



## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

June 9, 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 June 9, 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**

**June 9, 2020**

**The Verona Board of Education of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in regular session on June 9, 2020 via teleconference at 7:03 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**

**June 9 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, June 23, 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.

**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. Moment of Silence - 8 minutes 46 seconds**

**6. Public comments on Agenda Items - None**

**7. Presentations - Carol Thomas - VEA Pride**

**8. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools**

- Super or Board Statement & Moment of Silence 8:46
- Referendum Update
- Graduation & End of Year Ceremony Update
- I recently penned a letter to the community last week entitled that All Men Are Created Equal. The genesis of this letter was in response to the current events surrounding the tragic loss of George Floyd and the many people of color who have come before him. As a district, we want to ensure that our students, staff, and community understands that we value all black lives. We also recognize that there are areas that we as a community must be better. As a result, I have

recommended that the Verona Public Schools coordinate a new committee entitled the Diversity Council which will be represented by black students, black staff, and black families, and will also be inclusive of other people of all colors in our community. We will also be exploring partnerships with professionals in the area of race at the college and university level to assist us in this endeavor. In my humble opinion, this is the only way to work toward systemic, societal improvements through listening, empathy, and education. This work will be important to provide our stakeholders an opportunity to review where we currently stand as a district, to identify what we are already doing well, while at the same time empowering important voices on the steps we must take to make the necessary strides. I can share that these pillars, from curriculum and instruction to school culture to leadership and everything in between, have been our focus and embedded in our program from community feedback in our district strategic plan. But we can always do better and must continue to be reflective in our practices. As we move forward, we will be engaging members of the public to participate on our Diversity Council. We have already been contacted by a number of students, staff, parents, and community members interested in partnering with us on this critically important work. In the coming weeks we will begin the process of developing this committee as we embark on this work in the months to come. I will update the Board and community as we move through this process. I want to thank all of the members of the community who have begun this conversation to ensure the safety and well-being of each individual student. We are listening, we are learning, and we are focused on having these critical and challenging conversations. Thank you.

## **9. Committee Reports -**

## **10. Discussion Items**

## **11. Roll Call Vote on Resolutions**

**Motion by:**     Mrs. Drappi    

**Seconded by:**     Mr. Day

**Be it RESOLVED the approval of Resolutions #1 - 23.**

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    May 26, 2020

**PERSONNEL**

**#2 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following for the 2020-21 school year:

**2.1 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>Jennifer Pateiro</b>	VHS	MLOA - Spanish	\$260/per diem	Education	Sept. 1, 2020 - May 1, 2021

**2.2 Staff Changes**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Location/Position</b>	<b>New Location/Position</b>	<b>Effective Date on or about</b>
<b>Diane Bartel</b>	FOR/Kindergarten	FOR/1st Grade	Sept. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
<b>Lauren Till</b>	BRK/3rd Grade	BRK/4th Grade	Sept. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
<b>Corrie Majestic</b>	LAN/1st Grade	LAN/2nd Grade	Sept. 1, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021

**2.3 Resignation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective on or About</b>
<b>Michelle DellaFortuna</b>	VHS	Math Teacher	Resignation	Jun. 30, 2020

**EDUCATION**

- #3 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached curriculum writing for the 2020-21 school year.
- #4 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve a Seton Hall doctoral student to conduct research in the Verona School District for the 2020-2021 school year.
- #5 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached 2020-2021 Comprehensive Equity Plan Annual Statement of Assurance.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

- #6 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of Special Education Summer School staff for the 2019-2020 school year.
- #7 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to authorize the submission of the 2020-2021 IDEA Grant application and accept the grant award of the funds upon subsequent approval of the 2020-2021 IDEA application in the following manner:

IDEA BASIC:  
 Public           \$471,298  
 Non-Public   \$26,637

IDEA PRESCHOOL:  
 Public           \$25,125  
 Non-Public   \$0.00

- #8 **RESOLVED** that the Board approve to contract with Saint Clare’s Behavioral Health to provide crisis intervention and back to school assessments for the district for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

- #9 RESOLVED** that the Board approve for an out-of-district placement for Student #032403 for the 2020 – 2021 school year, commencing June 22, 2020, at a tuition rate of \$68,220.

