

PUBLIC MEETING

May 10, 2022

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on May 10, 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, Mr. Christopher Wacha, and Mr. Jim Day, Mrs. Sara Drappi was absent. Also present was Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

There were 9 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
May 10, 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
8. Committee Reports
 - Education/Special Education
 - Athletics
 - Facilities
 - 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/Z4VgiKPAH2o>

PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE

The next scheduled Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm, followed by Public Session at 7:00 pm in the H. B. Whitehorne Middle School Auditorium, 600 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, NJ.

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 Abs

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

5. **Superintendent Report** - I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate 2 of our Verona High School Seniors, James McHugh and Annalie Ying, who were selected for recognition by the Essex County Superintendent's Roundtable for their academic excellence. Mr. Cogdill, VHS principal and I joined the students and their parents at the awards celebration held on May 4 th . Congratulations to James and Annalie. Also, I would like to recognize three Verona students; John Stockelberg, David Held and George Donnelly, from Verona Boy Scouts of America Troop #2, for their attainment of the level of Eagle Scout. Congratulations to all. Additionally, I would like to recognize our DECA team for their earning first place in New Jersey and being among the Top Twenty teams at DECA Nationals. Students involved were James McHugh and Nick Jacobsen.

This week our Elementary Schools are holding their music concerts. The students have all worked very hard to prepare for these live concerts and are excited to share their musical talents with their parents, school staff and their classmates. HBW Middle School and Verona High School will be holding their concerts next week. It is wonderful for our students to have these opportunities to perform in

front of live audiences after so long a period when this was not possible. I want to thank our music teachers, administrators, and all those who helped to prepare our students.

Our next Diversity, Equity & Inclusion sub group meetings will take place during the week of May 23 rd . Ms. Jody Shipper will be with us once again, this time in person. During that week, Ms. Shipper will also be working with us to gather additional data. In the coming weeks, we will be implementing a survey for staff and one for students in grades 7-12. Parents will be able to review the survey questions and will have the opportunity to give their child's school permission, allowing the child to participate. To clear, parents will be asked to "opt-in". Students whose parents do not give their permission will not participate in the survey. Again, only 7 th through 12 th grade students will be able to take the survey. A Staff survey will also be implemented on a voluntary basis.

As you know from our messaging, signage and other means of communication, Saturday, May 14 th , from 12-3pm is the Verona-Cedar Grove Mental Health Festival. This event has been planned jointly between the Verona Public Schools and the Cedar Grove Public Schools. The response to the festival has been tremendous and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Mauriello for his initiative and commitment to making the event happen for our communities. The rain date is Sunday, May 15 th .

This concludes my report. I am happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

6. Business Administrator Report

Good evening everyone. I have a few updates tonight.

One of the priorities of the business office is to equip our schools with the best resources and tools available to ensure that we continue enhancing the learning experience each student has in the classroom. Let's talk copiers. Resolution number 17 on the agenda tonight is a huge win for our students and teachers. The process of recommending this proposal was very thorough, and tonight it's an honor to present you with the very best for our schools. Currently, our district copier lease is a fair market value lease that ends on June 30th and has a monthly cost of \$3,664 plus an average monthly service plan cost of

\$1,550 (which is a per-page fee of \$0.004) and \$100 for the software management system; totaling \$5,314 per month. This new proposal is now a \$1 buyout lease, which means that we'll own all 20 copiers for \$1 at the end of the 60 months. Each school will have one color copier along with the Saddle Stitch feature. The monthly lease cost is \$2,424, plus \$1,327.59 for an unlimited service plan (includes unlimited black/white & color copiers), and the software management system is included, totaling \$3,752. Total monthly savings is \$1,562, \$18,744 annually, and \$93,720 for the life of the lease (5-years).

Lastly, Resolution #19 is the proposal for our E-Rate consultant to file and administer the Emergency Connectivity Program application to secure USAC funding for 1:1 Chromebooks at our elementary schools and VHS.

This concludes my Business Administrator report. Thank you.

7. Presentations - None

8. Committee Reports

- Education/Special Education - Mr. Wacha provided an update on the from the Education Committee on the policy revision that was supported by Straus Esmay Associates. Mr. Wacha also gave insight on the master scheduling process.
- Athletics - Mrs. Priscoe provided recent athletics events that took place recently, along with the semi-finals for the season. Mrs. Freschi provided information about DECA and the skills that it provides to participating students.
- Facilities - Mrs. Freschi provided information update regarding the security enhancement in our classrooms with lock-down door strips and shades. We've received materials related to the pathway on the left side of FNB to address the water drainage issue. Additional updates were provided regarding old business.

9. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items

Larry Iannuzzi - 89-Pease Ave - Resolution #7 - shared concern regarding the revision of district policy 7250 (School and Facility Names). Requested that the board considers having a committee to review the proposed policy change and compare to shorounding district policy.

10. Discussion Items

Board requested to table resolution #7 until the next meeting, on May 24th.

11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

12. Public Comments

Donna Ciccolini - 14 Windemere Rd. - asked a clarifying question about electives being offered to students in special education. Dr. Mauriello responded to the question.

Gina Signorelli - 26 Valley View Rd. - raised question about the school zoning and the difference of class sizes in each elementary school. Why are class sizes larger in F.N. Brown vs. Brookdale. Dr. Furnari responded to the question.

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.

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 19. (Exclude #7)

Mr. Wacha X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi Abs Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
May 10, 2022

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

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

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting April 26, 2022

PERSONNEL

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

2.1 New Hire

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

2.2 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105089	Apr. 25, 2022	1 day/Unpaid PI
#105599	May 17, 2022	.5 day/Unpaid PB
#105599	May 18-19-20, 2022	3 days/Unpaid PB
#102641	Jun. 6, 2022	1 day/Unpaid PB

2.3 Reallocation of Days

Employee #	Explanation
#101703	3 Personal Illness days to 3 Family Illness days
#103278	2 Personal Illness days to 2 Death in Family days

2.4 Extra Class

Name	Location	Course	Amount	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Alex Cali	VHS	Chemistry	\$4,851.74	Feb. 28 - Jun. 23, 2022	RESCIND

Terrance Lennon	VHS	Chemistry	\$5,193.89	Feb. 28 - Jun. 23, 2022	RESCIND
Paula Ramos	VHS	Chemistry	\$7,162.52	Feb. 28 - Jun. 23, 2022	RESCIND
Mark Edgerton	VHS	Chemistry	\$6,810.49	Feb. 28 - Jun. 23, 2022	RESCIND
Lynette Rivera	VHS	Chemistry	\$5,193.89	Feb. 28 - Jun. 23, 2022	RESCIND
Janan Wehbeh	VHS	Chemistry	\$7,598.88	Feb. 28 - Jun. 23, 2022	RESCIND
Alex Cali	VHS	Chemistry	\$1,910.61	Feb. 28 - Apr. 8, 2022	APPROVE
Terrance Lennon	VHS	Chemistry	\$2,045.35	Feb. 28 - Apr. 8, 2022	APPROVE
Paula Ramos	VHS	Chemistry	\$2,820.60	Feb. 28 - Apr. 8, 2022	APPROVE
Mark Edgerton	VHS	Chemistry	\$2,681.97	Feb. 28 - Apr. 8, 2022	APPROVE
Lynette Rivera	VHS	Chemistry	\$2,045.35	Feb. 28 - Apr. 8, 2022	APPROVE
Janan Wehbeh	VHS	Chemistry	\$3,134.21	Feb. 28 - Apr. 8, 2022	APPROVE

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the attached tenured staff renewals for the 2022-2023 school year.

EDUCATION

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

1st Readings
HWO231131

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

2nd Readings
VHS230942
VHS230161
HBO230698
FBS230334
FBS230326

- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim

Superintendent, the attached part time and substitute salaries for the 2022-2023 school year.

TABLED #7 RESOLVED that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the second reading of the following Policy:

- Policy 7250 School and Facility Names

#8 RESOLVED that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the first reading of the following Policies:

- P1648.15 Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings - COVID-19 (M) (New)
- P2415.04 Title I District Wide Parent and Family Engagement (M) (Revised)
- 2415.50 Brookdale Avenue Title I School Parent and Family Engagement (M) (Revised)
- P2415.51 F.N. Brown Title I School Parent and Family Engagement (M) (Revised)
- P2415.52 Forest Avenue Title I School Parent and Family Engagement (M) (Revised)
- P2415.53 Laning Avenue Title I School Parent and Family Engagement (M) (Revised)
- P2416.01 Postnatal Accommodations for Students (Suggested) (New)
- P2417 Student Intervention and Referral Services (M) (Revised)
- P3161 Examination for Cause (Revised) (Recommended)
- P4161 Examination for Cause (Revised) (Recommended)
- P5512 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (M) (Revised)
- P7410 Maintenance and Repair (M) (Revised);
- R7410.01 Facilities Maintenance, Repair Scheduling, and Accounting (M) (Revised)
- P8420 Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)
- P&R 9320 Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M) (Revised) (New)

