

PUBLIC MEETING

December 7, 2021

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

There were 18 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
December 7, 2021

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Presentations - Fall Sports Awards - Laura Palmerezzi - Athletic and District Special Programs Director
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
 - Education/Special Education
 - Facilities
 - Finance
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/G8Rv1Oi5SW4>

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 4, 2022** 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> Abs </u> |
| Mrs. Drappi | <u> X </u> | Mrs. Freschi | <u> X </u> |
| Mrs. Priscoe | <u> X </u> | | |

5. Presentations - Fall Sports Awards - Laura Palmerezzi - Athletic and District Special Programs Director

6. Superintendent Report - Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent of Schools -
Please click on the following link:

<https://www.veronaschools.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=1&ModuleInstanceID=6844&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=11284&PageID=1>

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

Good evening everyone. I have one update tonight.

Resolution number 17 on the agenda is to approve our lease purchase for two buses and 42 computers. Through the Request for Quote (RFQ) process with Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC), we selected US Bank to finance the lease purchase in the amount of \$264,905.32, in a four-year payment schedule at a rate of 1.6698%. As mentioned at our last meeting we're purchasing a 24 passenger bus to replace one of our aging buses used by Special Education and the other is a replacement for one of our large 54 passenger buses used for Athletics and field trips. The computers

will replace one of the computer labs in VHS and provide the computers needed for the Gaming Club. The cost for the small bus is \$57,050; the large bus is \$100,080.80 and \$106,456.98 for the computers. HCESC fee is \$1,324 and the total finance charge by US Bank is \$5,843.88.

This concludes my Business Administrator report. Thank you.

8. Committee Reports

- Athletics - Timothy Alworth/Pamela Priscoe
 - Mrs. Priscoe congratulated all student athletics for their accomplishments this season. Reported out on the Volley-o-thon benefiting Share Our Strength.
- Education/Special Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
 - Mr. Alworth provided an update on Progress Reports; Math Growth Assessments were mailed out and START Strong will be out this month.
 - Mrs. Drappi shared school counselors support to students back-to-school and address behavior.
- Facilities - Jim Day/Pamela Priscoe
 - Mrs. Priscoe provided an update on the HVAC project. During the winter break they will
- Finance - Lisa Freschi/Sara Drappi
 - Mrs. Drappi discussed employee dental contribution for Chap 44 staff and the new purchasing manual for all staff and vendors.
 - Mrs. Freschi commented on the purchasing manual to support the internal controls and the upcoming audit report presentation on January 25, 2022.

9. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items - none

10. Discussion Items

Mrs. Priscoe - thanked Mr. Alworth for the last three years of service to the Board and community. Also, shared apologies for prior Board decision on 45 Lemons.

Mrs. Freschi - concurred and thanked Mr. Alworth for his commitment and dedication these last three years. Also, wishes Mrs. Gizzi for her work at HBW and Mr. C at FNB. Dr. Furnari also acknowledged that we'll be celebrating all our retirements at the end of the year.

Mrs. Drappi thanked Mr. Alworth for his work. Also, Mrs. Gizzi for her dedication to

HBW and the Verona community. Lastly shared the importance of listening to individual voices, especially on the topic diversity.

11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

12. Public Comments

Christian Strumolo - 153 Morningside Rd. - Is the Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) work required by the state? In reference to the outside firm what was the threshold to hire them, what are the requirements by the state?

George Kozachuk - 100 Morningside Rd. - Requested answer to public comment and ownership to the selection of 45 Lemons. Also, a non-Verona student spent half a day in a classroom and nothing was done.

Maria Squilanti - 6 Belleclaire Pl. - Thanked the Board and Superintendent for reversing the decision on 45 Lemons. DEI process is not transparent and we need parents involved in the process.

Shawn Haas -32 W. Lincoln St. - Survey for our students requires parental consent. Are we going to be notified prior to these surveys going out?

Chris Barrows - 219 Linden Ave.- Complement the improved access of information on the district website and request if there is a subscription option to receive future notifications on announcements and updates. Also commented on the new Gaming club and Tabletop club.

