

PUBLIC MEETING

October 12, 2021

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on October 21, 2021 at 7:45 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jorge Cruz. 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, and Mr. Day. Also present was Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

There were 3 members of the public present. There were 0 members of the press present.



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

October 12, 2021

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Presentations
6. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
7. Committee Reports
 - Athletics/Co-Curricular
 - Education/Special Education
 - Community Resources
 - Facilities
8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items
9. Discussion Items
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 26, 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	<u> X </u>	Mr. Day	<u> X </u>
Mrs. Drappi	<u> X </u>	Mrs. Freschi	<u> X </u>
		Mrs. Priscoe	<u> X </u>

- 5. Presentations - none**
- 6. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools**

Good evening everyone. The Start Strong statewide testing began last week at the elementary level. HBW is conducting the state assessments this week and VHS is scheduled for testing next week. Thank you to VMAC for a successful VMAC Family Night last week. We would also like to thank the Verona Environmental Commission and all participants in the Walk to School Day. Thank you to the Verona Conference SCA, the Verona Township and local businesses for coordinating the annual Food Truck Festival. We held our first Homework Free Weekend of the year last weekend which I am sure was welcomed by our students. Lastly, the Verona Public Schools 4th annual magazine publication is nearly complete and will be shared in the coming weeks once it is finalized. That concludes the Superintendent Report for this evening.

7. Committee Reports

- Education/Special Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi

Mrs. Drappi provided updates on:

- i. Policy changes
- ii. Diversity Inclusion
- iii. ESSER III funded math intervention teacher
- iv. Montclair State partnership to provide college credit opportunities to HS students

Mr. Alworth provided an update on:

- v. Mental Health Workshops
- vi. C.H.I.L.D. request for full participation Zoom Board meetings

- Athletics/Co-Curricular - Timothy Alworth/Pamela Priscoe

Mrs. Priscoe provided updates on:

- Transportation: Bus shortage
- Spectator & mask requirements
- Walk to School participation
- Cheer for a Cause - breast cancer awareness event
- Volleyball Team also hosting breast cancer awareness event

- Community Resources - Jim Day/Lisa Freschi

- Facilities - Jim Day/Pamela Priscoe

Mr. Day provided updates on:

- Buildings HVAC project
- Heating & steam tested for cold weather
- Fence needing repair due to Hurricane Ida damage

8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items

9. Discussion Items

1. Mrs. Drappi spoke about the Mental Health Series presentation and the value that it adds. Mrs. Freschi mentioned that the recording of the presentation is available on the board of education website.
2. Mrs. Freschi also provided an update on the Superintendent search process and the selection of Dr. Furnari as the Interim Superintendent. She also announced the

selection of Hazard, Young & Attea Associates (HYA) as the search firm for the Superintendent search.

3. Agenda item #9 was pulled to edit language in the school calendar for 2022-23.

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

11. Public Comments

Ketoula Xanthakos- 37 Cumberland Ave - Expressed concern of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) and racism at VHS.

Naizha Wegesa - 19 Hillside Ave - Expressed lack of support for HIB victims and voiced the need and awareness for inclusion and diversity in schools.

Cory Wegesa - 19 Hillside Ave - Requested to make Verona schools more inclusive for all students.

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Drappi

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 8 & 10- 20.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
October 12, 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 September 28, 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
Roseclare Ambrose	VHS	Paraprofessional	\$16,899.96	Education	Oct. 4, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022

2.2 Stipends

NAME	CURRENT SALARY	DOCTORATE STIPEND	NEW SALARY	NOTES
Frank Mauriello	\$150,481.00	\$3,250 (Prorated)	\$153,731	Effective Sept. 15, 2021
Charles Miller	\$156,347.00	\$3,250.00	\$159,597	SY 21-22

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Committee	Employment Date
Robert Merkler	VHS	\$5,000	COVID Coordinator	Education	SY 21-22

2.3 Reallocation of Days

Employee #	Explanation
#100124	5 Personal Illness days to 5 Family Illness days

2.4 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#102128	Medical Leave of Absence	Sept. 22, 2021	Oct. 11, 2021
#105136	Medical Leave of Absence	Sept. 27, 2021	Oct. 18, 2021

2.5 Extra Class

Name	Location	Course	Amount	Effective Date to on or about
Ryan Brown	HBW	Physical Education	\$1,700.37	Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021
Andrea Jordan	HBW	Physical Education	\$3,110.35	Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021
Nadia Domenick	HBW	Physical Education	\$2,915.01	Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021
Kaitlyn Heun	HBW	Physical Education	\$50.00/per hr.	Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021

#3 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following for up to 50 hours of overtime:

Elnor Zeqiri = \$71.90/hr.