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

9.1 Student Observer/Student Teacher

Name	School	School/Teacher/ Grade	Duration	Assignment
Tara Barrow	Cald. Univ.	BRK/Cirigliano/1st Grade	Sept. 16 - Dec. 16, 2022	Student Teacher

9.2 VSEA

Name	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Larry Siegel	V-SEA Middle School STEM teacher	\$2,825.00	Education	June 29-July 27, 2021
Jennifer Kleinknecht	Teacher	\$2,825.00	Education	June 29-July 27, 2021
Tricia Davis	Teacher	\$2,825.00	Education	June 29-July 27, 2021
Jacquelyn Carsillo	Teacher	\$2,825.00	Education	June 29-July 27, 2021
Tamara Gesario	Teacher	\$2,825.00	Education	June 29-July 27, 2021
Elissa Freda	Teacher	\$2,825.00	Education	June 29-July 27, 2021
Jamie Ricci	Teacher	\$2,825.00	Education	June 29-July 27, 2021
Albert Palazzo	Teacher	\$2,825.00	Education	June 29-July 27, 2021
Maggie Manning	Teacher	\$2,825.00	Education	June 29-July 27, 2021

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

10.1 Special Services Summer School

Name	Position	Amount
Lakrisha Howard	MS - LSS Teacher	\$3,657
Ashley MacMoyle	Pre-School LSS Teacher	\$3,657
Alexandra Lombardi	Multisensory Reading Teacher	\$3,657
Alexandra Marrese	Primary LSS Teacher	\$3,657

10.2 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Regina Tully	FOR/BRK	School-Based SLPs/Virtual	Jun. 2, 2022	\$279.00

- #11 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, Kathleen Thomas, Speech Language Specialist MA, CCC-SLP, to enroll in a course, Make the Connection: Oral Myofunctional Disorders, at a cost to the district of \$3,200. Upon completion of this course, Mrs. Thomas will turnkey this information to the district Speech Language Specialists in a series of Professional Development sessions.

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

- #12 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, a donation of \$4,000 from VGR Ice Hockey Boosters, which will pay for an extra Verona/Glen Ridge Ice Hockey coach for the 2021-2022 school year.
- #13 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, a donation of \$10,994 from VHS Swim Parents Assoc., to be used for expenses for the Verona High School Swim Team.
- #14 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, a donation of \$14,473.56 from Verona Field Hockey Parents Association, to be used for expenses for the Verona High School Field Hockey Team.

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>
\$161,722.60	General	May 6, 2022
\$ 3,844.24	VHS	May 6, 2022
\$ 1,068.38	HBW	May 6, 2022

- #16 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, appoint Phoenix Advisors as our Continuing Disclosure Agent and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor for 2022-23.

- #17 RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the proposal from United Business Systems for 20 copiers on a 60 months \$1 buyout lease (July 2022 - June 2027), NJ State Contract #40462, \$2,424 monthly lease and \$1,327.59 monthly service plan.
- #18 RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the sale of a 1999 CarMate Trailer to Verona Township for \$1.00.
- #19 RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, Recapture Technologies Corporation for the filing and administration of the Emergency Connectivity Program (ECP) for the 2022-2023 funding year, service fee at an hourly rate of \$175, total fee not to exceed \$4,375.

#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.

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: Mrs. Priscoe

Second by: Mr. Day

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: NONE

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 8:00 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
May 10, 2022

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

Motion by: Mrs. Priscoe

Seconded by: Mr. Day

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

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi Abs

Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

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

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
Stephanie Verdi	BRK	Permanent Sub Teacher	\$125.00/per diem	Education	May 16, 2022 - Jun. 23, 2022

1.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Kristine DePoe	BRK	4th Grade Teacher	Resignation	Jun. 30, 2022

1.3 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#105210	Maternity Leave of Absence	Sept. 7, 2022	Jan. 23, 2023
#105048	Maternity Leave of Absence	Sept. 6, 2022	Jun. 22, 2023
#105414	Medical Leave of Absence	Apr. 26, 2022	May 24, 2022

EDUCATION

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

1st Readings
VHS231576

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, to contract with Saint Clare's Behavioral Health to provide crisis intervention and back-to-school assessments for the Verona School District for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

FINANCE

- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the acceptance of additional Chapter 192 funding for Compensatory Education in the amount of \$15, 816, related to Non-Public School (Our Lady of the Lake).
- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the acceptance of FEMA - NJ Rement of Hurricane Ida Disaster Relief (DR-4614) funding in the amount of \$4,156.37, to reimburse the Board for damages sustained at the Forest Avenue School, on September 2, 2021.
- #6 **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>
\$42,158.78	General	May 10, 2022
\$45,622.94	Food Service	May 10, 2022