

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**September 13, 2022**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

**The meeting was called to order by Jorge Cruz, Board Secretary.**

**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 Mrs. Sara Drappi, Mr. Day was absent. Also present was Diane DiGiuseppe, Superintendent and Mr. Jorge Cruz, School Business Administrator.**

**There were 3 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 LEARNING COMMONS  
September 13, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Superintendent Report - Diane DiGiuseppe
6. Committee Reports -
  - Education/Special Education
7. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items
8. Discussion Items
9. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
10. Public Comments

Live streaming link: <https://youtu.be/u94lOVmbehI>

The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 27, 2022** beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm Public 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   ABS  

Mrs. Drappi   X  

Mrs. Priscoe   X  

Mrs. Freschi   X  

**5. Superintendent Report - Diane DiGiuseppe**

Happenings around the district:

- Review events (BTS Nights, Girls in Geer, picture days)

Director Search - Update, in contract negotiations with a finalist

3 rounds, 1st by the consultant, 2 committees of staff members (combination of representatives from building and district administration, teachers, CST members, and administrative assistants). Mrs. Heid hit the ground running and can be here until the new DSS starts.

Commissioner's Convocation - Dr. Angelica Allen McMillan and her staff at the NJDOE spoke for several hours about initiatives at the NJDOE as well as addressing questions submitted before and during the event.

- Teacher shortage
  - NEA survey found that approx 50% of teachers are looking to leave the profession post covid.
    - CDC Foundation study saw an increase in teacher anxiety
  - NJDOE is investigating ways to increase the number of teachers in the candidate pool in NJ.
    - Must work with their partners in higher education to change certification requirements without reducing the quality of candidates
    - NJEDCert Website linked to district websites for job openings

- Learning Acceleration
  - Learning acceleration is an ongoing instructional process by which educators engage in formative practices to improve student's access to and mastery of grade-level standards
  - The NJDOE is looking for ways to support districts where learning loss is high
  - Verona Schools has been focused on accelerating learning rather than remediation post COVID which is a best practice before and after the pandemic
- School Climate Improvement
  - RU School climate survey - discuss domains
- ROD grants (Regular Operating District **Grants**)
- School Security Grants (3rd round of grants)

Mr. Wacha asked about the Lifetouch picture funds to schools. He also asked about the Juul vaping class-action lawsuit. Also shared concerns about the Rutgers survey offer.

Mrs. Drappi shared the value add of surveys if administered effectively.

Mr. Cruz provided details of the Verona Wellness Day event being held on Friday, September 23rd for all district staff.

## **6. Committee Reports**

- Education/Special Education
  - Mrs. Drappi provided an update from the committee on board policy covered in resolution #3 and Start Strong.
  - Mr. Wacha requested that parent groups should be present at the Board meeting to read any statements in the future. Mrs. Drappi read the statement from CHILD.

## **7. Public Comments on Agenda Action Items**

**Denise Verzella - 130 Personette Ave. - Resolution #7:** What are the criteria for the program and will we have a gifted and talented program in the future?

Mrs. Drappi provided information on the program and the status of G&T in Verona.

Mrs. DiGiuseppe added additional information about the program and multiple measures.

Mr. Wacha and Mrs. Drappi shared additional comments.

## **8. Discussion Items**

Mrs. Freschi provided an update on a faulty light outside Verona High School that was addressed by the Director of Facilities.

Mrs. Drappi thanked everyone for making the school opening in Verona successful.

Mr. Wacha also shared an athletics experience and shared his gratitude for the dedication of the athletics staff.

**9. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**

**10. Public Comments - None**

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:**     Mrs. Drappi    

**Seconded by:**     Mrs. Priscoe    

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 11.**

Mr. Wacha   X                        Mr. Day   ABS  

Mrs. Drappi   X                        Mrs. Priscoe       

Mrs. Freschi   X   (vote no on #3)

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RESOLUTIONS**  
**September 13, 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:

Regular Public Meeting      August 30, 2022

**PERSONNEL**

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

**2.1 New Staff**

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Louis Capurso	District	Sub Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 22-23

**2.2 Without Pay**

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason	Notes
#105089	Sept. 6-7-8-9-12-13-14, 2022	7 days/Without Pay	RESCIND

**2.3 Staff Changes**

Name	Current Location/ Position/Salary	New Location/ Position/Salary	Effective Date on or about	Notes
Kristy Mori-Gizzi	HBW/Paraprofessional / 5 days/18,370.48	HBW/Paraprofessional/ 4 days/ \$15,013.04	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun. 30, 2023	RESCIND
Kristy Mori-Gizzi	HBW/Paraprofessional/ 5 days/18,370.48	HBW/Paraprofessional/ 4 days/ \$15,012.44	Sept. 1, 2022 - Jun. 30, 2023	APPROVE

**2.4 Resignation**

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Aviery Walden	FNB	Paraprofessional	Resignation	Sept. 6, 2022
Dana Camacho	FNB	LOA 1st Grade	Resignation	Oct. 1, 2022

**2.5 Extra Class**

Name	Location	Course	Amount	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Michelle Mustardo	HBW	Art	\$10,656.54	Sept. 7 - Nov. 15, 2022	RESCIND

<b>Michelle Mustardo</b>	HBW	Art	\$2,664.14 (Prorated)	Sept. 7 - Nov. 15, 2022	APPROVE
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**EDUCATION**

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the first reading of the following policy:

P7250: School and Facility Names

#4 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the second reading and adoption of the following policy:

P 5722 Student Journalism (M)

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following:

**5.1 Non-Resident Tuition Student**

Student ID No.	School	Grade
#303838	HBW	5

**5.2 Professional Development Presenter**

Presenter	School	Date	Hrs./Stipend	Total
Jennifer Kleinknecht	HBW	Aug. 30, 2022	2 hrs./\$60.00/per hr.	\$120.00
Amy Heckle	HBW	Aug. 30, 2022	2 hrs./\$60.00/per hr.	\$120.00
Rich Wertz	VHS	Aug. 30, 2022	2 hrs./\$60.00/per hr.	\$120.00

#6 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Visual & Performing Arts - AP Music Theory (new) - posted on website: <https://www.veronaschools.org/Page/1864>, pending BOE approval

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the elementary gifted and talented criteria.

