



# VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS REFERENDUM 2014

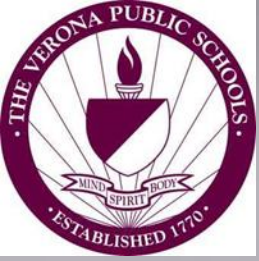
February/March, 2014

What do you expect in Verona?



# Did you know?

- ❑ Verona Schools do not have Wi-Fi, the district technology backbone is 11 years old and cannot be expanded.
- ❑ Verona Schools are one of a handful of like-districts that are not prepared technologically for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The NJDOE has determined we are not capable of using online testing.
- ❑ Two firms conducted audits for security and made some strong and reasonable recommendations to improve security for our students and staff.
- ❑ Two of our schools need new fire alarm panels

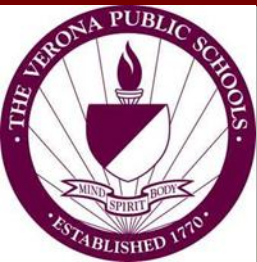


**Did you  
know...?**

**There are  
several doors  
around the  
district that you  
can actually  
kick a hole in  
with your foot?**








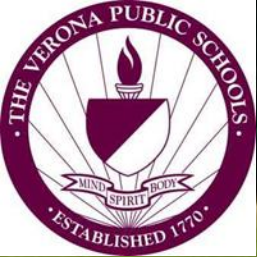
# Did you know...?

That the original heating system in VHS cannot sustain a minimum of 60 degrees in a large part of the building?



Broken heat pipe under floor in VHS boys' room-this is one of 10+ leaks during the past two heating seasons





**Did you know...?**

The upper field at VHS is condemned and classified as a hazardous site by the NJDEP?

**Did you also know...?**

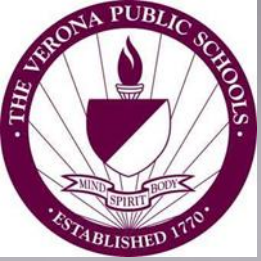
That two VHS athletes fell in sink holes during games/practices and a lawnmower operator fell in a hole as well?

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION /  
CLEANUP IN PROGRESS AT THIS SITE  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

 FRENCH & PARRELLO  
ASSOCIATES, PA, CONSULTING ENGINEERS

VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 973-571-2029  
C. DUDLEY WARNER, III, LSRP 732-312-9800

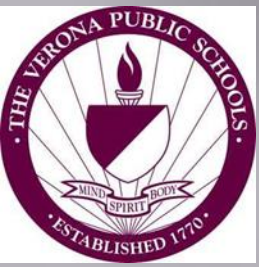
NJDEP PI NO: 026859  
POSTED ON 7/30/2013



# Did you know...? Part II

- ❑ The district has developed programs to bring in over \$100,000/year in new revenue.
- ❑ Auctions for electric have saved the district \$1000's and we are working with the utility companies to use the savings to fund other projects.
- ❑ The State of NJ has promised to pay 40% of the eligible project costs. \$2,796,840 in grants
- ❑ The State of NJ will also pay us debt service aid on another \$2.4M of the project





# General Building Needs

- ▣ Exterior Doors- district-wide
- ▣ Paving- FNB, VHS, Forest, HBW
- ▣ Masonry Repairs- VHS, Forest, HBW, Brook
- ▣ Fire Alarms- FNB & Forest
- ▣ Hall and Classroom Ceilings and Lighting
- ▣ Addition to accommodate VHS Music Program
- ▣ Gym Bleachers
  - VHS- 2
  - Brookdale
- ▣ Estimated Category Total: \$5,314,431



# Technology

- ▣ New network district-wide
  - Replaces network built in 2003
  - New switches
  - New cabling
  - Phone upgrade
  - Back up generator
  - Network back up
  - District-wide Wi-Fi
  
- Estimated Category Total: \$889,086

*This is not to prepare for PARCC- this is to have normal technology in the district. Being prepared for PARCC is a byproduct.*





# HVAC

- ▣ Total overhaul of VHS heating and ventilation system
  - Replaces original system- “Works fine when it is not too cold” i.e. January and February
  - New boilers
  - New controls
  - New vents
  - New piping
  - Estimated Category Total: \$3,852,580



# Security

- ▣ New Vestibules at 5 schools- (Laning done in 2006)- visitor control- changes to offices
- ▣ Cameras (59) with recording capability- district wide
- ▣ Proximity access system (swipe cards) district-wide
- ▣ New locking mechanisms- district-wide
  
- ▣ Estimated Category total: \$890,514



# Environmental Remediation of VHS Property

- ▣ Clean up environmental problems on property
  - Construct a retaining wall and create an environmental cap
  - Add a 5<sup>th</sup> tennis court and expand parking lot- also for capping- Refurbish existing tennis courts
  - Create a usable space on upper field for practice and physical education. Approx. 60% of land
  - Create a green space that will be landscaped and fenced off. Approx. 40 % of land

Estimated category total:

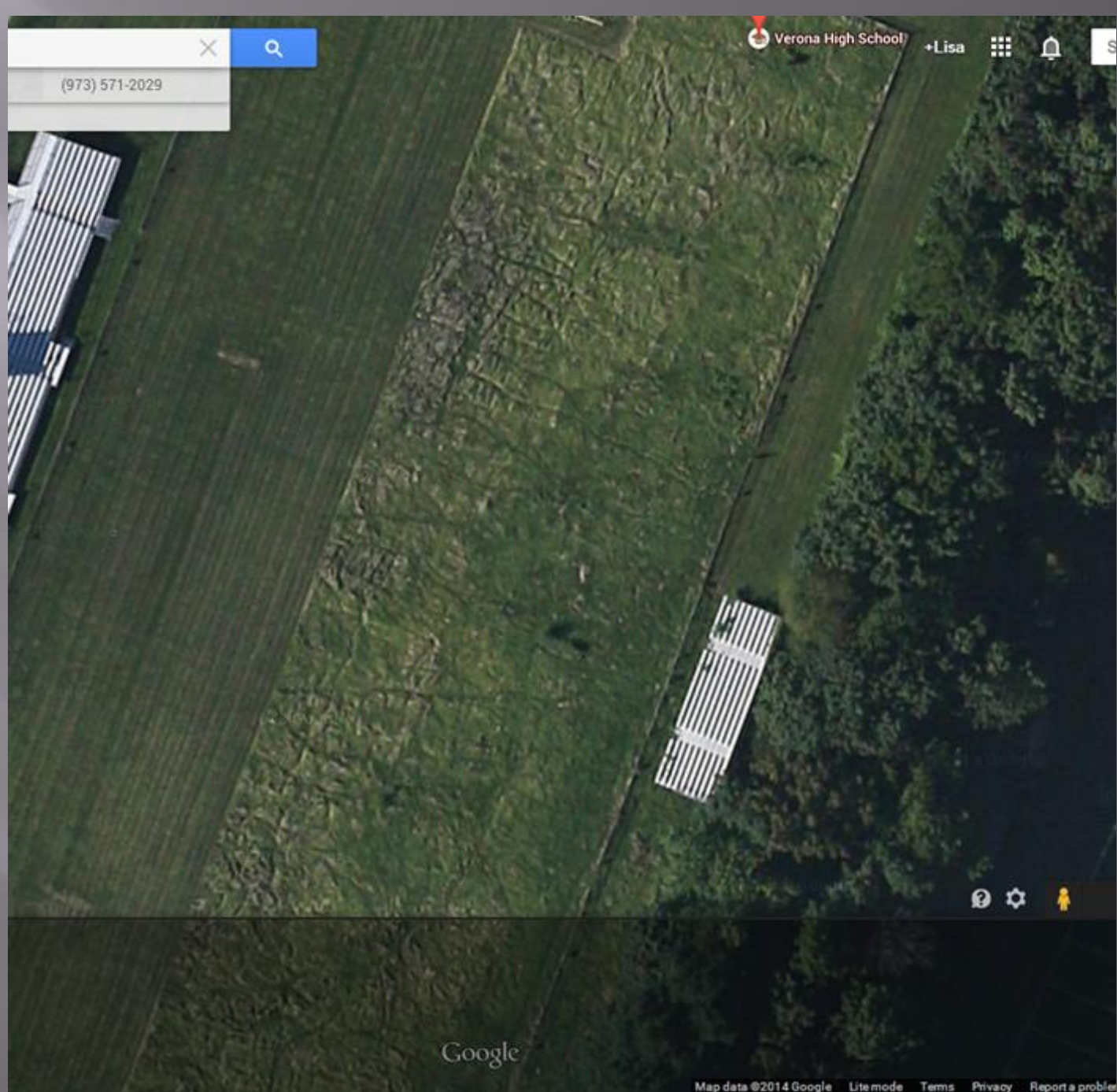
\$1,888,250





# VHS upper field from satellite

Source  
Google  
Maps



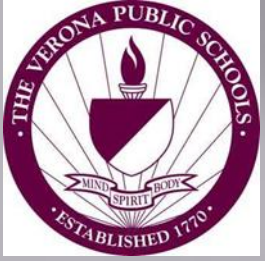


# Verona Community Multi-purpose Field

## ▣ Lower Field

- Create a turf field with 2 full football, LAX, soccer fields and a full baseball field (350' center field) and full softball field (200' center field).
- 255,000 square feet of playing surface
- Lights, bleachers, fencing, repair cement bleachers, etc.
- Practice area for the VHS Band
- Estimated Category Total: \$3,806,994



