

PUBLIC MEETING

May 24, 2022

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on May 24, 2022 at 7:06 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, Mr. Jim Day, and Mrs. Sara Drappi. Also present was Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

There were 2 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
H. B. WHITEHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
May 24, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Presentations - **Dr. Lydia Furnari - Interim Superintendent** - 2020-2021 School Performance Report
Dr. Lydia Furnari - Interim Superintendent - 2020-2021 HIB Grade Report
6. Superintendent Report - Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent of Schools
7. School Business Administrator Report - Mr. Jorge Cruz
8. Committee Reports -
 - Community Resources
 - 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/I9b3XuSL7SU>

The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 7, 2022** beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 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. Wacha	<u> X </u>	Mr. Day	<u> X </u>
Mrs. Drappi	<u> X </u>	Mrs. Priscoe	<u> X </u>
		Mrs. Freschi	<u> X </u>

- 5. Presentations - Dr. Lydia Furnari - Interim Superintendent - 2020-2021 School Performance Report
Dr. Lydia Furnari - Interim Superintendent - 2020-2021 HIB Grade Report**
- 6. Superintendent Report - Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent of Schools - 2020-2021 School Performance Report and HIB Grade Report)**
- 7. School Business Administrator Report - Mr. Jorge Cruz**

Good evening everyone. I have a few updates for the Business Administrator Report.

First, I would like to provide an update on Finance; in tonight's meeting, we have the March and April Board Secretary, Treasurer's, and Budget Transfers reports, and they're all in agreement.

We also have our health insurance renewal with AmeriHealth Public Employer Trust for 2022-2023. This renewal represents a 4% increase compared to 2021-2022. It's competitive in the current market and the best proposal vetted by our broker, Brown & Brown. I also want to highlight that we'll be promoting a new wellness program with AmeriHealth and a Wellness Fair in the fall for our staff.

Last week Dr. Furnari shared news regarding some challenges that we experienced early last week with air conditioning that were quickly addressed by our maintenance team and

contractors before the middle of the week. As previously reported, we still have one unoperational coil compressor unit at Laning, which services five classrooms. At this time, we're awaiting a replacement part. This component has a 3-4 week backorder delay. In the meantime, our team quickly implemented portable a/c units in these classrooms. I'm happy to report that all five classrooms have these temporary units in place and will be ready to keep our students and staff in a comfortable climate until the replacement part arrives. Thank you all for your patience as we enter the warmer weather and fine-tune our new HVAC systems.

In light of the recent school shooting in Texas, I would like to assure our school community that security remains a priority for our administration. In an emergency, communication is key. That is why we use Share911 for our lockdown and emergency communication. All students have access to the Share911 app and text notifications at our high school. District-wide, all Verona staff have access to the communication tool that allows us to receive these important communications and notifications to the Verona Police Department. Our strong partnership with Verona PD and the FEMA Run, Fight, Hide active shooter training is ongoing as we conduct lock-down drills throughout the year.

In addition to Share911, part of our security enhancement this year with our Security Grant is LENS (Lockdown Emergency Notification System). LENS allows our schools to alert everyone during an urgent situation immediately. At the press of a button, our schools can automatically initiate a lockdown, evacuation, or shelter-in-place during an active threat or other emergencies. Strobe lights will be added outside the building and in hard to hear areas to notify people on-site that we're in a lock-down situation. As previously scheduled, this new enhancement will be installed next week and completed district-wide before the end of June.

This concludes my report for this evening. Thank you.

8. Committee Reports

- Community Resources
 - Mrs. Priscoe provided an update on DEI and the ongoing assessment led by Grand River. Petition to run for Board of Education seat must be submitted by July 26th to the county office. Also looking at making changes to the July board meeting.
 - Mrs. Freschi provided an update on the transition of Mrs. DiGiuseppe and her 100 day plan. Also shared end of year reflection and superintendent evaluation. Policy updating is vetted by our Education Committee, but considering having a dedicated committee for board policies.

- Mrs. Drappi provided an update regarding policy wellness and the support from NJSBA to review our policies.
- Finance
 - Mr. Day provided an update on cyber security insurance. Pomptonian new rates for 2022-23. Looking at solar options and RFP and viability of the solar project. Council meeting raised shared services of groundskeeping of our fields in exchange for recreational use of our facilities and fields. Shared services agreement with the township is important to solidify.
 - Mrs. Drappi mentioned that this is important along with the flood management issues on our fields, such as Brookdale.

9. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items

10. Discussion Items

- Mrs. Freschi congratulated Dr. Mauriello for his achievements and recent award as Special Education Administrator of the Year by NJASA. She also shared that VHS was listed as number 44th in NJ and top 15% in the nation for Best High Schools rankings by US News.
- Mrs. Drappi shared HBW's achievement at Music in the Park. Our 6-8 Band and Choir students won the competition. Kudos to Mr. Michalowski, Mrs. Halpern and Mrs. Hamilton. She also provided some data about the need to look at future curriculum to address an automated society as we move forward in mass automation. This data is important to inform instruction and prepare our students.

11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

12. Public Comments

Denise Verzella - 130 Personette Ave - Raised concern on how teachers were identified for Orton Gillingham training to support students with dyslexia. It's important that dyslexia students are exposed to certified OG teachers.

Laura Siligato - 31 Grove Ave. - asked about class sizes and the policy around opening additional sections when a kindergarten class goes over 25 students. Advocated for additional sections at FNB. Will the strategic plan be updated to address the oversize classroom issue?

- Mr. Wacha commented on supporting additional sections when space is available.
- Mrs. Freschi provided details on board minutes posted to the district website along with the corresponding strategic plan goals.
- Dr. Furnari provided insight on the question about addressing

- Mr. Wacha shared the importance of residents reaching out to their local township elected officials for PILOT funds that can be used to address the overcrowding issues, such as the one we're experiencing at FNB.

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 - 18.

Mr. Wacha X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Priscoe X

Mrs. Freschi X

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTIONS
May 24, 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 meetings:

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting May 10, 2022

PERSONNEL

#2 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following based on the recommendations of the Interim Superintendent:

2.2 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Megan Spinelli	HBW	7th Grade English	Resignation	Jun. 30, 2022
Natalie White	LAN	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Jun. 30, 2022

2.3 Staff Changes

Name	Current Location/ Position/Salary	New Location/ Position/Salary	Effective Date on or about
Kelly Connallon	FNB/LLD Teacher/ MA+45/Step 8/ \$67,966	FNB/Resource/ MA+45/ Step 6/ \$69,129	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2023
Tatiana Fella	FOR/1st Grade Teacher/ MA+45/Step 18/ \$106,444	Forest/Resource/ MA+45/Step 16/ \$107,607	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2023
Suzanne Livelli	FOR/Kdg. Teacher/ BA/Step 12/ \$65,562	Forest/1st Grade/ BA/Step 10/ \$66,725	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2023
Abigail Whelan	BRK/FNB Resource Teacher/ MA/Step 3/ \$58,429	LAN/Resource/ MA/Step 2/ \$59,592	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2023
Jacqueline Dilkes	HBW/5th Grade Spec. Svcs./ MA/Step 12/\$70,630	HBW/Math/MA/Step 10/ \$71,793	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2023
Lisa Hagel	BRK/1st Grade Teacher/ BA/ Step 2/ \$52,587	BRK/2nd Grade Teacher/BA/ Step 2/\$54,100	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2023
Gina Flashenberg	FNB/4th Grade Teacher/ BA+30/Step 3 /\$57,605	FNB/3rd Grade Teacher/ BA+30/Step 2/\$58,768	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2023

2.4 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about	Notes
#105210	Maternity Leave of Absence	Sept. 7, 2022	Jan. 23, 2023	RESCIND
#105210	Maternity Leave of Absence	Sept. 7, 2022	Jan. 26, 2023	APPROVE

2.5 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105479	Jun. 10, 2022	1 day/Unpaid PB
#105414	Jun. 13-14, 2022	2 days/Unpaid PB
#102166	May 18-19, 20, 23 2022	4 days/Unpaid PI

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approved based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the attached contract for Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator 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
BAS232151

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

2nd Readings
HWO231131
VHS231576

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

- 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)

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the attached Monthly District Statistical Reports for:

January 2022
 February 2022
 March 2022
 April 2022

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, e-Transcript Records Management services with Parchment to manage Verona High School alumni transcripts and third-party graduation verifications for 36 months (on or about July 2022 - June 2025).

