

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**April 26, 2022**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on April 26 2022 at 7:03 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. Pamela Priscoe, Vice President, Mrs. Sara Drappi, and Mr. Christopher Wacha. Mr. Jim Day was absent. Also present was Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**There were 8 members of the public present. There was 1 member of the press present.**



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION –6:00 pm  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm  
H. B. WHITEHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
April 26, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report
6. Budget Presentation - Public Hearing of the Verona Public Schools Budget 2022-2023
7. Committee Reports
  - Education/Special Education
  - Facilities
  - Community Resources
  - Finance
8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items
9. Discussion Items
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments

Live streaming link: <https://youtu.be/meC7jV6y4vw>

The next scheduled Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm, followed by Public Session at 7:00 pm in the Verona High School Auditorium, 151 Fairview Ave., Verona, NJ.

- 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 4, 2022. 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. Wacha	<u>  X  </u>	Mr. Day	<u>  ABS  </u>
Mrs. Drappi	<u>  X  </u>	Mrs. Priscoe	<u>  X  </u>
Mrs. Freschi		<u>  X  </u>	

**5. Superintendent Report -**

We are very excited to introduce Mrs. Ackermann to our school community. She will be joining Verona Public Schools after spending the past 10 years at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools (UCVTS). While at UCVTS, Mrs. Ackermann oversaw 13 school counselors responsible for assisting students in seven high schools, including five competitive admissions, and honors curriculum programs. She was also in charge of the admissions process for UCVTS and assisted all families with successfully applying and transitioning to over 22 different career and technical education programs.

Prior to working with high school students, Mrs. Ackermann worked in career services at Boston College and Seton Hall University. Her variety of career experiences has helped her develop a passion for helping students prepare for whatever road comes next.

Mrs. Ackermann believes the role of school counselors is to assist students in developing to be kind, prepared people. Students' academic, emotional, and social growth and development will be her top priority. Through self-advocacy, community building, and reflection, she is looking forward to providing

Verona's students with the chance to grow into their full potential and is excited to help students find success.

This evening the on the Board agenda is a calendar change for the current school year. We are in possession of three unused inclement weather days that we would like to add back into our school calendar as days on which school is closed. The chosen dates are Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, extending the Memorial Day weekend, and June 7<sup>th</sup>, which is primary election day. This date was chosen as our schools are polling places and this minimizes any contact between those at the polls and students. Should we experience any severe weather that causes us to utilize any of these days, we will begin by taking the 31<sup>st</sup> and then the 27<sup>th</sup> of May.

Later in the meeting you will be hearing about our final 2022-2023 School District Budget. This is a very fiscally responsible budget and yet supports existing and new District initiatives. Board members, please let me know if you have any questions and I will be happy to answer them.

**6. Budget Presentation:** Public Hearing of the Verona Public Schools Budget 2022-2023

**7. Committee Reports**

- Education/Special Education
  - Mrs. Drappi provided an update for the Education Committee. There is a policy revision that is on tonight's agenda. NJSLA training was completed and began this week for elementary schools.
- Facilities
  - Mrs. Drappi provided an update on facilities. All classrooms will receive black-out shades to cover the classroom door windows during a school lock-down. We also met with Chief Keirnan and Det. Martin regarding school safety and training for our staff.
  - Mr. Wacha asked about the status of FNB regarding the mud accumulation on the side of the building.
    - Mr. Cruz provided an update on the project which will begin this summer.
- Community Resources
  - Mrs. Priscoe provided an update for community resources. She shared that our communication platform will change from Constant Contact to Parent Square this summer.
  - Mrs. Drappi commented on M

- Finance
  - Mr. Wacha provided an update on Finance. Shared an update regarding review of proposals for solar energy.

**8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items**

**9. Discussion Items**

- Mr. Wacha asked about the status of our HVAC project
- Mr. Wacha also asked about the state application to waive requirements for teachers to address teacher shortage in the state.
- Mrs. Freschi asked about having a student liason on the Board that is now supported by NJDOE and NJSBA. This will be an opportunity for a high school student.

**10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**

**11. Public Comments**

- **Maria Squilanti - 6 Belleclaire Pl.** - asked Mr. Wacha for figures of total teachers in the district during the boom peak. She also asked about the curriculum that will be used in our schools and would like the district to focus on transparency to ensure that all parents have access to the materials.
- **Monica Vincent - 36 Montclair Avenue** - requested an analysis of the special ed cost in the district over the last couple of years. Shared concerns about the math curriculum being used and the funding dedicated to curriculum.
- **Donna Ciccolini - 14 Windemere Rd.** - asked about new electives for students, when will parents find out about the new electives and changes. Shared a comment about Autism awareness month. We should spotlight autism to bring more awareness.
- **Gabrielle Zebrowski - 1 Valhalla Way** - it would be great to incorporate the general population with our special ed population. An assembly will also be great. How can the public receive responses to public comment and share that information? or hold a Q&A session.
- **Denise Verzella - 130 Personette Ave** - what is the process of creating a lesson plan? Also, why are we waiting for a master schedule

Please note that the public participation portion of the meeting affords an opportunity for the public to share thoughts and comments about school related topics. By law, administrators and Board of Education members are not permitted to publicly discuss personnel matters, student discipline, or other issues requiring confidentiality. While we may not respond to comments during the meeting, all input that is shared with the Board of Education is taken very seriously, and helps inform future deliberations and work by

the Board and its committees. Answers appear in many forms including, but not limited to: email, Superintendent/ Committee reports, Board statements, FAQs on website, or after public comment is closed. We appreciate and thank all members of the public for your input.

