



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

October 27, 2020

CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm

VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm

VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

Based on the recent attention with COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus, and the potential impact on our community, the Verona Public Schools will be conducting the October 27, 2020 public access and participation availability to ensure the continued regular operation of government and the health, safety, and well-being of our community members. **The next meeting of the Verona Board of Education will be held via zoom webinar. The public shall utilize the following instructions to call into the meeting:**

r. The public shall utilize the following instructions to call into the meeting:

- Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/91632144251>
- Or Telephone:
- Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
- US: +1 646 518 9805 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 213 338 8477
- Webinar ID: 916 3214 4251
- Anyone from the public wishing to address the Verona Board of Education on any matter, when prompted by the Verona Board of Education will be able to raise their hand using the Raise Hand button on their device or dial *9 if you called in (please [click here](#) to determine how to raise your hand using your device). When you are advised it is your turn to address the Verona Board of Education, please state your name and address for the record. You will have time to address the Verona Board of Education. At the conclusion of your comments the Verona Board of Education and/or the Superintendent of Schools may address your comments and/or questions.
- Please make sure you have the current version of Zoom updated on your device in order to have the capability to use the Raise Hand function to make public comments or ask questions.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs recently stated that “the Division of Local Government Services reminds local units that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq., (the “Open Public Meetings Act,” or “Act”), public meetings may be held in person or by means of communication equipment, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), to include streaming services and other online meeting platforms. All meetings, including those held using communications equipment, must be noticed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the

Act, unless the meeting is for emergent circumstances and held in a manner consistent with the requirements set forth at N.J.S.A. 10:4-9(b). Local units should also provide guidance to the public for remotely accessing and providing comment at a meeting. Local units should still have an advertised meeting place, which is connected to the meeting through communications equipment, unless otherwise directed by state or local emergency management or health officials, consistent with Executive Order 103 (Murphy 3/9/2020).”

PUBLIC MEETING

October 27, 2020

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on October 27, 2020 via ZOOM webinar at 7:05 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernest Turner. 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, Vice President, Mr. Jim Day, Mr. Timothy Alworth, Mrs. Pamela Priscoe and Mrs. Sara Drappi. Also present was Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent and Mr. Ernest Turner, Acting Board Secretary.

There were 121 members of the public present. There were 1 member of the press present.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

October 27, 2020

CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Public comments on Agenda Items
6. Presentations - None
7. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
8. Committee Reports
 - Finance - Lisa Freschi/Timothy Alworth
 - Education-Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
9. Discussion Items
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 10, 2020** beginning with a Confidential Session at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session **via ZOOM webinar** pending the evolving nature of COVID-19.

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 7, 2020. 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. Alworth X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

5. **Public comments on Agenda Items -**

Corsica Walker - 34 Sunset Ave. - Commented on the protocol for coming back to school.

Chris Wacha - 85 Linwood Rd. - Thanked for donation from Twitter.

6. **Presentations - Dr. Miller and Mr. Mauriello**

7. **Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools**

Good evening everyone. I am happy to report to you that our plan for the gradual reopening of school has been going smoothly, and thus far, successfully. Our youngest learners have returned to their classrooms, and our older students are coming back shortly. This is a tremendous accomplishment. Indisputably, there is no substitute for in-person learning, and to date we have shown that it can be accomplished safely and to the ultimate betterment of our students. The return to in-person learning has occurred for grades 2-3 last week & grades 4-8 started yesterday. VHS staff returned yesterday to the building and VHS students will return on 11/9. Surveys were sent to staff and

parents last week and will continue with the formation of stakeholder committee groups in the coming weeks (Feedback from Staff and Parents, Intent to participate on committees collected, Committee intent to participate) will be reviewed by the administration and selection coordinated in the next week. Committees of parents, staff and parents will then meet at elementary, middle, and high school to review survey results as well as the recommendations of the stakeholder committees to shape the decisions we make moving forward regarding our schedule and other issues pertaining to our Stage 3 reopening. Dr. Miller will present in a few minutes on the recent survey results.

