

PUBLIC MEETING

November 22, 2021

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on November 22, 2021 at 7:05 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: Vice President, Mr. Timothy Alworth, Mrs. Pamela Priscoe and Mrs. Sara Drappi, and Mr. Day, Mrs. Lisa Freschi, President was absent. Also present was Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

There were 45 members of the public present. There were 0 members of the press present.



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:00 pm
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
November 22, 2021

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Presentations - AP Scholar presentation Dr. Charles Miller, Mr. Glen Stevenson and Ms. Julia Albretsen
Verta Maloney and Naa Yirenkyi - Presenters - 45 Lemons Diversity,
Equity Inclusion introduction
6. Superintendent Report - Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent of Schools
7. Business Administrator Report - Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator
8. Committee Reports
 - Athletics/Co-Curricular
 - Education/Special Education
 - Finance
 - Community Resource
9. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items
10. Discussion Items
11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
12. Public Comments

The Board meeting live stream will be available by clicking this link:
https://youtu.be/LMna_Hh984Y

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 7, 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 -** AP Scholar presentation Dr. Charles Miller, Mr. Glen Stevenson and Ms. Julia Albretsen
Verta Maloney and Naa Yirenkyi - Presenters - 45 Lemons Diversity,
Equity Inclusion introduction
- 6. Superintendent Report -** Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Good evening. I would like to once again congratulate all of our AP scholars and their families on this tremendous achievement. Students, your academic efforts are a testament to your determination and quest for knowledge. Thank you to all of our teachers and administrators who provide learning opportunities for our students in support of their academic, social & emotional growth.

Thank you to Ms. Maloney for the presentation. This project will help the Verona Public Schools to continue our work toward the achievement of goals and strategies identified in our Strategic Plan, specifically concerning Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. It is our hope that this introspective work will support our desire to grow, upholding a healthy and respectful school culture consistent with our core values where our words and actions include creating a sense of belonging through dignity and respect.

I have had the opportunity to visit some of our schools and will continue to do so in the coming weeks and months. During one visit, students were asked by their principal to tell me a few facts about their school that they thought someone new to Verona should know. I was told by these elementary school students that Verona teachers are the best, that there is a beautiful garden with a special tree at their school and that everyone does their best to help those who are new. Students and teachers have been engaged in many exciting learning activities including Thanksgiving Feasts that are planned for this week.

I would like to remind all of our staff, students and families that November 24th through the 28th is a Homework Free Weekend. This means that during this time, there will be no homework, no projects to complete and no assessments to study for. As we head into a time of Thanksgiving, it is my sincerest hope that our entire community finds the time to rest, reflect and rejuvenate. I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families.

7. Business Administrator Report - Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator

Good evening everyone. I have two updates for the Business Administrator Report.

Over the last two months, we've engaged with all stakeholders regarding Verona's participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). We also surveyed the parent community. 389 parents participated in the survey of which 53% voted in favor of NSLP and 47% against it. When we aggregate the data, 61% of VHS families were not in favor of NSLP, which is in line with the student's voice from our VHS Student Council. At this time, there are some challenges with the program, stemming from supply chain issues, staffing, and partnering with a district that would be willing to take on the reporting requirements along with the initial cost in the USDA Consolidation Agreement. Because of this, and the fact that we're not benefiting from the reimbursable dollars, I'm recommending that we keep our lunch program as-is for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. The business office will revisit and assess the NSLP program during the spring application period and the financial incentives being offered. I also want to confirm that we currently have 24 students receiving free lunch. Our free lunch students receive the same benefits offered by NSLP, such as AP exam waivers. The business office will also work with our schools to ensure that proper outreach is conducted to reach families in need, provide an easy-to-use online application, and access to the application in their home language.

On the addendum resolution, tonight is the approval of Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC) to go out for a Request for Quote (RFQ) for lease-purchase financing in the amount of \$264,905.32 for two buses and 42 computers. We currently have two buses that will reach their end of life under NJ law. One is a 24 passenger bus for our special education transportation and the other is a large 54 passenger bus used for athletics and field trips. The computers will replace one of the computer labs

in VHS and provide the computers needed for the Strategic Gaming Club. The cost for the small bus is approximately \$57K; the large bus is approximately \$100K and approximately \$106K for the computers.

Lastly, as Mr. Day and Mrs. Priscoe reported at the last meeting, the VEA ratified their Memorandum of Agreement and Salary Guides for 2021-2024. Thank you to everyone involved on both sides for coming to this agreement. It is on the agenda for Board approval tonight and my team and I have worked very diligently to prepare for these payroll updates. If approved, the new salaries will be reflected in the November 30th payroll. Retroactive pay will follow in the December payroll. Thank you.