**Motion by:** Mr. Wacha

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Priscoe

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 18.**

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day ABS

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RESOLUTIONS**  
**April 26, 2022**

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

**#1 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the minutes of the following meeting based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting April 5, 2022

**PERSONNEL**

**#2 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following pending pre-employment paperwork based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

**2.1 New Hire**

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Randy Granda	VHS	Math	BA/Step 10/ \$66,725	Education	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun. 30, 2023

<b>Alexandra Marrese</b>	FNB	Spec. Ed. - LLD K-1	MA/Step 10/ \$71,793	Education	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun. 30, 2023
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## 2.2 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105198	Apr. 6, 7, 8, 2022	3 days/PI
#105493	Apr. 7, 2022	1 day/PB

## 2.3 Extra Pay

Name	Dates From/To	Pay rate	Reason
Norma Palmer	Mar. 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 2022	25 hrs. at \$44.04 per hr. Total \$1,101.00	VHS Band trip paperwork and Chaperone on VHS Band trip to Philadelphia, PA

## 2.4 Marriage

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Dates	Notes
#105433	FNB	2nd Grade Teacher	Marriage	Jun. 1, 2, 3, 2022	3 days with pay with the cost of a substitute to be deducted
#105239	BRK/LAN	Physical Education	Marriage	4 days/May 31 - Jun. 3, 2022	<b>RESCIND</b> 4 days with pay with the cost of a substitute to be deducted
#105239	BRK/LAN	Physical Education	Marriage	Jun. 1,2,3, 2022	<b>APPROVE</b> 3 days with pay with the cost of a substitute to be deducted

## 2.5 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#105454	Maternity Leave	Jun. 17, 2022	Dec. 23, 2022

## 2.6 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About	Notes
Erik Lynch	VHS	Music Teacher	Resignation	Jun. 30, 2022	RESCIND
Colleen Fernandez	HBW	Math Teacher	Resignation	Sept. 1, 2022	

## 2.7 Retirement

Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date of Retirement
Linda Wangner	Resource Teacher	LAN	Retirement	Jul. 1, 2022

## 2.8 Reallocation of Days

Employee #	Explanation
#103024	5 Personal Illness Days to 5 Paternity Days

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent the non-tenured staff renewals for the 2022-2023 school year.
- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent for **Jennifer Gadaleta** to provide up to 80 hours at an hourly rate of \$59.04 for scheduling and college counseling services to the Verona Public Schools from May 16, 2022 through September 30, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$4,723.20.

## EDUCATION

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

1st Readings
VHS230942
VHS230161
HBO230698
FBS230334
FBS230326



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

2nd Readings
VHS229947
VHS229645
HWC229819
FBS229747
FBS229746
BAS230307

2nd Readings	
VHS28271	RESCIND
VHS228091	APPROVE

- #7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent that Garden State Audio L.L.C. to provide audio and live stream services for the 2022 VHS graduation and HBW promotion ceremony at Verona High School with an estimated cost of \$9,000.00.
- #8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to revise the 2021-2022 calendar for the use of three (3) unused inclement weather days on May 27, May 31 and June 7, 2022 as dates on which the District is closed. (In the event that there is a need to utilize days for unforeseen circumstances, they will be taken beginning with May 31st, followed by May 27th, and June 7th, primary election day, will only be used as a last resort.)
- #9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the first reading of the following Policy based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:
- Policy 7250 School and Facility Names
- #10 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

#### 10.1 Mentor

Name	School	School/Teacher	Duration	Assignment
Anthony Chierici	FNB	Central Office/Dr. Miller	May 5 - Jul. 22, 2022/ 150 hrs.	Administrative Intern
Joelle Dere	HBW	Spec. Svcs./Dr. Mauriello	May 3 - Jul 15, 2022/ 150 hrs.	Administrative Intern

## 10.2 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Christopher Tamburro	VHS	AP Reading/ U.S.Government and Politics/Virtual	Jun. 3 - Jun. 9, 2022	\$0.00
Christine Sepcie	VHS	AP Reading (World History/ Kansas City, MO	Jun. 1 - Jun. 9, 2022	\$0.00
Melissa Wallerstein	VHS	AP Human Geography Reading/Cincinnati, OH	Jun. 3, 6-10, 2022	\$0.00

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

- #11 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools participation in the Joint Transportation Agreement with Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for Special Education, Athletic, and Field Trip Transportation for the 2022 – 2023 school year per attached contracts.

