



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

April 28, 2020

CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 pm

VIA TELECONFERENCE

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm

VIA TELECONFERENCE

Based on the recent attention with COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus, and the potential impact on our community, the Verona Public Schools will be conducting the April 28, 2020 Verona Board of Education meeting remotely via teleconference. This meeting is scheduled to occur with public access and participation availability to ensure the continued regular operation of government and the health, safety, and well-being of our community members. **The next meeting of the Verona Board of Education will be held via conference call. The public shall utilize the following instructions to call into the meeting:**

- 1) **Dial (857) 799-9782 via telephone.**
- 2) **Anyone from the public wishing to address the Verona Board of Education on any matter, when prompted by the Verona Board of Education will be able to press * (star) 6 on your key pad, then the number 1 when prompted and you will be placed in queue. When you are advised it is your turn to address the Verona Board of Education, please state your name and address for the record. You will have time to address the Verona Board of Education. At the conclusion of your comments the Verona Board of Education and/or the Superintendent of Schools may address your comments and/or questions.**

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs recently stated that “the Division of Local Government Services reminds local units that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq., (the “Open Public Meetings Act,” or “Act”), public meetings may be held in person or by means of communication equipment, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), to include streaming services and other online meeting platforms. All meetings, including those held using communications equipment, must be noticed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Act, unless the meeting is for emergent circumstances and held in a manner consistent with the requirements set forth at N.J.S.A. 10:4-9(b). Local units should also provide guidance to the public for remotely accessing and providing comment at a meeting. Local units should still have an advertised meeting place, which is connected to the meeting through communications equipment, unless otherwise directed by state or local emergency management or health officials, consistent with Executive Order 103 (Murphy 3/9/2020).”

PUBLIC MEETING

April 28, 2020

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on April 28, 2020 via teleconference at 7:01 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, Vice President, Mr. Jim Day, 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 7 members of the public present. There was 1 member of the press present.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

April 28, 2020

CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 pm

VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA – 7:00 pm

VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Meeting Notice
4. Roll Call Attendance
5. Public comments on Agenda Items
6. Presentations - Annual Budget Presentation - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
& Mr. Ernie Turner, Acting Board Secretary
7. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
8. Committee Reports
 - Finance
9. Discussion Items
10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
11. Public Comments

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm in the Board Conference Room via teleconference pending the evolving nature of COVID-19.

- 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 discussed separately. Copies of tonight's agenda and resolutions have been made available to the public and press.

4. Roll Call Attendance

Mr. Alworth X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

- 5. Public comments on Agenda Items - None**
- 6. Presentations - Annual Budget Presentation - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools & Mr. Ernie Turner, Acting Board Secretary**
- 7. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools**

- Annual Budget Presentation by Dr. Dionisio and comments by Mr. Turner, Acting Board Secretary.
- COVID-19 Update
- VHS Graduation Update
- Referendum Update

8. Committee Reports

Finance - Mr. Alworth commented on the budget, Mrs. Freschi commented on Andrea Kahn's opinion that funds may be moved within the two referendum questions.

9. Discussion Items - None

10. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

Motion by: Sara Drappi

Seconded by: Jim Day

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1-20 and Addenda Resolutions 1-4.

Mr. Alworth X

Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X

Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

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 April 14, 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 Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Silvana Kolaci	HBW	MLOA 5th Grade Math	\$235 per diem	Education	Sept. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
Alexandra Domanski	HBW	Science Teacher	MA/Step 5/ \$58,227	Education	Sept. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
Juliet Carvajal	VHS	Art Teacher	BA/Step 2/ \$51,747	Education	Sept. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021

2.2 Leave of Absence

Name	Reason	Begin Date on or before	Estimated Return Date on or about
#100924	Medical Leave Extension	Oct. 25, 2019	May 18, 2020

SPECIAL EDUCATION

#3 RESOLVED that the Board approve to contract with the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for Nursing Services for Nonpublic Schools, IDEA-B Services, Instructional Services for Chapters 192/193, Public School Home Instruction Services and Public School Child Study Team Services for the 2020 – 2021 school year as needed.

