

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**January 3, 2023**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on December 13, 2022 at 7:07 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, Mrs. Diana Ferrera and Mrs. Denise Verzella. Also present was Diane DiGiuseppe, Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator.**

**There were 12 members of the public present. There were 0 members of the press present.**

- 1. Call to Order by the Board Secretary**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Election Results**
- 4. Swearing in of Board Members**
- 5. 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 3, 2023. 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. Copies of tonight's agenda and resolutions have been made available to the public and press.

**6. Roll Call Attendance**

Mr. Wacha   X  

Mrs. Ferrera   X  

Mrs. Verzella   X  

Mrs. Priscoe   X  

Mrs. Freschi   X

**7. Election of Board President - Mr. Wacha Nominated Mrs. Priscoe**

**Motion by:**  Mrs. Verzella

**Seconded by:**  Mrs. Ferrera

Mr. Wacha  X

Mrs. Priscoe  X

Mrs. Verzella  X

Mrs. Ferrera  X

Mrs. Freschi  X

**8. Election of Board Vice President - Mr. Wacha Nominated Mrs. Ferrera**

**Motion by:**  Mrs. Priscoe

**Seconded by:**  Mrs. Freschi

Mr. Wacha  X

Mrs. Priscoe  X

Mrs. Verzella  No

Mrs. Ferrera  X

Mrs. Freschi  X

**9. Superintendent Report - Diane DiGiuseppe**

Ms. DiGiuseppe discussed the excellence of our music program after watching the holiday concerts. She congratulated Mrs. Ferrera and Mrs. Verzella for being elected and congratulated the new president and VP. I discussed the electronic Board member information folder to replace the large black BOE member binder. She spoke about a potential change to the agenda, rather than folders, linking documents as hyperlinks in the resolution body. The Demographic Study, the Strategic Plan, the climate survey, and a staffing update.

**10. Student Representative Report - Reese Sahadow**

I. Student Report

- A. Thank you to Daniel Frenklakh for attending last meeting
- B. Student Council's annual toy drive concluded last month, with gifts being delivered to Hawkins Street Elementary in Newark on Dec 20
- C. Pep rally on Dec 23, school wide participation during the school day
- D. Break ended today, all students back in school

**11. Committee Reports**

- **Gov & Policy** - Lisa Freschi/Denise Verzella
- **Athletics & Co-Curricular**- Pamela Priscoe/Christopher Wacha
- **Buildings & Grounds**- Lisa Freschi/Christopher Wacha
- **Finance** - Pamela Priscoe/ Diana Ferrera
- **Education & Student Achievement**- Diana Ferrera/Denise Verzella

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

**13. Discussion Items**

**14. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**

**15. 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 EXECUTIVE SESSION –6:00 pm  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm  
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS  
January 3, 2023

**I. ROUTINE MATTERS**

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

- #1 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Regular Public Meeting    December 13, 2022

**Motion by:**          Mrs. Freschi      

**Seconded by:**       Mrs. Verzella      

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolution #1**

Mr. Wacha      X                        Mrs. Priscoe      X  

Mrs. Verzella      X                        Mrs. Ferrera      X  

Mrs. Freschi      X  

**II. BOARD RENEWAL RESOLUTIONS**

- #1 **RESOLVED** that the Verona Board of Education approve the establishment of the following Board of Education Committees. Appointments to the Committees will be made by the Board President:

- **Gov & Policy** - Lisa Freschi/Denise Verzella
- **Athletics & Co-Curricular**- Pamela Priscoe/Christopher Wacha
- **Buildings & Grounds**- Lisa Freschi/Christopher Wacha
- **Finance** - Pamela Priscoe/ Diana Ferrera
- **Education & Student Achievement**- Diana Ferrera/Denise Verzella

