

PUBLIC MEETING

December 10, 2019

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on December 10, 2019 in the Verona High School Media Center at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernest Turner, Acting 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, Mr. Glenn Elliott, Vice-President, Mr. James Day, Mr. Timothy Alworth and Mrs. Pamela Priscoe. Also present was Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Ernie Turner, Acting Board Secretary. Ms. Nardino was absent.

There were 25 members of the public present. There was 1 member of the press present.

Public Comment on Agenda Items-None

- Dr. Dionisio made a statement sharing that his contract re-negotiation has been rescinded. He stated that he will continue to dedicate himself to the job of Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Dionisio stated that he was also working in the additional capacity as Director of Facilities at no cost to the district. The Director of Facilities position was posted to search for a new administrator.

Presentations

- ❖ Fall Sports Wrap-Up, Mr. Merkler, Director of Athletics and Special Programs
- ❖ Annual Audit Presentation - Gary Vinci - Lerch, Vinci & Higgins LLP

Superintendent Report

1. Resolution #6 - District Calendar
2. School Security Update

Committee Reports

Education/Special Education

- Math 3rd grade
- World Language
- First round of observations
- New teacher training
- District mentoring program
- Special Education - Fundraiser successful
- SEPAC meeting
- New pre-school speech language therapist
- Interviewing bus drivers

Athletics/Co-Curricular

- Congratulations to the Football Team
- Winter Sport underway
- Choir field trip to Empire State Building

Building and Grounds

- Potential ADA ramp installation at F.N. Brown
- Shades in classrooms replaced
- Custodians painting classrooms
- Tree trimming

Community Resources

- Time of bids is important
- Will talk to theatre parents on stage updates
- Discussed school calendar

Discussion Items -

- Mrs. Freschi congratulated Mr. Miller for obtaining Doctorate
- Thanked Mr. Elliott for his time on the Board
- Mr. Day, Mr. Alworth and Mrs. Priscoe thanked Mr. Elliott
- Mr. Elliott expressed his appreciation

Public Comments:

- Sharon O'Donnell - commented on events of the past few days. How does Verona review transfer students? Dr. Dionisio responded this information is obtained from the prior school. Board Attorney cited administrative Code 6A that sets forth the requirements. Who sets expulsion process? Attorney responded. Does Verona Board of Education request a record of prior offenses? Board Attorney responded that the disciplinary records are transferred.
- Michelle Bernardio thanked Mr. Elliott
- Denise Verzlla - spoke on summer camps
- Sarah Latson - Update on Mental Health Program - Dr. Dionisio responded.
- Chris Larkey- Seniors leave for lunch through front door. Dr. Dionisio responded that attempts are made to limit the number of doors that are used by the students.
- Dina DeVivo - How do other students handle the situation if the student is allowed back into the school? Dr. Dionisio stated he was unable to comment on the situation.
- Mike Sperling - Appreciated the alert that was sent out. What will be done with the student as no one knows who it is? Situation is bad in the country. Parents are concerned. Dr. Dionisio responded - please be aware that we are not protecting one child but everyone. Mrs. Freschi - expressed her concern. Dr. Dionisio - stated that resources have been spent to upgrade security.
- Michelle Bernardino - had family member at Sandy Hook shooting. Appreciated the work of Dr. Dionisio and the police. Must protect the privacy of the child.
- Dina DiVivo - Does not understand the policy of privacy? Suggests an assembly to describe rights. Dr. Dionisio stated that he would give it some thought.
- Marisa Sperling - Does the Board of Education have responsibility to provide mental health services to the students? Dr. Dionisio - the Board of Education has responsibility to provide for all students in need.
- Jacqueline DeVivo - Student missed school yesterday. Panic occurred in school today during announcements which was an announcement for a club meeting. She felt the students need to be reassured. Kids need the help. Recommends assembly for the student - should not be afraid to go to school.
- Laurie Rumkins - agreed with Jacqueline that there should have been an assembly. Dr. Dionisio said there are pluses and minuses for an assembly. Teachers have been advised on how to handle the situation

- Mrs. Freschi - The Board of Education attempts to address all situations for the safety of the children
- Chris Ford - Look for answers
- Paula DeVito - Are there locker checks? Dr. Dionisio - yes Board of Education property.
- Dr. Dionisio - school culture most important thing you could have. Working together as a community.