#4 RESOLVED that the Board approve to contract with Home Care Therapies to provide nursing services for student #262007 at an out-of-district placement for the 2020 – 2021 school year for an approximate total of \$85,000 in accordance with the IEP.

- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to contract with the Effective School Solutions to provide therapeutic, mental health services to the Verona School District for the 2020 – 2021 school at a cost of \$382,500.
- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve for participation in the Joint Transportation Agreement with Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for Special Education, Athletic, and Field Trip Transportation for the 2020 – 2021 school year per attached contracts.
- #7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to enter into a Transportation Services Agreement with Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for the 2020 – 2021 school year per attached contract.

REFERENDUM

- #8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the contract with Degler-Whiting to purchase bleachers for the Verona HS main gym at a cost of \$81,300.
- #9 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract with Kin Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$19,100.40 for fencing and backstop installation at the Laning Avenue School. Kin Contractors, LLC is a pre-approved contractor through Ed-Data Services, an approved cooperative purchasing agent.
- #10 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following:

RESOLUTION
VERONA BOARD OF EDUCATION
AWARDING OF PROJECT FOR
TRACK & DRAINAGE UPGRADES AT H.B.WHITEHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL
TO HALECON, INC.

WHEREAS, in accordance with a published bid solicitation for work associated with Track and Drainage Upgrades at H.B. Whitehorne Middle School in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter “the Work”), the Verona Board of Education received sealed bids on April 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to its bid solicitation for the Work, the Board received responses from 4 contractors; and

WHEREAS, after receipt of bids, the Board of Education caused an analysis of the bid responses to be undertaken by the Business Administrator, consultant staff as well as the Board Attorney; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that review, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. Four bids were received, as follows:

	Base Bid	Add Alternate	Square Yardage	Total Alternate Cost	Total Cost
Halecon	\$492,400	\$5.25/SY	4268	\$22,407	\$514,807
American Athletic	\$474,000	\$25/SY	4268	\$106,700	\$580,700
Dakota	\$532,000	\$26/SY	4268	\$110,968	\$642,968
Shoretrop	\$455,000	\$65/SY	4268	\$277,420	\$732,420

2. Shore Top Construction Corp. was the lowest prospective base bidder with a base bid of \$455,000. However, when the Add Alternate is included, Halecon, Inc. is the lowest overall bidder with a projected total cost of \$514,807.

3. The Board of Education has determined to select Alternate 1 as part of the Work to be performed.

4. The combined bid submitted by Halecon, Inc. is the lowest responsive and responsible overall bid, and does not exceed the cost estimates or the Board of Education's budget for the Work.

WHEREAS, as a result of these findings, the contract is awarded to Halecon, Inc. for the Base and Add Alternate Work in the amount of \$514,807.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District's professional staff take any and all action necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Board's resolution in this matter.

#11 RESOLVED that the Board approve:

RESOLUTION
VERONA BOARD OF EDUCATION
AWARDING OF PROJECT FOR
PLAYGROUND UPGRADES AT LANING AVE ES, F.N. BROWN ES, FOREST AVE ES, AND
BROOKDALE ES
TO PICERNO & GIORDANO CONSTRUCTION

WHEREAS, in accordance with a published bid solicitation for work associated with Playground Upgrades at Laning Ave. ES, F.N. Brown ES, Forest Ave. ES, and Brookdale ES, in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter “the Work”), the Verona Board of Education received sealed bids on April 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to its bid solicitation for the Work, the Board received responses from 1 contractor; and

WHEREAS, after receipt of bids, the Board of Education caused an analysis of the bid responses to be undertaken by the Acting Board Secretary, consultant staff as well as the Board Attorney; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that review, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. Picerno & Giordano Construction was the lowest prospective base bidder with a base bid of \$732,188.00. Picerno & Giordano Construction also bid \$59,500 for Add Alternate 1, and \$4,500 for Add Alternate 2.
2. The bid submitted by Picerno & Giordano Construction inclusive of all alternates is the lowest responsive and responsible bid, and does not exceed the cost estimates or the Board of Education’s budget for the Work.