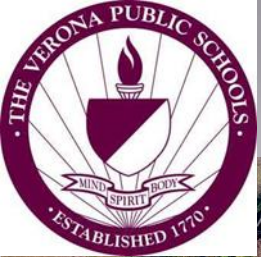


## Sampson

Field configuration  
can be determined  
at a later date







# Bordentown HS Field- Group 1 School Central NJ- 2010







What is  
this...?



















# Per Pupil Spending

This group represents every K-12 school district in Verona's demographic in Northern NJ with a similar number of students.

Town	Cost per pupil
Cedar Grove	22962
Park Ridge	20235
Mahwah	18355
Ramsey	18107
Glen Ridge	17963
Kinnelon	17641
Caldwell/W Caldwell	16794
Madison	16777
Cresskill	16414
New Providence	16299
Berkeley Heights	16251
Verona	15458





# Tax Comparison Chart

MUNICIPALITY	Average Net Property Taxes	School Levy as % of Total
Glen Ridge Borough	\$16,750	61%
Cresskill Borough	\$13,332	58%
Kinnelon Borough	\$12,429	70%
New Providence Borough	\$11,569	57%
Madison Borough	\$10,767	61%
Ramsey Borough	\$10,619	68%
Berkeley Heights Township	\$10,418	58%
Park Ridge Borough	\$10,187	66%
Verona Township	\$9,305	54%
West Caldwell Township	\$8,845	53%
Cedar Grove Township	\$8,630	55%
Mahwah Township	\$7,168	61%



# Where Do Our Tax Dollars Go?

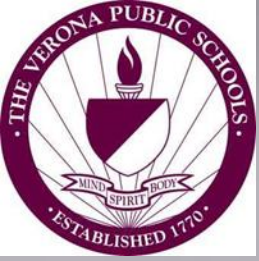


Sources:

IRS Statistics of Income (SOI) [http://www.irs.gov/uac/SOI-Tax-Stats-Individual-Income-Tax-Statistics-ZIP-Code-Data-\(SOI\)](http://www.irs.gov/uac/SOI-Tax-Stats-Individual-Income-Tax-Statistics-ZIP-Code-Data-(SOI))