8. Committee Reports

- Athletics/Co-Curricular - Timothy Alworth/Pamela Priscoe
 - Mrs. Priscoe provided and update on athletics.
- Education/Special Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
 - Mr. Alworth provided an update on training, AP awards, elementary math coach funded by ARP ESSER, and Strategic Gaming Club.
 - Dr. Miller provided additional details of the Strategic Gaming program.
 - Mrs. Drappi shared the soft skill opportunity in strategic gaming.
- Finance - Lisa Freschi/Sara Drappi
 - Mrs. Drappi provided details around the Tentative Budget Calendar and Board Meeting Calendar. Mrs. Drappi also shared the need for a Budget 101 presentation for the Board and the public.
- Community Resource - Jim Day/Lisa Freschi
- Mr. Day provided an update about the work with 45 Lemons on diversity, equity and inclusion. Superintendent search update with HYA. Roles and responsibility of the Board of Education, the administration, and SCA (parent organization).
- Mrs. Freschi provided additional details about educating the public and having NJSBA present on the roles and responsibilities topic. Also provided updates on the HYA superintendent search.

9. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items

Denise Verzella - 130 Personette Ave. - disagrees with resolution #8 regarding the change to the elementary report card. Requested additional clarification.

Dr. Miller provided clarification of the current and new report card rubric and how the new report card would be better in communicated progress.

10. Discussion Items

- Mrs. Priscoe - Resolution #2.3 Mrs. Angela Salisbury will be missed and wishes Mrs. Salisbury great success.
- Mrs. Freschi also wished Mrs. Salisbury success on her future endeavours.
- Mrs. Drappi shared that HBW returned to their musical and students are excited to participate and join the cast. Mrs. Drappi also asked Dr. Miller to share the decision process on the report card change.
- Dr. Miller provided the details on the process and decision of the change to the report card to equip parents with the assessment information.

11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

12. Public Comments

Motion by: Mrs. Drappi

Seconded by: Mr. Day

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

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
November 22, 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:

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
Diane Jacob	BRK	Lunch Aide	\$14.50/per hr.	Education	SY 21-22
Alicia Dupree	FNB	Sub lunch aide	\$14.50/per hr.	Education	SY 21-22
Katelyn Jablecki	District	Sub Teacher	\$100.00/per diem	Education	SY 21-22
Joan Petersen	District	Sub Teacher	\$100.00/per diem	Education	SY 21-22
Tara Barrow	District	Sub Teacher	\$100.00/per diem	Education	SY 21-22
Sally Goodgold	BRK/FNB	LOA Art Teacher	\$240/per diem	Education	Nov. 29, 2021 - Jan. 14, 2022

2.2 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#100647	Extension of Unpaid Leave of Absence	Jan. 1, 2022	Jun. 30, 2022
#102987	Medical Leave of Absence	Dec. 20, 2021	Jan. 18, 2022
#103301	Medical Leave of Absence	Dec. 8, 2021	Jan. 4, 2022

2.3 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Angela Salisbury	VHS	Business Teacher	Resignation	Jan. 14, 2022
Daniel Cohen	HBW	Leave Replacement Math	Resignation	Nov. 16, 2021

EDUCATION

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approves the Superintendent's presentation of HIB first reading report as follows:

1st Readings
HBWO224271
HBWC224918
FBS223944
FBS223943

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

2nd Readings
HBWC222961
HBWC223277
HBWC222960
HBWC224059
HBWC224061

- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the 2021-2022 Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.
- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Board of Education meeting dates for January 2022 – January 2023.
- #7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the revised 2022-2023 District School Calendar.
- #8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the updated elementary reports cards.
- #9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

9.1 Video/Movie Adoption

Name	Location	Course	Grade
Captain America: Civil War Movie	VHS	English III/IV-RC	11-12
Overwatch	VHS	Strategic Gaming Club	9-12

Super Smash Brothers	VHS	Strategic Gaming Club	9-12
Rocket League	VHS	Strategic Gaming Club	9-12
It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood	VHS	English-Resource Center	9-12

9.2 MOVEMENT ON GUIDE

NAME	CURRENT LEVEL/STEP	SALARY	NEW LEVEL/STEP	SALARY	NOTES
Catherine King	MA/Step 8	\$61,183	MA+30/Step 8	\$65,801	RESCIND
Catherine King	MA/Step 8	\$61,183	MA+45/Step 8	\$67,126	APPROVE

9.3 Student Observers

Name	School	School/Teacher/ Grade	Duration	Assignment
Sophie Wolf	Montclair State Univ.	FNB/Sivolella/Grade 1	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15, 2021	Student Observer
Maisy Coyne	Montclair State Univ.	FNB/Mainella/Grade 4	3 hours	Student Observer
Laurel Alpern	Montclair State Univ.	FNB/Chierici/Grade 3	3 hours	Student Observer

9.4 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Rebecca DeFrance	LAN	Solutions to the Pesky Lisp/Online	-	\$179.99
Elissa Malespina	VHS	NJASL Library Conference	Dec. 6-7, 2021	Registration \$200.00

9.5 Stipends

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Committee	Employment Date
Dave Galbierczyk	HBW	\$3,000	District Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Facilitator	Education	SY 21-22

Howard Freund	HBW	\$3,000	District Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Facilitator	Education	SY 21-22
Julia Albretsen	District	\$3,000	District Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Facilitator	Education	SY 21-22
Glen Stevenson	District	\$3,000	District Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Facilitator	Education	SY 21-22

#10 RESOLVED that the Board approve and ratify the 2021 - 2024 Memorandum of Agreement with the Verona Education Association for the term July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

#11 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached Monthly District Statistical Report for October 2021.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

#12 RESOLVED that the Board approve Brooke Raskin, Lori Martorana, Tina Stokes and Grace Minervo-Buneo to complete a Program Study for the Learning Sensory & Social Program (LSS) at the rate of \$45.00 per hour, not to exceed 20 hours/\$900 each, for a total of \$3,600.00.

