

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**November 8, 2022**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on November 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

**The meeting was called to order by Jorge Cruz, Board Secretary.**

**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, Mrs. Pamela Priscoe, Vice President, Mr. Christopher Wacha, Mrs. Sara Drappi, and Mr. Jim Day. Also present was Diane DiGiuseppe, Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator.**

**There were 4 members of the public present. There were 0 members of the press present.**

CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION –6:00 pm  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm  
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS  
November 8, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report - Diane DiGiuseppe
6. Student Representative Report - Reese Sahadow
7. Presentation - NJSLA/NJGPA - Dr. Charlie Miller, Director of Curriculum, Julia Peter, Supervisor - Humanities and Glen Stevenson, Supervisor - STEM
8. Committee Reports -
  - Education/Special Education
  - Athletics
  - Community Resources
9. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items
10. Discussion Items
11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
12. Public Comments

Live streaming link: <https://youtu.be/o-UpBgYx-ow>

The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 22, 2022** beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session in the Verona High School Learning Commons.

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 4, 2022. 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. Copies of tonight's agenda and resolutions have been made available to the public and press.

4. **Roll Call Attendance**

Mr. Wacha   X                        Mr. Day   X    
Mrs. Drappi   X                        Mrs. Priscoe   X    
  
Mrs. Freschi   X  

5. **Superintendent Report - Diane DiGiuseppe**

- The Standardized Assessment Presentation will represent my report this evening with the exception of a few items I want to mention.
- We had a successful Ed Camp professional development afternoon today and that has to do with the staff that stepped up to present their expertise to their colleagues. Thank you to all who took the time to provide professional learning for their colleagues.

Claire Duffy  
Heather Andersen  
Jen Kleinknecht  
Bridget Sullivan  
Lou Waibel  
Steve Munoz  
Erik Lynch  
Melissa Wallerstein  
Megan Pellegrino  
Karen Tully  
Max Morden  
Janice Tufaro  
Bryan Goldsman  
Amy Heckel

Abby Whelan  
Michelle Mustardo  
Paul Salierno  
Nicole Castelbuono  
Eltion & IT Team  
Tamara Gesario  
Matt Rosa  
Brian Michalowski  
Julia Peter  
Chris Tamburro  
Nicole Stuto  
Lisa Varuolo  
Charlie Miller  
Glen Stevenson

- At the November 22 meeting, I will present the consultants I have researched for strategic planning.

Mr. Wacha asked about the Strategic Planning consultant and the cost associated with the work.

Mrs. Freschi shared her experience with the last strategic planning process.

Mr. Day also shared past positive experience.

## **6. Student Representative Report - Reese Sahadow**

### Student Report

- A. Mrs. Drappi brought up a student led DEI group, working on meeting with different groups around the school to discuss with students
  - 1. Will continue throughout this week
  - 2. Will go to Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting on Nov 30, and start to get in touch there (committee wraps up that day)
- B. Tour with Mr. Ballaj-- Went over security systems, chromebooks, virus monitoring, and physical hardware
- C. Spirit Week at VHS
  - 1. Halloween (dress up or orange/black), country v country club, pj day, anything but a backpack day, class colors. Hallway decoration on Thursday night
  - 2. **Double check participation data with Sepcie**
- D. Writing Center is being set up in LC. Mrs. Kelly, the new librarian, and Dr. Meyer, VHS English teacher, are starting it. Upperclassmen who've been recommended by their SS or English teachers will review other students' essays and offer constructive feedback. The program will mostly target underclassmen and try to help them improve writing skills. Upperclassmen get NHS credit and an addition for their applications/resumes, freshmen and sophomores have support outside the classroom.
- E. Football season wrapped up last week
  - 1. Home game against Hawthorne on Thursday
- F. VHS Volleyball game last night
  - 1. **Sold out? Double check with Hems**
  - 2. 2-0 sets against Rutherford, won state sectionals
- G. Play next week, Thursday through Saturday

## **7. Presentation - NJSLA/NJGPA - Dr. Charlie Miller, Director of Curriculum, Julia Peter, Supervisor - Humanities and Glen Stevenson, Supervisor - STEM**

Mr. Wacha asked what Mrs. Peter and Mr. Stevenson's recommendation would be the most reliable indicator to us to utilize to create our strategic plan goals.

