



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

September 29, 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 September 29, 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:**

- Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/94565716964>
- Or Telephone:
Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 301 715 8592
Webinar ID: 945 6571 6964
- 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

September 29, 2020

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on September 29, 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 192 members of the public present. There was 1 member of the press present.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

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CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
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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 - None
7. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
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, October 13, 2020** beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 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 _____ Mr. Day _____

Mrs. Drappi _____ Mrs. Freschi _____

Mrs. Priscoe _____

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

Chris Wacha - 85 Lynwood Rd. - Item #1 under Education on the restart. Requests that it be modified. Consideration not to approved Phase #2 and to try to get kids back into the school

MaryAnne Maher - 38 Elmwood Rd. - Commented on reopening plan. Wants detailed plan to get students back into the school. **Dr. Dionisio** stated that he will have an update during his report.

Mike Dupree - 47 Cypress Ave. - Remote learning is not a viable option. Requests BOE to reconsider and attempt to get students back into school. Read a petition urging a State 3 or 4 implementations.

Kate Kelly - 23 Sylvan Rd. - Questions a reopening plan.

Wants confirmation for the November reopening and if it can be expedited to more days.

Laura Siligato - 31 Grove Ave. - Has a 1st grader and would like expanded classroom time. Are these changes to Stages 3 and 4. Are parents and teachers involved in the discussion for changes?

Kristen Donohue - 31 Prospect St. - Complemented the teachers. Are teachers allowed to bring their children into the school with them. Commented on social distancing options.

Kristen Miller - 14 Hillside Ave. - Concerned with the mental health of her children. Children are not happy. Her children have a new guidance counselor and that concerns her. Requested construction update.

Francesca Jaffe - 39 Valley View Rd. - Concerned about deep cleaning of buildings. Questioned scheduling during teacher's convention. Requested more information.

6. Presentations - None

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

- Facilities Update
- Update on Diversity Council (Race, Culture, Class & Identity Task Force) Subcommittee Interest Survey emailed September 29, 2020
- School Reopening Plan Stage 3 November 9th. I would like to thank our teachers, principals, and administrators for helping start off the school year under the most unusual circumstances. We recognize the beginning of the year has been challenging for our teachers and likewise for some of our parents and students. We appreciate everyone's patience as we navigate these challenging times. We have resolved the facility issues and continue to do so as new ones arise. We continue to

coordinate leave requests and hiring replacements so our buildings are properly staffed. We continue to monitor the situation and explore whether we may be able to reopen sooner. We will take the feedback and discuss it as a full Board as we receive feedback from our parents and staff.

8. Committee Reports -

Community Resource - Mrs. Drappi reported.

Facilities - Mr. Day reported on the status of construction.

Finance - Mr. Alworth reported.

9. Discussion Items -

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

11. Public Comments -

Corissa Walker - 74 Sunset Ave. - Lack of a plan for child care for staff members. Doesn't want to take a leave. Should be concerned about the mental state of the staff.

Natalie White - 49 Gould St. - Looking to the Board for guidance. Is Dr. Dionisio consulting other schools concerning social distancing? Dr. Dionisio responded that he communicates with the other West Essex districts.

Liz Walsh-Giblin - 39 Howard St. - Questioned curriculum and instruction.

Erin Dean - 17 Hathaway Lane - Requested to revisit Stage 3. Requested to expand number of school days in person.

Chris Barrows - 219 Linden Ave. - check in on staff needs. He has a Verona/Cedar Grove parent group - share info with them.

Shannon Curtin - 25 Howell Dr. - Thanked everyone at Forest Ave. School. Expressed need to be flexible and open to change. Dr. Dionisio - Stage 3 by November 9.

Mike Dupree - 47 Cypress Ave. - Asked the Superintendent and Board of Education to examine the criteria of Stage 3. Will Dr. Dionisio re-survey the community?

Christ Wacha - 85 Lynwood Rd. - What is the percentage of parents willing to send their kids to school. I want kids in school. Dr. Dionisio: 78% want kids in school; 22% want kids to stay home.

Julian Allen - 116 Elmwood Rd. - Questioned process for hiring substitutes. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Suzanne Welsh - 54 Hamilton Rd. - What are the COVID numbers from other schools? Dr. Dionisio: not aware of those numbers.

