

PUBLIC MEETING

April 5, 2022

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on April 5 2022 at 7:00 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, Mr. Jim Day and Mr. Christopher Wacha. Also present was Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

There were 30 members of the public present. There were 0 members of the press present.



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION –6:00 pm
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
April 5, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report
6. Presentations - **Stefanie Lijoi** - HBW Language Arts Teacher/Essex County Education Association PRIDE essay contest winners
Laura Palmerezzi - Director of Athletics and Special Programs - Winter Sports recap
7. Committee Reports
 - Athletics -
 - Mrs. Priscoe provided an update and summary of recent and upcoming athletics events.
 - Mrs. Drappi asked a clarifying question about the DECA program.
 - Mrs. Freschi provided the clarification.
8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items - None
9. Discussion Items
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments - None.

Live streaming link: <https://youtu.be/1Vj7cfrwaWE>

Please note the location change.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm, followed by Public Session at 7:00 pm in the H. B. Whitehorne Auditorium, 600 Bloomfield 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 X Mr. Day X
Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Priscoe X
Mrs. Freschi X

5. Superintendent Report -

- 6. Presentations - Stefanie Lijoi** - HBW Language Arts Teacher/Essex County Education Association PRIDE essay contest winners
Laura Palmerezzi - Director of Athletics and Special Programs - Winter Sports recap

7. Committee Reports

- Athletics

8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items

9. Discussion Items

Mrs Drappi provided details about the Summer Splash program

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

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.

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 14.

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
April 5, 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
Confidential & Special Meeting

March 22, 2022
March 28, 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 Hires

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Christa Keber	VHS	Chemistry	\$56,637/pro-rated	Education	Apr. 19 - Jun. 30, 2022	
Anthony Cassie	FNB	Extension of LOA PE/Heath	\$240/per diem	Education	Mar. 7 - Apr. 8, 2022	
Anthony Cassie	District	Sub teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	Apr. 19 - Jun. 23, 2022	
Peter Cantwell	District	Sub Paraprofessional	\$16.25/per hr.	Education	Apr. 19 - Jun. 23, 2022	
Marisa Ackermann	VHS	Director of School Counseling	\$124,500/pro-rated	Education	May 16 - Jun. 30, 2022	
Paul Pinto	FNB	Sub Paraprofessional	\$15.25/per hr.	Education	Mar. 23 - Jun. 23, 2022	RESCIND
Paul Pinto	FNB	Sub Paraprofessional	\$16.25/per hr.	Education	Mar. 23 - Jun. 23, 2022	APPROVE

2.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About	Notes
Jennifer Gadaleta	VHS	Director of Guidance	Resignation	May 6, 2022	RESCIND
Jennifer Gadaleta	VHS	Director of Guidance	Resignation	May 13, 2022	APPROVE
Erik Lynch	VHS	Music Teacher	Resignation	Jun. 30, 2022	

2.3 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105198	Mar. 25, 28, 29, 30, 31 Apr. 1, 2022	6 days/PI
#105493	Apr. 1, 2022	1 day/PB

2.4 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#102153	Medical Leave of Absence	Apr. 6, 2022	Jun. 20, 2022
#102593	Extension of Medical Leave	Mar. 7, 2022	Apr. 8, 2022

EDUCATION

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

1st Readings
VHS229947
VHS229645
HWC229819
FBS229747
FBS229746
BAS230307

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

2nd Readings
HWC229106
HWC229359

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

5.1 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Claire Duffy	BRK/LAN	LETRS Unit Trainings	May 3,5, Jun 14,16 July 18, 21 Oct. 25, 27	\$1,200.00
Heather Anderson	FOR/FNB	LETRS Unit Trainings	May 3,5, Jun 14,16 July 18, 21 Oct. 25, 27	\$1,200.00
Marla Burns	VHS	SLE Coordinator Course/Rutgers Safe Schools	Oct. 20, 2022 and Date TBD	\$739.00

- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approved based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent that a doctoral student enrolled at Centenary University is conducting research that would consist of an online survey via SurveyMonkey. The title of her dissertation is “Communication at its Core: Elementary Teacher Beliefs on English Language Learners in Mainstream Settings.” With the BOE approval, she would like to conduct research in one (or more) of our elementary schools. The survey is applicable for all elementary teachers, regardless of their subject area expertise. It is anonymous with no identifying information collected, and participation is completely voluntary. There is an informed consent form teachers will need to read first. They will have the option to accept or decline participation in the survey before moving forward with the survey questions. The survey is quantitative in nature and has no open-ended questions. It should take participants approximately 8-12 minutes to complete. Although there are minimal risks associated with this survey, there are potential psychological and social/emotional risks that could result when answering questions specifically pertaining to participants’ levels of expertise working with English Language Learners (ELLs) and/or their beliefs in working with ELLs.
- #7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent the Splash Summer Learning Program Framework (see attached document). This program is funded through APR ESSER Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enriched Activities Grant.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- #8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to accept settlement agreement OAL Docket No.: EDS 00861-22, Agency Docket No.: 2022-33780 dated 3/22/22 regarding a special education matter for Student #281239.
- #9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent for **Kristina Ellenbogen** to provide 5 hours of home tutoring for student #302729 for the 2021 – 2022 school year at a cost not to exceed \$500.00.

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

10.1 Student Home Instruction

Student #	School	Grade	Hrs./Week/Duration	Beginning on or about
#253479	VHS	9	10 hrs./wk./6-8 wks.	Mar. 7, 2022
#271711	HBW	7	10 hrs./wk./6-8 wks.	Mar. 16, 2022

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

- #11 RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent that VMAC will fund a weeklong residence for Dr. William Berz, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University to work with the Verona High School music students at no cost to the Board.

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

12.1 Field Trip

Name	School	Club/Destination	Date of Field Trip
Christine Garson	VHS	Spanish III & IVH/Mercado Little Spain Hudson Yards, NYC	Jun. 7, 2022
Robert Orr	VHS	DECA/Atlanta, GA	Apr. 23-27, 2022

12.2 Coaches

Name	Location	Position	Stipend	Committee	Employment Date/s	Notes
Assistant Coach Nadia Domenick	VHS	Funded by LAX Boosters	\$4,500.00	Athletics	SY 21-22	Rescind
V/JV Assistant-Girls Nadia Domenick	VHS	Step 3	\$4,177.00	Athletics	SY 21-22	Approve
Assistant Coach Brian Wenzel	VHS	Funded by LAX Boosters	TBD	Athletics	SY 21-22	Rescind
V/JV Assistant-Boys Brian Wenzel	VHS	Step 3	\$4,177.00	Athletics	SY 21-22	Approve

FINANCE

- #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>
\$40,031.59	Food Service	April 1, 2022
\$ 8,562.75	VHS	April 1, 2022
\$10,707.45	HBW	April 1, 2022
\$ 2,815.00	Chromebook	April 1, 2022
\$91,888.81	General	April 1, 2022

- #14 **RESOLVED** that the Verona Board of Education approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent the Preliminary Budget for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of:

	GENERAL	SPECIAL	DEBT	
	<u>FUND</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<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>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022-23 Budget includes adjustments for the use of banked cap, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), in the amount of \$294,555.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Verona Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves to deposit a combined total not to exceed \$500,000 into Capital Reserve and/or Maintenance Reserve and/or Emergency Reserve, if determined to be prudent given the need for long term financial planning and budgeting, as permitted by

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-41/N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14-3. The actual amounts to be deposited will be determined as part of the actual FY22 audit.

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2022-2023 School Year using the 2022-2023 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

And to advertise said tentative budget in the *Star Ledger* in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held on April 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the H. B. Whitehorne Middle School auditorium for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2022-2023 School Year.

1. 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.

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

- #15 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: Mr. Day

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: None

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 7:35 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
April 5, 2022

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 Resolution #1 - 3.

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day X

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 the following based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

1.1 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Judy Berkowitz	FNB	LTS Admin. Asst.	\$230/per diem	Education	Apr. 19 - Jun. 30, 2022
Ciro Ingui	FNB	Head Custodian	Prorated \$44,722/Step 3 Head Custodian Stipend/\$5,112	Facilities	May 9 - Jun. 30, 2022
Megan Lill	District	Sub Paraprofessional	\$16.25/per hr.	Education	Apr. 19 - Jun. 23, 2022

1.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Jayson Harris	District	Floater Custodian	Resignation	Apr. 22, 2022

1.3 Marriage

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Dates	Notes
#105239	BRK/LAN	Physical Education	Marriage	4 days/May 31 - Jun. 3, 2022	4 days with pay with the cost of a substitute to be deducted

1.4 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105198	Apr. 4-5, 2022	2 days/PI

SPECIAL SERVICES

#2 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent approve to contract with Advancing Opportunities to provide assistive technology services to the Verona School District on an as-needed basis for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

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

3.1 Student Home Instruction

Student #	School	Grade	Hrs./Week/Duration	Beginning on or about
#253479	VHS	9	20 hrs. total	Apr. 6, 2022