Staffing vacancies continue to be filled and have been successfully filled at this time. The situation continues to evolve each day and we address the vacancies as they arise. Staff leave requests for child care conflicts and medical accommodation 504 requests created the challenge with opening up school to in-person learning in September. At this point we have resolved all of these matters that we are aware of. To date, seven (7) staff requests were approved by the district physician for 504 accommodations under stage 3 of in-person learning. These requests were previously denied under stage 2 since there was no in-person learning for that staff member. The cost to the school district is approximately \$170,000 (projected over the entire school year) to hire substitute teachers to supervise the classroom (or leave replacement if necessary) while the staff member approved for the accommodation teaches remotely. This is a projected cost over the entire school year. Nine (9) childcare leave requests for staff members were approved by the district as required under the Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA). The unbudgeted cost to the district to date is approximately \$90,000 up to the maximum allowable aggregate. The district also has one (1) staff member currently on a paid medical leave and another staff member requesting an unpaid leave of absence. An additional twenty six (26) generic requests from staff to work from home were submitted in late August and September. Under the advice of legal counsel, all of those requests were denied because they did not meet the approved criteria. Approving these staff requests would have prohibited the possibility of the district ever being able to provide in-person learning for our students under our reopening plan. Childcare options in-district have been provided to be paid for by teachers and staff who decide to participate. To date, three (3) children of staff members are participating in the program located in the FNB auditorium and supervised by a designated permanent substitute teacher remote from the rest of the FNB population. This program was created to alleviate childcare issues for staff so the district can appropriately staff in-person learning. All of this amounts to a total of forty four (44) staff requests that have been processed and coordinated with replacements for in-person learning. In addition, the district continues to attempt to hire available substitute teachers in this shortage, as well as contracting with a third party provider in Swing Education as a service to provide substitutes which are in limited supply to appropriately staff our schools.

I would like to also provide an update on the district medical process as it relates to COVID. When the district is notified of a possible positive case, the notification can come to the school administration via different methods including a nurse, teacher, parent, or department of health. Any information we receive is sent to the Montclair Department of Health who is responsible for confirming whether or not it is indeed a positive case and from there they will conduct contact tracing. We as a district support contact tracing with the health department, if requested. Once the Montclair Department of Health has the results confirmed, they will provide guidance to the school district as to what the next steps in the process will be. With positive cases, they will provide us the quarantine dates as to when the student or staff member will be allowed to return. They would also provide the information to guide our decisions as it pertains to a switch to virtual learning or a shut down of a program. Once we have results confirmed by the Montclair Department of Health, the district sends a notification regarding a positive case as it pertains to the school district only. Any outside groups, including town teams, or programs would be responsible for sending out their own communication. As a school district, we are extremely limited in what we can share in a letter as directed by the health department. As per the restart and recovery plan, once the quarantine dates are over, written medical clearance is provided to the nurse in order to return. Please remember that this information and guidance from the health department is fluid. Each case is nuanced so it takes time for the Montclair Department of Health to review, trace, and provide guidance. Lastly, the district has posted referendum updates on the district website with progress of each project.

8. Committee Reports - Finance - Mr. Alworth reported

Education - Mrs. Drappi reported

Mr. Day reported on the referendum

9. Discussion Items

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

11. Public Comments

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 21.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X
Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X
Mrs. Priscoe X

BOARD RENEWAL RESOLUTIONS

- #1 RESOLVED** that the Board of Education rescind Dr. Robert M. Palacios as the school physician for the 2020-2021 school year at a salary of \$4,000.
- #2 RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve Dr. Robert M. Palacios as the school physician for the 2020-2021 school year at a salary of \$6,000.

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

- #3 RESOLVED** that the Board approves the minutes of the following meetings:

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting October 13, 2020

PERSONNEL

- #4 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following for the 2020-2021 school year pending pre-employment paperwork:

4.1 New Hires

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Natalie White	Laning	Paraprofessional	\$10,826.20 prorated as of Oct 19, 2020	Education	Oct. 19, 2020 - Jun, 25, 2021
Stefanie Lijoi	HBW	Sub Teacher	\$90/per diem	Education	Oct. 22, 23, 2020

Stefanie Lijoi	HBW	5th Grade Teacher	MA/Step 14 \$76,876 - pro-rated	Education	Oct. 26, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2020
Theresa Izzolino	District	Sub Teacher	\$90/per diem	Education	SY 20-21
Theresa Izzolino	District	Sub Secretary	\$90/per diem	Education	SY 20-21
Amanda Weil	FOR	Permanent Substitute Teacher 2/3 days per week (Cohort A)	\$120/per diem	Education	Oct. 19, 2020 - Jun, 25, 2021
Wendy Alfieri	District	Sub Paraprofessional	\$15.40/per hour	Education	SY 20-21
Jennifer Grutta	Laning	LOA 4th Grade	\$250/per diem	Education	Nov. 9, 2020 - Jun. 25, 2021

