

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**September 27, 2022**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on September 27, 2022 at 7:25 p.m.**

**The meeting was called to order by Jorge Cruz, Board Secretary.**

**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, Mr. Christopher Wacha, and Mrs. Sara Drappi, Mr. Day was absent. Also present was Diane DiGiuseppe, Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator.**

**There were 0 members of the public present. There were 2 members of the press present.**



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION –6:00 pm  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm  
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS  
September 27, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report - Diane DiGiuseppe
6. Board Secretary Report - Jorge Cruz
7. Committee Reports -
  - Athletics
  - Facilities
  - 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/pgZnkqbfEMo>

The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 11, 2022** beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session in the Verona High School Learning Commons

- 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 - Diane DiGiuseppe**

Back to School Night at each school was well attended (VHS and HBW are next week). It was nice for our families to be in-person.

- SCAs and VFEE introduced themselves and gave an overview of what their mission is.
- New HIB process
  - The Anti Bullying Bill of Rights law changed in January 2022
  - We streamlined our process
  - The changes to the law and timeline flowchart can be found on our district website Under Parents - Anti Bullying

**6. Board Secretary Report - Jorge Cruz**

Good evening everyone. I have a few updates for my report tonight. In finance, we have our July 2022 Board Secretary, Treasurer's, and Budget Transfers Report, and they're all in agreement. Next week we'll be working closely with our auditors on the 2021-22 financial review. We look forward to the report presentation before the end of this calendar year.

Free/Reduced Lunch Applications: I would like to encourage all families that qualify to submit the application by this Friday, September 30th. After this week, applications will only be accepted for new registration or hardship.

Referendum Update: Resolution # 20 recommends to the board additional referendum related projects for funding allocation approval.

Lastly, we've reached a decision on our Banking Services Request for Proposal (RFP). The committee has recommended Investors Bank for a three year extension. We look forward to the revised agreement which will generate additional interest revenues of approximately \$80,000, annually. This concludes my report for tonight. Thank you.

## **7. Committee Reports**

- Athletics - Mrs. Priscoe provided an update regarding athletics events and bussing. Also provided an update on field trips.
- Facilities - Mrs. Drappi provided an update from the facilities committee. Shared items in discussion such as the softball field foul ball net, needed repairs to storm water drains, architect RFP. Resolution#20 repairs that needed to be addressed this summer.
- Finance - Mr. Wacha provided an update on the finance committee. Mr. Cruz provided additional clarification about the discussion. Mrs. Drappi asked a question about the residency verification proposal.

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

**Denise Verzella- 130 Personnet Ave** - Asked a clarifying question about addendum Resolution #3 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program.

**9. Discussion Items** - Mrs. Freschi requested to move the October 25th Board meeting to Thursday, October 27th due to a conflict with the NJSBA 2022 Workshop Conference. Mr. Wacha requested a Legal RFP straw poll for the next board confidential meeting.

## **10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**

## **11. Public Comments**

**Denise Verzella- 130 Personette Ave** - Requested information about Vo-Tech in Essex County and asked why we don't have opportunities in Verona. Also asked about the free-reduced lunch qualification increase that was passed by the governor.

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, 2, 4- 20.**

Mr. Wacha	<u>X</u>	Mr. Day	<u>X</u>
Mrs. Drappi	<u>X</u>	Mrs. Priscoe	<u>X</u>
Mrs. Freschi	<u>X</u>		

**Motion by:** Mr. Drappi

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Priscoe

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #3.**

Mr. Wacha	<u>No</u>	Mr. Day	<u>No</u>
Mrs. Drappi	<u>No</u>	Mrs. Priscoe	<u>No</u>
Mrs. Freschi	<u>X</u>		

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RESOLUTIONS**  
**September 27, 2022**

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 and Regular Public Meeting	September 13, 2022
Special Public Meeting	September 20, 2022

