

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION
VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
5:30 PM

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL
July 6, 2023

Annual Reorganization Meeting as Required by Law

Members Present: John Maier, Donna LaRocco, Cynthia Nunez, Armando Hernandez, Melissa Herrera, Kimberly Wheeler and Markus Wilson.

Others Present: Superintendent Unal Karakas, Dr. Jack Mitchell, School District Attorney

Absent With Prior Notice: N/A

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Reorganization Meeting was called to order by the Attorney at 5:30 pm. Motion to enter Executive Session was made by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Trustee Wilson to discuss Personnel and Contractual Matters. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session was made by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Trustee Wilson at 7:28 pm.

The Reorganization Meeting reconvened at 7:30 pm by the District Clerk.

2. The Attorney asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

The Attorney administered the Oath of Office to the Newly elected and re-elected Trustees: Cynthia Nunez, Armando Hernandez and Melissa Herrera

3. The Attorney then called for nominations for the Office of President for 2023-2024:

Trustee Maier nominated Donna LaRocco for Office of President and seconded by Trustee Hernandez. Vote is unanimous.

4. Motion made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Hernandez that Donna LaRocco, to be President of the Board of Education of this District for the year 2023-2024. Motion unanimously carried.

5. The Attorney then administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board President, Donna LaRocco.

The Attorney administered the Oath of Office to the Superintendent, Mr. Unal Karakas.

6. President Donna LaRocco called for nominations for the Office of Vice President for 2023-2024 school year.

Trustee Herrera nominated Trustee Hernandez as Vice President, seconded by Trustee Wilson. Vote is unanimous.

7. Motion made by Trustee Herrera and seconded by Trustee Wilson that Armando Hernandez be Vice President of the Board of Education for the school year 2023-2024. Motion unanimously carried.

The Attorney then administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Vice President Armando Hernandez.

8. Motion made by Vice-President Hernandez, seconded by Trustee Maier, to appoint, Lourdes Onesto, as District Clerk for the 2023-2024 school year with annual compensation of \$15,500. Motion unanimously carried.

The Attorney then administered the Oath of Office to the District Clerk.

9. The Board of Education of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four appoints three members of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four Board of Education to the Board of Education of Valley Stream Central High School District to serve as Trustees on the High School Board of Education for a period of one year commencing on this date and expiring on June 30, 2024 as follows: Trustee Melissa Herrera, Vice President Armando Hernandez and Trustee John Maier. Motion made by Trustee Nunez and seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Trustee Maier, seconded by Vice President Hernandez, to move Item #10 as listed. Motion unanimously carried.

10. Motion made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Vice President Hernandez, that Brian Cleary, be and is hereby appointed Treasurer of this District to serve at the pleasure of the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year at an annual salary of \$13,750. Motion unanimously carried.

The District Clerk will administer the Oath of Office to the Treasurer within 30 days.

11. Motion made by Trustee Nunez and seconded by Trustee Wheeler, that the Board of Education hereby appoints John Maier to serve as the Acting District Treasurer, to serve without additional compensation whenever the Treasurer is absent from the District or otherwise unable to serve.

Motion made by Trustee Hernandez, seconded by Trustee Wheeler, to move Items #12-27 as listed. Motion unanimously carried.

12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following members are appointed to the District's Audit Committee: Armando Hernandez, Melissa Herrera, Donna LaRocco, John Maier, Cynthia Nuñez, Markus Wilson and Kimberly Wheeler.

13. That the firm of Guercio & Guercio, LLP, be and is hereby appointed as School District Attorney for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, at an annual retainer of \$60,000, a monthly rate of \$5,000 with an hourly rate of \$255.00 per hour for attorneys, \$145.00 per hour for legal interns, and \$145.00 per hour for paralegals for all matters not included in retainer agreement.