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

9.1 Student Observer

Name	School	School/Teacher/ Grade	Duration	Assignment
Yaritza Martinez	Rutgers	FOR/LAN/Lustig/Social Worker	Sept. 12, 2022 - May 1, 2023	Student Observer

9.2 V-SEA

Name	Position	Stipend	Term of Employment on or About
Nicole Langan	V-SEA Teacher	\$2,825	June 29 - July 27, 2022
Rhanda Kramer	Paraprofessional	\$16.75/per hr.	June 29 - 30, 2022
Rhanda Kramer	Paraprofessional	\$17.25/per hr.	July 1 - 27, 2022

9.3 SPLASH Program

Name	Position	Stipend	Term of Employment on or About
Kristy McCabe	Reading Teacher	\$2,825	Jun. 28 - Jul. 26, 2022

Anne Mare Ruggiero	Reading Teacher	\$2,825	Jun. 28 - Jul. 26, 2022
Kaitlin Kober	Math Teacher	\$2,825	Jun. 28 - Jul. 26, 2022
Cindy Graves	Math Teacher	\$2,825	Jun. 28 - Jul. 26, 2022
Glen Stevenson	Math Coordinator	\$2,825	Jun. 28 - Jul. 26, 2022
Julia Peter	Reading Coordinator	\$2,825	Jun. 28 - Jul. 26, 2022

SPECIAL EDUCATION

#10 RESOLVED that the Board approved based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the attached staff for the 2022 ESY Program.

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#11 RESOLVED that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the attached School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights District and School Grade Report 2020-2021.

FINANCE

#12 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>
\$718,119.39	Athletics/General	May 20, 2022
\$ 5,071.00	HBW	May 20, 2022
\$ 36,483.70	Food Service	May 20, 2022
\$ 36,141.20	VHS	May 20, 2022

#13 RESOLVED that the Report of the Secretary for the period(s) as follows be approved:

March 2022
 April 2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.13(e), that as of March 31, 2022 and April 30, 2022 after review of the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund, has been over-expended in violation of

N.J.A.C 6:20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- #14 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the following months:

March 2022
April 2022

- #15 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of individual transfers of line items in the 2021-2022 budget for:

March 2022
April 2022

- #16 RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the Verona Board of Education "District" accepts the Food Service Management proposal from The Pomptonian, Inc. "FSMC" for the food service operation for 2022-2023. The FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, a fee of \$0.0736 per meal equivalent to compensate the FSMC for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be billed monthly as a cost of operation. The District guarantees the payment of such costs and fees to the FSMC. Cash receipts shall be divided by \$1.00 to arrive at an equivalent meal count. The per meal management fee of \$.0736 will be multiplied by total meal equivalents. As a result of the uncertainties due to supply chain disruptions, food and paper cost increases due to inflation, and the impact of minimum wage increases on cost of labor there is no guaranteed operating result. The FSMC will strive to maintain an economically efficient operation.

- #17 RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the renewal of AmeriHealth Public Employer Trust July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023.

- #18 RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the renewal of CFC Cyber Insurance policy effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

#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

- #19 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) 9:05 P.M.

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
May 24, 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 - 6 .

Mr. Wacha X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

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
Sara Every	FNB/BRK	MLOA Replacement - Elementary School Social Worker	\$275/per diem	Education	Sept. 6 - Dec. 23, 2022
Felisha Camacho	LAN	Registered Behavioral Technician	\$36,270.00	Education	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun. 30, 2022
Tricia Davis	FNB	MLOA Resource Teacher	\$250/per diem	Education	Sept. 6, 2022 - Jun. 22, 2023

1.2 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date	Estimated Return Date on or about
#105414	Extension of Medical Leave of Absence	Apr. 26, 2022	Jun. 7, 2022

EDUCATION

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

2.1 Field Trip

Name	School	Club/Destination	Date of Field Trip
Christine Sepcie	VHS	Fed Challenge/New York City	Jun. 15,2022

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the recycling of old ACER chromebooks, old Dell servers and CISCO switches.

FINANCE

#4 **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>
\$25,528.05	General	May 23, 2022

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, a donation from Brookdale SCA for two water refill stations in the amount of \$2,977.48, to be installed by Verona BOE maintenance staff, at the Brookdale Avenue School.

#6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve based on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the SHI proposal for Sfax secure electronic fax services effective July 1, 2022, at an annual cost of \$683.65.