



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

May 12, 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 May 12, 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

May 12, 2020

The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on May 12, 2020 via teleconference at 7:06 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 3 members of the public present. There were 0 members of the press present.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

May 12, 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. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools
7. Committee Reports
 - Athletics & Co-Curricular - James Day/Pamela Priscoe
 - Education - Timothy Alworth/Sara Drappi
 - Facilities - James Day/Lisa Freschi
 - Community Resources - Pamela Priscoe/Sara Drappi
8. Discussion Items
9. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions
10. Public Comments

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 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. Presentations - None

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

- **Referendum update**
- **COVID-19 update**
- **Governor school closure**
- **End of year traditions and ceremonies**
- **School calendar update**
- **Potential budget impact to state aid**

7. Committee Reports - Athletics - Mrs. Priscoe

Education- Mr.Alworth

Building and Grounds - Mr. Day

Community Resources - Mrs. Priscoe/Mrs. Drappi

8. Discussion Items - Mrs. Freschi thanked Dr. Dionisio and staff during this difficult time. Also, thank Board members.

9. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions

10. Public comments on Agenda Items - None

Motion by: Mr. Alworth

Seconded by: Mr. Day

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 15.

Mr. Alworth X

Mr. Day X 1-5 and 7-15

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 28, 2020

PERSONNEL

#2 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following pending pre-employment paperwork:

2.1 New Hire

Name	Location	Position	Salary	Committee	Term of Employment on or about
Lynette Rivera	VHS	Special Education Math	MA/Step 9/ \$68,361	Education	Sept. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
Derek Felano	VHS	Special Education English	MA/Step 1/ \$56,664	Education	Sept. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021

#3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached non-tenured staff renewals for the 2020-2021 school year.

#4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of tenured staff for the 2020-2021 school year.

EDUCATION

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following resolution for Virtual/Remote Instruction Satisfies the 180 School Day Requirement

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor has declared a state of emergency and a public health emergency, and ordered all schools closed for in-person instruction; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature has revised N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9 to permit the use of virtual/remote instruction to establish compliance with the 180 school day requirement during a public health emergency, subject to Board approval of a virtual/remote instruction program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the District's School Closure Preparedness Plan for virtual/remote instruction to meet the 180 school day requirement, which was previously submitted to the Department of Education on March 14, 2020, and implemented since the District's closure on March 16, 2020.

#6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following resolution for Pass/Fail Grading for the Verona Public Schools (Spring 2020);

#7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the first reading of the following policies/regulations:

- P&R 1581: Domestic Violence (Mandatory/New)
- P 2422: Health and Physical Education (Revision) - #17, 18 add in LGBTQ+ / Disabled and Financial Literacy (grades 5-8)
- P 3124: Employment Contract: (Mandatory/Revision)
- P&R 5330: Administration of Medication (Mandatory/Revision) - the Policy and Regulation Guides have been revised to align with the new statutes for the administration of hydrocortisone sodium succinate
- P7243: Supervision of Construction (Mandatory/Revision) - addresses criminal history record checks required for a construction contractor's employee(s) serving in a position which involves regular contact with students
- P 8210: School Year (Recommended/Revision)
- P&R 8220 School Day (Mandatory/Revision) and School Closings (Recommended/New)
- P 8462: Report Potentially Missing and Abused Children (Mandatory/Revision) - This new statute requires an APSSD to display specific information in each school building about the Department of Children and Families' State Central Registry, a toll-free hotline for reporting child abuse

REFERENDUM

#8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve:

**RESOLUTION
VERONA BOARD OF EDUCATION
AWARDING OF PROJECT FOR
VERONA HIGH SCHOOL CORRIDOR FLOOR AND WALL TILE UPGRADES
TO TEKCON CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

WHEREAS, in accordance with a published bid solicitation for work associated with Verona High School Corridor Floor and Wall Tile Upgrades in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter "the Work"), the Verona Board of Education received sealed bids on April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to its bid solicitation for the Work, the Board received responses from 6 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. Tekcon Construction, Inc. was the lowest prospective bidder with a base bid of \$372,000.
2. The base bid submitted by Tekcon Construction Inc. is the lowest responsive and responsible bid, and does not exceed the cost estimates or the Board's budget for the Work.