14. That the firm Hawkins, Delafield and Wood be appointed as Bond Counsel for the 2023-2024 school year.

15. That R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP be appointed as the District's Independent Auditor for the school year 2023-2024, at an annual compensation not to exceed \$37,000.
16. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Cerini & Associates, LLP, as its Claims Auditor for the 2023-2024 school year at an annual fee of \$8,400.
17. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the firm of Munistat Services Inc., a Municipal Finance Advisory Service be engaged as financial advisors to assist the District with the preparation of various documentation for financing, the sale of bonds for any upcoming capital bond projects, and the provision of annual continuing disclosure documents as required by law.
18. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Cullen & Danowski, LLP to prepare Financials and monitor the District's Fund Balance for the 2023-2024 school year, at the annual fee of \$9,500.
19. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints H2M as District Architects for the 2023-2024 school year.
20. That the President of the Board of Education of Valley Stream School District Twenty-Four is authorized to execute all contracts approved by resolution of the Board of Education of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four.
21. That in the absence of the President, the Vice President of the School Board shall be authorized to execute all contracts approved by the resolution of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four.
22. That the following Banks and/or Trust Companies be and are hereby designated as the official Depositories for the funds shown during the school year 2023-2024: Designate J.P. Morgan Chase, as the principal depository and the paying agent for school funds, and Metropolitan, NY Class, Flushing Bank, and Webster Bank, as secondary depositories and the secondary paying agents for school funds, for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
23. That Angela Liatto be appointed as the District's Records Access Officer, to serve without compensation.
24. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Dr. Jack Mitchell as Security Coordinator at no additional compensation.

25. To appoint the Assistant Superintendent for Business, Dr. Jack Mitchell, as the District's Attendance Officer to serve without additional compensation.

26. To appoint the District's Committee Special Education (CPSE & CSE) for the school year 2023-2024 as per the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education:

- a. Administrator/Director of Pupil Services: Dr. Robert Mueller.
- b. School Physician: Dr. Giuseppe Delloruso.
- c. School Psychologists: Dr. Suzanne Dalal, Shira Greenblatt, Kerriann Pieper, Traci Ritterband
- d. Resource Room Classification: Christine Iadevaio; Sophia Oliva; Donna Ruggiero
- e. Special Education Classes Classification: Jennifer Albahae, Christine Anson, Susan Blaesi, Kaitlyn Gillespie, Samantha Joltin, Marissa Campo, Kelly Martin, Deborah Murray, Stacy Pagliaro, Annmarie Rachoi, Amy Rappaport, Karen Kane.
- f. Speech Language Therapist Classification:
 - Karen Brass, Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Catherine Herr, Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Maria Herzner Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Michele Knight, Speech/Language Pathologist
- g. New York State Approved Evaluators – when applicable a representative of Nassau County Dept. of Mental Health, Office of Children with Special Needs, Early Intervention Program, when applicable.
- h. Certified Professional from Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Office of Children with Special Needs, Early Intervention Program – when applicable, Student Teacher's when applicable
- i. Section 504 Compliance Office: Dr. Robert Mueller.

27. To appoint the District's Board of Registry for the school year 2023-2024 as follows:

- a. Election District 24-1 -Corona Avenue Firehouse
- b. Election District 24-2 -William L. Buck School
- c. Election District 24-3 - Brooklyn Avenue School
- d. Election District 24-4 - Robert W. Carbonaro School

28. Motion made by Trustee Herrera that the rate of pay for such registry is set as follows:

- a. Chief Election Inspectors: \$250 per day
- b. Assistant Election Inspectors: \$225 per day

Seconded by Trustee Maier. Motion unanimously carried.

29. Motion made by Trustee Nunez that the President of the Board of Education will appoint the following Chairpersons for the following Board committees:

- a. Education: Trustee Markus Wilson.
- b. Finance: Trustee John Maier.
- c. Policy: Trustee Kimberly Wheeler, President Donna LaRocco, and Trustee Herrera.
- d. Legislation: Trustee Cynthia Nunez, Vice President Hernandez and Trustee Maier.
- e. Personnel: Vice President Armando Hernandez.
- f. DEI: President Donna LaRocco, Trustees Markus Wilson and Melissa Herrera.

Seconded by Vice President Hernandez. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to table Item #30 by Trustee Hernandez, seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Motion unanimously carried.