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following for the 2020-2021 school year:

5.1 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date on or before	Estimated Return Date on or about
#103278	504 Accommodation	Oct. 26, 2020	Sept. 1, 2021
#100912	504 Accommodation	Oct. 19, 2020	Sept. 1, 2021
#100428	504 Accommodation	Oct. 19, 2020	Sept. 1, 2021
#100184	504 Accommodation	Oct. 26, 2020	Sept. 1, 2021
#101652	504 Accommodation	Oct. 19, 2020	Sept. 1, 2021
#102424	504 Accommodation	Oct. 19, 2020	Sept. 1, 2021
#105251	504 Accommodation	Oct. 26, 2020	Dec. 23, 2020
#101150	Unpaid Leave of Absence	Nov. 9, 2020	Sept. 1, 2021

5.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Sue Conlon	HBW	5th Grade Teacher	resignation	Oct. 26, 2020
Jazmine Bridges	VHS	Paraprofessional	resignation	Nov. 7, 2020

5.3 Movement on the Guide

Name	Current Level/Step	Salary	New Level/Step	Salary	6th period stipend
Melissa Tempesta	BA+30/Step 7	\$59,144	MA/Step 7	\$60,417	\$12,083.40
Karen Tully	MA/Step 18	\$96,154	MA+30/Step 18	\$104,119	
Julia Albretsen	BA/Step 5	\$52,597	BA+30/Step 5	\$57,200	
Amy Heckel	MA/Step 17	\$91,135	MA+30/Step 17	\$98,818	
Jennifer DaSilva	MA/Step 12	\$69,790	MA+30/Step 12	\$74,541	

#6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approved the attached contract for Edward Appleton, Interim School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary.

EDUCATION

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approves the Superintendent's presentation of HIB report as follows:

HIB Case
VHS 219720
VHS 219823
VHS 219827

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

8.1 Movie/s

Name	Location	Course	Grade
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The Social Dilemma	VHS	English II	10
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- #9 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and anticipated 2021-2022 Comprehensive School Plant Maintenance and Operation Program.
- #10 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the second reading of the following policies and regulations:
- P 1649 – Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act (FFCRA) (M) (New)
 - P 2622 Student Assessment (M) (Revised)
 - P&R 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
 - P&R 5200 Attendance (Revised)
 - P&R 5610 Suspension (M) (Revised)
 - P 5620 Expulsion (M) (Revised)
 - P&R 8320 Personnel Records
 - P 1620 Administrative Employment Contracts (M) (Revised)
 - P 2464 Gifted and Talented Students (M) (Revised)
 - P 6440 Cooperative Purchasing (M) (Revised)
 - P&R 6470.01 Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (New)
 - P&R 7440 School District Security (M) (Revised)
 - P 7450 Property Inventory (M) (Revised)
 - P&R 7510 Use of School Facilities (M) (Revised)
 - P 8420 Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)
- #11 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2020-2021 school year.
- #12 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Monthly Statistical Report for the month of September 2020.
- #13 RESOLVED** that the Board rescind the following from Board of Education meeting November 26, 2019:

Name of Recipient	Name of School	Name of Grant	Grant Number	Amount
		Bouncy Bands for The		

Bridget Sullivan	H.B. Whitehorne	Science Classroom	2020-01	\$294.00
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#14 RESOLVED that the Board accept the following VFEE grants:

Name of Recipient	Name of School	Name of Grant	Grant Number	Amount
Bridget Sullivan	H.B. Whitehorne	Bouncy Bands for The Science Classroom	2020-01	\$335.00
Kaleigh Cella	Forest Ave.	Children's Books with Human Characters	2021-01	\$517.33
Claire Duffy	Brookdale Ave., Laning Ave.	Phonemic Foundations	2021-02	\$440.00

#15 RESOLVED that the Board approve SWING Education Substitute Teacher Marketplace for the school year 2020-2021.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

#16 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following for the 2020-2021 school year:

16.1 Home Instructor

Name
Alex Cali
Jennifer Pateiro

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#17 RESOLVED that the Board has reviewed and approved the attached School Self-Assessments for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the period of July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.

