

PUBLIC MEETING

February 25, 2020

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on February 25, 2020 in the Verona High School Media Center at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernest Turner. 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, Mr. Jim Day, Vice-President, Mr. Timothy Alworth, Mrs. Pamela Priscoe and Mrs. Sara Drappi. Also present was Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent and Mr. Ernest Turner, Acting Board Secretary.

There were 1 member of the public present. There were 1 member of the press present.

RESOLUTIONS

- 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 7, 2020. 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 Herald News, Township of Verona and the VEA. Postings of this meeting setting forth the time location and agenda were posted in each of Verona's six schools, Board Office and Town Hall. This posting was also sent to the above newspapers all SCA presidents and SCA liaisons, the VBOE operates under a consent agenda format, any board member has the right to have an item pulled to be voted upon or cussed separately. Copies of tonight's agenda and resolutions have been made available to the public and press.

4. Roll Call Attendance

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

5. Public comments on Agenda Items – None

6. Presentations – Mental Health Programming Update, Frank Mauriello, Director of Special Services

7. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools

1. Referendum
 - a. Design & planning
 - b. Bidding
 1. February 21 OTB with Opening on 3/19 and 3/20
 2. February 28 OTB with Opening on 3/27
 3. March 20 OTB with Opening on 4/16 & 4/17
 4. Schedule includes advertisement, pre-bid meetings, Q&A
 - c. Finance AA – rating- Bond sale February 19th 2.12% interest rate \$2.2 million debt service savings
2. Governor Murphy State Budget Address proposes an additional \$336 million investment in the state's K-through 12 classrooms for the upcoming school year. School aid is expected by Thursday. Governor Murphy stated addition to a \$794 million increase for Fiscal 2021, the Murphy administration will make an extra \$279 million payment into the pension system this current fiscal year, roughly \$11 billion increase in our overall pension payment.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Finance – Mr. Alworth reported on the referendum, discussed PFM s investment firm. CMF RFP's are in and being reviewed.

9. Discussion Items – Mrs. Drappi congratulated grade 5,6,7 and 8 basketball.

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

Motion by: Jim Day

Seconded by: Pamela Priscoe

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1-12.

Mr. Alworth Y Mr. Day X
Mrs. Drappi Y Mrs. Freschi Y
Mrs. Priscoe Y

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

- #1 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following personnel recommendations pending the completion of pre-employment requirements for the 2019-2020 school year:

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

- #1 RESOLVED** that the Board approves the minutes of the following meetings:

Confidential & Regular Public Meeting February 11, 2020

PERSONNEL

- #2 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following personnel recommendations pending the completion of pre-employment requirements for the 2019-2020 school year:

2.1 New Hires

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about	Notes
Roberta Schoenbaum	VHS	Long term substitute	\$100/per diem	Education	11 days Jan. 30 - Feb. 17, 2020	after 10 consecutive days of subbing for same teacher
Robert Pojero	VHS	Bathroom monitor	\$100/per diem	Education	Jan. 10 - Jun. 19, 2020	
Anthony Gulla	District	Bus Driver	\$21/per hr.	Education	Feb. 26, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2020	

Ronal Jerez	VHS	Night Custodian	Pro-rated Step 3/\$43,122 VHS \$885 Night Stipend \$2,827	Education	Mar. 25 - Jun. 30, 2020	
Judy Berkowitz	FNB	Long term medical substitute	\$100/per diem	Education	Jan. 21 - Mar. 17, 2020	

2.2 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date on or before	Estimated Return Date on or about
#105360	Maternity Leave	May 11, 2020	Feb. 1, 2021
#100776	Extension of Medical Leave	Jan. 21, 2020	Mar. 17, 2020

2.3 Retirement

Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date of Retirement
Diane Newman	Administrative Assistant - Guidance	VHS	Retirement	Jun. 26, 2020

2.4 Resignation

Name	Location	Position	Reason	Effective on or About
Dana Moon	FNB/BRK	Resource Teacher	Resignation	Apr. 19, 2020

2.5 Without Pay

Name	Date/s	No. of Days/Reason
#105233	Feb. 10, 13, 2020	2 Unpaid Days
#105302	Feb. 10, 2020	1 Unpaid Day
#100062	Feb. 13, 2020	Half day deduction
#105099	Feb. 13, 2020	Half Unpaid Day
#103161	Feb. 13, 2020	Half Unpaid Day