**Motion by:**          Mrs. Freschi      

**Seconded by:**       Mrs. Ferrera

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolution #1**

Mr. Wacha   X  

Mrs. Priscoe   X  

Mrs. Verzella   X  

Mrs. Ferrera   X  

Mrs. Freschi   X  

**III. PERSONNEL**

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

**1.1 New Hires** -pending successful completion of pre-employment paperwork.

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Laura Kohler	District	Supervisor of Special Services	\$105,000 (prorated)	Education	February 22, 2023	
Tara Barrows	FNB	MLOA 1st Grade	\$150.00	Education	Nov. 15, 2022 - Jun. 23, 2022	RESCIND
Tara Barrows	FNB	MLOA 1st Grade	\$235.00	Education	Nov. 15, 2022 - Jun. 23, 2022	APPROVE
Joni Jasterzbski	District	Sub Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 22-23	

**1.2 Reallocation of Days**

Employee #	Explanation
#105597	1 Family Illness/1.5 Personal Business to 2.5 Personal Illness Days

**1.3 Without Pay**

Employee #	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105597	12/19-20-21-22/2022	4 days/Unpaid
#105348	12/14/2022	1 day/Unpaid

**1.4 Resignation**

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Deborah Skowronski	FNB	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Jan. 3, 2023

Motion by: Mrs. Verzella

Seconded by: Mrs. Freschi

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 1.4.**

Mr. Wacha   X  

Mrs. Priscoe   X  

Mrs. Verzella   X  

Mrs. Ferrera   X  

Mrs. Freschi   X  

**IV. EDUCATION**

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

**1.1 Recommendation for Textbook Adoption**

Name	Location	Course	Grade
Give Me Liberty! An American History	VHS	Advanced Placement U.S. History	11

Motion by: Mrs. Freschi

Seconded by: Mrs. Ferrera

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 1.1.**

Mr. Wacha   X  

Mrs. Priscoe   X  

Mrs. Verzella   X  

Mrs. Ferrera   X  

Mrs. Freschi   X

**V. SPECIAL EDUCATION**

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

**1.1 Student Home Instruction**

<b>Student #</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Hrs./Week/Duration</b>	<b>Beginning on or about</b>
#281585	VHS	9	10 hrs./wk./4-6 wks.	Dec. 13, 2022
#261331	VHS	9	10 hrs./wk./4-6 wks.	Dec. 13, 2022
#302448	HBW	5	10 hrs./wk./4-6 wks.	Dec. 12, 2022
#281951	HBW	7	10 hrs./wk./4-6 wks.	Dec. 5, 2022
#270988	HBW	8	10 hrs./wk./4-6 wks.	Dec. 12, 2022
#240862	VHS	11	10 hrs./wk./4-6 wks.	Dec. 19, 2022
#261566	VHS	9	10 hrs./wk./4-5 wks.	Dec. 15, 2022

**#2 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve to contract with Erin Mori, School Psychology Consultant, as a shared maternity leave replacement for the period 12/14/22 – 6/22/23 at the rate of \$75 per hour for an approximate total of \$22,500.

**#3 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve to contract with Phyllis Schoenfeld, dba PKS Educational Consultant, as a shared maternity leave replacement for the period 12/14/22– 6/22/23 at the rate of \$75 per hour for an approximate total of \$22,500.

**#4 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Verona Board of Education to approve the Maximum Cap for Independent Evaluations to be the County rate or the excess amount not covered by insurance, whichever is less, for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Motion by:**  Mrs. Freschi

**Seconded by:**  Mrs. Ferrera

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 4.**

Mr. Wacha  X

Mrs. Priscoe  X

Mrs. Verzella  X

Mrs. Ferrera  X

Mrs. Freschi  X

**VI. ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR**

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

**1.1 Attendance at Conference**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Event/Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Laura Palmerezzi</b>	District	DAANJ/Atlantic City, NJ	Mar. 14-17, 2023	Registration \$475.00 Hotel \$288.00 Mileage \$120.32 M & I \$206.50 Total \$1,089.82
<b>Diane DiGiuseppe</b>	District	NJ Techspo/Atlantic City, NJ	Jan.25-27	Registration \$515 Hotel \$291 Mileage \$120.32 M&I \$162 Total \$1,124.32

