

VENTNOR CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session Meeting – March 25, 2024 – 5:00 PM

In Compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided. On January 31, 2024 written notice was given to all Board members and posted at the Ventnor Educational Community Complex, Ventnor City Hall and the Ventnor Public Library. It was also e-mailed to the Press of Atlantic City and the Downbeach Current on that same date.

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Doug Biagi, President
Mrs. Kim Bassford, Vice-President
Mrs. Lori Abbott
Mr. Michael Advena
Dr. John C. Baker
Mr. Michael Hagelgans
Mr. James Quinlan

Dr. Carmela Somershoe, Superintendent
Ms. Terri Nowotny, Bus. Admin/Board Sec.
Ms. Sanu Dev, Esq., School Solicitor

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PRESENTATION

1. Superintendent Update – Dr. Carmela Somershoe
2. Facility Update – Ron Fenton
3. Budget Presentation/Public Hearing – Terri Nowotny

Exhibit: III-2

IV. PUBLIC SESSION

The Board of Education welcomes public comment on any issue at this time. Speaking is limited to three (3) minutes per individual, ten (10) minutes per topic. The Board President has the flexibility to alter these limitations.

Please state your name and address and if you are here as a representative of a group or organization, identify that entity.

Please understand that our public forum is not structured as a question and answer session, but is offered as an opportunity to share your thoughts with the Board. In instances where the Board feels that there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, the Board President or Superintendent may address the comment. In accordance with New Jersey Statute, the Board will not discuss matters regarding specific personnel, students or litigation matters.

Finally, we ask that you direct your comments to the Board President and not engage with other members of the public, the Board or Administration unless authorized by the Board President.

V. FINANCE

1. Recommend to approve Regular Session Minutes of February 28, 2024 as presented in:

Exhibit: V-1

2. Recommend to approve the Board Secretary's Monthly Certification:
Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:30-2.12 (b) that as of February 29, 2024 no major budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Ventnor Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.2, and no budgetary line item has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.11(a)1. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.11(c)2, it is certified that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts and sources for the month of February, 2024

Exhibit: V-2

Recommend to approve the Board of Education's Monthly Certification:
Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.11(c) 4, the Ventnor Board of Education certifies that as of February, 2024, and after review of the secretary's monthly financial report appropriations section as presented, and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, that to the best of the Board's knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.11(b), that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year and

Recommend to approve acknowledging receipt of the Statements of Cash Receipts and Disbursements and the Board Secretary's reports which are in agreement for the period ending February 29, 2024.

Recommend to approve line item transfers for the months ending February, 2024

3. Recommend to approve March, 2024 Bill List as presented in:

Exhibit: V-3

4. Recommend to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ventnor Board of Education approve the following travel expenses and fees for the following conferences and workshops as per State regulation N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1:

Carmela Somershoe	Mentor Recertification	Virtual	4/17/24	\$70
Lara Pate	NJSHA Convention	Atlantic City, NJ	5/10/24	\$280

All mileage will be paid at the applicable State reimbursement rate.

5. Recommend to approve of the following:

Be it resolved to approve the 2024-2025 school budget of the Ventnor School District for submission to the Board of School Estimates as follows:

General Fund: \$20,699,837
Special Revenue Fund: \$2,749,137

Total budget: \$23,448,974

Tax Levy

Be it further resolved to acknowledge that the 2024-2025 tentative budget described above results in a general fund tax levy of \$16,530,371

Tuition Reserve Withdrawal

Be it further resolved that the general fund appropriations include a \$400,000 withdrawal from the Tuition Reserve Account which were deposited into the account in school year 2022-2023 and are now required to be withdrawn to pay tuition obligations in the 2024-2025 school year.