2.6 Movement on Guide

NAME	CURRENT LEVEL/STEP	SALARY	NEW LEVEL/STEP	SALARY
Helene McKelvey-McLaughlin	MA30/Step 12	\$76,039	MA45/Step 12	\$77,448

EDUCATION

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approves the Superintendent's presentation of HIB report as follows:

HIB Case	HIB Case
HBW-OH #207542	VHS #207901
VHS #207087	

- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve Brookdale Avenue School SCA to contract with Nicole Johnson of Javanna Productions (MOVE) for a 4th grade performance with a timeline of rehearsals beginning February 25th and ending with a show date on April 2, 2020.

- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the second reading of the following policies and regulations:

0155.1: Board Member Participation at Board Meetings
Using An Electronic Device (new),

R5460: Option ii Programs and Procedures (revised) - add Financial Literacy as a summer option for high school students. Line #11 will be revised and will state the following: "Except for Physical Education courses and **Personal Financial Literacy**, if the course is offered at VHS, the student must take it at VHS.

- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached District Statistical Report for the month of January 2020.

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

7.1 VFEE Grants

Name of Recipient	Name of School	Name of Grant	Grant Number	Amount
Helene McKelvey-McLaughlin	Verona High School	Cricut Maker	2020-02	\$736.00
Christine Sciacchitano	Verona High School	Smartphone Photography	2020-03	\$570.00

7.2 Mentor

Novice Teacher	Location	Mentor	Stipend	# of mentoring weeks
Michelle Siddons	HBW	Colleen Fernandez	Waived	19 weeks

7.3 Attendance at Conference

Name	School	Event/Location	Date	Cost
Dana Garcia	District	Motor Issues in Autism/ New Brunswick, NJ	Mar. 27, 2020	Registration \$350.00 Mileage \$39.93 Total \$389.93
Vasiliki Givas	District	Motor Issues in Autism/ New Brunswick, NJ	Mar. 27, 2020	Registration \$350.00 Mileage \$39.93 Total \$389.93
Louis Waibel	FNB	Supporting Elementary Writers through Scaffolding that works	Feb. 27, 2020	Registration \$200.00 Mileage \$10.78 Total \$210.78
Gina Mainella	FNB	Supporting Elementary Writers through Scaffolding that works	Feb. 27, 2020	Registration \$200.00
Dr. Anthony Lanzo	FNB	Supporting Elementary Writers through Scaffolding that works	Feb. 27, 2020	Registration \$200.00 Mileage \$10.78 Total \$210.78
Catherine King	FOR	Strategies for ADHD & Challenging Students/ West Orange, NJ	Mar. 31, 2020	Registration \$279.00

Dana Lustig	District	Strategies for ADHD and Challenging Students/ West Orange, NJ	Mar. 31, 2020	Registration \$279.00
MaryBeth Sfraga	HBW	Take a Stand/Paramus, NJ	Mar. 24, 2020	Registration \$200.00
Julia Albretsen	HBW	Take a Stand/Paramus, NJ	Mar. 24, 2020	Registration \$200.00
Joe Higgins	District	NJSBGA Conference/ Atlantic City, NJ	Mar. 23, 2020	Registration \$200.00

7.4 Student Observer

Name	School	School/Teacher/ Grade	Duration	Assignment
Michele Olinto	Cald. Univ.	FNB/Franks/Spec.Svcs.	12 hrs./Feb. 26 - May 15, 2020	Student Observer

SPECIAL EDUCATION

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approval to request county approval to waive the district from participation in the 2020 – 2021 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) due to the district's estimated low eligibility rate.

#9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

9.1 Student Home Instruction

Student #	School	Grade	Hrs./Week/Duration	Beginning on or about
#210140	VHS	11	10 hrs./wk./30 days	Feb. 20, 2020

ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

#10 **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 (9/1/19-12/31/19).

FINANCE

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

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Register Date</u>
\$1,129.896.52	Vendor Checks	February 21, 2020

- #12 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve Lerch, Vinci and Higgins, LLP for a complete budget projection for the 2019-2020 school year. (see attached)

11. Public Comments - None

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm in the Board Conference Room.

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

Motion by: Timothy Alworth

Second by: Jim Day

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: X

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



**Mr. Ernest Turner
Acting Board Secretary**