



## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA**

**August 13, 2020**

**CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 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 August 13, 2020 Verona Board of Education meeting remotely via zoom webinar. 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:

1. **Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

<https://zoom.us/j/98703304764>

**Or Telephone:**

**Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):**

**US: +1 301 715 8592**

**Webinar ID: 987 0330 4764**

2. **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.**

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**

**August 13, 2020**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on August 13, 2020 via teleconference at 7:00 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 391 members of the public present. There were 1 member of the press present.**



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VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

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VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

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 - School Reopening Plan 2020-2021
7. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
8. Committee Reports - None
9. Discussion Items
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020** beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session via teleconference 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 Herald News, Township of Verona and the VEA. Postings of this meeting setting forth the time location and agenda were posted in each of Verona's six schools, Board Office and Town Hall. This posting was also sent to the above newspapers, all SCA presidents and SCA liaisons, the VBOE 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	<u>  X  </u>	Mr. Day	<u>  X  </u>
Mrs. Drappi	<u>  X  </u>	Mrs. Freschi	<u>  X  </u>
		Mrs. Priscoe	<u>  X  </u>

5. **Public comments on Agenda Items - Serena Rivera, 27 Montclair Ave.** - has 4 children in the district and was asking about children with special needs. Mrs. Freschi - Dr. Miller will have further explanation during the presentation. Dr. Dionisio provided further explanation.

**Rita Scelfo**- will the public have an opportunity for questions before the Board votes. Dr. Dionisio - Board will not have to vote on the plan.

**Ron Mueller** - questioned the agenda format. Dr. Dionisio directed him to the district website.

Dr. Miller made presentation - on school re-opening

Questions - Mrs. Freschi thanked Dr. Miller for his efforts in making this plan. Mr. Alworth thank the Task Force.

Sara Drappi - is there a schedule to reassess as we move forward. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Sara Drappi asked about recess - will there be an emphasis on getting the students outside.

Dr. Dionisio responded that principals will work on schedules.

Mr. Day spoke about the roles of the supervisors. Dr. Miller - Supervisors will visit classrooms.

Mr. Alworth spoke about the lack of in-person days. Would the district make adjustments for social distancing if things change.

Mrs. Priscoe expressed her concerns. Dr. Dionisio responded.

**6. Presentations - School Reopening Plan 2020-2021**

**7. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools - School Reopening Plan Overview and Q&A**

**8. Committee Reports**

**9. Discussion Items**

**10. Public Discussion**

**11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**

**12. Public Comments -**

**Motion by:** Mr. Jim Day

**Seconded by:** Mr. Timothy Alworth

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 13.**

Mr. Alworth   X  

Mr. Day   X  

Mrs. Drappi   X  

Mrs. Freschi   X  

Mrs. Priscoe   X  

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 July 28, 2020

**PERSONNEL**

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

**2.1 New Hire**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Term of Employment on or about</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Erica D'Aires</b>	VHS	School Counselor	MA/Step 6/ \$59,203	Education	Sept.1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021	
<b>Jennifer Mejia</b>	VHS	Administrative Assistant	Step 10/ \$45,791	Education	Sept.1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021	
<b>Erica Pelusio</b>	VHS	Math Teacher	MA/Step 16/ \$86,485	Education	Sept.1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021	RESCIND
<b>Erica Pelusio</b>	VHS	Math Teacher	MA/Step 16/\$86,465	Education	Sept. 1, 2020- Jun. 30, 2021	APPROVE
<b>Kimberly Craven</b>	VHS	MLOA Physical Education	\$250/per diem	Education	Sept. 14, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021	
<b>Mary McGuire</b>	VHS	MLOA Vocal Music	\$265/per diem	Education	Sept. 14, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021	

**2.2 Summer Hours**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Days/Hours of Work</b>	<b>Rate</b>
<b>Erica D'Aires</b>	VHS	School Counselor	5 days	\$296.01 per diem

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve Christina Scicchitano to do infographic work for the reopening plan at a rate of \$305.92 per diem not to exceed 2 days.

**EDUCATION**

#4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Paraprofessionals revised job

description.