**CO-CURRICULAR**

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following:

**8.1 Co-Curricular**

<b>Advisor</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b>Term of Employment</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Juliet Carvajal</b>	VHS	National Art Honor Society	\$974.00	SY 22-23	
<b>Juliet Carvajal</b>	VHS	Creative Arts Festival	\$1,899.00	SY 22-23	
<b>Chrissy Sciacchitano</b>	VHS	Design	\$974.00	SY 22-23	
<b>Ashley Enste</b>	VHS	Class Co-Advisor Grade 9	\$1,301.00	SY 22-23	
<b>Matthew Rosa</b>	VHS	Class Co-Advisor Grade 9	\$1,301.00	SY 22-23	
<b>Derek Felano</b>	VHS	Class Advisor - Grade 10	\$3,688.00	SY 22-23	
<b>Marie Meyer</b>	VHS	Class Advisor - Grade 12	\$4,482.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Alice Kobylarz</b>	VHS	Class Advisor - Grade 12	\$4,482.00	SY 22-23	RESCIND
<b>Marie Meyer</b>	VHS	Class Co-Advisor - Grade 12	\$2,241.00	SY 22-23	APPROVE
<b>Alice Kobylarz</b>	VHS	Class Co-Advisor - Grade 12	\$2,241.00	SY 22-23	APPROVE

**FINANCE**

#9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the enclosed checklist(s) in the following amounts based on the recommendation of the Superintendent:

<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Check Register Date</u></b>
\$ 1,499.50	Chromebook	September 9, 2022
\$337,189.49	Athletics/General	September 9, 2022

- #10 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that Diane DiGiuseppe, Lisa Freschi, Pamela Priscoe and Sara Drappi attend the 2022 New Jersey School Board Workshop on October 24, 25, 26, 2022.

Registration per person: \$550.00  
Lodging per person: \$115.00 per night x 2 = \$230.00  
Meals and Incidentals: \$147.50 per person  
Mileage round trip per person: 260 miles x .47 = \$122.20

- #11 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the revised attached part time and substitute salaries for the 2022-2023 school year.

**#10 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**

- #12 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)   7:41   P.M.**

**VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS**  
**September 13, 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   ABS  

Mrs. Drappi   X  

Mrs. Priscoe   X  

Mrs. Freschi   X

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

**PERSONNEL**

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

**1.1 New Hire**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Term of Employment on or about</b>
<b>Mary Ummak</b>	FNB	Flex Paraprofessional	\$15,012.43	Education	Sept. 26, 2022 - Jun. 22, 2023
<b>Olivia Magana</b>	HBW	Paraprofessional	\$18,370.48 (Prorated)	Education	Sept. 14, 2022 - Jun. 22, 2023
<b>Paula DiLeo</b>	LAN	Paraprofessional	\$16.25/per hr.	Education	Sept. 14, 2022 - Jun. 22, 2023
<b>Susan Robinson</b>	District	Sub Teacher	\$110/per diem	Education	SY 22-23
<b>Lisa Kelly</b>	FNB	Lunch Aide	\$15.00/per hr.	Education	SY 22-23
<b>Steve Serebrenik</b>	BRK	Lunch Aide	\$15.00/per hr.	Education	SY 22-23

**1.2 Extra Class**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Term of Employment on or about</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Raquel Grasso</b>	HBW	Life Skills	\$11,373.48	Sept. 7, 2022 - Jun. 22, 2023	RESCIND

**#2 RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following for up to 50 hours of overtime:

**Elnor Zequir** - \$55.41/hr.  
**Bilal Genc** - \$53.79/hr.

**EDUCATION**

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, a site license for films at Verona High School with SWANK Streaming Service.

#4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following for the 2022-2023 school year:

**4.1 Mentors**

<b>Novice Teacher</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b># of mentoring weeks</b>
<b>Olivia Kinloch</b>	BRK/FNB	Lisa Varuolo	Waived	30 weeks
<b>Melanie DellaPeruti</b>	FNB	Catherine Orsini	\$550	30 weeks
<b>Lesley Gross-Tasman</b>	FOR	Kaleigh Cella	Waived	30 weeks
<b>Matthew Cross</b>	VHS	Matthew Rosa	Waived	30 weeks
<b>Caitlyn Kelly</b>	VHS	Alice Kobylarz	Waived	30 weeks
<b>Andrew Vogel</b>	VHS	Steven Munoz	Waived	14 weeks

**4.2 Non-Resident Tuition Student**

<b>Student ID No.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>
333295	LAN	2

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, an out-of-district placement for Students #221762, #210088 and #210025 for the 2022 – 2023 school year, commencing September 7, 2022, at the cost of \$35,260 per student.

**FINANCE**

#6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the enclosed checklist(s) in the following amounts:

<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Check Register Date</u></b>
\$403,885.11	General	September 13, 2022
\$ 18,010.28	Food Service	September 13, 2022
\$124,610.80	Referendum	September 13, 2022