### **REFERENDUM**

- #10 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract in the amount of \$11,802 be awarded to Chalet Construction Corporation to install new window sills and jambs at multiple classrooms at Verona High School. Per proposal #200210VBH.
- #11 RESOLVED** that the Board approve that a contract in the amount of \$3,697.72 be awarded to Commercial Interiors Direct, Inc. to install new rugs in the guidance offices at Verona High School.
- #12 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract to perform urgent repairs to the chimney at Forest Avenue School be awarded to Chalet Construction Corporation in the amount of \$28,000. This repair will be charged to the referendum.
- #13 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract to perform urgent repairs to the chimney at Brookdale Avenue Elementary School be awarded to Chalet Construction Corporation in the amount of \$28,000. This repair will be charged to the referendum.
- #14 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract to perform the removal and replacement of the chain link fence at H. B. Whitehorne Middle School be awarded to Kin Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$21,342. This work will be charged to the referendum.
- #15 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a contract to perform asbestos abatement at the following schools be awarded to AHERA Consultants. These costs will be charged to the referendum.

H.B. Whitehorne Middle School	\$2,850
F. N. Brown Elementary School	\$2,850
Laning Avenue Elementary School	<u>\$2,850</u>
Total	\$8,550

### **FINANCE**



- #16 RESOLVED** that the Board approve increasing the Bid Threshold -  
Without QPA Purchasing Agent

**WHEREAS**, the State Treasurer, in consultation with the Governor and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (b) has increased the bid threshold amount for school districts which do not have a qualified Purchasing Agent, from \$29,000 to \$32,000, effective July 1, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the Verona Board of Education would like to take advantage of the maximum statutory bid threshold amount of \$32,000 for school districts who do not have a qualified purchasing agent;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Verona Board of Education, establishes and sets the bid threshold amount of \$32,000 for the Board of Education, and further authorizes Ernest Turner, Acting Board Secretary to award contracts, in full accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A (a), for those purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate the newly established bid threshold amount.

- #17 RESOLVED** that the Board approve a donation from Gregory Paglianite on behalf of State Farm in the amount of \$500 for COVID-19 support for the use of school supplies, PPE, etc.

- #18 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to close the following investment accounts with NJ/ARM Asset & Rebate Management Program and to transfer all funds to the Verona General Operating Account:

Account # 249-06 2014 Bond Series – Principal  
Account # 249-07 2014 Bond Series - Interest  
Account # 249-08 Short Term Financing – Principal  
Account # 249-09 Short Term Financing – Interest

- #19 RESOLVED** that the Board approve the attached list of individual transfers of line items in the 2019-2020 budget for:

February, 2020  
March, 2020

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

February, 2020  
March, 2020

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.13(e), that as of January 31, 2020 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.

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

February, 2020

March, 2020

- #22 RESOLVED** that the Board rescind 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.

- #23 RESOLVED** that the Board approve to accept the Food Service Management proposal from the Pomptonian, Inc. "FSMC" for the food service operation for 2020-2021.

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.

- 12. Public Comments -** Denit Brahver - thanked Board of Education for taking on diversity council.  
Inclusivity Training  
Inquired about serving on council

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

**#24 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.

**No Action will be taken.**

**Motion to convene in confidential session at 8:03 p.m.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Day

**Second by:** Mr. Alworth

**All in Favor:** 5

**All Opposed:** 0

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 pm.**

**Motion by:** Mrs. Priscoe

**Second by:** Mr. Day

**All in Favor:** 5

**All Opposed:** 0

**This meeting is adjourned at (TIME) 9:49 P.M.**

**NOTE: The next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 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**