**PERSONNEL**

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

**2.1      New Staff**

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
<b>Olivia Magana</b>	HBW	Paraprofessional	\$18,370.48 (Prorated)	Education	Sept. 14, 2022 - Jun. 22, 2023	RESCIND
<b>Olivia Magana</b>	LAN	Paraprofessional	\$18,370.48 (Prorated)	Education	Sept. 15, 2022 - Jun. 22, 2023	APPROVE
<b>Mary Ummak</b>	FNB	Flex Paraprofessional	\$15,012.43	Education	Sept. 26, 2022 - Jun. 22, 2023	RESCIND
<b>Lisa Torchia</b>	District	Sub Secretary	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 22-23	
<b>Esther Luna</b>	FOR	Part Time Custodian	\$18.00/hr.	Facilities	Oct. 24, 2022 - Jun. 30, 2023	
<b>Karen Moran</b>	LAN	Paraprofessional	\$18,930.15 (Prorated)	Education	Sept. 28, 2022 - Jun 22, 2023	
<b>Sarah Joyce</b>	FNB	MLOA 1st Grade	\$235/per diem	Education	Oct. 4, 2022 - Jan. 25, 2023	

## 2.2 Staff Changes

Name	Current Location/ Position/Salary	New Location/ Position/Salary	Effective Date on or about	Notes
<b>Kristy Mori-Gizzi</b>	HBW/Paraprofessional/ 5 days/18,370.48	HBW/Paraprofessional/ 4 days/ \$15,012.44	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun. 30, 2023	RESCIND
<b>Kristy Mori-Gizzi</b>	HBW/Paraprofessional/ 4 days/15,012.44	HBW/Paraprofessional/ 3 days/ \$12,019.32	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun. 30, 2023	APPROVE

## 2.3 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
<b>#105300</b>	Sept. 21-22-23, 2022	3 days/ Without Pay

## EDUCATION

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the second reading of the following policy:

P7250 School and Facility Names

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

### 4.1 Student Intern

Name	School	School/Teacher/Grade	Duration	Assignment
<b>Paige Hakimian</b>	Montclair State University	Special Services/Edelstein	Sept. 28 - Dec. 23, 2022	Psychology Practicum Intern

### 4.2 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
<b>Alyssa Boldurian</b>	VHS	Reading, Writing & The Brain: Developing Effective Interventions/Virtual	Oct. 19, 2022	\$219.00

### 4.3 Professional Development

Name	School	Date	Course	Hrs./Stipend
Amy Dages	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training Presenter	not to exceed 6 hrs./ \$69.87/per hr.
Maria Erazo	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$29.36/per hr.
Theresa Campbell	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Steven Grice	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Elizabeth Genzale	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Sara Arooj	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Laura MacMoyle	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$21.08/per hr.
Peter Cantwell	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs. / \$16.74/per hr.
Claudia Ferrera	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Rhanda Kramer	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Patricia Castellano	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Carol Pomarico	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$23.51/per hr.
Kathleen McNamara	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$23.05/per hr.
Felisha Camacho	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$29.36/per hr.
Rob Vogel	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$19.29/per hr.
Margaret Devivo	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Ann Jones	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$21.08/per hr.
Loretta LaBruno	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$18.67/per hr.



Kim Rothenberger	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Valerie Lachine	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Kirsty Mori-Gizzi	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Amelia Griffiths	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Larissa Cocuzza	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Angela Emerich	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$20.49/per hr.
Francine Lambroschino	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Ebony Lane	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Jennifer McGinley	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Jessica Ehrlich	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Magdalene Koutsouradis	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Elina Ballesteros	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Maria Barone	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$16.74/per hr.
Joan Puzzo-Bukhard	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$17.25/per hr.
Brooke Raskin	Spec. Svcs.	Sept. 1, 2022	Crisis Intervention Institute Training	not to exceed 5 hrs./ \$48.53/per hr.
Raquel Grasso	Spec. Svcs.	Aug. 31, 2022	Rethink Training (Summer)	2 hrs./\$60.00/per hr. = \$120.00
Jody Sewell	Spec. Svcs.	Aug. 31, 2022	Rethink Training (Summer)	2 hrs./\$60.00/per hr. = \$120.00

#### 4.4 Field Trip

Name	School	Club/Destination	Date of Field Trip
Valerie Useche	VHS	Spanish Club/Hudson Yards, NY	Oct. 13, 2022

#### 4.5 Non-Resident Tuition Student

Student ID No.	School	Grade
#283846	HBW	7

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following:

#### 5.1 Extra Pay

Name	Dates From/To	Position	Pay rate	Reason
Regina Tully	Sept. 6, 2022	Speech Language	\$565.33/per diem	Spec. Ed. meetings

#6 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve to contract with Home Care Therapies dba/Horizon Healthcare Staffing to provide Staffing Services to the Verona School District, including, but not limited to, Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Paraprofessionals, etc. as listed in the Clinical Staffing Agreement, for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, 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 2022 – 2023 school year.

### ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent,

#### .1 Co-Curricular

Advisor	Location	Club Name	Stipend	Term of Employment	Notes
Lisa Sarett	HBW	Chef's Club	\$1,228.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND

- #9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following job description revisions:

District Facilities Coordinator  
District Custodian Coordinator

## **FINANCE**

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

<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Check Register Date</u></b>
\$71,418.99	General	September 27, 2022
\$3,661.00	VHS	September 27, 2022
\$800.00	HBW	September 27, 2022
\$14,080.00	Chromebook	September 27, 2022

- #11 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the following month:

July 2022

- #12 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Report of the Secretary for the period(s) as follows be approved:

July 2022

- #13 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the attached list of individual transfers of line items in the 2021-2022 budget for:

July 2022

- #14 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that Jorge Cruz and Nicholas Naturile attend the 2022 New Jersey School Board Workshop on October 24, 25, 26, 2022.

Registration per person: Included in prior Group Registration  
Lodging per person: \$119.00 per night x 2 = \$238.00  
Meals and Incidentals: \$147.50 per person  
Mileage round trip per person: 260 miles x .47 = \$122.20

- #15 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the attached revised part time and substitute salaries for the 2022-2023 school year.
- #16 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, TruView BSI, LLC to provide residency verification services, outlined in the proposal.
- #17 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Transworld Systems as our collections agency to recover outstanding accounts receivables.
- #18 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the attached Interlocal School Bus Sale Agreement between Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission and Verona Public Schools.
- #19 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Investors Bank as the banking services provider to the Board, for a term of three years (October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2025), as outlined in the proposal.
- #20 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the allocation of referendum funds for additional related projects below:

Referendum Category	Description	Amount	Vendor
HVAC	Storm Water Drain Jetting (district)	\$37,220.00	All American Sewer
HVAC	FNB Steel Support for HVAC	\$9,435.00	R.S. Phillips Steel LLC
Kitchen Upgrade	HBW Freezer Cooling System	\$8,323.70	KCG
Masonry	Forest Ave Retaining Wall	\$27,100.00	Martin Construction
Drainage	Storm Water Repairs @ FNB & LAN	\$42,860.00	Martin Construction
Windows	Window Shades	\$22,374.90	Akerson Drapery
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$147,313.60</b>	

# **#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**

- #21      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. Priscoe      

**Second by:**       Mrs. Drappi      

**All in Favor:**       AYE      

**All Opposed:**       None      

**This meeting is adjourned at (TIME)   8:23   P.M.**

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS**  
**September 27, 2022**

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

**Motion by:** Mrs. Drappi

**Seconded by:** Mr. Day

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolution #1 - 5.**

Mr. Wacha   X  

Mr. Day   X  

Mrs. Drappi   X  

Mrs. Priscoe   X  

Mrs. Freschi   X  

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

**PERSONNEL**

**#1 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent the following:

**1.1 Retirement**

Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date of Retirement
Joan Petronico	School Nurse	FOR/LAN	Retirement	Dec. 31, 2022

**1.2 Reallocation of Days**

Employee #	Explanation
#105249	5 Personal Illness days to 5 Paternity Days

## **EDUCATION**

- #2     **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the HIB report for September, 2022.
- #3     **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program.

## **CO-CURRICULAR**

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

### **4.1     Co-Curricular**

<b>Advisor</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b>Term of Employment</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Derek Felano</b>	VHS	Class Advisor - Grade 10	\$3,688.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Derek Felano</b>	VHS	Class Advisor - Grade 10	\$1,844.00	SY 22-23	APPROVE
<b>Patrick Bresnan</b>	VHS	Class Advisor - Grade 10	\$1,844.00	SY 22-23	

## **FINANCE**

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

<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Check Register Date</u></b>
\$104,599.77	General	September 27, 2022