RESOLUTIONS

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

RESOLVED that the Board approve Resolutions #1 - 16 and addendum resolutions #1 - 6

Moved by: Mr. Timothy Alworth Seconded by: Mr. James Day

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
MEETING
December 10, 2019

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 26, 2019

PERSONNEL

#2 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following personnel recommendations pending the completion of pre-employment requirements for the 2019-2020 year:

2.1 New Hires

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Robert Pojero	District	Sub Teacher	\$90/per diem	Education	SY 19-20
Joanne Andalora	FNB	Sub Lunch aide	\$13.50/hr.	Education	SY 19 -20
Rebecca DeFrance	LAN	Maternity Leave replacement - Speech Language	\$250/per diem	Education	Jan. 28, 2020 - Jun. 19, 2020

2.2 Reclassification of Days

Employee #	Explanation
#105257	Reclassify 5 Personal Illness Days to 5 Paternity Days

2.3 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date on or before	Estimated Return Date on or about
#102537	Maternity Leave	Feb. 14, 2020	Jun. 8, 2020

2.4 Without Pay

Name	Date	Reason
#103028	Dec. 4-5, 2019	4 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105369	Dec. 4, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105233	Dec. 4-5, 2019	4 hrs. Unpaid Day

#103161	Dec. 4-5, 2019	4 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105099	Dec. 4-5, 2019	4 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105382	Dec. 4, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105082	Dec. 4-5, 2019	4 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105198	Dec. 4, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105470	Dec. 4-5, 2019	4 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105348	Dec. 4, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105274	Dec. 4-5, 2019	4 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105018	Dec. 4, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105282	Dec. 4, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105300	Dec. 5, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105396	Dec. 5, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105344	Dec. 5, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105294	Dec. 5, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105290	Dec. 5, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day
#105262	Dec. 5, 2019	2 hrs. Unpaid Day

EDUCATION

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

HIB Case		HIB Case
VHS 204333		BAS 204632
VHS 204366		HBW-CH 204704
VHS 204428		VHS 204764
VHS 204531		VHS 204765
VHS 204566		

#4 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

4.1 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost	Notes
Elton Ballaj	District	TECHSPO 2020	Jan. 30 - 31, 2020	Registration \$475.00 Hotel \$97.00 Mileage \$70.70 Total \$642.70	
Elnor Zequiri	District	TECHSPO 2020	Jan. 30 - 31, 2020	Registration \$475.00 Hotel \$97.00 Mileage \$70.70 Total \$642.70	
David Galbierczyk	District	TECHSPO 2020	Jan. 30 - 31, 2020	Registration \$475.00 Hotel \$97.00 Mileage \$70.70 Total \$642.70	
Claire Duffy	BRK/ LAN	Voyager Sopris, Texas	Jan. 20 - 24, 2020	Registration \$2,199.00 Hotel \$551.44 Mileage/Airfare \$524.24 Meals \$297.00 Total \$3,571.68	
Jason Calo	VHS	EATA Convention, Mashanutucket, CT.	Jan. 10-13, 2020	Registration \$240.00 Hotel \$596.85 Mileage \$48.36 Meals \$168.00 Total \$1053.21	
Gina Mainella	FNB	Ridge Ranch Elementary School/Paramus, NJ	Dec. 12, 2019	Registration \$200.00 Mileage \$10.78 Total \$210.78	RESCIND
Lou Waibel	FNB	Ridge Ranch Elementary School/Paramus, NJ	Dec. 12, 2019	Registration \$200.00 Mileage \$10.78 Total \$210.78	RESCIND
Dr. Anthony Lanzo	FNB	Ridge Ranch Elementary School/Paramus, NJ	Dec. 12, 2019	Registration \$200.00	RESCIND