#13 RESOLVED that the Board approve to compensate approved Verona School District substitute nurses to accompany an out-of-district Verona student on planned CBI field trips as required by the student's physician. Nurse will be compensated at the rate of \$40.00 per hour for a total not to exceed \$1,680 for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

#14 RESOLVED that the Board approve to contract with Brett DiNovi & Associates, LLC for intermittent professional Clinical Associates and Behavioral Consultants (BCBA, ABA Aide, One-to-One Aides, Home Instructors, etc.) for the 2021 – 2022 school year as needed.

#15 RESOLVED that the Board approve to contract with Hillmar, LLC to provide interpreter services for the 2021 – 2022 school year as needed.

#16 RESOLVED that the Board approve to contract with Phyllis Schoenfeld, dba PKS Educational Consultant, as a LDT-C to conduct Educational Evaluations on an as-needed basis for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

- #17 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to contract with Erin K. Mori, School Psychologist, to conduct Psychological Evaluations on an as-needed basis for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

- #18 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

18.1 Co-Curricular

Advisor	Location	Club Name	Stipend	Term of Employment
Marisa Albano	HBW	HBW Musical/47% Play Director	\$2,100.00	SY 21-22
Barbara Piercy	HBW	HBW Musical/45% Choral Director	\$2,000.00	SY 21-22
Brian Michalowski	HBW	HBW Musical/10% Play Director	\$447.00	SY 21-22
Brian Michalowski	HBW	HBW Musical/37% Choral Director	\$1,653	SY 21-22
Grace Buneo	HBW	HBW Musical/43% Play Director	\$1,940	SY 21-22
Jacqueline Dilkes	HBW	HBW Musical/18% Choral Director	\$800	SY 21-22
Noel Piercy	HBW	HBW Musical/ Volunteer	NA	SY 21-22
Floyd Bussie, Jr.	HBW	HBW Musical - Vendor	TBD	SY 21-22
Audio Inc.	HBW	HBW Musical - Vendor	TBD	SY 21-22
Image Market	HBW	HBW Musical - Vendor	TBD	SY 21-22

18.2 Coaches

Name	Location	Position	Stipend	Committee	Employment Date/s
Brandon Hillman	VHS	Head Boys Winter Track	Step 3/ \$6,770	Athletics	SY 21-22
Lynette Rivera	VHS	Assistant Swim Coach	Step 3/\$3,838	Athletics	SY 21-22

- #19 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached District Nursing Plan for the 2021-2022 school year.
- #20 RESOLVED** that the Board has reviewed and approved the attached School Self-Assessments for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the period of July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021.

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$976,427.47	Vendor Checks	November 19, 2021

- #22 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Tentative Calendar for the 2022-2023 Budget.
- #23 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the substitute teacher rate to \$110 per diem for the 2021-2022 school year.

#12 Public Comments

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

- #24 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: Mrs. Drappi

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 9:00 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
November 22, 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 - 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:

1.1 Extra Class

Name	Location	Course	Amount	Term of Employment on or about
Karolina Siwki	HBW	Math	\$1,325.55	Nov. 23 - Dec. 23, 2021
Lisa Sarett	HBW	Math	\$1,613.92	Nov. 22 - Dec. 23, 2021
Julianna Curro	HBW	Math	\$1,274.02	Nov. 23 - Dec. 23, 2021

1.2 Stipends

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Committee	Employment Date
Susan Conlon	HBW	\$60 per session/2 sessions per week	Academic Learning Teacher	Education	Nov. 22, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022
Bethany McMinn	HBW	\$60 per session/2 sessions per week	Academic Learning Teacher	Education	Nov. 22, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022

CO-CURRICULAR

#2 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

2.1 Co-Curricular

Advisor	Location	Club Name	Stipend	Term of Employment	Notes
Robert Orr	VHS	Academic Competitions Coordinator	\$3,031.00	SY 21-22	RESCIND
Robert Orr	VHS	Academic Competitions Coordinator	\$1,515.50	SY 21-22	APPROVE
Brian Meisner	VHS	Academic Competitions Coordinator	\$1,515.50	SY 21-22	

FINANCE

- #3 **RESOLVED** approves Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC) to go out for a Request for Quote (RFQ) for lease-purchase financing in the amount of \$264,905.32 for two buses and 42 computers.
- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the enclosed checklist(s) in the following amounts:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$3,402.00	Vendor Check	November 22, 2021