



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

September 8, 2020

CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 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 8, 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

September 8, 2020

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on September 8, 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 158 members of the public present. There were 1 members of the press present.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

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CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 pm

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VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

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, September 29, 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 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 - None**
- 7. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools**
 - Facilities & Staffing Update on School Reopening Plan
- 8. Committee Reports - Education - Mr. Alworth and Mrs. Drappi - New ESL Teacher, CPAC - Discussed re-opening, Pre-School - Identified students that are attending, 1st reading of Restart and Recovery Plan, busses outfitted with dividers.**
- 9. Discussion Items - Mrs. Freschi mentioned the need for Board goals.**

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

11. Public Comments

Jodi Brown 158 Franklin St. -What is the plan to open schools? HVAC system was installed in a building she is familiar with and questioned why there is a delay in the HVAC system for Verona. **Dr. Dionisio** responded.

Terry Brown - 158 Franklin St. - What are the resources available for parents as they deal with this situation? **Dr. Dionisio** - directed to view the website - contact building principals.

George Kozachuk - 100 Morningside Rd. - Why is sphere new roofing when during the last referendum the Band Room roof was new? Lower field in need of repair? When will BOE have in-person meetings? **Dr. Dionisio** - New roof was only over the new addition for the Band Room. In order to update the roof warranty the entire roof needed to be replaced. Baseball bleachers were replaced. In person meetings are being considered once construction is completed.

Regina French- 44 Brookside Terr. - Commented on students seeking support from the teachers. Asked for support from the BOE. Teachers have not let the students down. **Dr. Dionisio** - Commented that the BOE has high promise for the teachers.

Suzanne Welsh - 54 Hamilton Rd. - 1) HVAC date of November 6 for completion. 2) Has there been a reduction of 54 teachers. **Dr. Dionisio** - Tran3 has indicated delivery of HVAC system in October. 2) District needed 30 permanent subs. Number of requests for leaves have increased. Resignations continue to come in. Presently only 7 permanent subs in the district.

Lynn Halsey - 53 Linden Ave. - Is the district providing testing for teachers and students? **Dr. Dionisio** - checklists will be maintained to identify potential cases.

Sarina Rivera - 27 Montclair Ave. - 1) When will special education parents be made aware of the new schedule? 2) Will on-line instruction be improved in the Fall vs the Spring?

Dr. Dionisio - Constant progress updating on-line instruction.

Mr. Mauriello - Discussed how the program was organized and how technology can be used in a better fashion.

Liz Zalme - 34 Personette Ave. - Has a first grader going hybrid. Requests the need of a scheduled for families with both parents working. **Dr. Dionisio** - suggest talking with building principals.

Toral Patel - 169 Forest Ave. - Has 1st grader - concerned students that may not wear a mask. Asked for an update on the diversity council. Were there intentional actions taken to bring diversity to the teaching staff. Dr. Dionisio - Diversity Council delayed due to COVID but is still a priority. Has always considered diversity in hiring staff. All safety measures will be taken. Face coverings will be required except for valid reasons.

George Kozachuk - 100 Morningside Rd. - Questioned the roof replacement. Questioned the paint on the bleachers. Will this be painted every year Mentioned clogged gutters - lack of maintenance. Dr. Dionisio - taxpayers did not approve an entire roof replacement back in 2014. Present referendum is to address accumulated maintenance issues.

Motion by: Mr. Alworth

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

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 August 24, 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
Joanna Boyan	FNB	ESL	BA+15/Step 1/ \$52,136	Education	Sept. 18, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
Joanna Boyan	District	Substitute Teacher	\$90/per diem	Education	Sept. 14 - 17, 2020
Zachary Wekilsky	VHS	Paraprofessional	\$15.40/hr.	Education	SY 20-21
Jennifer Pateiro	VHS	Spanish	BA+30/Step 7/\$59,144	Education	Oct. 19, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
Erin McDonald	FOR	Sub Paraprofessional	\$15.25/hr.	Education	SY 20-21

2.2 Resignations

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or about
Lauren Servidio	Laning	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Aug. 26, 2020
Caroline Tobin	FNB	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Aug. 26, 2020
Kacey Studell	Laning	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Sept. 1, 2020
Jennifer Fico	Laning	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Sept. 1, 2020
Erin McDonald	Forest	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Aug. 25, 2020

2.3 Mentors

Novice Teacher	Location	Mentor	Stipend	# of mentoring weeks
Lisa Hagel	BRK	Erin Coffey	\$550.00	30 weeks
Samantha Melillo	HBW	Meredith Bielan	WAIVED FEE	30 weeks
Megan Spinelli	HBW	Yvonne Rodzen	\$165	9 weeks
Derek Felano	VHS	Matt Rosa	WAIVED FEE	30 weeks
Amanda Hyland	VHS	Rebecca Russell	WAIVED FEE	30 weeks
Kimberly Craven	VHS	Patricia Hemsley-Cartotto	WAIVED FEE	17 weeks
Elizabeth Kane	VHS	Julianne Curro	\$550.00	30 weeks
Joanna Boyan	FNB	Luisa Hirsch	\$550	30 weeks

