

PUBLIC MEETING

November 9, 2021

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on November 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jorge Cruz. 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: Vice President, Mr. Timothy Alworth, Mrs. Pamela Priscoe and Mrs. Sara Drappi, and Mr. Day, Mrs. Lisa Freschi, President was absent. Also present was Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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



CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 pm
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

November 9, 2021

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report - Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent of Schools
6. Committee Reports
 - Facilities
7. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items
8. Discussion Items
9. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
10. Public Comments

The Board meeting live stream will be available by clicking this link:

https://youtu.be/PN_74EHj9x4

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Monday, November 22, 2021** beginning with a Confidential Session at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session in the Verona High School Auditorium.

- 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 5, 2021. 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 X Mr. Day X
Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X
Mrs. Priscoe X

- 5. Superintendent Report** - Thank you to the Board of Education for your confidence in my ability to lead the Verona Public Schools. I sent the following letter earlier today to our parents and community partners:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to say how happy I am to have been chosen to serve as the Interim Superintendent of the Verona Public Schools. I am a life-long resident of Essex County, and am very familiar with your outstanding schools. I have been a teacher and administrator in a variety of public schools in the State of New Jersey for the last 38 years. I have served as Superintendent in Franklin Lakes and as Interim Superintendent in Green Township and Lafayette Township. Every experience has allowed me to grow professionally and to be reflective about my own practice. It is my goal to be of support to our school community as you engage in the process of searching for your next Superintendent. I know how important it is to collaborate with

administrators, teachers, parents, students and members of the community in order to provide each student with the educational experiences they need and deserve.

The health emergency has created an unprecedented set of circumstances that are having a profound effect on schools on a global scale. Through it all, it has become more and more important to keep the home/school/community connection strong. I am quickly learning about the many initiatives in which the District is engaged in support of the academic, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing of our students, as well as initiatives centered on the well-being of our staff and families. I am committed to continuing these efforts.

I am eager to become a part of what makes Verona such an outstanding school district and thank you for welcoming me into your school community. I plan to visit each school and to support our administrators and staff members in the coming weeks and am looking forward to working with you all.

6. Committee Reports

- Facilities - Mr. Day provided an update on the HVAC project. Alyssa's Law Security Grant will be used to upgrade our security lock down notification system. \$125,000 received from the state and we will supplement any additional cost.

7. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items - none

8. Discussion Items

- Mr. Cruz provided a response to a public comment at the last board meeting related to the maintenance and capital reserves for 2021-22 fiscal budget.
- Mrs. Freschi congratulated Mrs. Priscoe and Mr. Watcha for winning the Board of Education seats on the November 4th election.
- Mrs. Priscoe provided news on the Girls' Volleyball team winning and shared congratulatory speech for her 2nd term
- Mr. Day shared news on the Boys' Soccer team and their achievement this season.
- Mr. Day provided an update on the VEA Contract for 2021-24 which will be placed on the agenda for the 11-22-21 Board meeting.

- Mrs. Freschi provided an update on the Superintendent search process and focus group conducted during the last three weeks to create a Leadership Profile for our next Superintendent.
- Mrs. Drappi congratulated Mrs. Priscoe and Mr. Watka and commented on the SCA board candidate forum to ensure that the future questions be aligned with the function of the Board.
- Mrs. Priscoe shared feedback regarding the candidate forum.
- Mrs. Drappi commented on addendum resolution #2.

9. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

10. Public Comments - none

Motion by: Mrs. Drappi

Seconded by: Mr. Day

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 14.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
November 9, 2021

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

#1 RESOLVED that the Board approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting October 26, 2021

PERSONNEL

#2 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following pending pre-employment paperwork:

2.1 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Carmela Vece	District	Sub Paraprofessional	\$15.25/per hr.	Education	SY 21-22
Lisa Torchia	District	Sub Secretary	\$100/per diem	Education	Feb.1 - Jun. 23, 2022

2.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Amanda Weil	FNB	Admin. Asst.	Resignation	Nov. 24, 2021

2.3 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105479	Nov. 1-2-3, 2021	3 days/Personal

2.4 Marriage

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Dates	Notes
#105441	VHS	English Teacher	Marriage	Dec. 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 2021	3 days with pay with the cost of a substitute to be deducted

EDUCATION

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approves the Superintendent's presentation of HIB first reading report as follows:

1st Readings
HBWC222961
HBWC223277
HBWC222960
HBWC224059

HBWC224061

#4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approves the Superintendent’s presentation of HIB second reading report as follows:

2nd Readings
VHS-222797

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Administrative Assistant job description.

