

**VENTNOR CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session Meeting – December 18, 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 May 17, 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  
Mrs. Kim Bassford  
Mrs. Lori Abbott  
Mr. Michael Advena  
Dr. John C. Baker  
Mr. Michael Hagelgans  
Mr. James Quinlan

Dr. Carmela Somershoe, Superintendent  
Mrs. Beth Steinen, Business Admin/Board Sec.  
Ms. Sanu Dev, Esq., School Solicitor

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. PRESENTATION**

1. Superintendent Update – Dr. Carmela Somershoe
2. Facility Update – Alex Pitre
3. Corrective Action Plan for Chronic Absenteeism for Ventnor Elementary and Middle School - Dr. Somershoe

Exhibit: III-2

**IV. PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board of Education welcomes public comment on any issue at this time. Please state your name and address. Please note that public comment is not a question and answer session. Speaking is limited to three (3) minutes per individual, ten (10) minutes per topic. The Board President has the flexibility to alter these limitations. In accordance with New Jersey Statute, the Board cannot discuss matters regarding specific personnel, students or litigation matters during public comment.

**V. FINANCE**

1. Recommend to approve Regular Session Minutes of November 20, 2024 as presented in: Exhibit: V-1
2. Recommend to approve the Board Secretary’s Monthly Certification: Handout  
Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:30-2.12 (b) that as of October 23, 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 months of October, 2024

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 October, 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 periods ending October 31, 2024.

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

3. Recommend to approve December, 2024 Bill Lists as presented in: Exhibit: V-3
4. Recommend to approve the revised 2024-25 Purchasing Manual, as presented in: Exhibit: V-4
5. Recommend to award a contract to Siemens Industry, Inc. for the upgrade and repair of the district's fire suppression system at a cost of \$153,900.34 , as presented in: Exhibit: V-5

WHEREAS, the Ventnor Educational Community Complex has a fire alarm system known as "Apogee;" and

WHEREAS, the Apogee system is a proprietary, sole-source fire suppression system that was manufactured and installed by the Siemens Industry, Inc., Building Technology Division ("Siemens"); and

WHEREAS, the Apogee system is supported solely through direct factory branches of Siemens, with the branch serving South Jersey being located in Blue Bell, PA; and

WHEREAS, components for the fire suppression system cannot be obtained through sources other than Siemens; and

WHEREAS, the District's fire suppression system is in need of upgrade and repair; and  
WHEREAS, on November 18, 2024, Siemens provided the District with a quote for the cost of upgrading and repairing the District's Apogee fire system; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 18A:18A-5(a)(19), a board of education may, when the amount of a contract exceeds the bid threshold, award said contract without public bidding if it is for the "provision or performance of goods or services for the support or maintenance of proprietary computer hardware and software, except that this provision shall not be utilized to acquire or upgrade non-proprietary hardware or acquire non-proprietary software;" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 18A:18A-5(a)(19), such contract must be awarded by resolution of the board of education at a public meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby recognizes that the District's Apogee fire suppression system is a proprietary system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to 18A:18A-5(a)(19), the Board hereby awards a contract for the upgrade and repair of the District's Apogee fire system consistent with the quote provided to the District by Siemens on November 18, 2024.

6. 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:

Beth Steinen	A.I. for the Business Office	Mount Laurel, NJ	1/15/25	\$145
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All mileage will be paid at the applicable State reimbursement rate.

7. Recommend to approve 2025/2026 Budget Calendar, as presented in:

Exhibit: V-7

## VI. POLICIES

1. Recommend to approve first reading as presented in:

Exhibit: VI-1

- 3570 District Records and Reports

2. Recommend to approve second reading as presented in:

Exhibit: VI-2

- 3542.2 School Meal Program Arrears
- 3571.4 Audit
- 5113 Attendance, Absences and Excuses
- 5141.8 Sports Related Concussion and Head Injury
- 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
- 6140 Curriculum Adoption
- 6146.2 Promotion/Retention
- 6178 Early Childhood Education/Preschool

## VII. PERSONNEL

### ALL ITEMS ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

1. Recommend to approve the following substitute teachers for the 2024-2025 school year pending paperwork:

Karen Cavacini	County
Kenneth Silver	State
Dawn Crilley	County
Alexander Reynolds	State
Amy Gelman	County

2. Recommend to approve Monica Gomez for the security clerk at Step 8 per negotiated VSSA agreement with benefits pending fingerprinting.

Monica has been working for South Jersey Services custodial contractor and is familiar with our building. She has customer service experience from the casinos and working in local bakeries. Mrs. Gomez is bilingual.

3. Recommend to approve Erin Schiavo as Site Manager for the 2024-2025 school year per the negotiated contracted hourly amount.

4. Recommend to approve Volunteer/Chaperone List for the 2024-2025 school year and as presented in:

Exhibit: VII-4

**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

**IX. USE OF FACILITY**

**X. INFORMATION**

- 1. Drills: Fire Drill: 12/10/23; Security Drill: TBD
- 2. VECC Monthly Enrollment Item: X-2
- 3. Monthly Suspension Reports Item: X-3
- 4. Elementary School Individual Incident Reports Item: X-4
- 5. VECC Out of District Tuition Report for 2024/2025 Item: X-5
- 6. Payroll Timesheet Report of December, 2024 Item: X-6

**XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**XII. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Recommend to affirm HIB 24-25 M#1

**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**