2.4 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date on or before	Estimated Return Date on or about	
#103295	Unpaid Leave of Absence	Sept. 10, 2020	Nov. 9, 2020	
#100647	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act	Sept. 10, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	
#105396	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act	Sept. 10, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	
#105262	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act	Sept. 10, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	
#105201	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act	Sept. 10, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	
#105382	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act	Sept. 10, 2020	Up to 12 weeks	

2.5 Full and Part Time Nurse Schedule

School	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BRK	Maria Rodgers	Carolyn Luehs	Carolyn Luehs	Carolyn Luehs	Carolyn Luehs
FNB	Kristi Heimerle	Maria Rodgers	Maria Rodgers	Maria Rodgers	Maria Rodgers

FOR	Barbara Wertz	Barbara Wertz	Joan Petronico	Barbara Wertz	Barbara Wertz
LAN	Joan Petronico	Joan Petronico	Kristi Heimerle	Joan Petronico	Joan Petronico

2.6 Substitutes

Name	Location	Position	Salary
Roberta Schoenbaum	VHS	Permanent Substitute Teacher	\$120/per diem
Linda McLoughlin	VHS	Permanent Substitute Teacher	\$120/per diem
Robert Pojero	VHS	Permanent Substitute Teacher	\$120/per diem
Donna DiNorcia	HBW	Permanent Substitute Teacher	\$120/per diem
Sally McIntyre	LANING	Permanent Substitute Teacher	\$120/per diem
Dana Fernandez	LANING	Permanent Substitute Teacher	\$120/per diem
Nermeen Kaser	LANING	Permanent Substitute Teacher	\$120/per diem

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Staff Assignment list for the 2020-2021 school year.

EDUCATION

- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Draft of 2021-2022 VPS Calendar.
- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Staff Assignment list for the 2020-2021 school year.
- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approves the following out of district tuition students for the 2020-2021 school year:

Student ID No.	School	Grade	Student ID No.	School	Grade
221751	VHS	11	230573	VHS	10

221753	VHS	11		223072	VHS	10
221752	VHS	11		271729	HBW	6
233131	VHS	10		251082	HBW	8
220651	VHS	11		323121	LAN	1

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

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

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

Math Grade 3 (revised)
Grade 7 Math Anchor Tasks (new)
AP Statistics (revised)
US History I Honors (revised)
English II CP (revised)
Public Speaking (revised)
Medical Biology A (revised)
VHS Introduction to Data Science (new)
PE K-4 (revised)

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following for the 2020-21 school year:

Name	Location	Position	Stipend	Step
Mike Passero	VHS	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,192	3
James Crawford	VHS	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,192	3
Jennifer Rose	VHS	Head Varsity Cheerleading	\$5,869	3
Angela Castaldo	VHS	JV Cheerleading	\$2,871	3
Jessica Kane	VHS	Field Hockey	Volunteer	
Mike Thompson	VHS	Color Guard Designer	\$2,000 (Vendor)	
Wesley Ostrander	VHS	Marching Percussion	\$2,000	

Marty Griffin	VHS	Percussions Designer	\$2,000 (Vendor)	
Victoria Limongelli	VHS	Pit Instructor	\$2,000	
Liz Rosa	VHS	Woodwind Caption Head	\$3,500	

#10 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following student activity finance account bookkeepers for 2020-2021:

Gina Ballinger - VHS - \$5,000
Elaine Gizzi - HBW - \$5,000

FINANCE

#11 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached Non-Resident tuition rates for the 2020-2021 school year.

REFERENDUM

#12 RESOLVED that the Board approve that the “Letter of Understanding” “Emergency Procurement and Contract Modification due to (COVID-10)” with Pomptonian Food Services be extended for the timer period of September 1, 2020 and will extend until the school reopens to full service but no later than June 30, 2021. The rate will remain the same at \$190.00 per day.

10. Public Comments

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. Day

Second by: Mrs. Priscoe

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: NAY

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 8:27 P.M.

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 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
September 8, 2020**

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

Motion by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolutions #1 - 2.

Mr. Alworth _____ Mr. Day _____

Mrs. Drappi _____ Mrs. Freschi _____

Mrs. Priscoe _____

PERSONNEL

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

1.1 New Staff

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Tricia Davis	Laning	1st Grade Leave Replacement Teacher	\$250/per diem	Education	Sept. 14 - Dec. 3, 2020
Rebecca DeFrance	Laning	MLOA Speech/Language Specialist	\$250/per diem	Education	Sept. 14, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021

1.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Janine Calabrese	Laning	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Sept. 8, 2020

1.3 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date on or before	Estimated Return Date on or about
#105100	Emergency Family Medical/Leave Expansion Act	Sept. 14, 2020	Up to 12 weeks

FINANCE

#2 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to a five-year Lease/Purchase with BGE Financial

for the purchase and financing of 8 YBH-301MS Silver Marching Baritone Musical Instruments. Terms to include 5 annual payments in the amount of \$4,297.84 per year.