



## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA**

**August 24, 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 24, 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 24, 2020**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on August 24, 2020 via teleconference 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 167 members of the public present. There were 2 members of the press present.**



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- Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/96724885096>
- Or Telephone:  
Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):  
US: +1 301 715 8592  
Webinar ID: 967 2488 5096
- 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.

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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 - Board Self Evaluation, Charlene Peterson, NJSBA
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 **Tuesday, September 8, 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 - None
6. Presentations - Board Self Evaluation, Charlene Peterson, NJSBA
7. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
  1. Referendum Update
  2. Mask Requirements Guidelines Update
  3. Reopening School Update
8. Committee Reports - Athletics - Mrs. Priscoe reported - no cases reported - Volleyball will be moved to the winter  
Education - Mrs. Drappi and Mr. Alworth - 2nd reading of policies  
Curriculum changes - financial literacy; LGBT
9. Discussion Items - None
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments - **Howard Kreger - 22 Cypress Ave.** - Wants administration to provide syllabus and

course work to parents who are organizing a “Pod”. Dr. Dionisio - will bring suggestion back to the Administrative Team.

**Joanna Breitebach - 14 Woodland Ave.** - Is there information from the NJSIAA on Fall sports? Dr, Dionisio - does not know when guidelines will be released. Will ask Mr. Merkler to keep him advised.

**Laura Grasone - 100 Linden Ave.** - will teachers be required to report to the school? Childcare issues. Will paraprofessionals be furloughed? Dr. Dionisio - staff members will come into the school under State 1 and 2. Staff will be allowed to bring their children in with them to the building. Paraprofessionals will be furloughed in order to keep them.

**Jody Brown - 158 Franklin St.** - Concerned about the mental state of children. Effect of the virus is not as big a concern as the mental state of children. Anxiety and depression are a big concern. What is the district offering? Dr. Dionisio - students will be allowed in the building to meet with counselors.

**Christine Osher - 19 West Lincoln St.** - Has a daughter in VHS. Has a son who is special needs requiring therapy. How will this be addressed? Dr. Dionisio - would encourage her to continue to communicate with Mr. Mauriello.

**Michelle Bernardino - 34 Elk Rd.** - Suggested that parents look up teachers with standards on the DOE website. Asking teachers to provide a syllabus is additional work for the teacher.

**Julia Allen - 116 Elmwood Rd.** - Second graders have been adversely affected and deserve additional attention. Dr. Dionisio - we recognize your concerns. The district is attempting to strike the right balance.

**Lynn Halsey - 53 Linden Ave.** - Who were the stakeholders on the administration team? Was there consideration to modify the states? How will children with IEP's be accommodated? Dr. Dionisio - 1) the stakeholders were recruited by the building principals; 2) Yes it has been considered; 3) Will bring this concern back

to

the team.

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mr. Alworth

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 28.**

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    August 13, 2020

**PERSONNEL**

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

**2.1 New Hire**

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Kimberly Craven	VHS	MLOA Physical Education	\$250/per diem	Education	Sept. 14, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021	RESCIND
Kimberly Craven	VHS	MLOA Physical Education	\$250/per diem	Education	Sept. 14, 2020 - Jan. 31, 2021	APPROVE
Elizabeth	HBW	MLOA - Math	\$275/per	Education	Sept. 22, 2020 -	

Kane			diem		Feb. 4, 2021	
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## 2.2 Staff Changes

Name	Current Location/Position	New Location/Position	Effective Date on or about
Lisa Torchia	VHS/Admin. Asst. - Attendance	VHS/Admin. Asst. - Guidance	Sept. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021

## 2.3 Extra Class

Name	Location	Course	Amount	Term of Employment on or about
Pam Burke	VHS	Financial Literacy	\$7,617	Fall 2020 (1st Semester - September 14 to February 5)
Jason Atkins	VHS	Fabrication & Design I/Fabrication & Design II	\$18,227.00	Fall 2020 (1st Semester - September 14 to February 5; 2nd Semester - February 6 to June 25)
Jenny Qin	HBW	Mandarin	\$19,764.00	SY 20-21
Elsy Sandhusen	HBW	French	\$10,412.00	meets every other day for SY 20-21
Alex Cali	VHS	Intro to Data Science	\$12,474.00	SY 20-21
Megan Shaw	HBW	Lang. Arts Gr. 7	\$12,237.00	SY 20-21
Albert Palazzo	HBW	Math Gr. 8	\$12,474.00	SY 20-21
Bethany McMinn	HBW	Lang. Arts. Gr. 6	\$12,083.00	SY 20-21
Glen Hearle	HBW	Math Gr. 6	\$17,574.00	SY 20-21
Jody Sewell	HBW	Math Gr. 6	\$19,231.00	SY 20-21
Melissa Tempesta	HBW	Math Gr. 8	\$11,829.00	SY 20-21
Matt Rosa	VHS	Modern World History Resource Center	\$11,645.00	SY 20-21
Matthew Swajkowski	VHS	ICI Biology	\$12,474.00	SY 20-21