Dr. Miller stated MAP Growth for elementary schools is a good indicator and MAP Growth Assessment for other grades are good tools to gauge student progress.

Mrs. Drappi asked if we were able to opt out of NJSLA and move to a Growth model and how accurate that would be.

Dr. Miller responded and stated that it has a 90% rate of accuracy and more informative.

Mrs. Drappi asked about NJGPA and the results for students with IEP not being graduation ready.

Dr. Miller stated that districts should have local control with these assessment and allowed to use PSAT.

Mr. Wacha stated that these assessments are not the only determining factor to assess students.

Mrs. Freschi asked about the ASBAT assessment which covers students an alternative vocational and careers assessment.

Mrs. DiGiuseppe confirmed that the state no longer provides that assessment since adopting the NJSLA.

## **8. Committee Reports**

- Education/Special Education -
  - Mrs. Drappi provided an update regarding the MAP Growth testing. First round of teacher observations is in process. Today was our staff Professional Development day. On personnel, they covered leave of absence replacements. DEI Coordinators had a meeting with Verona CHILD and created themes for Inclusion Week.
  - Mrs. Freschi added course proposal for next year on Game Design, History, English Selective, Robotics, Music Appreciation, and Introduction to Music & Work Product.
  - Ms. Reese Sahadow shared the survey process taking place regarding these course proposals at VHS.
- Athletics -
  - Mrs. Priscoe shared an update on the Girls Volleyball team and the upcoming game against Bogota. Also congratulated Mr. Thai as the Coach of the Year.

- Mr. Wacha echoed the great coaches that we have in Verona and highlighted the high standards that they each have in representing our district at each competitive game.
- Governance Policy -
  - Mrs. Drappi shared the process of agenda creation and Policy 0144 and the recommendation for new board members to complete the required training. Currently the law allows a full year to complete the training, but the Board requires 90 day completion in order to ensure board members have these important trainings completed early on. Policy 0155 suggestion to update the committees by renaming and replacing those that overlap. Policy 0164 Conduct at Board Meetings. This policy was outdated and required updating with Robert's Rules of Order Edition 12. Policy 2313 policy on Class Size is also being evaluated along with the neighborhood school enrollment. Policy 7250 School and Facilities Name, we're starting from the beginning to re-evaluate this policy.

**9. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items - None**

**10. Discussion Items -**

- Mrs. Freschi provided clarification regarding a resident's question at our last board meeting about the change of our Board Attorney

**11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**

**12. Public Comments**

Please note that the public participation portion of the meeting affords an opportunity for the public to share thoughts and comments about school related topics. By law, administrators and Board of Education members are not permitted to publicly discuss personnel matters, student discipline, or other issues requiring confidentiality. While we may not respond to comments during the meeting, all input that is shared with the Board of Education is taken very seriously, and helps inform future deliberations and work by the Board and its committees. Answers appear in many forms including, but not limited to: email, Superintendent/ Committee reports, Board statements, FAQs on website, or after public comment is closed. We appreciate and thank all members of the public for your input.

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RESOLUTIONS**  
**November 8, 2022**

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

**#1 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Regular Public Meeting    October 27, 2022

**Motion by:**          Mrs. Drappi      

**Seconded by:**       Mrs. Priscoe      

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1**

Mr. Wacha      X  

Mr. Day      X  

Mrs. Drappi      X  

Mrs. Priscoe      X  

Mrs. Freschi      X  

**PERSONNEL**

**#2 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

**2.1 New Hires** -pending successful completion of pre-employment paperwork.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Term of Employment on or about</b>
<b>Sara Every</b>	FNB/BRK	MLOA Replacement - Elementary School Social Worker	\$275/per diem	Education	Dec. 23, 2022 - Jun. 23, 2023
<b>Mindy Patrisso</b>	HBW	MLOA Replacement - Social Worker	\$275/per diem	Education	Dec. 19, 2022 - Jun. 23, 2023
<b>ColemanAkers</b>	District	Substitute Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 22-23

**2.2 Resignation**

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Simone Stinson	VHS	Admin. Asst. to Principal	Resignation	Nov 14, 2022

Motion by: Mrs. Drappi

Seconded by: Mrs. Day

Be it **RESOLVED** the approval of Resolutions #2 - 2.2.