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the second reading of the following policy:

Policy 0167- Public Participation in Board Meetings

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

P1648 Restart and Recovery Plan

P1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve retroactively to contract with Phyllis Schoenfeld, dba PKS Educational Consultant, as a LDT-C Maternity Leave Replacement for the 2019 – 2020 school year at the rate of \$70 per hour not to exceed \$60,900.

### ATHLETICS

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following for the 20-21 school year:

#### 9.2 Stipend

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Employment Date
Jason Calo	VHS	\$11,149	Athletic Trainer	SY 20-21
Joan Petronico	District	\$3,864	Nurse Facilitator	SY 20-21
Charlie Miller	District	\$2,500	Affirmative Action Officer	SY 20-21

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

#9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following organizations to use the Verona Public School facilities as additional insured for the 2020-2021 school year:

Organization/Group
Verona United

**#10 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following organizations for use of school buildings for the 2020-2021 school year:

<b>Organization/Group</b>
Verona United

**FINANCE**

**#11 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY DETERMINING TO FINANCE ACQUISITION OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT BY MEANS OF AN EQUIPMENT LEASE PURCHASE FINANCING IN AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$390,000, AUTHORIZING AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS IF NECESSARY, DELEGATING THE AWARD OF THE BID, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE LEASE AND RELATED DOCUMENTS AND AUTHORIZING OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE TRANSACTION**

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Education of the Township of Verona in the County of Essex, New Jersey (the “Board” when referring to the governing body and the “School District” when referring to the legal entity or territorial area) is created and is charged by law with the responsibility to provide a system of public education within the school district over which the Board has jurisdiction and to acquire and install equipment therefor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined to fund the acquisition of certain computer and other equipment necessary for school purposes including financing and incidental or related costs (the "Equipment") by means of an equipment lease purchase financing for a term that does not exceed five (5) years pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:20-4.2(f) and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 *et. seq.*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has selected the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission as financial advisor (the “Financial Advisor”) and McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, as special counsel (the "Special Counsel”) for the purpose of advising and assisting with the proposed lease purchase financing of the Equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.S.A 18A:18A-1 *et. seq.* (the “Public School Contracts Law”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder, a notice of the bid will be published if required and bids or quotes (hereinafter simply referred to as “bids”) are scheduled to be returned to the Business Administrator or Board Secretary, who, with the assistance of the Special Counsel and the Financial Advisor, will determine the lowest responsive and responsible bidder to purchase the Lease (as hereinafter defined) from the Board (hereinafter referred to as the “Purchaser”); and



**WHEREAS**, the Board will enter into a lease purchase agreement (the "Lease") and other related documents with the Purchaser in an amount not to exceed \$390,000 to finance the Equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to authorize the delegation of the award of the bid to the Business Administrator and/or the Board Secretary and further authorizes the Board President, Business Administrator, Board Secretary, Financial Advisor and Special Counsel to prepare and to execute the Lease and certain other documents and agreements necessary or incidental to the transactions contemplated thereby;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY as follows:**

Section 1. The Board hereby determines to finance the Equipment by means of a lease purchase financing in a principal amount not exceeding \$390,000 in accordance with the requirements of the Public School Contracts Law. The lease shall be for a period not to exceed five years and the interest portion of rent shall be calculated at a rate per annum not in excess of the rate set forth in the legally responsive bid producing the lowest yield. The Business Administrator, Board Secretary, Financial Advisor, Special Counsel and other appropriate representatives of the Board (the "Professionals") are hereby authorized to prepare the necessary timetables, bid documents and other related documents as may be necessary and to take other steps necessary to prepare for and to implement the proposed financing.

Section 2. The Board hereby authorizes the publication of a request for bid if required in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law or the solicitation of quotes in order to prepare for the proposed transaction.

Section 3. The Board President, the Business Administrator and/or the Board Secretary are authorized to award the bid and the Lease in accordance with the terms of this resolution to the lowest bidder in accordance with the bid proposals or quotes submitted to the Business Administrator and/or the Board Secretary, which winning bid proposal or quote will be retained on file in the office of the Board Secretary. The Purchaser's interest rate will be held fixed for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of the bid or such longer period as recommended by the Financial Advisor. If the closing does not occur within such thirty (30) day or longer period from the date of the bid, the interest rate will be calculated in accordance with the index rate recommended by the Financial Advisor as set forth in the bid specifications.