**1.2 Co-Curricular**

<b>Advisor</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b>Term of Employment</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Paula Ramos</b>	VHS	Advisor - Grade 11	\$4,328.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Paula Ramos</b>	VHS	Advisor - Grade 11	\$2,164.00	SY 22-23	APPROVE
<b>Linda Barone</b>	VHS	Advisor - Grade 11	\$2,164.00	SY 22-23	
<b>Ashley Enste</b>	VHS	Advisor - Yearbook (Assistant)	\$2,183.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Ashley Enste</b>	VHS	Advisor - Yearbook (Assistant)	\$2,140.00	SY 22-23	APPROVE
<b>Christine Garson</b>	VHS	Advisor - Spanish Club	\$974.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Christine Garson</b>	VHS	Advisor - Spanish Club	\$487.00	SY 22-23	APPROVE
<b>Valerie Useche</b>	VHS	Advisor - Spanish Club	\$487.00	SY 22-23	
<b>Alice Kobylarz</b>	VHS	Advisor - Grade 12	\$4,482.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Alice Kobylarz</b>	VHS	Advisor - Grade 12	\$2,241.00	SY 22-23	APPROVE
<b>Marie Meyer</b>	VHS	Advisor - Grade 12	\$4,482.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Marie Meyer</b>	VHS	Advisor - Grade 12	\$2,241.00	SY 22-23	APPROVE

<b>Marie Meyer</b>	VHS	Advisor -Girls Learn International	\$1,757.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Marie Meyer</b>	VHS	Advisor -Girls Learn International	\$878.50	SY 22-23	APPROVE
<b>Melissa Wallerstein</b>	VHS	Advisor - Girls Learn International	\$878.50	SY 22-23	
<b>Matthew Rosa</b>	VHS	Academics Competition Coordinator	\$3,254.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Matthew Rosa</b>	VHS	Academics Competition Coordinator	\$3,191.00	SY 22-23	APPROVE

**Motion by:**     Mrs. Freschi    

**Seconded by:**     Mrs. Verzella    

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 1.2.**

Mr. Wacha     X    

Mrs. Priscoe     X    

Mrs. Verzella     X    

Mrs. Ferrera     X    

Mrs. Freschi     X    

**VII. FINANCE**

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$1,009,421.20	General/Athletics	December 22, 2022
\$ 68,413.38	Food Service	December 22, 2022
\$ 3,197.32	VHS	December 22, 2022

**#2 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Statistical Forecasting to conduct a comprehensive demographic study, growth projections by school, and a shapefile creation at a cost not to exceed \$14,000.

**#3 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve New Jersey School Boards to facilitate the development of a Strategic Plan school year at a cost not to exceed \$4000.

- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the public bidding of School Bus #5 on the GovDeals.com, Online Government Surplus Auctions site, and accept the highest bid over \$2,000.

**Motion by:**  Mrs. Freschi

**Seconded by:**  Mrs. Ferrera

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1- 4.**

Mr. Wacha  X

Mrs. Priscoe  X

Mrs. Verzella  X

Mrs. Ferrera  X

Mrs. Freschi  X

**VIII. POLICY**

- #1 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve to accept the HIB report for December 2022.

**Motion by:**  Mrs. Freschi

**Seconded by:**  Mrs. Priscoe

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

Mr. Wacha  X

Mrs. Priscoe  X

Mrs. Verzella  Abstain

Mrs. Ferrera  X

Mrs. Freschi  X

**IX. 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.

**Christine McGrath - Congratulated Mrs. Ferrera and Mrs. Verzella**

**Jim Day - Congratulated on selling the bus finally and thanked Mrs. Verzella and Mrs. Ferrera for their dedication to the board.**

**Laura Kohler - Thankful for the interview process and looking forward to serving Verona as the new Supervisor of Special Services.**

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY**

**IX. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

- #1 **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. Freschi

**Second by:**  Mrs. Verzella

**All in Favor:**  AYE

**All Opposed:**  NONE

**This meeting is adjourned at (TIME)  7:50  P.M.**