

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on October 9, 2012 in the Board Office Conference Room at 7:29 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Quattrocchi. 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: Mr. John Quattrocchi, President, Mr. Joseph Bellino, Vice President and Ms. Dawn DuBois. Mr. Glenn Elliott and Mr. Michael Unis were absent. Also present were: Mr. Steven Forte, Superintendent and Ms. Cheryl Nardino, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

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.

Moved by: Mr. Bellino      Seconded by: Mr. DuBois

Ayes: 3      Nays: 0

The Board convened to a confidential session on October 9, 2012 in the Board Office Conference Room at 7:30 p.m.

The Regular meeting reconvened to the regular session, in the Verona High School Media Center, at 8:00 p.m.

Two members of the press and 10 citizens were present.

**Presentations**-Elizabeth Jewett- Strategic Plan

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**- None

**Committee Reports:**

**Education/Special Education**

- Teacher evaluation process
- Cost saving efforts for transportation routes
- Training for nurses were discussed
- ESL statistics
- Preschool statistics
- Special Education population is about 13.5% of the total population.
- Maternity leave resolutions will be on next meeting agenda.

Mr. Bellino raised the issue of the Camp Bernie Trip. He noted that the information was announced in a classroom at Back to School Night at HBW and the trip was not approved by the Board.

### **Community Resources**

- Reviewed Strategic Plan presentation

### **Buildings and Grounds**

- Mr. Bellino sat in on the meeting in place of Mr. Elliott.
- Committee is recommending further testing on the field which will involve digging test pits and imaging of these pits. There will also be soil analysis performed. Mr. McDevitt will get a quote on this work.
- Resolution to recommend an architect of record for the next meeting. It will be Mylan and EI Associates. There were three firms that made presentations.
- Reviewed LRF document.
- Reviewed buildings and grounds historical budgeted amounts.
- Reviewed \$140k worth of annual maintenance items. About 40% of the buildings and grounds budget is spent on reoccurring items.
- Mr. McDevitt is presenting at the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Athletics and Co-curricular**

- Resolutions next meeting will be replacing track coaches due to a resignation, winter coaches, and a new "Hook and Fish" club at HBW.
- Substance Abuse Policy and Code of Conduct was reviewed.
- Possible track repairs.
- VHS gym bleachers are in disrepair and need to be addressed.

### **Finance**

- Resolution for district advertising on the next meeting. Ms. DuBois would like the Board to approve the advertisers. Mr. Bellino agreed. The process to do this will be ironed out as we move along in the process.
- Strauss Esmay will review and update our policies for \$5,000.
- Ongoing discussion on attorney fees.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- MEI Advertising Contract was discussed in finance tonight and will be approved at the October 30<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.
- Strauss Esmay- update of district policies.
- Joined the Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club.
- Security Plan has been distributed to the schools.
- QSAC Annual Questionnaire has been completed.
- Demographics and Graduates Statistics given to Board .
  - Life expectancy rate for HS Drop Out 7 years less than grad
  - Unemployment 14.1 to 9.4
  - Salary \$187 per week less
- December 8- AP workshops at VHS.
- Teacher mentor program- began for new staff and their mentors.

**Discussion**

Mr. Quattrocchi clarified discussions between the Board and the Township on the Pilot money. The three recent meetings between the Town and BOE, occurred in the fall, spring, and the full Board and Council meeting in June. The conversations were consistent that the Township would fund select buildings and grounds efforts, based on the BOE list of priorities. To date, the township has been doing that, as reported in those and many other meetings.

**RESOLUTIONS**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Board approve **Resolutions #1-5**

**Moved by: Mr. Bellino**

**Seconded by: Mr. DuBois**

**Ayes: 3**

**Nays: 0**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**#1 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting **September 25, 2012**

**EDUCATION**

**#2 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the Superintendents presentation of HIB report # 1 from September 25, 2012.

**CO-CURRICULAR/ATHLETIC**

**#3 RESOVLED** that the Board approved the following field trips:

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Marie Meyer	VHS	10/13/2012	Churchill School, NY,NY	Girls Learn International

**Education**

**#4 RESOLVED** that the Board approved the following staff members to attend professional development workshops:

**Professional Development**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Event/Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Acct.</b>
Elise Edelstein	Autism NJ Conference	10/11-12/12	\$225	IDEA
	Atlantic City Convention Center			
Grace Minervo-Buneo	Autism NJ Conference	10/11-12/12	\$300	IDEA
	Atlantic City Convention Center			
Nicole Azati	Workshop/Ethics & Documentation	10/19/12	\$113	IDEA
Anthony Lanzo	Bullying-Breaking the Trend - St. Barnabas Health Institute	10/19/12	\$150	
Maureen O'Neill	NJ Branch of Int'l. Dyslexia Assoc. Conference – Somerset, NJ	10/12/12	\$200.00	IDEA
Linda Wangner	NJ Branch of Int'l. Dyslexia Assoc. Conference – Somerset, NJ	10/12/12	\$200.00	IDEA
Claire Duffy	NJ Branch of Int'l. Dyslexia Assoc. Conference – Somerset, NJ	10/12/12	\$200.00	IDEA
Sari Santoro	NJ Branch of Int'l. Dyslexia Assoc. Conference – Somerset, NJ	10/12/12	\$200.00	IDEA
Debbie Marsano	NJ Branch of Int'l. Dyslexia Assoc. Conference – Somerset, NJ	10/12/12	5 <sup>th</sup> person free	
Sumit Bangia	Legal One Series Workshop, WO	10/22/12	\$300.00	
Nicole Santora	Legal One Series Workshop, WO	10/22/12	\$300.00	
Elizabeth Skinner	NJALC Fall Conference, Ocean Place Center, Long Branch, NJ	10/26/12	\$188.92	IDEA

**#5 RESOLVED** that the Board approved Elizabeth Jewett to attend the following professional development workshop:

Learning Forward Convention in Boston, MA on December 3-5, 2012.

Cost: Registration \$379.00  
Hotel \$657.00  
Mileage \$141.36  
Total \$1,177.36

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Update from a parent on the campaign to have Full Day Kindergarten, from January to June. It will be voted on by the voters of Verona November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Another parent argued the points communicated by the full day kindergarten campaign. An additional comment was made about what will the students be doing in class for the additional time.
- SCA's, VMAC and VFEE all donate a lot of money to the schools, which is all taxpayer money. The point was made that taxpayers give to the schools and then there is a vote for them to spend more money towards full day kindergarten.
- Track, bleachers, and policy updates are needed, but why are we spending money on a new club?
- HBW Back to School Night was fantastic.
- Parent felt that voting day is not "safe" for schools with children in them.
- A parent presented statistics on full day kindergarten.
- A parent made a comment that people make a decision to move to a town based on the high school. This person believes that the decision is not made on full day kindergarten.

**The Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Cheryl A. Nardino  
Board Secretary**