Section 4. The Board President, the Business Administrator or the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute and deliver the Lease, an agent or an escrow agreement, an assignment agreement, if necessary, and such other documents as may be necessary to consummate the transaction in a form approved by Special Counsel. Specifically, the Board authorizes the Board President, the Business Administrator or the Board Secretary to establish an escrow account for the deposit of the Lease proceeds and to direct the deposit and investment of the Lease proceeds in the escrow in accordance with the requirements of law if necessary. The Business Administrator or the Board Secretary is also authorized to pay any agreed upon fees in connection with the transaction including any escrow agent fee. The Board President, the Business Administrator and/or the Board Secretary are also authorized and directed to take on behalf of the School District such other actions as shall be necessary and appropriate to accomplish the lease purchase financing for the Equipment in accordance with the

terms of the Lease and this resolution and pursuant to the terms of the agreements and instruments authorized to be prepared hereby and to accomplish the performance of the obligations of the School District in respect thereto.

Section 5. The payment of rent or other monies due under the Lease shall be made only from the General Fund of the School District. Neither the Board, the School District nor any agency, department or political subdivision thereof, shall be obligated to pay any sum due under the Lease to the Purchaser from any taxing source unless an appropriation is made in a duly approved budget of the School District. The obligations of the School District shall not constitute indebtedness of the School District or the constituent municipalities or of any department, agency or political subdivision thereof. The Lease shall set forth the term of the lease purchase agreement for the Equipment, the rental payments to be paid by the School District in respect thereof and the dates on which such rent shall be due and payable.

Section 6. The Board hereby covenants that it will comply with any conditions subsequent imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), in order to preserve the exemption from taxation of interest on the Lease, including the requirement to rebate all net investment earnings on the gross proceeds above the yield on the Lease, if applicable. The Board authorizes the Business Administrator or the Board Secretary to act and determine on behalf of the Board whether the Lease will be designated as "bank qualified" within the meaning of Section 265 of the Code. The Board hereby declares its intent to issue the Lease in the expected maximum principal amount of the Lease set forth herein and to use the proceeds of the Lease to pay or to reimburse expenditures for the costs of the purpose for which the Lease is authorized herein. This resolution is a declaration of intent within the meaning and for the purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2 or any successor provisions of federal income tax law.

Section 7. This Board hereby authorizes, approves and ratifies the contract for the purchase of the computer equipment through a national cooperative approved by the State of New Jersey.

Section 8. The references herein to officers of this School District and in actions taken on behalf of this Board include any interim, acting or successor officers holding those positions.

Section 9. Any action authorized herein taken prior to the adoption of this resolution is hereby ratified and deemed to be taken pursuant to this resolution.

Section 10. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

#### **BOARD SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE**

**I, Ernie Turner, Acting Board Secretary of The Board of Education of the Township of Verona in the County of Essex, New Jersey, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education by the vote set forth below as set forth in the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Education held on August \_\_, 2020 held in accordance with the requirements of**

**the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law and that the aforesaid resolution has not been amended, modified or repealed and remains in full force and effect.**

**The foregoing resolution was adopted by the following vote:**

**AYES:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**ABSENT:**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the Board of Education this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August, 2020.**

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**Ernie Turner**

**Acting Board Secretary**

**[SEAL]**

## **REFERENDUM**

**#12 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract be awarded to Kin Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$14,277.80 to remove and replace the fence around the playground at the F.N. Brown School.

**10. Public Comments - Lisa Nobilone** - When will children be assigned a cohort? Dr. Dionisio - principals working on this within the next 2-2 ½ weeks. How will the district handle if a child leaves the country and comes back in. Dr. Dionisio - form must be filled out and the child should self-quarantine.

**Jesse Dresser** - How will attendance be measured? Dr. Dionisio - if in-class or virtual they will be rewarded as attending school.

**Jesse Dresser** - What is criteria for modifying schedule? Dr. Dionisio - many factors will be taken into consideration.

**Lynn Halsey**- Asked about the Special Education students. Mr. Mauriello responded.

**Julian Allen** - What are the expectations for the teachers in a hybrid situation?  
Dr. Miller responded.

Have pandemic response teams been established? Mr. Mauriello suggest reaching out to the building principals.