Lynn Halsey - 53 Linden Ave. - Concerned about students with IEP's not receiving

instruction. Dr. Dionisio responded.

Megan Pellegrino - 30 Kenwood Ave. - As a teacher she takes her job very seriously.
Teachers need assistance.

Corrine Zemokhol - 88 Fairview Ave. - Suggested alternatives.

Brenda Herman 31 Wayland Dr. - Concerned for the teachers. Suggested some other options.

Natalie White - 49 Gould St. - Suggested alternative schedule.

Laura Siligato - 31 Grove Ave. - Lunch issue, would parents be eligible to volunteer in school?

Motion by: Mr. Jim Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Pamela Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 22.

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 September 8, 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
Judith Dias	Laning	LOA Kindergarten	\$250/per diem	Education	Sept. 14 - Dec. 4, 2020
Elizabeth Kane	HBW	Sub teacher	\$90/per diem	Education	Sept. 18 & 21, 2020
Karen Convery	FOR/BRK	MLOA Speech/ Language Specialist	\$260/per diem	Education	Oct. 1, 2020 - Jun. 25, 2021
Crystal Williams	FNB	Permanent Sub	\$120/per diem	Education	SY 20-21
Anthony Petrigliano	District	Sub teacher	\$90/per diem	Education	SY 20-21
Robert Brawley	FNB	Permanent Sub	\$120/per diem	Education	SY 20-21

2.2 Staff Changes

Name	Current Location/Position	Current Hours/Salary	New Hours/Salary	Effective Date
Felisha Camacho	LAN/Paraprofessional	4.75 hrs./\$15.40/per hr.	5.9 hrs./\$15.40/per hr.	Sept. 21, 2020

2.3 Extra Pay

Name	Dates	Pay rate	Total	Reason
Gina Venezia	Aug. 27 & 28, 2020	\$578.13/per diem	\$1,156.26	Distribution of books and computer

Glen Stevenson	Aug. 27 & 28, 2020	\$630.89/per diem	\$1,261.78	Distribution of books and computer
Steven Schels	Aug. 27 & 28, 2020	\$524.90/per diem	\$1,049.80	Distribution of books and computer
Jennifer Gadaleta	Jul. 15 & 16, 2020	\$520.35/per diem	\$1,040.70	Summer Scheduling

2.4 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date on or before	Estimated Return Date on or about	Notes
#100369	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act (partial payment)	Oct. 1, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	
#105100	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act	Sept. 14, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	RESCIND
#105100	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act (every other week) 1 week full/1 week partial for 12 weeks	Sept. 10, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	APPROVE
#102537	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act (partial payment)	Sept. 29, 2020	Dec. 18, 2020	
#100704	Medical Leave of Absence (full payment)	Sept. 14, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	
#100238	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act (partial payment)	Sept. 14, 2020	Sept. 21, 2020	
#102424	Medical Leave of Absence (full payment)	Sept. 10, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	
#105251	Maternity Leave of Absence	Jan. 4, 2021	May 17, 2021	
#102100	Leave of Absence	Oct. 1, 2020	Jun. 30, 2021	RESCIND
#102100	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act (partial payment)	Oct. 1, 2020	Dec. 23, 2020	APPROVE
#102100	Unpaid Leave of Absence	Dec. 24, 2020	Jun. 25, 2021	

2.5 Resignations

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Renata Miranda	Laning	Paraprofessional	resignation	Sept. 4, 2020
Daniel Jimenez	Brookdale	Part Time Custodian	resignation	Sept, 28, 2020

2.6 Marriage

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Dates	Notes
#105048	FNB	Spec. Ed. Teacher	Marriage	Oct. 7, 8, 9, 2020	3 days with pay with the cost of a substitute to be deducted

2.7 Sixth Period Classes

Name	Location	Course	Amount	Term of Employment on or about
Julianne Curro	HBW	Math	\$3,156	Sept. 29 - Dec. 18, 2020
Christine Donohue	HBW	Math	\$5,787.24	Sept. 29 - Dec. 18, 2020
Elizabeth Kane	HBW	Math	\$330 per diem	Sept. 29 - Dec. 18, 2020

EDUCATION

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the 2nd reading of the following:

Policy Guide 1648.03 – Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-Time Remote Instruction (New)

#4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached draft of 2021-22 VPS Calendar.

