

PUBLIC MEETING

February 11, 2014

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on February 11, 2014 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. Michael Unis, Vice-President, Mr. Joseph Bellino, Mr. James Day and Mr. Steven Spardel. 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. Day

Seconded by: Mr. Spardel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

The Board convened to a confidential session on February 11, 2014 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.

Fifty citizens and one member of press were present.

Public Comment on Agenda Items- None

Presentations

- Four 1st Grade Students at F.N. Brown School, along Mrs. Anna Collins and Mrs. Erica McKenna, which highlights their work from Writers’ Workshop

Committee Reports:

Education

- Elementary report card committee met
- Student growth percentiles for individual teachers have been released through NJSmart- teachers and administration continue to work on this
- Reviewed 2014 VSEA summer program business plan
- Joint CHILD workshops
- Preschool lottery for next school year planned

Community Resources- None

Athletics and Co-curricular

- Waiting for state to release qualifications for cardiac screening

- There are coaching changes for the spring in track and tennis
- Approving volunteer coaches for the spring
- Approving Fed Challenge 2/19
- Discussed Lax agreement
- Winter sports highlights

Buildings and Grounds

- ESIP pre-bid meeting 2/11. Will tour facilities.
- Forest roof replacement approved by the county as an emergency
- EnerNoc Demand Response Program pays larger energy consumers to shut down equipment when brown out conditions are predicted and summer shut down for extremely high temps. No investment.
- Discussed 2014-2015 budget

Finance

- Referendum total is \$16,641,855
- \$6,992,137 qualifies for ROD grants. ROD grant 40% funding is \$2,796,855. Local share is \$4,195,282.
- Music room and field project do not qualify for ROD grant. Local share is \$7,246,929.
- Debt service aid for non-eligible building cost is \$2,402,789.
- Local share on the above is \$13,845,000. This is the amount the voters will vote on.
- Tax impact to the taxpayers is \$176.75 on a home assessed at \$359,700, which is the average in Verona.
- Mr. Bellino noted that 15 school districts have turf fields. Only 6 do not have turf fields. They are, Verona, Cedar Grove, Caldwell, Glen Ridge, Irvington and Immaculate.
- Mr. Bellino strongly believes we need everything that is included in the referendum.

Discussion- None

Superintendent's Report

- Applying for HIB Grant in the amount of \$11,500
- Presentations will be made to the public from now until March 11, 2014. Two evening, one day and one Sunday afternoon presentation will be made. A press release will go in the newspaper and on the website.
- Snow days- used five- 1 remaining
 - Spring break- April 18 backwards
- Dylan DeCandia- a VHS hockey player was named player of the month by the NJ Devils
- On Feb 25 6:45 we will honor the frosh basketball sponsors
- AP Computer Science class is using 3-D printer

RESOLUTIONS

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

RESOLVED that the Board approve **Resolutions #1-10**

Moved by: Mr. Bellino

Seconded by: Mr. Day

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

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

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Confidential & Regular Public Meeting **January 26, 2014**
January 28, 2014

PERSONNEL

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

2.1 Substitute teacher

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment	Notes
Douglas, Gayle	District	Sub Teacher	\$85/hr.	Education	SY 13-14	rescind
Douglas, Gayle	District	Sub Teacher	\$85/day	Education	SY 13-14	approve

EDUCATION/SPECIAL EDUCATION

#3 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

3.1 Student Teacher

Name	School	School/teacher/ Grade	Duration	Hours	Assignment
Oriondo, Jennifer	Cald. Col.	Laning/Martorana/SS	2/12/14-5/8/14	12 hrs.	Student Observer
Kim, Janet	MSU	VHS/Lynch/Music	3/24/14-6/16/14		Student Teacher

3.2 Tuition Student

Student ID No.	School	Grade	School Year
141252	VHS	12	13-14

#4 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following changes to the district calendar for 2013-2014 school year:

February 14 and 18 will be 4 hour sessions for students and PM professional development days for staff

CO-CURRICULAR/ATHLETICS

#5 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

5.1 Field Trips

Name of Chaperone	School	Club/Destination	Date of Field Trip
Mark Russo	VHS	Fed Challenge/Federal Reserve Bank of NY	2/19/2014
D. Mutovic/J.E. Burgess	VHS	Math Team/Physics/Dorney Park, Allentown, PA	5/30/2014

Angela Salisbury to attend the International DECA Competition in Cherry Hill, New Jersey from March 10-12, 2014:

Mileage 89.6 miles x .31/mile	\$ 27.77
Meals day 1	\$ 31.00
Meals day 2	\$ 61.00
Meals day 3	\$ 41.00
Total	\$160.77

