

PUBLIC MEETING

February 8, 2022

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on February 8, 2022 at 7:04 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, and Mr. Day. Also present was Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

There were 26 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 8, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report - Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent of Schools
 - District Goals
 - Enrollment projections for the 2022-2023 school year
6. Presentations
 - Anti-Idling - Mrs. Jessica Pearson, Verona Environmental Commission
 - Budget 101 - Mr. Jorge Cruz, SBA/Board Secretary
 - Start Strong - Dr. Charlie Miller - Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Glen Stevenson - Supervisor - STEM, Mrs. Julia Peter - Supervisor - Humanities
 - Legal Updates - Mr. Dan Roberts, Board Attorney
7. Committee Reports
 - Education/Special Education
 - Facilities
 - Athletics
 - Community Resources
8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items
9. Discussion Items
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments

Live streaming link: <https://youtu.be/3M5ISY9uNmM>

The next scheduled Special Meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 12, 2022** beginning with Public Session at 8:30 AM, followed by Confidential 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. 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 X
Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Priscoe X
Mrs. Freschi X

5. **Superintendent Report** - Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent of Schools

- District Goals
- Enrollment projections for the 2022-2023 school year

6. **Presentations** -

- Anti-Idling - Mrs. Jessica Pearson, Verona Environmental Commission
- Budget 101 - Mr. Jorge Cruz, SBA/Board Secretary
- Start Strong - Dr. Charlie Miller - Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Glen Stevenson - Supervisor - STEM, Mrs. Julia Peter - Supervisor - Humanities
- Legal Updates - Mr. Dan Roberts, Board Attorney

7. **Committee Reports**

- Education/Special Education - Mrs. Sara Drappi/Mr. Chris Wacha
 - Mrs. Drappi provided policy updates available in the public folder (resolution #5). MAP Growth assessments and results are forthcoming.
- Facilities - Mr. Jim Day/Mrs. Sara Drappi

- Mr. Day provided an update on the completion of the HVAC project which will be completed with the testing of the system during spring break. Also provided an update on the repairs of the gym floors.
- Athletics - Mrs. Lisa Freschi/Mrs. Pamela Priscoe
 - Mrs. Priscoe provided an update of Athletics and events.

8. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items

9. Discussion Items

Mrs. Priscoe congratulated the VHS valedictorian and salutatorian.

Mrs. Freschi provided an update on the superintendent search process, which was narrowed to three candidates.

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

11. Public Comments

Dan Vecchio - 36 W. Lincoln St. - asked about the process for lifting the mask mandate and the possibility of making it optional.

Jackie Fricke - 65 Grove Ave - shared an update of the outcome of her children participating in school and the forward progress. Also, asked about the mask optional approach and the removal of desk shields.

Jamie Moreng - 76 Park Ave - requested the Board to provide a mask optional plan. Asked the Board President to respond to the social media post that mock parents.

Diana Ferrera - 49 Fells Rd - shared comments and disagreement about the Board President's social media post.

Lenny Armenti - 40 Ann St. - asked the Board to provide a mask optional plan. Commented on Board President's social media post.

James Stanisci - 60 Linwood Rd - commented on the Board President's social media post asking for resignation. Also commented on the mask optional plans.

Maryellen McHugh - 45 Newman Ave - shared that the VHS Swim program is cost prohibitive to families and any support from the board of Ed would be greatly appreciated.

Mike Dupree - 47 Cypress Ave. - asked about the programs in the elementary schools after the mask lift.

Gina Signorelli - 26 Valley View Rd- commented on the facebook post and also asked about the feedback and answers to the questions in public comments. Question: When will the children be allowed to eat in the cafeteria?

Megan Gutknecht - 37 Valley View Rd - asked about a cafeteria option for students to eat. Also requested no mask or mask optional on March 7.

Motion by: Mrs. Drappi

Seconded by: Mr. Day

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 19.

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

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
February 8, 2022

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:

Special Meeting & Confidential Session	January 20, 2022
Confidential & Regular Public Meeting	January 25, 2022
Special Meeting & Confidential Session	January 29, 2022

PERSONNEL

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

2.1 New Hires

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Sally McIntyre	LAN	Permanent Sub	\$125/hr.	Education	Jan. 26 - Jun. 23, 2022	
Selene Rivera	VHS	Admin. Asst. to Guidance	Step 10/ \$54,497	Education	Feb. 1 - Jun. 30, 2022	RESCIND
Selene Rivera	VHS	Admin. Asst. to Guidance	Step 10/ \$54,497 Degree Stipend \$1,132	Education	Feb. 1 - Jun. 30, 2022	APPROVE

2.2 Reallocation of Days

Employee #	Explanation
#103301	5 Family Illness Days to 5 Personal Illness Days

2.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Jennifer Gadaleta	VHS	Director of Guidance	Resignation	May 6, 2022
Angela Perry-Folk	FNB	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Feb. 2, 2022

2.3 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105493	Jan. 27, 2022	.5/Personal

2.4 Staff Changes

Name	Current Location/ Position/Salary	New Location/ Position/Salary	Effective Date on or about	Notes
Gina Ballinger	VHS/12 Month Admin. Asst./ Step 15/ \$66,133 Degree Stipend \$1,132	HBW/12 Month Admin. Asst./ Step 15/\$66,133 Degree Stipend \$1,132	Mar. 1 - Jun., 30, 2022	RESCIND
Gina Ballinger	VHS/12 Month Admin. Asst./ Step 15/ \$66,133 Degree Stipend \$1,132	HBW/12 Month Admin. Asst./ Step 15/\$66,133 Degree Stipend \$1,132	Feb. 10 - Jun. 30, 2022	APPROVE