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve Steve Schels as the supervisor for Julia Albretsen's field work in district level leadership.

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

6.1 Non-Resident Tuition Student

Student ID No.	School	Grade
#282327	HBW	5

SPECIAL EDUCATION

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to contract with Montclair State University, Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health, to provide services for the 2020 – 2021 school year in accordance with the student’s IEP in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2020-2021 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #192179, who is an out-of-district placement.

#9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to enter into a contract for the 2020-2021 school year for student transportation with the parents of Student #230003, who is an out-of-district placement.

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#10 **RESOLVED** that the The Verona Board of Education has reviewed and certified Verona School Districts Submission to the New Jersey Department of Education Student Safety Data System (SSDS) for Report Period 2 (1/1/20-6/30/20).

#11 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

11.1 Coaches

Name	Location	Position	Stipend	Step	Term of Employment
Gina Condorelli	VHS	Leave replacement strength conditioning coach	\$3,375	Athletics	Sept. 29 - Nov. 26, 2020

James Crawford	VHS	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,192	3	RESCIND
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FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$1,794,196.53	Vendor Checks	September 25, 2020
\$3,404,151.57	Referendum Checks	September 25, 2020

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

July , 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.

#14 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of individual transfers of line items in the 2019-2020 budget for:

July, 2020

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

July, 2020

REFERENDUM

#16 RESOLVED that the Board approve Change Order #001 with BOZ Electrical Contractors in the following manner:

Original contract amount	\$2,023,000.00
Change Order #001 (reduction)	<u>(\$ 74,866.23)</u>
New contract amount	\$1,948,133.77

#17 RESOLVED that the Board approve Change Order #001 with Environmental Climate Control, Inc. in the following manner:

Original contract amount	\$1,393,500.00
Change Order #001	<u>\$ 8,783.00</u>
New contract amount	\$1,402,283.00

#18 RESOLVED that the Board approve Change Order #002 with D&L Paving Contractors, Inc. in the following manner:

Original contract amount	\$404,410.00
Previously approved change orders	\$ 1,347.16
Change order #002	<u>\$ 4,500.00</u>
New contract amount	\$410,257.16

#19 RESOLVED that the Board approve Change Order #003 with D&L Paving Contractors, Inc. in the following manner:

Original contract amount	\$404,410.00
Previously approved change orders	\$ 5,847.16
Change Order #003	<u>\$ 810.00</u>
New contract amount	\$411,067.16

#20 RESOLVED that the Board approve to award a contract with Opoe Systems Integrators, Inc. for the H. B. Whitehorne Middle School - replacement of fire alarm system - second shift differential Q20-0017-A in the amount of \$8,850.40.

#21 RESOLVED that the Board approve a contract with Kin Contractors, LLC to install 70 linear feet 4 ft. high chain link fence at the F. N. Brown School in the amount of \$1,521.30.

#22 RESOLVED that the Board approve to contract with GL Group to paint 3 doorways and apply two topcoats of finish at the H.B. Whitehorne Middle School in the amount of \$1,900.00.

10. Public Comments

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - 9:54 PM

Legal Matters

Motion to adjourn closed session to go back to public - 10:47 pm

Motioned by: Mr. Jim Day

Second by: Mrs. Pamela Priscoe

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: NAY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#23 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) 10:48 P.M.

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 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
September 29, 2020**

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

Motion by: Mr. Jim Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Sara Drappi

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolutions #1 - 3.

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

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
Keisha Johnson	District	Permanent Sub	\$120/per diem	Education	SY 20-21	

Kelly DeBello	District	Permanent Sub	\$120/per diem	Education	SY 20-21	
Beth Shabazian	District	Permanent Sub	\$120/per diem	Education	SY 20-21	
Ella Selby	District	Permanent Sub	\$120/per diem	Education	Available in January 2021	
Barbara Davey	District	Permanent Sub	\$120/per diem	Education	Available in December 2020	
Mary McGuire	VHS	MLOA Vocal Music	\$265/per diem	Education	Sept. 14, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021	RESCIND
Mary McGuire	VHS	MLOA - Vocal Music	\$265/per diem	Education	Sept. 10, 2020 to Jun. 25, 2021	APPROVE

EDUCATION

- #2 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Board Goals for the 2020-2021 school year.
- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached 2020 graduation results.