Motion by: ____Mrs. Drappi____

Seconded by: ____Mrs. Priscoe____

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 17.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day Abs

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
December 7, 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 November 22, 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 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Kaitlyn Heun | HBW | Leave Replacement Physical Education | \$250 per diem | Education | Dec. 2, 2021 - Dec. 23, 2021 |
| Jayson Harris | FNB | Part Time Custodian | \$18/hr. | Facilities | Dec. 8, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 |
| Kristen Ishagemi | FNB | Paraprofessional | \$18,381.45 | Education | Dec. 13, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 |
| Kristen Ishigami | FNB | Sub Teacher | \$100/per diem | Education | SY 21-22 |
| Raquel Desantis | District | Sub Paraprofessional | \$15.25/per hr. | Education | SY 21-22 |
| Dana Wynne | BRK | LOA 4th Grade | \$250/per diem | Education | Jan. 11 - Jun. 30, 2022 |
| Chrystine Gaffney | District | Sub Teacher | \$100/per diem | Education | SY 21-22 |

2.2 Marriage

| Name | Location | Position | Reason | Dates | Notes | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--|---------|
| #105441 | VHS | English Teacher | Marriage | Dec. 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 2021 | 3 days with pay with the cost of a substitute to be deducted | RESCIND |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------|--|---------|
| #105441 | VHS | English Teacher | Marriage | Dec. 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 2021 | 5 days with pay with the cost of a substitute to be deducted | APPROVE |
|---------|-----|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------|--|---------|

2.3 Retirement

| Name | Position | Location | Reason | Effective Date of Retirement |
|-----------------|----------------|----------|------------|------------------------------|
| Elaine Gizzi | Admin. Assist. | HBW | Retirement | Feb. 1, 2022 |
| Kenneth Carment | Head Custodian | FNB | Retirement | Feb. 1, 2022 |

2.4 Resignation

| Name | Location | Position | Reason | Effective on or About |
|-------------|----------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Keesha Thom | HBW | Paraprofessional | Resignation | Dec. 8, 2021 |

2.5 Extra Class

| Name | Location | Course | Amount | Term of Employment on or about | Notes |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Jason Atkins | VHS | STEM | \$18,227.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Angela Salisbury | VHS | Financial Literacy | \$8,911.30 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Feb. 2, 2021 | RESCIND |
| Matt Swajkowski | VHS | Chemistry Special | \$12,474.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Matthew Rosa | VHS | US I ICI | \$11,646.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Alyssa Bouldurian | VHS | Modern World History ICI | \$11,650.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Jody Sewell | HBW | Math Grade 6 | \$19,231.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Melissa Tempesta | HBW | Math Grade 8 | \$12,083.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Albert Palazzo | HBW | Math Grade 8 ICI | \$12,474.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Samantha Melillo | HBW | Language Arts 7 ICI | \$11,333.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Jacqueline Dilkes | HBW | Math 7 ICI | \$13,554.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Meredith Bielen | HBW | Language Arts 6 ICI | \$15,013.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Melissa Hanulak | HBW | Math 6 ICI | \$13,160.00 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | RESCIND |
| Jason Atkins | VHS | STEM | \$17,487.72 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Angela Salisbury | VHS | Financial Literacy | \$8,552.88 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Feb. 2, 2021 | APPROVE |
| Matt Swajkowski | VHS | Chemistry Special | \$11,845.80 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Matthew Rosa | VHS | US I ICI | \$10,807.74 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Alyssa Bouldurian | VHS | Modern World History ICI | \$10,807.74 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Jody Sewell | HBW | Math Grade 6 | \$17,541.72 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Melissa Tempesta | HBW | Math Grade 8 | \$11,164.14 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Albert Palazzo | HBW | Math Grade 8 ICI | \$11,845.80 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Samantha Melillo | HBW | Language Arts 7 ICI | \$10,426.32 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Jacqueline Dilkes | HBW | Math 7 ICI | \$12,713.40 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Meredith Bielen | HBW | Language Arts 6 ICI | \$14,477.40 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Melissa Hanulak | HBW | Math 6 ICI | \$12,249.54 | Sept. 1, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Ryan Brown | HBW | Physical Education | \$1,700.37 | Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021 | RESCIND |
| Andrea Jordan | HBW | Physical Education | \$3,110.35 | Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021 | RESCIND |
| Nadia Domenick | HBW | Physical Education | \$2,915.01 | Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021 | RESCIND |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Ryan Brown | HBW | Physical Education | \$1,062.91 | Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021 | APPROVE |
| Andrea Jordan | HBW | Physical Education | \$1,699.50 | Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021 | APPROVE |
| Nadia Domenick | HBW | Health | \$5,412.46 | Oct. 18, 2021 - Dec. 23, 2021 | APPROVE |
| Karolina Siwek | HBW | Math | \$1,325.55 | Nov. 22 - Dec. 23, 2021 | RESCIND |
| Lisa Sarett | HBW | Math | \$1,613.92 | Nov. 22 - Dec. 23, 2021 | RESCIND |
| Julianna Curro | HBW | Math | \$1,274.02 | Nov. 22 - Dec. 23, 2021 | RESCIND |
| Karolina Siwek | HBW | Math | \$2,277.53 | Nov. 22 - Jan. 31, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Lisa Sarett | HBW | Math | \$2,773.15 | Nov. 22 -Jan. 31, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Julianna Curro | HBW | Math | \$2,189.06 | Nov. 22 -Jan. 31, 2022 | APPROVE |