#12 RESOLVED that the Board approve:

RESOLUTION
VERONA BOARD OF EDUCATION
AWARDING OF PROJECT FOR
LOCKER ROOM UPGRADES AT H.B. WHITEHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL
TO NORTHEASTERN INTERIOR SERVICES LLC

WHEREAS, in accordance with a published bid solicitation for work associated with Locker Room Upgrades at H.B. Whitehorne Middle School in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter “the Work”), the Verona Board of Education received sealed bids on April 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to its bid solicitation for the Work, the Board received responses from 2 contractors; and

WHEREAS, after receipt of bids, the Board of Education caused an analysis of the bid responses to be undertaken by the Acting Board Secretary, consultant staff as well as the Board Attorney; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that review, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. Northeastern Interior Services, LLC was the lowest prospective base bidder with a base bid of \$1,180,000. They also bid the following for the Add Alternates:

Add Alternate 1: \$18,500.

Add Alternate 2: \$25,000.

Add Alternate 3: \$5,000.

Add Alternate 4: \$28,000.

2. The base bid submitted by Northeastern Interior Services, LLC is the lowest responsive and responsible bid. While the base bid does exceed the cost estimates for the Work, the Board has determined that there are sufficient savings from other projects in the District that funds are available and can be appropriated for this Work;

WHEREAS, as a result of these findings, the contract is awarded to Northeastern Interior Services, LLC in the amount of \$1,256,500.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District's professional staff take any and all action necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Board's resolution in this matter.

#13 RESOLVED that the Board approve:

RESOLUTION
VERONA BOARD OF EDUCATION
AWARDING OF PROJECT FOR
LOCKER ROOMS, TRAINERS ROOM & GYM FLOOR REPLACEMENT AT
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL
TO NORTHEASTERN INTERIOR SERVICES LLC

WHEREAS, in accordance with a published bid solicitation for work associated with Locker Rooms, Trainer's Room & Gym Floor Replacement at Verona High School in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter "the Work"), the Verona Board of Education received sealed bids on April 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to its bid solicitation for the Work, the Board received responses from 4 contractors; and

WHEREAS, after receipt of bids, the Board of Education caused an analysis of the bid responses to be undertaken by the Acting Board Secretary, consultant staff as well as the Board Attorney; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that review, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. Northeastern Interior Services, LLC was the lowest prospective base bidder with a base bid of \$1,625,000. They also bid the following for the Add Alternates:
 - Add Alternate 1: \$46,500.
 - Add Alternate 2: \$35,000.
 - Add Alternate 3: \$5,000.
 - Add Alternate 4: \$6,000.
2. The base bid submitted by Northeastern Interior Services, LLC is the lowest responsive and responsible bid, and does not exceed the cost estimates or the Board's budget for the Work.
3. On April 16, 2020 a bid protest was received from MOLBA Construction, Inc., the second lowest base bidder. MOLBA Construction contended in their protest that Northeastern Interior Services' bid was defective as they had "failed to identify" a subcontractor with DPMC Classification C0060. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-18b, such work constitutes "general construction" and a subcontractor does not need to be identified at the time of bid. Accordingly, the Board has determined to deny MOLBA's protest.

WHEREAS, as a result of these findings, the contract is awarded to Northeastern Interior Services, LLC in the amount of \$1,717,500.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District's professional staff take any and all action necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Board's resolution in this matter.

#14 RESOLVED that the Board approve:

RESOLUTION
VERONA BOARD OF EDUCATION
AWARDING OF PROJECT FOR
STAGE RIGGING AND LIGHTING UPGRADES DISTRICTWIDE
TO BOZ ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

WHEREAS, in accordance with a published bid solicitation for work associated with Stage Rigging and Lighting Upgrades Districtwide in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter "the Work"), the Verona Board of Education received sealed bids on April 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to its bid solicitation for the Work, the Board received responses from 2 contractors; and

WHEREAS, after receipt of bids, the Board of Education caused an analysis of the bid responses to be undertaken by the Acting Board Secretary, consultant staff as well as the Board Attorney; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that review, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. Boz Electrical Contractors, Inc. was the lowest prospective base bidder with a base bid of \$2,023,000.
2. The base bid submitted by Boz Electrical Contractors, Inc. is the lowest responsive and responsible bid, and does not exceed the cost estimates or the Board of Education's budget for the Work.

