22, 2021** beginning with a Confidential Session at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session in the Verona High School Auditorium.

- 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 X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

- 5. Presentations - None**
- 6. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools**
- 7. Committee Reports**
 - Athletic/Co-Curricular - Pamela Priscoe/Timothy Alworth
 - Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
 - Facilities - Pamela Priscoe/Jim Day
 - Community Resources - Lisa Freschi/Jim Day
- 8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items to be Approved**
- 9. Discussion Items - None**
- 10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**
- 11. Public Comments - Melissa Watkins - 69 S. Prospect St. - Concerns about the HVAC**

update. Pleased that work to install HVAC in the schools is continuing.

Motion by: Mrs. Drappi

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 23. Except #7

Mr. Alworth X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
June 8, 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 May 25, 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
Zachary Wroblewski	VHS	60% Instructional Music Teacher	MA/Step 2/ \$34,250	Education	Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022
Taylor Barrett	VHS	Long Term Substitute Administrative Assistant	\$230/per diem	Education	Apr. 28, 2021 - Jun. 25, 2021
Stacy Williamson	LAN	Administrative Assistant	Step 10/ \$45,791	Education	Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022
Debbie Gero	District	Substitute Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22
Beth Foley	District	Substitute Secretary	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22

Allison Quick	District	Substitute Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22
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2.2 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#100238	Extension of Unpaid Leave of Absence	Apr. 20, 2021	Sept. 1, 2021

2.3 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105089	Jun. 2, 2021	1 Day/Personal Unpaid

2.4 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About	Notes
Deborah Skowronski	FNB	Paraprofessional	Resignation	May 26, 2021	RESCIND

#3 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached tenured staff renewals for the 2021-2022 school year.

#4 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached paraprofessional renewals for the 2021-2022 school year.

EDUCATION

#5 RESOLVED that the Board approves the Superintendent's presentation of HIB report as follows:

HIB Case
BRK 221352
BRK 221221

#6 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following for the 2021-2022 school year:

6.1 VSEA

Name	Position	Rate	Dates
Karen Ibold	Paraprofessional	\$15.40/hr.	Jun. 29 - Jul. 27, 2021
Rhanda Kramer	Paraprofessional	\$15.40/hr.	Jun. 29 - Jul. 27, 2021
Keesha Johnson-Thom	Paraprofessional	\$15.40/hr.	Jun. 29 - Jul. 27, 2021

TABLED #7 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached revised 2021-2022 district school calendar.

#8 RESOLVED that the Board approved the Comprehensive Equity Plan Annual Statement of Assurance for the 2021-2022 school year.

#9 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following

- Summer Curriculum Writing
- VHS - ESY Life Skills Programming Curriculum

SPECIAL EDUCATION

#10 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

10.1 Student Home Instruction

Student #	School	Grade	Hrs./Week/Duration	Beginning on or about
#222000	VHS	11	40 hrs. total	Jun. 8, 2021-Jul. 26, 2021

#11 RESOLVED that the Board approve for an out-of-district placement with a 1:1 aide for Student #030414 for the 2021 – 2022 school year, commencing July 6, 2021, at the approximate cost of \$132,008.

#12 RESOLVED that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2021 – 2022 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #281275, who is in an out-of-district placement.

#13 RESOLVED that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2021 – 2022 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #192179, who is in an out-of-district placement.

#14 RESOLVED that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2021 – 2022 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #210011, who is in an out-of-district placement.

#15 RESOLVED that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the remainder of the 2020 – 2021 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #221761, who is in an out-of-district placement.

#16 RESOLVED that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2021 – 2022 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #192179, who is in an out-of-district placement.

- #17 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2021 – 2022 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #230003, who is in an out-of-district placement.

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

- #18 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Professional PT and JAG as providers of per diem substitute athletic trainers for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

19.1 Co-Curricular

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Committee	Employment Date
Corisa Walker	FNB/BRK	\$1,059	One District One Book Coordinator	Education	SY 20-21

FINANCE

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

April 2021

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

April 2021

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

April 2021

#11 Public comments

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#23 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. Priscoe

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) 7:55 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
June 8, 2021

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

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolutions #1 - 4.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

PERSONNEL

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

1.1 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Bilal Genc	District	Network Technician	\$70,000	Education	Jul. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022

1.2 Staff Changes

Name	Current Location/Position	New Location/Position	Effective Date on or about	Amount
Susan Gugger	BRK/4th Grade Teacher	HBW/5th Grade Math Teacher	Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022	BA/Step 6/ \$53,597

EDUCATION

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

2.1 VFEE Grant

Grant Recipients	School	Name of Grant	Grant #	Amount of Grant
Gina Mainella	F.N. Brown	Flexible Seating During A Pandemic: Wiggle Wobble Chair Feet	2021-04	\$498.32

CO-CURRICULAR

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following for the 2021-2022 school year:

3.1 Co-Curricular

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Committee	Employment Date
Meredith Bielen	HBW	\$1,500.00	Dream Team	Education	SY 20-21
MaryAnn Halbert	HBW	\$1,500.00	Dream Team	Education	SY 20-21

FINANCE

- #4 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the Certification of Implementation (COI) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.