



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

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 Verona Board of Education meeting remotely via Zoom webinar. There will also be limited in person seating up to ten members of the public on a first come, first serve basis. This meeting is scheduled to occur with 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:**

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/94074383985>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16465189805,,94074383985# or +13126266799,,94074383985#

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: 940 7438 3985

- 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

November 10, 2020

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on November 10, 2020 via ZOOM webinar at 7:04 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 was 1 member of the press present.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

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. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
6. Presentations - None
7. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items to be Approved
8. Committee Reports
 - Athletic/Co-Curricular - Jim Day/Pamela Priscoe
 - Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
 - Facilities - Jim Day/Lisa Freschi
 - Community Resources - Pamela Priscoe/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 24, 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. 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 so far. VHS successfully transitioned to in-person learning yesterday. Today VHS welcomed the second of three cohorts to the school. Tomorrow will be the last cohort at VHS that will be welcomed for in-person learning. Thank you to our administrators, teachers, custodians, paraprofessionals, IT department and our entire staff for working so hard to make our current status possible

I recently sent an email to parents reminding everyone that any out of state travel to advisory areas will require self-quarantine for 14 days. We have reminded our staff of this fact several weeks ago and asked for their cooperation in helping us remain open after working so hard to return to in-person learning. At this point, we have not had any negative impact on staffing and we have been able to keep our schools open to in-person learning. We hope that will remain the case after Thanksgiving and December break. We have no reason or indication at this time to be concerned with staffing issues. Students who travel out of state to advisory areas

must also quarantine as a precaution for 14 days. Cases in our schools remain low at this time, and we want to keep it that way, but we will continue to need everyone's cooperation and remain vigilant.

Since our last Board of Education meeting, our principals and administrative team met to review the parent and staff volunteers for the school reopening committees at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The purpose of these committees will be to examine the current strengths in our schedule and explore where opportunities may exist to further enhance in-person instruction in the safest manner possible amidst the current public health crisis. An email communication was sent to all volunteers today updating everyone on the process. Committees will be charged with the goal of maintaining staff and student safety based on public health guidance, while also evaluating the current school schedule for our current strengths and opportunities to continue to evolve the school schedule to maximize learning. Committees will review all of the survey feedback, inclusive of both qualitative and quantitative narrative feedback. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to serve on the School Reopening Committees. As part of the process, we received the following interest in participation listed in the table below. This is a testament to the strong character of our community. Although we would have liked to have had everyone who volunteered his or her time serve on this committee, we limited the number of people serving on the committee to approximately 25 at each level, elementary-middle-and-high school (for a total of 75 including administration), so that the conversations may be meaningful and productive. Unfortunately, some people were not selected to serve on the committee, but they will still have a voice in the process. From the parents and staff who volunteered, the administration selected a cross section from our school community. When selecting the members to serve on this committee, we made sure that a variety of grade levels were equally represented and that the members chosen reflected the diverse interests of our community and programs. As part of this important process, we wanted to ensure that those who were not selected to serve on the committee, still had a voice. For this reason, those selected to serve on the committee will be responsible for updating and sharing the feedback of those not selected. Finally, a committee member will be selected to record the minutes of each meeting and then share the minutes with the members of the committee and with the volunteers who were not selected. It is our hope and belief that this step in the process will afford all stakeholders a voice and create the best results. We thank you everyone for graciously volunteering their time. And I want to thank our principals and administrative team for their efforts in coordinating these committees. That concludes my superintendent report for this evening.

- VHS meeting - Tuesday, November 17, 2020 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m
- HBW meeting - Tuesday, November 17, 2020 from 7-8:15
- Elementary meeting - Thursday, November 19, 2020 from 11/19 7-8:15

Level	# Parent Volunteers/Selected	# Staff Volunteers/Selected
Elementary Schools	76/13	12/8
Middle School	70/10	10/10
High School	44/12	16/10

6. Presentations - None

7. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items to be Approved - None

8. Committee Reports

Mr. Day - reported on Finance

Athletics - Mrs. Priscoe reported - winter sports on schedule, swim team, policy updates

Mrs. Drappi - Congratulations Field Hockey Team

Special Services - Mr. Mauriello will hold open forum

Mr. Alworth - reminded everyone to fill our surveys

Community Resources - Mrs. Drappi reported

9. Discussion Items - None

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

11. Public Comments

Motion by: Mrs. Priscoe

Seconded by: Mr. Day

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 9.

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>	

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

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

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting October 27, 2020

PERSONNEL

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

2.1 New Hires

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Jaime Capra	District	Sub teacher	\$90.00/per diem	Education	SY 20-21
Jaime Capra	District	Sub secretary	\$90.00/per diem	Education	SY 20-21
Sara Arooj	District	Sub teacher	\$90.00/per diem	Education	SY 20-21

2.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Catherine Farley	HBW	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Nov. 6, 2020

2.3 Mentor

Novice Teacher	Location	Mentor	Stipend	# of mentoring weeks
Jennifer Grutta	Laning	Dara Keepers	Waived	30 weeks

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approved Christina Sciacchitano to provide visual graphics for VHS at a rate of \$305.92 per diem not to exceed 2 days.

#4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve Christina Sciacchitano to provide infographic work for the reopening plan at a rate of \$305.92 per diem not to exceed 1 day.

EDUCATION

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

HIB Case
VHS 219896
VHS 219924
VHS 219921

- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

P 2431.3 Heat Participation
P&R 5320 Immunization
P&R 5330.04 Administering an Opioid Antidote
P 2431 Athletic Competition
R 2431.1 Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity
P&R 5330.05 Seizure Action Plan
Bylaw 0164.6 – Remote Public Board Meeting During A Declared
Emergency (M) (New)

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

- Standard 9 has been updated in the entire math and science curricula
- TED 5-12 courses and HBW computer science courses

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- #8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to accept settlement agreement OAL Docket No.: EDS 09103-20, Agency Ref. No. 2021-32025 dated 10/30/2020 regarding a special education matter for Student #240005.