## 2.4 Stipends

Name	School	Stipend	Position	Employment Date
Jennifer Kleinknecht	HBW	\$2,801	Technology Mentor	SY 20-21
Andor Kish	HBW	\$2,801	Technology Mentor	SY 20-21
Elissa Malespina	VHS	\$2,801	Technology Mentor	SY 20-21
Eric Lynch	VHS	\$1,400	Summer Marching Band	SY 20-21

## 2.5 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date on or before	Estimated Return Date on or about
#102100	Leave of Absence	Oct. 1, 2020	Jun. 30, 2021
#105053	Maternity Leave extension	Sept. 1, 2020	Jun. 30, 2021

## 2.6 Resignations

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Jessica Calvo-Varela	VHS	Spanish Teacher	Resignation	Oct. 17, 2020
Ava Boxer	Laning	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Aug. 20, 2020
Destini Taylor	Laning	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Aug. 20, 2020
Gehan Klele	Laning	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Aug. 21, 2020
Gavian Zerillo	Laning	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Aug. 21, 2020

## 2.7 Summer Hours

Name	Days/Hours of Work	Rate	Position	Total Amount
Giselle Ilic	35 additional hours	\$38.27/per hr.	Admin. Asst./Spec. Svcs.	\$1,339.45

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following register keepers for the 2020-2021:

Brookdale	<b>Diane DeNotaris</b>	<b>Nicole Stuto</b>
F. N. Brown	<b>Alina Dugan</b>	<b>Anthony Lanzo</b>
Forest	<b>Debra Lawrence</b>	<b>Jeffrey Monacelli</b>
Laning	<b>Beth Foley</b>	<b>Howard Freund</b>
H. B. Whitehorne	<b>Elaine Gizzi</b>	<b>David Galbierczyk</b>
H. B. Whitehorne	<b>Rebecca Russo</b>	<b>Yvette McNeal</b>
Verona High School	<b>Jennifer Mejia</b>	<b>Thomas Lancaster</b>

- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of substitute teachers, substitute school nurses, substitute secretaries, substitute teacher paraprofessionals, lunch aides, substitute lunch aides, part time custodians, substitute custodians for the 2020-2021 school year.
- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve **Gina Ballinger, Lisa Torchia and Jennifer Mejia** to issue working papers during the 2020-2021 school year.

## EDUCATION

- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the first employee paycheck for the 2020-2021 school year will be paid on September 4, 2020.
- #7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the use Marzano's Observation/Evaluation Instrument for Teachers, Principals, and Supervisors; Verona CST Observation / Evaluation Model; Verona Nurses Observation / Evaluation Model; Verona School Counselor (NJSCA) Observation/ Evaluation Model; Paraprofessional Evaluation Model; Technology Evaluation Model and Custodial/Maintenance Evaluation Model for the 2020-21 school year.
- #8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached revised tentative 2020-2021 District School Calendar.

Changes/updates for the 2020-21 VPS Calendar:  
(1) Add PD day Sept 10 & Remove Feb 11;  
(2) Move VMAC Family Night from Oct 1 to Oct 22;

(3) Tuesday, November 3, will be a virtual instruction day for all students; (4) Administer PSAT 11 on Oct 7 (not administering the PSAT 9 or 10)

**#9 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the second reading of the following policies:

P1648 Restart and Recovery Plan  
P1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families

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

- SS 5-8 Financial Literacy (Highlighted Green) & LGBTQ/Disabled (Highlighted Yellow);
- Modern World History CP&H, US History I CP&H;
- US History II CP, AP US History II (LGBTQ/Disabled - Highlighted Yellow);
- English IV (updated);
- AP Spanish (new);
- Theatre - Grade 7 (New)

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**#11 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of home instructors and Special Services aides for the 2020-2021 school year.

**#12 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of paraprofessionals for the 2020-2021 school year.

**#13 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2020 – 2021 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #210209, who is in an out-of-district placement.

**#14 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to enter into a contract for student transportation with the parents of Student #240005 for the 2020 – 2021 school year, who is in an out-of-district placement.

**#15 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2020 – 2021 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #210011, who is

in an out-of-district placement.