WHEREAS, as a result of these findings, the contract is awarded to Boz Electrical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$2,023,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District's professional staff take any and all action necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Board's resolution in this matter.

#15 RESOLVED that the Board approve:

RESOLUTION
VERONA BOARD OF EDUCATION
AWARDING OF PROJECT FOR
PAVING AT VERONA HIGH SCHOOL AND LANING AVENUE ES
TO D&L PAVING

WHEREAS, in accordance with a published bid solicitation for work associated with Paving Upgrades at Verona High School and Laning Avenue Elementary School, in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter "the Work"), the Verona Board of Education received sealed bids on April 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to its bid solicitation for the Work, the Board received responses from 1 contractor; and

WHEREAS, after receipt of bids, the Board of Education caused an analysis of the bid responses to be undertaken by the Acting Board Secretary, consultant staff as well as the Board Attorney; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that review, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. D&L Paving was the lowest prospective base bidder with a base bid of \$389,410.00, and an add alternate Number 1 of \$15,000.00.
2. The base bid submitted by D&L Paving is the lowest responsive and responsible base bid, and does not exceed the cost estimates or the Board of Education's budget for the Work.

WHEREAS, as a result of these findings, the contract is awarded to D&L Paving for the base work and Alternate 1, for a total of \$404,410.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District’s professional staff take any and all action necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Board’s resolution in this matter.

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>
\$1,592,500.49	Vendor Checks	April 24, 2020

#17 BE IT RESOLVED, the Verona Board of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:7F-38, hereby approves the adoption of the 2020-2021 school year district budget as follows:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2020-2021 TOTAL BUDGET	\$38,376,591	\$1,035,573	\$4,125,446	\$43,537,610
LESS: ANTICIPATED REVENUES	\$3,441,151	\$1,035,573	\$ 606,937	\$5,083,661
TAXES TO BE RAISED	\$34,935,440	\$0.00	\$3,518,509	\$38,453,949

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Verona Board of Education includes in the proposed budget a withdrawal from the Capital Reserve in the amount of \$456,381. The purpose of this withdrawal is to replace classroom floor tiles and complete asbestos abatement on flooring.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Verona Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the use of Maintenance Reserve in the amount of \$150,000. The purpose of this usage will be to support the required maintenance of school facilities.

AND WHEREAS, the district’s maximum taxing authority is composed of:

\$0.00	Health Benefit Adjustment
\$0.00	Enrollment Adjustment inflated by 2%
\$0.00	PERS Deferment
\$0.00	Use of Banked Cap

\$ 685,009 2% Current Expense tax levy increase

\$34,250,431 Prior year 2019-2020 Current Expense Tax Levy

\$34,935,440 Maximum district tax levy 2020-2021

WHEREAS, school district policy #6471 Travel and N.J.A.C 6A:23B-1.2(b) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2020-2021 school year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Verona Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2020-2021 school year at the sum of \$20,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

#18 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached “Letter of Understanding - Emergency Procurement and Contract Modification due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)” with Pomptonian Food Services .

#19 RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached 2020-2021 Price List for the Food Service operation as recommended by the FSMC, Pomptonian Food Service.

#20 RESOLVED that the Board approve to accept the Food Service Management proposal from the Pomptonian, Inc.”FSMC” for the food service operation for 2019-2020.

The FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, a management fee of \$.0684 for each \$1.00 of sales 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 fee to the FSMC.

11. Public Comments

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

#21 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: Pamela Priscoe

Second by: Jim Day

All in Favor: AYE

All Opposed: X

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 8:20 P.M.

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm in the Board Conference Room via teleconference pending the evolving nature of COVID-19.

Ernie Turner

**Mr. Ernest Turner
Acting Board Secretary**