6. Recommend to approve advertisement for proposals (RFP) for School Physician and Architect/Engineer for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
7. Recommend to approve jointure with Greater Egg Harbor Regional Board of Education as host to provide transportation for 1 McKenney-Vento student to Absegami and 1 McKenney-Vento student to Reeds Road School at a total cost of \$34,956.00 plus administrative fees. This revises and replaces the jointure approved at the November 15, 2023 meeting for 1 student to Absegami at \$16,920.
8. Recommend to approve Resolution for Participation in Joint Transportation Agreement with Atlantic County Special Services School District for the 2024-2025 school year. Specific routes will be brought to the Board for approval as they are developed.
9. Recommend to approve submission of American Rescue Plan Act Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) FY21-24 Amendment 1 in the additional amount of \$671, total \$13,566. Services include tutoring, health referral, health supplies and transportation for homeless families as needed.
10. Recommend to approve purchase of art room furniture through the OMNIA cooperative purchasing contract at a total cost of \$18,947.31, to be paid through ESSER III funding and as presented in:
11. Recommend to approve 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented in:

Exhibit: V-10

Exhibit: V-11

VI. POLICIES

VII. PERSONNEL

ALL ITEMS ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

1. Recommend to approve Lauri Baldi as teacher mentor for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Recommend to approve the following:

Resignation of Erin Schaivo as Girls Track Coach
Resignation of Frank Ferrara as Boys Track Coach
3. Recommend to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year:

Lauri Baldi as Girls Track Coach
Cory Smith as Boys Track Coach

4. Recommend to accept resignation letter of Kendra Pennington, PreK teacher effective April 9, 2024, with regret and as presented in:

Exhibit: VII-4

5. Recommend to accept resignation letter of Frank Ferrara, Gym teacher effective May 21, 2024, with regret and as presented in:

Exhibit: VII-5

6. Recommend to approve extension of Cory Smith, BA, Step 0/1 as a full-time Leave Replacement Teacher for Physical Education through June 14, 2024 at the VCEA negotiated contracted salary of \$59,187 first 100 days/\$61,187 after 100 days, with benefits.

VIII. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

1. Recommend to approve Field Trip Request form as presented in:

Exhibit: VIII-1

2. Recommend to approve Field Trip Request form as presented in:

Exhibit: VIII-2

3. Recommend to approve Field Trip Request form as presented in:

Exhibit: VIII-3

4. Recommend to approve Field Trip Request form as presented in:

Exhibit: VIII-4

5. Recommend to approve submission of Self-Assessment Validation System (SAVS) for Preschool Education Aid (PEA) district to NJDOE.

IX. USE OF FACILITY

X. INFORMATION

1. Drills: Fire Drill: 2/26/24; Security Drill: Shelter in Place: 2/29/24

2. VECC Monthly Enrollment

Item: X-2

3. Monthly Suspension Reports

Item: X-3

4. Elementary and Middle School Individual Incident Reports

Item: X-4

5. Monthly School Cafeteria Report

Item: X-5

6. VECC Out of District Tuition Report for 2023/2024

Item: X-6

7. Payroll Timesheet Report of March, 2024

Item: X-7

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

XII. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

1. Recommend to affirm 2023-2024 E2, M5 and M6.

2. Previously approved Use of Facilities for Girl Scouts event on March 20, 2024 has been rescheduled to April 8, 2024.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Whereas the Ventnor City Board of Education finds a need to discuss matters that are exempt from public discussion pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, be it resolved that that Ventnor City Board of Education hereby adjourns to a session from which the public must be excluded for the following reasons allowable under the Act (*read or check all that apply*):

____ 1. Matters rendered confidential by State or Federal law:

- _____ 2. Matters which could impair the right to receive federal funds:
- _____ 3. Matter which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if conducted in public;
- _____ 4. Negotiations;
- _____ 5. Discussions involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property, the setting of bank rates, or the investment of public funds, where disclosure could adversely affect the public interest;
- _____ 6. Discussions of tactics and techniques used in protecting the safety and property of the public;
- _____ 7. Discussions of pending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiations, and matters falling under attorney-client privilege;
- _____ 8. Personnel;
- _____ 9. Deliberations after a public hearing.

No formal action will take place, and the results of any discussion will be made public if and when the subject matter is no longer deemed confidential. Executive Session is expected to last _____ (*insert number*) minutes/hours (*select*) and action/no action (*select*) is anticipated afterwards.

XV. ADJOURNMENT