- #16 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2020 – 2021 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #251029, who is in an out-of-district placement.
- #17 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2020 – 2021 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #281275, who is in an out-of-district placement.
- #18 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to contract with Diane Quiroga, LPC, ATR-BC, ACS, ATCS to provide Art Therapy for the 2020-2021 school year for four hours per week, plus supplies, for a total not to exceed \$11,100.

### **ATHLETICS**

- #19 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights District and School Grade Report 2018-2019. The report approved at the 6-23-2020 was to be for the school year 2018-2019, not 2019-2020.

### **REFERENDUM**

- #20 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Change Order No. 001 with Panoramic Window and Door Systems Inc. as per the following:

Original contract sum	\$745,000.00
Change Order No. 001	<u>\$ 6,300.00</u>
New Contract Amount	\$751,300.00

- #21 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Change Order No. 001 with Panoramic Window and Door Systems, Inc. as per the following:

Original contract sum	\$557,000.00
Change Order No. 001	<u>\$ 425.00</u>
New Contract Amount	\$557,425.00

- #22 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Change Order No. 006 with Northeastern Interior Services, LLC as per the following:

Original contract sum	\$1,256,500.00
Previous change orders	\$ 10,307.20
Change Order No. 006	\$ <u>(900.00)</u>
New Contract Amount	\$1,265,907.20

**#23 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Change Order No. 007 with Northeastern Interior Services, LLC as per the following:

Original contract sum	\$1,256,500.00
Previous change orders	\$ 9,407.20
Change Order No. 007	\$ <u>31,676.11</u>
New Contract Amount	\$1,297,583.31

**#24 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Change Order No. 001 with D&L Paving Contractors Inc. as per the following:

Original contract sum	\$404,410.00
Change Order No. 001	\$ <u>1,347.16</u>
New Contract Amount	\$405,757.16

**#25 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Change Orders No. 003, 004, 005, 006,007 with Picerno-Giordano Construction, LLC as per the following:

Original contract sums	\$796,238.00
Previous Change Orders	\$ 5,483.59
Change Order No. 003	\$ 1,024.65
Change Order No. 004	\$ 1,500.00
Change Order No. 005	\$ 74,355.00
Change Order No. 006	\$ 6,375.04
Change Order No. 007	\$ <u>2,568.00</u>
New Contract Amount	\$887,544.28

**FINANCE**

**#26 RESOLVED** that the Board approve Nisivoccia, LLP as per the attached agreement in the amount of \$35,000 for the 2019-2020 school audit.

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
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\$1,813.757.08	Vendor Checks	August 21, 2020
\$4,106,825.35	Referendum Checks	August 21, 2020

**#28 RESOLVED** that on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 1:00 pm, the Verona Board of Education received two (2) responses for financing over 5 years for the purchase of technology and computer equipment in the amount of \$378,780.20. Following are the results of the “Request for Proposal” (RFQ):

City National Bank - 1.58% - Rejected non-compliant  
US Bank - 1.4704%

As US Bank was the lowest responsible quote, the Verona Board of Education, hereby, approves the acceptance of the quote and approval of the 5 year lease purchase agreement.

## 11. Public Comments

### RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

**#29 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. Priscoe

**Second by:** Mrs. Drappi

**All in Favor:** AYE

**All Opposed:** NAY

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 9:24 P.M.

**NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 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.**

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS**

**August 24, 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- 3.

Mr. Alworth X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

**PERSONNEL**

**#1 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Restart and Recovery Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

**1.1 Resignations**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective on or About</b>
<b>Samantha Palmer</b>	HJBW	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Sept. 1, 2020

## CO-CURRICULAR

#2 **RESOLVED** that the Board approved the following for the 2020-2021 school year:

### 2.1 Stipends

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Employment Date</b>
<b>Sue Conlon</b>	HBW	\$1,376	Team Coordinator 5-C	SY 20-21
<b>Carol Lynn Moy</b>	HBW	\$1,376	Team Coordinator 5-O	SY 20-21
<b>Bridget Sullivan</b>	HBW	\$1,376	Team Coordinator 6-C	SY 20-21
<b>Marisa Albano</b>	HBW	\$1,376	Team Coordinator 6-O	SY 20-21
<b>Yvonne Rodzen</b>	HBW	\$1,376	Team Coordinator 7-C	SY 20-21
<b>Pete Foster</b>	HBW	\$1,376	Team Coordinator 7-O	SY 20-21
<b>Amy Heckel</b>	HBW	\$1,376	Team Coordinator 8-C	SY 20-21
<b>Jackie Miskinis</b>	HBW	\$1,376	Team Coordinator 8-O	SY 20-21

## FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$84,597.00	Referendum Check	August 24, 2020