30. The President of the Board of Education will appoint the following Board members to serve on the following negotiating committees:

- a. Teachers: _____
- c. Secretaries: _____
- d. Custodians: _____
- e. Aides: _____

Motion made by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee Wheeler, to move on consent Items #31-75 as listed. Motion unanimously carried.

31. To authorize membership for the District Twenty-Four Board of Education for 2023-2024 in the following associations:

New York State School Boards Association, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, National School Boards Association, SCOPE, NALEO National association of Latino elected and appointed officials

32. To appoint the President of the Board of Education as the official delegate to the New York State School Boards Association's annual meeting. In the event that the President is unable to attend, the Vice President of the Board of Education shall be the official delegate; and in the event *neither* is able to attend, the senior Board member present shall be the official delegate.

33. To authorize Board members, and officers of the Board, to attend the State School Board convention, with expenses paid by the district, as follows:

- New York State School Boards – Oct 26-28 Buffalo, New York

34. To authorize three Board members, prior to registration, to attend the National School Board convention, with expenses paid by the district, as follows:

- National School Boards Association – April 6-8 New Orleans, LA

35. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to attend the State and National School Board conventions, with expenses paid by the district, as follows:

- New York State School Boards – Oct 26-28 Buffalo, New York
- National School Boards Association – April 6-8 New Orleans, Louisiana

36. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to attend the American Association of School Administrators, State conferences of the New York State Council of Superintendents and Nassau County Council of School Superintendents' Workshops with expenses paid by the District.

37. To appoint Dr. Jack Mitchell as Purchasing Agent for the fiscal year 2023-2024. In the absence of Dr. Mitchell, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to assume this responsibility, at no additional compensation.

38. To appoint Dr. Giuseppe Dellorusso, as the School Physician for the school year 2023-2024 at an annual compensation of \$4,650.

39. To authorize the establishment of the District's Petty Cash funds for the school year 2023-2024 in the amounts as indicated:

a.	Business Office	\$100 monthly
b.	Superintendent's Office	\$100 monthly
c.	Brooklyn Avenue School	\$250 semi-annually
d.	Board of Education	\$100 monthly
e.	William L. Buck School	\$250 semi-annually
f.	Robert W. Carbonaro School	\$250 semi-annually
g.	CSE Office	\$50 semi-annually

40. To appoint the Assistant Superintendent for Business as the “custodian/supervisor” of the petty cash funds.
41. To establish the following dates for the regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Board of Education. The Board of Education may reschedule meetings if conflicts arise with due notice: July 6, August 23, September 20, October 18, November 29, December 13, January 24, February 28, March 27, April 16, May 8, May 15, May 21, June 5.
42. To establish the following dates for the regularly scheduled work session meetings of the Board of Education. The Board of Education may reschedule meetings if conflicts arise with due notice: September 6, October 11, November 8, December 6 (if necessary), January 10, February 7, March 13, April 4 (if necessary), May 8.
43. To establish the reimbursement rate for mileage at the prevailing rate as established by the IRS.
44. That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to certify payrolls.
45. That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to make budget transfers according to Board Policy #3160.
46. That the Board of Education authorizes the District Clerk to be responsible for the opening of all bids. In the absence of the District Clerk, the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business or the Superintendent to perform this function.
47. That the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business to prepare all necessary legal advertisements with reference to the securing of bids.
48. That the Board of Education authorizes the Treasurer to sign checks for the School District.
49. That the Board of Education re-adopts Policy #3290, District Investments authorizing the District Treasurer to make investments for the District.
50. The Board of Education re-adopts all policies, including the Board Member, School District Officers and Employee Code of Ethics (“Code of Ethics”) and hereby further directs that the Code of Ethics be posted in each building.

51. That the Board of Education establishes the date for the Annual Meeting and voting on the 2023-2024 School Budget and Election of School Board Trustees for Tuesday, May 21, 2024, voting Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

52. That the Board of Education establishes the date for the District's Budget Hearing for May 8, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the William L. Buck School.

53. That the Board of Education authorizes the dates to be recognized for "religious holiday adjustment" for the school year 2023-2024 for the purposes in connection with our annual State aid attendance reports. These will be dates when school is scheduled to be in session.

54. To adopt the District's Pay books listed below, authorizing salaries for the school year 2023-2024 effective July 1, 2023.