- Brian Donnelly** - Concerned this Hybrid-B is very similar to the original schedule March. Mr. Miller responded.
- Laura Giasone** - Special Ed teacher - what are the plans for the music program? Dr. Dionisio responded saying that music and the arts will be a part of the program.
- James Hickey**- Questions how the virus is traced. How are the families kept notified of what's happening in school. Dr. Dionisio responded.
- Mrs. Breitenbach** - How many students will be in the building at any one time? Dr. Dionisio responded.  
Active shooter drills will be suspended.
- Brenda Herman** - Will construction be completed by the start of school? Dr. Dionisio - working progressing nicely. Some construction will go into the Fall.  
Appears that school will be open.
- Brad Quick 180 Claremont Ave.** - Daughter going into kindergarten.
- Laterza - 122 So. Prospect St.** - Dr. Dionisio - contact principal.
- Mr. Burden** - will students receive all print materials. Dr. Dionisio - yes it will be coordinated.
- Kaleigh Cella** - Why is K-1 first. Dr. Miller responded.
- Carolyn Rodriguez** - when will more information for significantly disabled students be issued. Mr. Mauriello responded.
- Donna Ciccolini - 14 Windemere Rd.** - Teachers will account for students. Will students be able to watch a recording later? Dr. Miller responded.
- Laura Siligato 31 Grove Ave.**- Information should come out sooner. Can lesions be recorded? Dr. Dionisio - district not doing recording at this time.
- George Kozachuk 100 Morningside Rd.** - Seems like the Hybrid model is not the best. Should it be all virtual?
- Jason Hyndman 34 Cambridge Rd.** - what are the plans for technical difficulties? Dr. Miller responded.
- Meg Garcia 8 Brentwood Drive** - Has PPE arrived? Dr. Dionisio - have inventory on hand.
- Suzanne Welsh 54 Hamilton Rd.** - When would Dr. Dionisio move from Hybrid B to Hybrid A. Dr. Dionisio responded.
- Brandon Thibodeau 26 E. Lincoln** - Will teachers share curriculum with parents? And when? Dr. Miller - principals will be communicating information.
- Jess Schram** - Teacher at VHS - wanted to know if teachers could go home during planning period. Dr. Dionisio - this was discussed and decided to stay in the building.

- Tammi Rawding 155 Forest Ave.** - Should district delay in person school due to the construction? Dr. Dionisio responded.
- Tim McLaughlin 50 Cumberland Ave.**- What conversations with Police and Fire for doors being open? This has been coordinated with Officials. What about fire drills? Dr. Dionisio - will be determined.
- Regina French 44 Brookside Terr.** - questioned nurses. Dr. Dionisio - nurses are on premises. Concerned for the teachers.
- Debbie Salanon 7 Laurel Ct.**- Asked about alternate schedule rotations. Student can choose to go remote.
- Jodi Brown** - Verona will work with neighboring districts. Teachers will be in the classrooms.
- Chris Ford** - will they need laptops in school? Dr. Dionisio - yes. Questioned Election Day and how that will be handled.
- Denise McDevitt** - Questioned lockers. Dr. Dionisio - no lockers.
- Brad Caprari** - Questioned labs, STEAM: STEM. Dr. Miller responded.
- Shannon/Tom Curtin** - Is there an effort to standardize all grade levels? Dr. Dionisio - yes.
- Gordon Wilkins** - Is there feedback from the staff on this program? Dr. Dionisio - yes there has been communication.
- Colleen Sheridan** - Expressed her concern about coordinating the instruction for her 3 sons.
- Scott Dirk** - How are the additional expenses affecting the budget? Dr. Dionisio - adjustments are being made. What is the staff replacement plan? Dr. Dionisio - reaching out to substitutes.

**\*In regard to public comments, the Board apologizes for any misspelling of names. Thank you!**

## **RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

- #13 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. Jim Day

**Second by:** Mrs. Pamela Priscoe

**All in Favor:** AYE

**All Opposed:** NAY

**This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 11:56 P.M.**

**NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020 beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session via teleconference pending the evolving nature of COVID-19.**