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

6.1 Professional Development Presenter

Presenter	School	Date	Hrs./Stipend	Total
Karen Tully	FNB	Oct. 11, 2021	2 hrs./\$60/per hr.	\$120.00

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the 2021-2022 and anticipated 2022-2023 Comprehensive School Plant Maintenance and Operation Program.

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the the American Rescue Plan - ESSER Grant in the amount of \$1,655,020, covering three years (3/11/2021-9/30/2024):

ESSER:	\$1,350,498
Accelerated Learning Coaching & Educator Support Grant:	\$179,522
Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities Grant:	\$40,000
Evidence-Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant:	\$40,000
NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing Grant:	\$45,000

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Winter Coaches for the 2021-2022 school year.

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$1,131.00	Vendor Checks	October 29, 2021
\$239,121.94	Vendor Checks	November 9, 2021

#11 RESOLVED that the Board approve Amazon Business Under PEPPM Purchasing Cooperative

WHEREAS, the Verona Board of Education, pursuant to P.L.2011.c.139; N.J.S.A 18A:18A-et.seq. and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c) and per Local Finance Notice No. LFN 2012-10, may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods under the nationally-recognized PEPPM purchasing cooperative for any national and/or regional cooperative entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury; AND

WHEREAS, the Verona Board of Education may enter into contracts with the referenced PEPPM purchasing cooperative through this resolution and properly executed contracts, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current PEPPM purchasing cooperative; AND

WHEREAS, the Verona Board of Education intends to enter into a contract with Amazon.com Services LLC (PEPPM Contract# 530156-001) through this resolution and properly execute contracts, which shall be subject to all conditions applicable to the current National Contract Program contracts;
AND

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Verona Board of Education authorizes the Purchasing Agent to purchase certain goods or services from Amazon.com Services LLC, pursuant to all conditions of the National Contract Program contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves that the Verona Board of Education enter into a contract with Amazon.com Services LLC under the PEPPM purchasing cooperative for the purchase of any goods on an as needed basis for the district.

#12 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached Public Hearing Notice for the Refunding Bond Ordinance.

#13 RESOLVED that the Board approve the second reading of the attached proposed Refunding Bond Ordinance McManimon-Scotland-Baumann.

#11 Public Comments

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#14 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 by: Mr. Day
Seconded by: Mrs. Drappi

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>

All in Favor: AYE
All Opposed: None

This meeting is adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

1.3 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Hector Cortes	BRK	PT Custodian	Resignation	Nov. 3, 2021

1.4 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#102721	Medical Leave of Absence	Nov. 8, 2021	Nov. 20, 2021

EDUCATION

#2 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve 45 Lemons Phase 1 Proposal - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan of Assessment & Collaboration at a cost of \$10,000 for the 21-22 school year.

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

3.1 Curriculum Writing

Name	No. of Hours	Amount per hour	Total
Kathleen Amora	10 hours	\$45.00/per hr.	\$450.00

3.2 Professional Development

Presenter	School	Date	Hrs./Stipend	Total
Vicki Cirigliano	BRK	Sept. 1, 2021	1 additional hr./\$60 per hr.	\$60.00
Amy Heckel	HBW	Sept. 1, 2021	1 additional hr./\$60 per hr.	\$60.00
Rich Wertz	VHS	Sept. 1, 2021	1 additional hr./\$60 per hr.	\$60.00
Jen Kleinknecht	HBW	Sept. 1, 2021	1 additional hr./\$60 per hr.	\$60.00
Andor Kish	FNB	Sept. 1, 2021	1 additional hr./\$60 per hr.	\$60.00
Elissa Malespina	FNB	Sept. 1, 2021	1 additional hr./\$60 per hr.	\$60.00