11. **Public Comments - Rita Scelfo - 25 Church St.** - Thanked everyone for committees. Status of cameras, status of donated equipment - professional development. Mr. Miller responded.

Kristen Donohue - 31 S. Prospect St. - Stakeholders meetings - questioned metrics for different stages. Communication on possible cases. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Mike Dupree - 47 Cypress Ave. - Thanked for reopening committees. Are Board members on committees? Commented on construction projects. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Dana DeMars - 8 Witherspoon Dr. - Questioned reopening of schools. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Lisa Friedman - 54 Woodland Ave. - Stated vote of no confidence and asked if Dr. Dionisio has learned anything yet. Minutes have not been posted since September. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Chris Tamburro - 160 Sunset Ave. - Disliked the term “rebuttal” used by Dan Roberts. Criticized Dr. Dionisio as an ineffective leader. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Denise Verzella - 130 Personette Ave. - Lack of diversity of staff - what is district doing to hire more diversity?

Susan Nogales - 55 Cumberland Ave. - Cohorts at HBW - Dr. Miller responded.

Tammy Rawding - 155 Forest Ave. - Suggested that procedures be eased and less stringent.

Corrine Zemokhol - 88 Fairview Ave. - Requested better communications. Are Board members on the committees? Dr. Dionisio responded.

Michelle Bernardino - 34 Elk Rd. - Congratulated Mrs. Freschi for her re-election. She respects Dr. Dionisio as a leader. Thanked Administration and the Board for all of their efforts. Would have preferred a better introduction for freshmen to the high school.

Diane Egan - 21 Wedgewood Dr. - Are fire alarms fixed at HBW? Are there penalties for contractors not completing on time?

Dana DeMars - 8 Witherspoon Dr. - Thought the attorney was unprofessional for calling Dr. Tamburro’s comment a “rebuttal”. Teachers want meeting with a moderator.

Mike Dupree - 47 Cypress Ave. - Fourth meeting in a row where Dr. Tamburro and Dr. Dionisio are at odds. Asked them to both work it out and not make the kids collateral damage.

Rita Scelfo - 25 Church St. - Hopes that the district can move forward cooperatively. Questioned the purchase of cameras. Dr. Miller responded.

Chris Tamburro - 160 Sunset Ave. - Looking for a separate meeting to negotiate impact on teacher's contract. Mediator is only used when negotiations go to impasse. Requests a meeting with the Board as soon as possible. Will not need a mediator. Mrs. Freschi responded.

Chris Wacha - 85 Lynwood Rd. - Thinks teachers are amazing. Hard to find minority candidates.

Corsica Walker - 74 Sunset Ave. - Respects all administrators, and also respects Dr. Tamburro. Wants everyone to come together.

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

- Legal matters

Motion to adjourn closed session to go back to public - 9:17 pm

Motioned by: Mr. Day

Second by: Mrs. Drappi

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: None

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#9 **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. Drappi

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: None

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 9:56 P.M.

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 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
November 10, 2020**

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

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolutions #1 - 6.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Drappi discussed items - 1.2 Stipends - Dr. Dionisio responded.

Motioned by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolution #7.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

PERSONNEL

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

1.1 New Hires

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Alexandra Fredericks	District	Sub teacher	\$90.00/per diem	Education	SY 20-21	
Alexandra Fredericks	District	Permanent Sub Teacher	\$120/per diem	Education	SY 20-21	
Stefanie Lijoi	HBW	5th Grade Teacher	MA/Step 14 \$76,876 - pro-rated	Education	Oct. 26, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021	RESCIND
Stefanie Lijoi	HBW	5th Grade Teacher	MA/Step 13 \$73,254 - pro-rated	Education	Oct. 26, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021	APPROVE
Jack Chu	VHS	Paraprofessional	\$10,826.20 pro-rated	Education	Nov. 10, 2020	RESCIND
Yat-Ching "Jack" Chu	VHS	Paraprofessional	\$10,826.20 pro-rated	Education	Nov. 10, 2020	APPROVE
Robert Vena, Jr.	VHS	Paraprofessional	\$9,363.20	Education	Nov. 30, 2020	

1.2 Stipends

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Employment Date
Dennis James	District	\$11,000	HVAC Facilities Coordinator	Jul. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
Joe Higgins	District	\$11,000	Facilities Coordinator	Jul. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
Miques Valle	VHS	\$11,000	Custodial Coordinator	Jul. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021

EDUCATION

#2 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

2.1 VFEE Grants

Grant Recipients	School	Name of Grant	Grant #	Amount of Grant
Jennifer Kleinknecht	H.B. Whitehorne	Banish the Boring and Basic with Buncee	2021-3	\$1,000

#3 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached list of individual transfers of line items in the 2020-2021 budget for:

September 2020

#4 RESOLVED that the Report of the Secretary for the period(s) as follows be approved:

September , 2020

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.13(e), that as of July 31, 2020 after review of the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund, has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C 6:20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

#5 RESOLVED that the Board approve the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the following month:

September, 2020

#6 RESOLVED that the Board approved the attached Amendment to the Collective Negotiations Agreement Between the Verona Board of Education and the Verona Education Association beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30,

2021, including provisions for custodial/maintenance stipends in
Appendix J.

- #7 RESOLVED** that following appeal, the determination in HIB case VHS 219921 is reversed from unfounded to founded, and the matter is remanded back to the HIB Specialist for further proceedings consistent with the Board's findings in closed session.