VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M. JULY 15, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: meeting called to order at 7:06 pm by Coordinator Jocelyn via zoom call.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read, with note that the Act no longer requires transmission of the agenda and notice of the meeting to local news publications. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Members in Attendance: Colin Boyle (Community), Diane DiGiuseppe (Superintendent of Verona Schools), Ann Jocelyn (Coordinator), Officer Kirby-Pinto (as VPD designate for Chief Kiernan), Rachel Klansky (Community Member), Kimberly Manis (Community Member), Verena Mikhael (Community Member), Carol Lynn Moy (Secretary - VHS). With only 7 voting members in attendance, the meeting did not have quorum of 50% of membership.

Members Not in Attendance: Katie Cuartas (Laning), Kevin O'Sullivan (Town Manager-or designee), Staci Puleo (Brookdale), Tim Schmidt (Forest), Mayor Tamburro (Township of Verona Municipal Government), Regina Tully (HBW), TBD (FNBrown).

VMAC welcomed two members of the public to the meeting.

Coordinator Jocelyn reviewed the appointment of Officers as discussed at the April 2027 meeting when members approved the reappointment of Carol Lynn Moy as secretary and to proceed without a Vice-Chair. The Grant Coordinator, appointed by the Township Council, serves as Treasurer for VMAC.

Kim Manis announced in April that she would be stepping down as Chair. However, given that no other committee member expressed interest in assuming the position during the April meeting, Ms. Manis agreed to stay until the July meeting to close out fiscal year 2026 without interruption. Verena Mikhael indicated an interest in continuing her service to Verona and VMAC by taking on this role. Verena bio offered. There was no other response to a call for interest in holding the position. However, without quorum, Ms. Mikhael was only tentatively approved and will be confirmed at the October meeting.

Ms. Mikhael proceeded by reminding attendees of the VMAC vision, mandate, and the mission to celebrate and cultivate the compassion, character, and confidence it takes to make good choices.

Without quorum, approval of the minutes from the April 2027 meeting were tabled until the October meeting. The members in attendance did not identify discrepancies with the April minutes as circulated and accepted the need to delay approval.

FINANCIAL & PROGRAM REVIEW
An overview of finances and program initiatives was provided, confirming that funding, allocation of funds, and program initiatives were completed according to the fiscal year 2026 plan and are proceeding according to the fiscal year 2027 plan.

FY2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)
Fiscal year 2026 was completed as approved by members and according to the plan submitted to GCSUD, including a small reallocation to Project Graduation of residual funding. Grant totaled $22,625 ($18,100 from the State through GCSUD and a 25% match of $4,525 from the Township) plus in-kind match of $13,575. The funding for FY2027 remains the same, with slight modifications to the plan.

4th quarter (Apr-Jun) highlights
- Art & Meditation at Verona Public Library (conducted in 3rd qtr, expended in 4th qtr)
- Success Street – Risking Rejection to Gain Acceptance: (conducted in the 3rd qtr, expended in 4th qtr)
- HBW Peers – welcome of 4th graders, preparing to enter 5th grade, folders & pencils purchased
- Heroes & Cool Kids – support of AwareAwakeAlive & Project Graduation
- DEA Take Back Day – April 25th and any day, working closely with VPD
- Received a donation of 90 wellness kits from RWJ for use by VPD

Planned 1st quarter (July-Sept) activities
- No planned participation at National Night Out in Cedar Grove on August 4th – Verona for 2027
- HBW Peer Leaders- new members selected and will provide welcome folder and activity for 5th graders at Back to School.
- Heroes & Cool Kids will select new Heroes and work to manage membership numbers
- VHS Peer Leadership-will not proceed, possible alternatives considered. Superintendent DiGiuseppe will review alternatives with administration.
- SAFE Homes – Colin Boyle & Carol Lynn Moy overseeing distribution to schools for Back-to-School with support from Superintendent DiGiuseppe.
- Family Night – Thursday, October 8th – Subcommittee members Klansky, Manis, Mikhael reaching out to restaurants, Chamber for additional business participation. Social media support from Jocelyn and distribution support from Township and VPS.

MEETING DATES
Reminder that quarterly meetings take place on the third Wednesday following quarter-end. Remaining meeting dates confirmed as Wednesday October 21, January 20, April 21. These dates are provided to the Municipal Clerk for posting on the official township calendar as required by Open Public Meetings Act.

The Committee once again discussed the possibility of adding a non-voting youth member to the Committee. This will be addressed at the October meeting.

We thanked the two guests from the public for joining our meeting and asked if they had any comments. There being no other business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Jocelyn. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** taken at 10/21/26 meeting
AYES: Boyle, Jocelyn (for O'Sullivan), Kirby-Pinto, Klansky, Manis, Mikhael, Moy
NAYS: none
ABSENT: Cuartas, DiGiuseppe, O'Sullivan, Tully. **ABSTAIN:** Puleo, Schmidt, Tamburro