4.2 Mentor

Novice Teacher	Location	Mentor	Stipend	# of mentoring weeks
Sandra Lopez-Lorente	HBW	Jenny Qin	Waived	30 weeks

4.3 Student Observer

Name	School	School/Teacher/ Grade	Duration	Assignment
Shalva Adler	Rutgers Univ.	VHS/Shapiro/Psychologist	Jan. 13- Jun. 8, 2020	Student Observer

- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Board of Education meeting dates for January 2020 – January 2021.
- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached revision of the 2020-2021 District calendar.
- #7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached District Statistical Report for the month of November 2019.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

8.1 Student Home Instruction

Student #	School	Grade	Hrs./Week/Duration	Beginning on or about
#202859	VHS	12	20 hrs.	Dec. 6, 2019

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

- #9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached 2019-2020 Agreement between the Verona Board of Education and the Verona High School Hockey Parents Association.

#10 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

10.1 Field Trip

Name of Chaperones	School	Club/Destination	Date of Field Trip
Claire Ma	VHS	Choir/Empire State Bldg./ NY, NY	Jan. 10, 2020

10.2 Clubs

Advisor	Club Name	Location	Stipend	Term of Employment	Notes
Jessica Schram	Science Olympiad - trial basis	VHS	NA	SY 19-20	Volunteer

10.3 Stipends

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Employment Date
Jason Atkins	VHS	\$50.00/hr. up to 24 hrs.	Fall/Spring play set construction	SY 19-20
Steven Munoz	VHS	\$50.00/hr./7 hrs.	Fall play set construction	SY 19-20

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$1,315,970.34	Vendor Checks	December 6, 2019

#12 RESOLVED that the Board approve a donation of a Vox AC10 amplifier with a value of \$450 donated by the Quattrocchi Family.

#13 RESOLVED that the Board accept a donation of \$400.00 from the New Jersey Bar Foundation to be applied towards F. N. Brown Peer Mediation Program.

- #14 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the 2019-2020 ESEA carryovers to the 2019-2020 project year as follows:

Title I \$2,640
Title II \$37,099
Title IV \$14,041

- #15 RESOLVED** that the Board accept the 2018-2019 CAFR Report ending June 30, 2019 as prepared by Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, CPA's.

- #16 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a total of **\$85,022** be withdrawn from Maintenance Reserve for ceiling repair at Laning (**\$80,500**) and window sill repair at Verona High School (\$4,522). A withdrawal in the amount of \$64,200 was approved previously by resolution.

PERSONNEL

- TABLED #17 RESOLVED** that the Board appoint Dr. Rui Dionisio as Superintendent of Schools, for the Verona Public School District for a term retroactive to July 19, 2019 through June 30, 2024 as per attached contract.

ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS

December 10, 2019

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

PERSONNEL

- #1 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following personnel recommendations pending the completion of pre-employment requirements for the 2019-2020 year:

1.1 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Anna Totaro	FNB	Paraprofessional	\$14.95/hr.	Education	SY 19-20

1.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective
Nithya Aruchamy	BRK	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Dec. 20, 2019

#2 RESOLVED that the Board rescind Dr. Dionisio in his non-contractual additional role as the Director of Facilities for which is at no cost to the District.

#3 RESOLVED that the Board rescind Dr. Dionisio in his non-contractual additional role as the Acting Board Secretary for which is at no cost to the District.

EDUCATION

#4 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following merit goals for Dr. Dionisio (attachment).

- Conduct public presentations to educate and inform the Verona community on the Verona Public Schools facility needs in advance of a community vote for November 2019 Referendum.
- Design, develop, and disseminate a communication strategy through written press releases and video/movie files to inform Verona community on facility referendum needs in advance of the November 2019 referendum vote.

FINANCE

#5 RESOLVED that the Board approve the Corrective Action Plan for the audit year ending June 30, 2019 as attached.

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$31,785.69	Vendor Checks	December 9, 2019

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ernest J. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "T".

Ernest Turner

Acting Board Secretary