EDUCATION

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

| |
|---------------------|
| 1st Readings |
| VHS225134 |
| VHS225076 |
| HBO225049 |
| HBO224884 |
| HBO224875 |
| HBC224676 |
| FBS224899 |
| HWO225335 |

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

| 2nd Readings |
|---------------------|
| HBWO224271 |
| HBWC224918 |
| FBS223944 |
| FBS223943 |

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

5.1 Student Observer

| Name | School | School/Teacher/ Grade | Duration | Assignment |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aleksey Lopez | Montclair State | FNB/Pesce/2nd Grade | Dec. 8 - 17, 2021 | Student Observer |

- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve SWING Education Substitute Teacher Marketplace for the school year 2021-2022
- #7 **RESOLVED** that the Board rescind contract with 45 Lemons originally approved on November 9, 2021.
- #8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approved the first reading of the following policy/regulation:
- P 1648.14 Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings - COVID-19 (M) (New)
 - P&R 5751 Sexual Harassment of Students

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

9.1 Student Home Instruction

| Student # | School | Grade | Hrs./Week/Duration | Beginning on or about |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| #240882 | VHS | 12 | 2 hrs. day/10 days | Dec. 2, 2021 |
| #242569 | VHS | 10 | 10 hrs. per wk./4-6 wks. | Nov. 29, 2021 |

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#10 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

10.1 Field Trip

| Name | School | Club/Destination | Date of Field Trip |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert Maher | VHS | Model UN/Washington, DC | Feb. 17 - 20, 2022 |

#11 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached revised 2021-2022 Winter Coaches.

FINANCE

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

| <u>Amount</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Check Register Date</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| \$283,570.47 | Vendor Checks | December 3, 2021 |
| \$307,302.00 | Referendum Checks | December 3, 2021 |

#13 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached Verona Public Schools Purchasing Manual.

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

August 2021 (Revised)
September 2021

#15 RESOLVED that the Board approve the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the following month:

September 2021

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

September 2021

#17 RESOLVED that the Board approve to award the lease-purchase transaction to finance the acquisition of 2 buses and 42 computers to US Bancorp Government Leasing and Finance, Inc., at their rate of 1.6698%. The lease-purchase will finance the costs of equipment and issuance. The SBA/BS is authorized to execute any relevant transactional documentation after

reviewing by Board Counsel.

#12 Public Comments

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#18 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: Mrs. Drappi

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day Abs

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: None

This meeting is adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
December 7, 2021

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

Motion by: Mrs. Priscoe

Seconded by: Mr. Alworth

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolution #1 - 3.

Mr. Alworth X

Mr. Day Abs

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 | Notes |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Katina Pena | HBW | Part Time Custodian | \$18.00/hr. | Education | Dec. 14, 2021 - Jun. 30, 2022 | |
| Kaitlin Kober | Elementary | Elementary Math Coach | MA/Step 8 \$65,810.00 | Education | Feb. 7 - Jun. 30, 2022 | |
| Taylor Barrett | FNB | Long Term Sub Admin. Assist. | \$150/per diem | Education | Nov. 29 - Dec. 23, 2021 | RESCIND |
| Taylor Barrett | FNB | Long Term Sub Admin. Assist. | \$150/per diem | Education | Nov. 29, 2021 - Jan. 21, 2022 | APPROVE |
| Elaine Gizzi | District | Sub Secretary | \$100/per diem | Education | SY 21-22 | |
| Carmen Mercado | District | IT Technician | \$50,000 | Education | Jan. 3 - Jun. 30, 2022 | |

1.2 Extra Class

| Name | Location | Course | Amount | Term of Employment on or about |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| Nadia Domenick | HBW | Math | \$5,166.82 | Nov. 22, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022 |

1.3 Without Pay

| Name | Date/s | No. of Days/Reason |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| #100732 | Dec. 23, 2021 | 1 day/Personal Business |

EDUCATION

#2 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached Central Office Administrative Assistant job description.

FINANCE

#3 RESOLVED

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Amount</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Check Register Date</u> |
| \$629,519.15 | Vendor Checks | December 7, 2021 |