WHEREAS, as a result of these findings, the contract for is awarded to Tekcon Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$372,000.00

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.

- #9 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract with Ben Shaffer Recreation, Inc. to install a Playground Basketball System at the Laning Avenue Elementary School. This award is being made through State Contract Purchasing Cooperative in the amount of \$8,627.68.
- #10 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract with GL Group School for Painting at the F. N. Brown Elementary School Auditorium. This award is being made through State Contract Purchasing Cooperative in the amount of \$15,660.00.
- #11 RESOLVED** that the Board approve contracts with Commercial Interiors Direct, Inc. to install stair treads as per the following:
- | | |
|---|-------------|
| Proposal # 24502 FN Brown Elementary School | \$ 9,192.68 |
| Proposal # 24513 FN Brown Elementary School | \$12,710.80 |
| Proposal # 24516 FN Brown Elementary School | \$ 660.25 |
- This award is being made through the ESCNJ Cooperative Purchasing Agency.
- #12 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract with Premier Business Solutions Inc. for corridor locker replacement at Verona High School. This award is being made through Ed-Data in the amount of \$218,905.
- #13 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract with BCI Burke for new playground equipment at the Laning Avenue Elementary School. This award is being made through Middlesex Cooperative in the amount of \$27,600.58.
- #14 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract with Play and Park Structures for new playground equipment at the following schools for the allocated amounts being made through National Intergovernmental Purchasing Alliance as

follows:

Brookdale Avenue Elementary School	\$57,000
Forest Avenue Elementary School	\$57,000
F.N. Brown Elementary School	\$80,000

- #15 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract with Open Systems Integrators, Inc. for replacement of the existing fire alarm system at the following schools for the allocated amounts being made through Middlesex Cooperative as follows:

Laning Avenue Elementary School	\$104,785
H.B. Whitehorne Middle School	\$222,570
Verona High School	\$192,872

10. Public Comments

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

- #16 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: X

This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 7:43 P.M.

NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 beginning with a Confidential Session at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm Public Session via teleconference pending the evolving nature of COVID-19.

Ernie Turner

Mr. Ernest Turner
Acting Board Secretary

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADDENDUM RESOLUTIONS
May 12, 2020

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

Motion by: Mr. Day

Seconded by: Mrs. Drappi

Be it RESOLVED the approval of Addenda Resolutions #1 - 7.

Mr. Alworth X Mr. Day X

Mrs. Drappi X Mrs. Freschi X

Mrs. Priscoe X

PERSONNEL

#1 RESOLVED that the Board approve the following:

1.1 Retirement

Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date of Retirement
Anna Collins	1st Grade Teacher	FNB	Retirement	Jun. 30, 2020

EDUCATION

- #2 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the revised 2019-2020 school calendar to Reflect Tuesday, May 26, 2020 as a school closing due to the result of an unused snow day. (see attached)
- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached checklist for school health related closure plans.(District Preparation Plan in the Event of School Closing-Spring 2020)

REFERENDUM

- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve:

RESOLUTION
REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR
H.B. WHITEHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL FACILITIES UPGRADES
AND AUTHORIZING DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL STAFF TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT

WHEREAS, in accordance with a published bid solicitation for work associated with Facilities Upgrades to H.B. Whitehorne Middle School, in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter “the Work”), the original date for receipt of bids by Verona Board of Education for the Work was April 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to its bid solicitation for the Work, the Board no responses from any interested contractor(s) at that time; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020 the Board of Education resolved to re-bid the Work, in an effort to secure bids from interested contractors; and

WHEREAS, during the re-bid process, the District's engineer received and answered multiple questions from interested contractors regarding the project, requiring the issuance of an addendum to the bid specifications; and