## FINANCE

- #12 **RESOLVED** that the Board adopt the Verona Board of Education Budget for the 2022-2023 School Year:

	GENERAL <u>FUND</u>	SPECIAL <u>REVENUES</u>	DEBT <u>SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2022-2023 Total Expenditures	\$40,577,236	\$1,316,408	\$4,876,225	\$46,769,869
Less:				
Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$ 3,935,849</u>	<u>\$1,316,408</u>	<u>\$1,098,935</u>	<u>\$ 6,351,192</u>
Taxes to be Raised	<u>\$36,641,387</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$3,777,290</u>	<u>\$40,418,677</u>

1. Approve the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, on 3/22/22 the Verona Board of Education adopted a tentative budget to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on 4/11/22; and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Star Ledger on 4/21/22; and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was presented to the public during a public hearing on 4/26/22; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the budget for General Fund Expenses shall be \$40,577,236 of which \$36,641,387 shall be raised by tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the budget for Special Revenue Fund Expense shall be \$1,316,408 of which \$0.00 shall be raised by tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the budget for Debt Service Expense shall be \$4,876,225 of which \$3,777,290 shall be raised by tax levy.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Verona Board of Education hereby adopts the 2022-2023 School Year budget; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that there should be raised for the General Fund \$36,641,387 for the ensuing School Year (2022-2023) and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that there should be raised for Debt Service Fund, \$3,777,290 for the ensuing School Year (2022-2023).

2. Approve Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2022-2023

**WHEREAS**, the Verona Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by

the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7, to a maximum expenditure of \$50,000, for all staff and Board members; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the School Business Administrator track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

- #13 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the enclosed checklist(s) in the following amounts based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$588,823.49	General	April 22, 2022
\$16,263.00	VHS	April 22, 2022
\$ 102.28	HBW	April 22, 2022
\$21,848.28	Food Service	April 22, 2022
\$21,609.00	Referendum	April 22, 2022

- #14 RESOLVED** that the Board approved the attached based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent the revised Use of Building form and Fee Schedule for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

February 2022

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.13(e), that as of February 28, 2022 after review of the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund, has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C 6:20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are

available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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

February 2022

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

February 2022

- #18 RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent that we approve T-Mobile as the wireless service provider, under Sourcewell Contract #080119-SPT.

#### **#11 Public comments**

Please note that the public participation portion of the meeting affords an opportunity for the public to share thoughts and comments about school related topics. By law, administrators and Board of Education members are not permitted to publicly discuss personnel matters, student discipline, or other issues requiring confidentiality. While we may not respond to comments during the meeting, all input that is shared with the Board of Education is taken very seriously, and helps inform future deliberations and work by the Board and its committees. Answers appear in many forms including, but not limited to: email, Superintendent/ Committee reports, Board statements, FAQs on website, or after public comment is closed. We appreciate and thank all members of the public for your input.

#### **CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY**

#### **RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

- #19 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 to adjourn the meeting:**

**Motion by:** Mrs. Drappi

**Second by:** Mrs. Priscoe

**All in Favor:** AYE

**All Opposed:** None

**This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 8:41 P.M.**

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS**  
**April 26, 2022**

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

**Motion by:** Mr. Wacha

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Drappi

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolution #1 - 6.**

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day ABS

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

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

### **PERSONNEL**

- #1     **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, Norma Palmer, H. B. Whitehorne School Nurse be approved as a nurse chaperone for field trips for the 2021-2022 school year not to exceed 20 hours at a rate of \$44.04 per hour.

### **EDUCATION**

- #2     **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent the American Rescue Plan - Homeless II Grant in the amount of \$5,321, for period (9/1/2021-8/31/2022).

### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

- #3     **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to contract with Preferred Home Health Care & Nursing Services, Inc. to provide 1:1 nursing services as needed for out-of-district students for the 2021 – 2022 and 2022 – 2023 school years.

- #4     **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

#### **4.1     Student Home Instruction**

<b>Student #</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Hrs./Week/Duration</b>	<b>Beginning on or about</b>
#271633	HBW	7	10 hrs./wk./ 2-4 wks.	Apr. 27, 2022

- #5     **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

#### **5.1     Special Services Summer School**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Lakrisha Howard	MS - LSS Teacher	\$3,657
Ashley MacMoyle	Pre-School LSS Teacher	\$3,657
Alexandra Lombardi	Multisensory Reading Teacher	\$3,657
Hanna Grieco	Primary LSS Teacher	\$3, 657

**FINANCE**

- #6      **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the enclosed checklist(s) in the following amounts based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Check Register Date</u></b>
\$361,783.00	General	April 26, 2022
\$3,989.50	Chromebook	April 26, 2022