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

**EDUCATION**

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

**3.1 Recommendation for Textbook Adoption**

Name	Location	Course	Grade
Mauritius	VHS	Drama	9-12

**3.2 Field Trip**

Name	School	Club/Destination	Date of Field Trip
C. Pietrucha/ M. Albano	HBW	8th Grade Class/ Pocono Valley Resort, Reeders, PA	Jun. 2, 2023

**3.3 VFEE Grant**

Grant Recipients	School	Name of Grant	Grant #	Amount of Grant
Ms. Kleinknecht and Ms. Tufaro	HB Whitehorne	Learning is fun with Flocabulary	2023-01	\$5,000.00

**3.4 Attendance at Conference**

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Dana Garcia	District	The Core of it All/Virtual	Feb. 2-3, 2023	\$369.00

#4 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Selene Rivera** to issue working papers during the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion by:     Mrs. Priscoe    

Seconded by:     Mr. Day    

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #3 - 4.**

Mr. Wacha     X    

Mr. Day     X    

Mrs. Drappi     X    

Mrs. Priscoe     X    

Mrs. Freschi     X    

**“SPECIAL EDUCATION**

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board, upon on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

**5.1 Home Instructors**

Name
Sandra Lopez-Lorente

**5.2 Student Home Instruction**

Student #	School	Grade	Hrs./Week/Duration	Beginning on or about
#272798	HBW	8	10 hrs./wk./2 wks.	Oct. 10, 2022
#232790	VHS	11	10 hrs./wk./6-8 wks.	Nov. 4, 2022

Motion by:     Mr. Day    

Seconded by:     Mrs. Drappi

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #5 - 5.2.**

Mr. Wacha      X                        Mr. Day          X    
Mrs. Drappi     X                        Mrs. Priscoe     X    
Mrs. Freschi     X  

**ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR**

**#6    RESOLVED** that the Board, upon on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the attached Winter Coaches for the 2022-2023 school year.

**#7    RESOLVED** that the Board, upon on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Norma Palmer, H. B. Whitehorne School Nurse be approved as a nurse chaperone for field trips for the 2022-2023 school year for an additional 40 hours at a rate of \$45.30 per hour.

**Motion by:**      Mr. Day  

**Seconded by:**   Mrs. Drappi  

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #6 - 7.**

Mr. Wacha      X                        Mr. Day          X    
Mrs. Drappi     X                        Mrs. Priscoe     X    
Mrs. Freschi     X  

**FINANCE**

**#8    RESOLVED** that the Board, upon on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the enclosed checklist(s) in the following amounts based on the recommendation of the Superintendent:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$54,412.39	Food Service	November 4, 2022
\$14,060.00	Referendum	November 4, 2022
\$ 330.00	VHS	November 4, 2022
\$ 75.00	HBW	November 4, 2022
\$194,408.47	General	November 4, 2022

**#9 RESOLVED** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the attached Interlocal School Bus Sale Agreement between Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission and Verona Public Schools for School Bus #5.

**Motion by:** Mr. Day

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Drappi

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #8 - 9.**

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

**#12 Public comments**

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**Denise Verzella** - commented that the new format is great for us to review and really think about the resolutions that are being passed. Also asked about the accuracy of the student attendance data for September which shows only 21 new students in HBW.

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

**#10 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. Drappi      

**Second by:**       Mr. Day      

**All in Favor:**       AYE      

**All Opposed:**       None      

**This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 8:37 pm.**