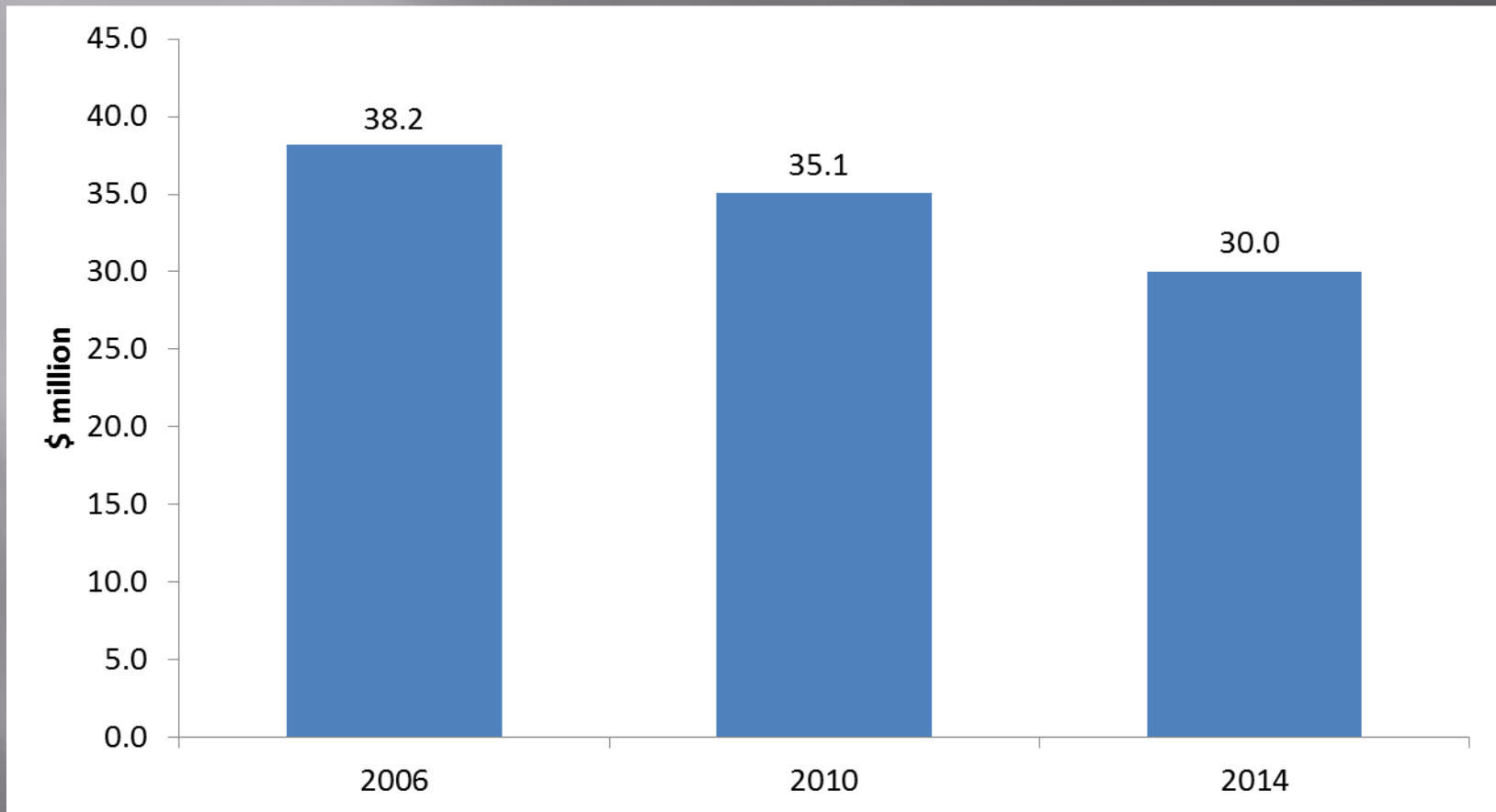
NJ Department of Community Affairs Property Tax Information

[http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/resources/property\\_tax.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/resources/property_tax.html)



# Since the 2006 Referendum

## We've paid off \$8.2 million of school bonds



April 1 2006 - March 31 2014



# Totals

▣ General B & G:	\$5,314,431
▣ Technology:	\$ 889,086
▣ VHS HVAC	\$3,852,580
▣ Security	\$ 890,514
▣ Remediate Environmental/Tennis	\$1,888,250
▣ VHS/Community Field	\$3,806,994
▣ Total	\$16,641,855
▣ NJDOE Grant	\$ 2,796,855
▣ <b>Cost after grant</b>	<b>\$13,845,000</b>





# Tax Impact

- Approximate cost is:
  - \$176.75 per year
  - \$ 14.72 per month
  - \$ 3.39 per week
  - \$ 0.48 per day
- Based on the average assessed value of \$359,700
- 20 year bond at a projected borrowing rate of 3.65%
- \$49.14 per \$100,000 of assessed value per year



# Q and A

**Q- Why is the ballot question so confusing?**

**A-** Since we are getting two types of aid the state requires the lengthy explanation.

**Q- What is a ROD Grant?**

**A-** Stands for Regular Operating District- basically suburban districts that do not typically receive as much aid from federal and state sources

**Q- What happens to the grant money if the referendum fails?**

**A-** The district only receives the money if we complete the project. We have until June of 2015 to pass a referendum.



# Q and A Part 2

**Q- What is debt service aid?**

**A-** Aid the state provides on a yearly basis on projects that qualify. Our project has \$2.4 M of debt service aid qualified projects. Potentially 40% aid but can vary

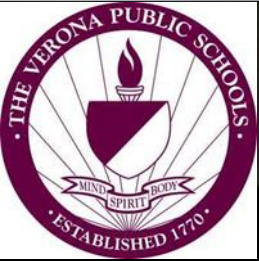
**Q- What projects qualify for a ROD Grant or Debt Service Aid?**

**A-** General B & G (except the music addition), technology, HVAC, Security

**Q- Why aren't the music room addition, environmental remediation or field eligible for a ROD Grant or Debt Service Aid?**

**A-** The state will not give grants/aid for new construction unless a building's overall capacity is a problem and they will not give grants/aid for fields or exterior remediation.





**What do  
you expect  
in Verona?**



[www.veronaschools.org](http://www.veronaschools.org)