#18 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following for the 2020-2021 school year:

18.1 Clubs

Advisor	Club Name	Location	Stipend	Term of Employment	Notes
Helene McLaughlin	Art Honor Society	VHS	\$925.00	SY 20-21	RESCIND
Juliet Carvajal	Art Honor Society	VHS	\$925.00	SY 20-21	
Stefanie Lijoi	5C Team Coordinator	HBW	\$1,376	Oct. 26, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021	

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$1,018,718.59	Vendor Checks	October 23, 2020
\$2,291,637.76	Referendum Checks	October 23, 2020

#20 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the donation of 30 x Asus Speaker Mic, 27 x Logitech PTZ cameras, and 3 x Hudly cameras at an approximate value of \$36,500 from Mike Dupree on behalf of Twitter, Inc.

- 11. Public Comments - Christina Ford - 50 East Reid Pl.** - Felt that teachers got a bad rap on the surveys. Could Administrators fill in as teachers?
- Chris Wacha - 85 Linwood Dr.** - Does not agree with a 90 minute public session. Wanted the survey data available before the meeting.
- Kristen Donahue - 31 S. Prospect St.** - Has the proper masks been given to the teachers? Questioned the movement between stages. Dr. Dionisio responded.
- Donna Ciccolini - 14 Windemere Rd.** - Concerned about the Special Education population. Her son has regressed. Doesn't want to go back to school. Special Education needs more attention. Mr. Mauriello responded.
- Diane Sposato - 39 Martin Rd.** - Questioned positive cases, emails. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Mike Dupree - 47 Cypress Ave. - Gave credit to Eltion Ballaj for his assistance. Did not agree with stopping comment last meeting. Commented on the surveys. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Kate Curran - 22 Oak Lane - Concerned about notification of Covid cases. Mr. Merkler responded.

Jackie Fricke - 65 Grove Ave. - Thanked for the surveys. Mr. Miller responded.

Ian MacKenzie - 151 Park Ave. - Opposes 90 minute limit. When will

convene? Dr. Dionisio responded.

Julia Allen - 116 Elmwood Rd. - Works in pharmaceuticals. Wants better communication. Suggests contact tracing. Would be willing to assist with surveys.

Marie Zemokahl - 88 Fairview Ave. - Opposes 90 minute limit. Needs answers. Dr. Miller responded.

Elizabeth Downing - 34 Personette Ave. - She is a health official in Morris

Shannon Curtain - 25 Howell Dr. - How do we evaluate the effectiveness of

learning? Dr. Miller responded.

Lynn Halsey- 53 Linden Ave. - Her 2nd grader returned to school and she wanted

thank everyone. How will members be identified for the committees? Dr. Dionisio responded.

Chris Tamburro - 160 Sunset Ave. - Thanked Mr. Ballaj for his work to open schools. Opposes 90 minute limit of public comment. Questioned administrator's direction to place desks in the classroom. Children should not clean their desks. Dan Roberts responded.

Carrie Ford - 50 East Reid Pl. - does the staff have to ask for PPE? Dr. Dionisio responded.

Rita Scalfo - 25 Church St. - First day back at HBW for her kids. Asked about district physician. Dr. Dionisio responded.

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

- Legal matters
- Legal advice on pending matters
- Update on staffing levels and travel

Motion to adjourn closed session to go back to public - 9:26 pm

Motioned by: Mr. Day

Second by: Mrs. Priscoe

All in Favor: _AYE

All Opposed: None

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: Mr. Day

Second by: Mrs. Priscoe

All in Favor: _AYE

All Opposed: None

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 9:27 P.M.

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 beginning with a Confidential Session at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session via ZOOM webinar pending the evolving nature of COVID-19.

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
October 27, 2020**

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 Resolutions #1 - 2.

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

PERSONNEL

#1 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following for the 2020-2021 school year pending pre-employment paperwork:

1.1 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Jack Chu	VHS	Paraprofessional	\$10,826.20 pro-rated	Education	Nov. 10, 2020

1.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About

William Gibney	VHS	MLOA Spanish	Resignation	Oct. 30, 2020
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1.3 Extra Class

Name	Location	Course	Amount	Term of Employment on or about
Christine Garson	VHS	Spanish III	\$7,493.42	Nov. 2, 2020 to Apr. 30, 2021
Jennifer Pateiro	VHS	Spanish III	\$6,505.84	Nov. 2, 2020 to Apr. 30, 2021

EDUCATION

- #2 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Apex Learning as primary instruction for 3 sections of Spanish at Verona High School effective November 2, 2020 to on or Apr. 30, 2021 or until a certificated instructor is hired.