2.5 Marriage

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Dates	Notes
#105508	VHS	Art Teacher	Marriage	May 12, 17-18-19-20, 2022	5 days with pay with the cost of a substitute to be deducted

2.6 Extra Class

Name	Location	Course	Amount	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Karolina Siwek	HBW	Math	\$1,138.77	Feb. 1 - Mar. 31, 2022	RESCIND
Lisa Sarett	HBW	Math	\$1,386.58	Feb. 1 - Mar. 31, 2022	RESCIND
Julianne Curro	HBW	Math	\$1,094.53	Feb. 1 - Mar. 31, 2022	RESCIND
Nadia Domenick	HBW	Math	\$5,166.82	Feb. 1 - Mar. 31, 2022	RESCIND
Karolina Siwek	HBW	Math	\$1,138.77	Nov. 23, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022	RESCIND
Lisa Sarett	HBW	Math	\$1,386.58	Nov. 22, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022	RESCIND
Julianna Curro	HBW	Math	\$1,094.53	Nov. 23, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022	RESCIND
Nadia Domenick	HBW	Math	\$5,166.82	Nov. 22, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022	RESCIND
Karolina Siwek	HBW	Math	\$7,374.86	Nov. 22, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022	APPROVE
Lisa Sarett	HBW	Math	\$8,979.73	Nov. 22, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022	APPROVE

Julianne Curro	HBW	Math	\$7,088.34	Nov. 22, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022	APPROVE
Nadia Domenick	HBW	Math	\$14,506.00	Nov. 22, 2021 - Jun. 23, 2022	APPROVE

2.7 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#102593	Medical Leave	Mar. 7, 2022	Apr. 5, 2022

EDUCATION

- #3 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the Superintendent’s presentation of HIB first reading report as follows:

1st Readings
HWO227076
FBS227084
HWO227242

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

2nd Readings
VHS226774
VHS226111

- #5 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the first reading of the following policies:

- 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)

#6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the second reading of the following policies:

P0151 Organization Meeting
 P0164 Conduct of Board Meeting
 P0171 Duties of Board President and Vice President
 P2200 Curriculum Content
 P9400 News Media Relations

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the first reading of the following Curriculum:

- Updated Scope and Sequence for Elementary Conflict Resolution

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the ELLS plan for the 2021-2024 school years.

#9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve a \$1,500.00 grant from New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association for the use of the Lunar New year celebration, AAPI and other cultural activities.

#10 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve:

10.1 Home Instructor

Name
Elissa Freda
Megan Spinelli

10.2 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Dana Garcia	LAN	Primitive Reflex/ Webinar	Mar. 9, 16 and 23, 2022	\$369.00

SPECIAL EDUCATION

#11 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to contract with ProCare Therapy, LLC d/b/a New Direction Solutions, LLC, Tucker, GA to provide nursing services as needed for the Verona School District's out-of-district students.

#12 RESOLVED that the Board approve to request county approval to waive the district from participation in the 2022-2023 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) due to the district’s estimated low eligibility rate.

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#13 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

13.1 Field Trip

Name	School	Club/Destination	Date of Field Trip
Erik Lynch	VHS	Music/Camelback Resort/Tannersville, PA	Mar. 24-26, 2022
Robert Orr	VHS	DECA/Atlantic City, NJ	Feb. 28 - Mar. 2, 2022

#14 RESOLVED that the Board has reviewed and certified Verona School Districts Submission to the New Jersey Department of Education Student Safety Data System (SSDS) for Report Period 1 (9/1/21-12/31/21).

#15 RESOLVED that the Board approve compensation for additional duties related to COVID-19 responsibilities of school nurses outside contractual hours at \$5,302.

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$139,613.39	Vendor Checks General	February 4, 2022
\$154,982.99	Referendum Checks	February 4, 2022
\$ 5,858.50	Athletic Checks	February 4, 2022

#17 RESOLVED that the Board approve the Corrective Action Plan for the audit year ending June 30, 2021 as attached.

#18 RESOLVED that the Board accept the 2020-21 CAFR Report ending June 30, 2021 as prepared by Nisivoccia LLP.

#19 RESOLVED that the Board approve participation in the Morris Essex Insurance Group for a period of 3 years beginning July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 per attached.

#11 Public comments

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#20 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: None

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 9:46 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
February 8, 2022

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

Motion by: Mrs. Priscoe

Seconded by: Mrs. Drappi

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

Mr. Wacha X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

PERSONNEL

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

1.1 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Ian Mackenzie	District	Sub Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22	
Patryk Zielonka	District	Sub Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22	
Tricia Davis	FNB	LTS - Resource Teacher	\$250/per diem	Education	Feb. 24 - Jun. 23, 2022	

Olivia Gryzwinski	District	Sub Teacher	\$100/per diem	Education	SY 21-22	
Carla Carrillo	HBW	Paraprofessional	\$17,832.75	Education	Feb. 1 - Jun. 23, 2022	RESCIND

1.2 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason	Notes
#105493	Feb. 7, 2022	1 day/Personal	Without Pay

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$566,053.99	Vendor General Checks	February 8, 2022
\$ 868.28	VHS Finance	February 8, 2022