WHEREAS, the re-bid submission date for the Work was May 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2020 the Board of Education received responses four contractors for the Work;
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. Environmental Climate Control, Inc. was the lowest prospective base bidder with a base bid of \$2,726,700. The base bid submitted by Environmental Climate Control, Inc. is the lowest responsive and responsible base bid.
2. The bid submitted by Environmental Climate Control, Inc. materially and substantially exceeds the Board's cost estimates and budget for the Work by at least 100%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that as a result of this excess, the Board of Education has determined that the lowest base bid is unaffordable to the District at this time, and must be rejected, as well as all other bids as exceeding the cost estimates and budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(c), as the first bid received no responses from interested bidders, and the re-bid having received 4 responses that were required to be rejected as unreasonable as to cost, the Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs its professional staff to negotiate a contract for the work without further advertising for bids, as statutorily authorized, upon the following conditions:

1. District professional staff must make an effort to determine if the same Work can be performed for a cost lower than any negotiated price via contract with the United States or the State of New Jersey, or any authorized cooperative or jointure therein; and
2. The terms set forth in any negotiated contract shall not differ substantially from those of the bid;
3. Each bidder that submitted a bid herewith shall be notified that the bids were rejected as to cost and given a non-exclusive opportunity to negotiate for the Work.

BE IT FURTHER 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.

#5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve:

RESOLUTION
REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR FACILITIES UPGRADES AT
BROOKDALE AVE ES, F.N. BROWN ES, LANING AVE ES, & FOREST AVE ES
AND AUTHORIZING DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL STAFF TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT

WHEREAS, in accordance with a published bid solicitation for work associated with Facilities Upgrades to Brookdale Ave ES, F.N. Brown ES, Laning Ave ES, & Forest Ave ES, in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter “the Work”), the original date for receipt of bids by Verona Board of Education for the Work was April 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to its bid solicitation for the Work, the Board no responses from any interested contractor(s) at that time; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020 the Board of Education resolved to re-bid the Work, in an effort to secure bids from interested contractors; and

WHEREAS, during the re-bid process, the District's engineer received and answered multiple questions from interested contractors regarding the project, requiring the issuance of an addendum to the bid specifications; and

WHEREAS, the re-bid submission date for the Work was May 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2020 the Board of Education received responses from four contractors for the Work; 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. Environmental Climate Control, Inc. was the lowest prospective base bidder with a base bid of \$4,238,500.00 for the Base work at all schools. The base bid submitted herewith was is the lowest responsive and responsible base bid.

2. The bid submitted by Environmental Climate Control, Inc. materially and substantially exceeds the Board's cost estimates and budget for the Work by at least 75%

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that as a result of this excess, the Board of Education has determined that the lowest base bid is unaffordable to the District at this time, and must be rejected, as well as all other bids as exceeding the cost estimates and budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(c), as the first bid received no responses from interested bidders, and the re-bid having received 4 responses that were required to be rejected as unreasonable as to cost, the Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs its professional staff to negotiate a contract for the work without further advertising for bids, as statutorily authorized, upon the following conditions:

1. District professional staff must make an effort to determine if the same Work can be performed for a cost lower than any negotiated price via contract with the United States or the State of New Jersey, or any authorized cooperative or jointure therein; and

2. The terms set forth in any negotiated contract shall not differ substantially from those of the bid;

3. Each bidder that submitted a bid herewith shall be notified that the bids were rejected as to cost and given a non-exclusive opportunity to negotiate for the Work.

BE IT FURTHER 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.

#6 RESOLVED that the Board approve the award of a contract with Eastern Datacom for a new telephone system for the following school buildings:

Brookdale Elementary School	\$24,727.30
FN Brown Elementary School	\$34,133.10
Forest Ave. Elementary School	\$24,727.30
HB Whitehorne Middle School	\$47,096.13
Laning Ave. Elementary School	<u>\$30,044.90</u>
TOTAL	\$160,728.73

This contract will be charged to the Referendum. Eastern Datacom is an approved vendor #65MCESCCES with ESCNJ, an approved Cooperative Purchasing Agency.

#7 RESOLVED that the Board approve the award of a contract with A+ Technology and Security for new switches to be installed as part of the new telephone installation in the amount of \$33,754.00. A+ Technology is an approved vendor with PEPPM Contract #528897-010 an approved Cooperative Purchasing Agency.