Bilal Genc = \$69.81/hr.

EDUCATION

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

HIB Case
HBW-OH-222292

#5 RESOLVED that the Board approve HYA as the firm for the Verona Board of Education Superintendent search at a cost of \$19,500

#6 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached District Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator (stipend) job description.

#7 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached Elementary Mathematics Instructional Coach job description.

#8 RESOLVED that the Board approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

Policy 2425 - Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program

#9 **TABLED** that the Board approve the attached 2022-2023 VPS Calendar

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

10.1 Curriculum

Mandarin 1-4
Phonics K&2 Scope & Sequence
SS6
SS 6 Core Enrichment Curriculum
SS 8
VHS SS The American Promise
TE&D Grade 6
TE&D Grade 8
VHS Medical Biology B
Introduction to Data Science
Grade 4 Math (Dimensions)
Science 6 Cycle/Enrichment

#11 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached 2021-22 Remote Plan for the Verona Public Schools.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

12.1 Student Home Instruction

Student #	School	Grade	Hrs./Week/Duration	Beginning on or about
#220078	VHS	12	Total of 16 hrs.	Sept. 30, 2021

12.2 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Frank Mauriello	Spec. Svcs.	SSA Session Prep Readiness Program/Virtual	Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2021	\$450.00
Prya Basak	VHS	Clinical Supervision Certificate - Core Issues in Clinical Supervision/OnLine Webinar	Nov. 1, 8 and 15, 2021	\$300.00

Teresa Shapiro	VHS	Continuing Professional Development - Mental Health Support/Virtual 2021 Winter Conference	Dec. 10, 2021	\$155.00
Elise Edelstein	District	NJ Assoc. of School Psychologists Winter Conference/Virtual	Dec. 10, 2021	\$155.00

12.3 Home Instructor

Name
Robert Orr

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

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

13.1 Clubs

Advisor	Location	Club Name	Stipend	Term of Employment	Notes
Alyssa Boldurian	VHS	Peer Leader	\$1,642.00	SY 21-22	Paid by VMAC
Steven Munoz	VHS	Sound and Lighting Advisor	\$2,516.00		
Andor Kish	HBW	Audio Visual Director	\$2,110.00	SY 21-22	
Casey Harris	VHS	Future Medical Leaders	Volunteer	SY 21-22	
Pamela Burke	VHS	Class Advisor Grade 11	\$1,864	SY 21-22	RESCIND
Alice Kobylarz	VHS	Class Advisor Grade 11	\$1,864	SY 21-22	
Pamela Burke	VHS	Future Educators of America	\$925	SY 21-22	RESCIND
Pamela Burke	VHS	Future Educators of America	\$185.00	Sept. 9 - Oct. 29, 2021	APPROVE
Angela Salisbury	VHS	Future Educators of America	\$740.00	Nov. 1, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022	
Pamela Burke	VHS	DECA	\$3,031.00	SY 21-22	RESCIND
Pamela Burke	VHS	DECA	\$606.20	Sept. 9 - Oct. 29, 2021	APPROVE

Robert Orr	VHS	DECA	\$1,363.95	Nov. 1, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022	
Brian Meisner	VHS	DECA	\$1,060.85	Nov. 1, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022	

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$20,300.00	Vendor Checks	October 8, 2021

- #15 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to implement Genesis School Fi as our new financial management system effective January 1, 2022, at a prorated cost of \$11,455 + \$4,500 One-time Implementation fee, totaling \$15,955.

- #16 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the submission of the School Security Grant in the amount of \$125,290 for the installation of an emergency notification system in all school buildings within the district, any additional cost above the grant allocation will be covered by local funds.

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

August 2021

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

August 2021

- #19 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of individual transfers of line items in the 2021-2022 budget for:

August 2021

- #11 Public Comments**

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#20 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 8:29 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS

October 12, 2021

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

Motion by: Mrs. Priscoe

Seconded by: Mrs. Drappi

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolution #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 Stipend

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Committee	Employment Date
Eltion Ballaj	District	\$6,000	District BOE Meeting Technician	Education	SY 21-22

CO-CURRICULAR

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

2.1 Field Trip

Name	School	Club/Destination	Date of Field Trip
E. Mordkovich/ S. Munoz	VHS	French/Drama Club/ Majestic Theater, NYC	Dec. 9, 2021

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$58,528.80	Vendor Checks	October 12, 2021