Mitchell Roshong to attend the International DECA Competition in Cherry Hill, New Jersey from March 10-12, 2014:

Meals day 1	\$ 31.00
Meals day 2	\$ 61.00
Meals day 3	\$ 41.00
Total	\$133.00

BUILDING AND GROUNDS/REFERENDUM

#6 RESOLVED that the Board approve the second reading of the following regulation guide:

R 7440 School Security

#7 RESOLVED that the Board approve the referendum resolution as follows:

1. It is hereby determined that a bond proposal, together with an interpretive statement, will be submitted for voter approval at the special election to be scheduled for March 11, 2014 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. as permitted and required by law. The form of the proposal and interpretive statement will read substantially as follows with such changes as bond counsel shall provide to conform to the requirements of the DOE approval letters:

PROPOSAL

The Board of Education of the Township of Verona in the County of Essex, New Jersey is authorized (1)(a) to provide for ROD Grant Funded Projects consisting of (i) mechanical systems upgrades at Verona High School, (ii) stair, railing, exterior door, gym bleacher, electrical system, security and technology upgrades at Verona High School, (iii) exterior door, building façade, gym bleacher, security and technology upgrades at Brookdale Avenue Elementary School, (iv) exterior door, fire alarm, security and technology upgrades at Frederic Brown Elementary School, (v) exterior door, masonry, fire alarm, security and technology upgrades at Forest Avenue Elementary School, (vi) exterior door, masonry, security and technology upgrades at Henry B. Whitehorne Middle School, and (vii) exterior door, security and technology upgrades at Laning Avenue Elementary School (including, for all the foregoing, acquisition and installation of equipment and site work); (b) to appropriate therefor \$6,992,137 funded in part by State ROD grants in the aggregate principal amount of \$2,796,855; and (c) to issue bonds of the school district in the principal amount of \$4,195,282 to finance the district's local share of the ROD grant funded projects; and (2)(a) to provide for Debt Service Aid Funded Projects consisting of sidewalk, paving, kitchen, ceiling and lighting improvements at Verona High School, sidewalk, paving and kitchen improvements at Henry B. Whitehorne Middle School, sidewalk and paving improvements at Forest Avenue Elementary School and paving improvements at Frederic Brown Elementary School, (b) to appropriate \$2,402,789 for the Debt Service Aid Funded Projects; and (c) to issue bonds of the school district in the principal amount of \$2,402,789 to finance the Debt Service Aid Funded Projects; (3)(a) to provide for Other Capital Projects consisting of a music program addition, renovation of tennis courts and parking lots, outside bleachers, construction of Department of Environmental Protection required improvements at the upper field and installation of turf and lighting at the lower field at Verona High School, (b) to appropriate \$7,246,929 for the Other Capital Projects; and (c) to issue bonds of the school district in the principal amount of \$7,246,929 to finance the Other Capital Projects; and (4) to transfer any unexpended local share among the capital projects approved by the voters at this election.

The total aggregate cost of the projects authorized in this bond proposal is \$16,641,855, and the aggregate amount of bonds authorized by this bond proposal is \$13,845,000, of which \$4,195,282 represents the required local share for the ROD grants and \$2,402,789 will receive debt service aid. The final eligible cost of the ROD Grant Funded Projects approved by the Commissioner of Education is \$6,992,137 (\$5,125,928 allocated to Verona High School, \$335,585 allocated to Brookdale Elementary School, \$338,199 allocated to Frederic N. Brown Elementary School, \$405,998 allocated to Forest Avenue Elementary School, \$594,023 allocated to Henry B. Whitehorne Middle School and \$192,404 allocated to Laning Avenue Elementary School). The ROD Grant Funded Projects includes \$0 for school facility construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The final eligible cost of the Debt Service Aid Funded Projects includes \$2,402,789 (\$1,566,453 allocated to Verona High School, \$464,459 allocated to Henry B. Whitehorne Middle School, \$195,875 allocated to Frederic N. Brown Elementary School, and \$176,002 allocated to Forest Avenue Elementary School,). The Debt Service Aid Funded Projects includes \$0 for school facility construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The state debt service aid percentage will equal 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs eligible costs of the Debt Service Aid Funded Projects. The Other Capital Projects are not eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g).

Interpretive Statement

This bond proposal provides for school district capital improvements that cost \$16,641,855. \$2,796,855 will be funded through State grants. School district bonds are authorized in the amount of \$13,845,000, of which \$2,402,789 qualify for additional school facilities aid through debt service aid.

2. This Board of Education hereby approves and adopts the proposal set forth above and, subject to the approval of the legal voters of the school district, hereby determines to carry out the improvements described therein (the "Project").

3. This Board of Education hereby acknowledges and confirms that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:24-16 and 18A:24-17 a supplemental debt statement has been prepared by the chief financial officer of the Township of Verona, being the only municipality comprised within the school district, giving effect to the proposed authorization of bonds of the school district in the maximum amount of bonds authorized in the proposal. The supplemental debt statement has been filed in the offices of the Clerk of Township of Verona and in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of this Board of Education prior to the final

adoption of the proposal and will be filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs prior to the date of the special election.

4. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of the proposal to the County Clerk as required by N.J.S.A. 19:60-2 and to request the County Clerk, municipal clerk and other appropriate officials to take the actions required to conduct the special election, and any actions previously taken are hereby ratified and reconfirmed.

5. The Board acknowledges receipt of the PEC letters from the Department of Education with respect to the Project. The Board hereby elects to receive grants under Section 15 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72, effective July 18, 2000 (N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-1 *et seq.*) (the “Act”) and to construct the Project itself with respect to the ROD Grant Funded Projects and debt service aid with respect to the Debt Service Aid Funded Projects pursuant to Section 9 of the Act.. The Board further determines to accept the preliminary eligible costs determined by the Department of Education as final eligible costs and not to appeal the determination of preliminary eligible costs. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to notify the Department of Education of the District’s election with respect to the eligible costs and the election to receive grants pursuant to Section 15 of the Act or debt service aid pursuant to Section 9 of the Act as set forth herein and as may be required. Any prior inconsistent actions are hereby amended to conform to this resolution.

6. The educational plans, where required, and the schematic plans for the construction of the Project have heretofore been approved by this Board of Education, and such approval is hereby reconfirmed.

7. The Board President, the Superintendent of Schools, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the Project Architect, Bond Counsel and other appropriate representatives of the Board (the “Board Representatives”) have heretofore been authorized, and such authorization is hereby reconfirmed, to submit the educational plans and the schematic plans for the Project, together with such other information as may be required, to the State Department of Education for approval and to make application to the Commissioner of

Education for approval of the educational plans, the schematic plans and the Project and, if necessary, any required amendment to the long-range facilities plan, in accordance with the requirements of the Act and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.1 (f), 2.3, 3.1, 3.12, and 3.2 as appropriate.

8. The Board Representatives have heretofore further been authorized and directed to submit the schematic plans and any other required information to the Planning Board and the Department of Environmental Protection for review and comment, if necessary, and such authorization and direction is hereby reconfirmed.

9. The Mylan Architectural Group and EI Associates, the School District's appointed architects and engineers for the Project, have heretofore been authorized and delegated the responsibility to prepare the plans and specifications for the Project in consultation with and under the supervision of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who has heretofore been delegated the responsibility to work with the architects and engineers for this purpose on behalf of the Board, and such authorizations and delegations are hereby reconfirmed and ratified, all in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-16.

10. The Board authorizes the Board President and/or the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act Section 15 Grant Agreements for the referenced Project and to deliver them to the New Jersey Schools Development Authority on behalf of the Board.

11. The Board hereby delegates authority for the supervision of the Project to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary as required by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority Grant Agreement guidelines, and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the Board and to represent the Board in connection with the Project.

12. The Board Representatives are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to implement this resolution and to provide the documentation necessary and required for the receipt of the Section 15 Grant

Agreements. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is further authorized and directed to act on behalf of the Board to make such determinations required of the Board for the conduct of the election.

FINANCE

#8 RESOLVED that the Board approve the funding request for \$11,542.00 for funds to support implementation of the anti-bullying bill of rights act for 2013-14 school year.

ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
FINANCE

#1 RESOLVED that the Board approve the request for debt service aid on the approved school facility projects submitted to the Department of Education. The preliminary costs eligible costs of \$2,402,789 are for paving, sidewalk replacement, kitchen renovation and ceiling and lighting replacement at Verona High School; paving, sidewalk replacement and kitchen renovation at H.B. Whitehorne; paving and sidewalk replacement at Forest Avenue School; and paving at F.N. Brown School.

Buildings & Grounds

#2 RESOLVED that the Board approve CDA Roofing & House Raising, in the amount of \$37,520, for the emergency roof repair at Forest Avenue School paid for from maintenance reserve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Lower field project is the best for our children. Community member asked that the board to go to a town council meeting to reconsider what they are doing at the Hilltop.
- Presentations to community regarding referendum

The Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Nardino
Board Secretary