- #1 Administrative Salaries
- #2 Teachers' Salaries
- #3 Custodian Salaries
- #4 Clerical Salaries
- #6 Other Civil Service Aides
- #7 School Nurses
- # 8Teacher Assistants

55. To adopt the summer custodial help hourly wage scale as follows for 2023:

Pay Scale Eff. 7/1/2023:

- Step #1 - \$ 15.25
- Step #2 - \$ 15.50
- Step #3 - \$ 15.75
- Step #4 - \$ 16.00

56. That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the salary for per diem substitutes shall be a flat fee of \$125.00 per day effective August 31, 2023.

57. That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the salary for Permanent Substitutes shall be a flat fee of \$160.00 per day effective August 31, 2023.

58. That the Board of Education will bond the District Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer in the amount of \$2,000,000.

59. That the Board of Education will bond the Payroll Clerk in the amount of \$2,000,000.

60. That the Board of Education will bond the Principal Account Clerk in the amount of \$2,000,000.
61. That the Board of Education will bond the Account Clerks in the amount of \$2,000,000.
62. That the Board of Education will bond the District Courier in the amount of \$2,000,000.
63. That the Board of Education designates the Valley Stream Herald, Lynbrook Herald, and The Tribune as the official newspapers of the District.
64. That as a “public entity” pursuant to Public Officers Law section 18(1)(a), the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-four hereby expressly agrees pursuant to Public Officers Law section 18(2)(b) to confer the benefits of Public Officers Law section 18 upon the employees of Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-four and to be held liable for costs incurred under its provisions; and it is further RESOLVED, that these benefits are expressly intended to supplement any and all other existing statutory protections.
65. That Charles Brocher, be appointed as the Asbestos Designee per AHERA regulations and Public Law 99-519.
66. That the Board of Education appoints Dr. Lisa Conte and Dr. Jack Mitchell, as the District DASA Coordinators.
67. That the Board of Education appoints Dr. Suzanne Dalal as DASA Coordinator at Brooklyn Avenue School.
68. That the Board of Education appoints Keriann Pieper as DASA Coordinator at William L. Buck School.
69. That the Board of Education appoints Shira Greenblatt as DASA Coordinator at Robert W. Carbonaro School.
70. That the Board of Education designates Dr. Lisa Conte as the District Compliance Officer to carry out the district’s responsibilities associated with Title IX pursuant to Policy 0100 Sexual Harassment of Employees & Section 504 without additional compensation or stipend.
71. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints Mark Onorato as Systems Administrator.

72. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Mark Onorato as Data Protection Officer.

73. The Board of Education accepts the Concussion Management Teams at each school as follows:

- Brooklyn Avenue School: Marie Walsh, Daniel Sciglibaglio, Dr. Scott Comis, and Dr. Giuseppe Dellorusso
- William L. Buck School: Carole Meaney, Elizabeth Moriarty, Johanne Gaddy, and Dr. Giuseppe Dellorusso
- Robert W. Carbonaro School: Estelle Dempsey, Phil Testa, Rosario Iacono, and Dr. Giuseppe Dellorusso

74. That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to make any emergency appointments that become necessary between the Board meetings; and that the Board of Education will review these appointments and either approve or reject them at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

75. That on May 16, 2023 the Valley Stream District 24 conducted its Annual Budget Vote and Election; and WHEREAS, the District Clerk is currently in possession of all cast and voided ballots and ballot envelopes resulting from such Annual Budget Vote and Election; and WHEREAS, the Record Retention and Disposition Schedule ED-1 provides for the destruction of such ballots and envelopes after one (1) year from the date of the Annual Budget Vote and Election; and WHEREAS, that the Board of Education of the Valley Stream District 24 hereby orders the destruction of all cast ballots and envelopes resulting from the May 16, 2023, Annual Budget Vote and Election one (1) year from the date of the Annual Budget Vote and Election.

Motion made by Vice President LaRocco and seconded by Trustee Nunez to adjourn the Reorganization meeting at 8:08 pm. Motion unanimously carried.

-ADJOURNMENT TO THE PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING-