

PUBLIC MEETING

February 22, 2022

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on February 22, 2022 at 7:09 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: Mrs. Lisa Freschi, President, Mrs. Pamela Priscoe, Vice President, Mrs. Sara Drappi, Mr. Christopher Wacha. Mr. Day was absent. Also present was Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

There were 14 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 AUDITORIUM
February 22, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report
6. Business Administrator Report
7. Presentations - **Jorge Cruz** - School Business Administrator/Board Secretary -
Preliminary Budget Report
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Grand River Solutions
8. Committee Reports
 - Finance
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/8TS7NeBwqyo>

The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 8, 2022** beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm followed by Public Session at 7:00 pm in the Verona High 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 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. 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. Wacha X Mr. Day ABS

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

5. **Superintendent Report - Dr. Lydia Furnari**
6. **Business Administrator Report - Mr. Jorge Cruz**
7. **Presentations** - Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary- Preliminary Budget Report
-Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Grand River Solutions

Derrick Trubad - Verona Resident - asked the presenter a question about a social media posting.

George Kozachuk - 100 Morningside Rd. - raised concern about the Grand River Solutions and what they represent.

8. **Committee Reports**

- Finance - Mr. Wacha provided an update on finance and plans in place to cover athletics
- Community Resources - Mrs. Priscoe provided an update on the Superintendent search and DEI consultant. Thanked Verona Strong for the lawn sign fundraiser in support of our Verona families.

Mrs. Freschi provided an update on the HBW Community Garden. On May 14th we'll be hosting our Health Fair and on February 24th we'll be holding our Mental Health series workshop via Zoom.

9. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items

Maria Squilanti - 6 Belleclaire Pl. - asked clarification on Resolution #6

Derrick Czupak - 7 Durrell St.- (Reso. #6) - asked a clarifying question on the policy mandate.

10. Discussion Items

11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

12. Public Comments

Rita Scelfo - 25 Church St. - thanked the administration and Board for the consideration of funding athletics and pay to play sports.

Joe Haggerty - 44 Morningside Rd - asked about the goal of DEI and why information is not shared.

Stacey Beatus - 91A Linn Dr. - raised concern about HIB policy for teacher to student harassment. Concern about a life skills program where students are bused to Cedar Grove, asked why not offer the program in Verona.

Jennifer Finnerty - 53 Montrose Ave. - raised concern of outcome in IEP meeting and in-class program based on need.

Motion by: Mrs. Priscoe

Seconded by: Mrs. Drappi

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 15.

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day ABS

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
February 22, 2022

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

#1 RESOLVED that the Verona Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meetings based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting February 8, 2022
 Special Meeting & Confidential Session February 12, 2022

PERSONNEL

#2 RESOLVED that the Verona Board of Education approve the following pending pre-employment paperwork based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

2.1 New Hires

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Elaine Gizzi	District	Sub Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22	RESCIND
Elaine Gizzi	District	Sub Secretary	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22	APPROVE
Teddy Niziolek	District	Sub Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22	
Deirdre Holke	FOR	Lunch Aide	\$14.50/per hr.	Education	SY 21-22	
Anthony Cassie	FNB	Sub Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	Feb. 23 - Mar. 4, 2022	
Anthony Cassie	FNB	LOA PE/Heath	\$240/ per diem	Education	Mar. 7 - Apr. 5, 2022	
Josephine Bono	District	Sub Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22	
Skender Kraja	HBW	PT Custodian	\$18.00/per hr.	Education	Feb. 23, 2022	

2.2 Reallocation of Days

Employee #	Explanation
#105628	5 Personal Illness Days to 5 Paternity Days

2.3 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#100998	Extension of Medical Leave of Absence	Oct. 26, 2021	Mar. 21, 2022

2.4 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Gabriela Van Lenten	LAN	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Feb. 24, 2022
Nicole Folk	LAN	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Feb. 14, 2022

2.5 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105479	Feb. 11, 2022	1 day WOP/Personal

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Simone Stinson** to issue working papers during the 2021-2022 school year based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent.

EDUCATION

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

1st Readings
VHS227762
VHS227461
VHS227856

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

2nd Readings
HWO227076
FBS227084
HWO227242

#6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the second reading of the following policies based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

- P2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing, or Treatment (M) (Revised)
- P&R2431.4 Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries (M) (Revised for Policy, New for Regulation)
- P2451 Adult School (M) (New)
- R2460.30 - Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services (M) (New)
- P&R2622 (M) (Revised for Policy, New for Regulation)
- P5460 High School Graduation (M) (Revised)
- P5541 Anti-Hazing (M) (New)
- P&R8465 Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts (M) (Revised for Policy, New for Regulation); P9560 Administration of School Surveys (M) (Revised)
- P2210 Curriculum Development (Revised)

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the 2022 VSEA Business Plan based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent.

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following for the 2022 school year based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

8.1 VSEA

Name	Position	Stipend
Jeffrey Monacelli	VSEA Program Director	\$8,783
Howard Freund	VSEA Assistant Program Director	\$6,594
Debra Lawrence	VSEA Administrative Assistant	\$2,825

8.2 Student Observer

Name	School	School/Teacher/ Grade	Duration	Assignment
Ian MacKenzie	Montclair State Univ.	HBW/Jordan/PE	Feb. 22 - May 15, 2022	Student Observer

8.3 Movement on the Guide

NAME	CURRENT LEVEL/STEP	SALARY	NEW LEVEL/STEP	SALARY
Heather Andersen	MA/Step 14	\$77,716	MA+30/Step 12	\$83,066
Linda Barone	BA/Step 18	\$88,872	BA+30/Step 16	\$95,032
Joelle Dere	MA/Step 9	\$63,210	MA+45/Step 7	\$69,201
Yan Qin	MA+30/Step 18	\$105,119	MA+45/Step 16	\$106,444

8.4 Mentor

Novice Name	Location	Mentor	Stipend	# of mentoring weeks
Andrew Vogel	VHS	Steven Munoz	Waived	30 weeks

SPECIAL EDUCATION

#9 RESOLVED that the Board approve Adam Krass Consulting, LLC based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent as a vendor for the Verona Public Schools to provide assistive technology services as needed.

#10 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

10.1 Student Home Instruction

Student #	School	Grade	Hrs./Week/Duration	Beginning on or about
#240414	VHS	10	10 hrs./6-8 wks	Feb. 10, 2022
#333230	FNB	1	10 hrs./remainder of 21-22 school year	
#220094	VHS	12	10 hrs. per wk./6-8 wks.	Feb. 15, 2022
#232001	VHS	11	10 hr. per wk./6-8 wks.	Feb. 10, 2022

10.2 Home Instructor

Name
Marie Meyer
Josephine Bono

- #11 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following individuals to provide in-home Parent Training as needed based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

Brooke Raskin at an hourly rate of \$46.75 not to exceed 4 hours
 Lori Martorana at an hourly rate of \$65.28 not to exceed 4 hours

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

- #12 RESOLVED** that the Board approve **Laura Palmerezzi**, Director of Athletic and Special Programs to attend the DAANJ State Conference from March 15 - 18, 2022 at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, NJ based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent.

Registration	\$475.00
Hotel	\$314.85
Mileage	<u>\$ 95.00</u>
Total	\$884.85

- #13 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

13.1 Co-Curricular

Advisor	Location	Club Name	Stipend	Term of Employment
Simone Stinson	VHS	Finance Committee Chairperson	\$3,059.50	SY 21-22

- #14 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached 2021-2022 Spring Coaches based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent.

FINANCE

#15 RESOLVED that the Board approve the enclosed checklist(s) in the following amounts based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent.

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$ 30,593.90	Athletics	February 17, 2022
\$ 5,946.84	Verona High School	February 17, 2022
\$ 239.06	HBW	February 17, 2022
\$ 10,800.00	Referendum	February 17, 2022
\$182,009.91	General	February 17, 2022

#12 Public comments

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#16 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: Mrs. Priscoe

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: None

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 8:18 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
February 2, 2022

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

Motion by: Mr. Wacha

Seconded by: Mrs. Drappi

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolution #1 - 6.

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day ABS

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

PERSONNEL

#1 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following pending pre-employment paperwork based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

1.1 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Paul Pinto	District	Sub Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22

1.2 Retirement

Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date of Retirement
Maureen O'Neill	Resource Teacher		Retirement	Jul. 1, 2022

#2 RESOLVED that the Board approve at the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent **Nicholas Naturile** as the Director of Facilities at a prorated salary of \$115,000 effective on or about April 25, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

EDUCATION

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent:

3.1 Student Observer

Name	School	School/Teacher/ Grade	Duration	Assignment
Julie White	Caldwell Univ.	VHS/Various Spec. Ed. teachers	Mar. 9 - May 6, 2022	Student Observer

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$400,131.79	General	February 22, 2022
\$148,513.04	Food Service	February 22, 2022

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached Proposal for Eastern Datacomm in the amount of \$189,481.26 to be in compliance with Alyssa’s Law based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent

Funding Source	Amount
Security Grant	\$125,290.00
General Operations (Local Funds)	\$64,191.26

#6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached revised Verona Budget Calendar 22-23 based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent.