

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

BUSINESS MEETING
May 14, 2025

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL
6:45 PM

Members Present: President Hernandez, Vice-President Herrera, Trustee Clark, Trustee Maier, Trustee Nunez, Trustee Wheeler, and Trustee Wilson

Others Present: Superintendent Karakas, Dr. Lisa Conte, Dr. Jack Mitchell, and School District Attorney

Absent With Prior Notice:

I. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM & CALL TO ORDER – PRESIDENT HERNANDEZ

Having a quorum, the Business Meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by President Hernandez at the William L. Buck School. Motion to enter Executive Session at 6:45 pm was made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Clark to discuss Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 7:31 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Clark. Motion unanimously carried.

The Business Meeting was reconvened at 7:34 pm, at the William L. Buck School by President Hernandez.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** April 23, 2025 and April 30, 2025. Motion to approve the Minutes made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Motion unanimously carried.
- IV. **WELCOME TO VISITORS:** At this time the Board of Education welcomes questions or comments relative to the items on tonight's agenda.
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE REPORT–MS. JENNIE PADILLA, DISTRICT CLERK**

Good evening.

I have received two FOIL requests since the last business meeting. The first was received on May 7, 2025 from Adam Rose. The second was received on May 8, 2025 from Abbas Khan of Civiq IQ, Inc. Thank you and that concludes my correspondence report.

VI. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – DR. UNAL KARAKAS**

Hello families. We are entering the home stretch of the school year, with a very busy schedule ahead.

Our district continues to be focused on innovation, and this is in alignment with Vision 2030.

I'm thrilled to share that William L. Buck School has once again been designated as a No Place for Hate School! This recognition reflects the inclusive and respectful environment our staff work hard to create every day.

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Traci Ritterband for leading this initiative, and to Principal DeBlasio for his outstanding leadership. A job well done!

Last week was Teacher Appreciation Week and Nurses Appreciation Week, and we want to express our gratitude to our amazing teachers and nurses for always going above and beyond for our students and families. Thank you for all that you do! Your work has a long-lasting impact on our students and community.

William L. Buck School recently held its chorus concert, featuring a wonderful variety of songs in both Spanish and English. Thank you to Ms. Milanese for organizing such a fantastic performance!

Valley Stream Mayor Fare visited Carbonaro School's Student Council to discuss the importance of community service in leadership roles. The students came prepared with thoughtful questions, and we thank Ms. Pam Fowler and Ms. Catherine Haufler for guiding our young leaders!

The overnight Ashokan Trip is a cherished tradition for our sixth graders at Valley Stream 24, and we're proud to continue offering this unforgettable experience. Our students returned from their trip today, and we thank all three principals for their coordination and the Board of Education for prioritizing this special trip. It's an experience our students will remember for a lifetime!

Student voice plays a vital role in our district decisions, which is why I've launched a new segment called In the Hallway with Dr. K, with my director being Mr. Neri. I'm kicking it off with kindergarten, and I have a short introductory video to share tonight—the full version will be released soon.

The goal of this segment is to hear directly from our students about what they enjoy at school, their grade level experiences, and how we can better support their needs. Take a look!

Thank you to Mr. Onorato and Mr. Neri for helping to coordinate this new segment.

The budget vote will take place on May 20, 2025. Tonight, we're here to celebrate our students and their incredible talents—made possible by our commitment to programs, services, staff, and opportunities that enhance learning and help our students thrive.

Our budget proposal includes exciting initiatives like integrating more technology, incorporating artificial intelligence, piloting robot tutors, supporting Spanish and enrichment programs, enhancing student safety, and a roofing project for Brooklyn Avenue School.

May 20th is also Exhibit Night, so we hope you'll join us to vote and see the amazing student showcases!

I'd like to share a quick update on our recent grant. Thanks to Assemblywoman Solages, we received a \$500,000 grant that allowed us to install two water bottle filtration systems at each of our schools.

In addition, Carbonaro School is getting a new sensory playground, which is currently being installed. We're looking forward to hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony very soon—hopefully within the next few weeks!

These are upcoming important dates and events.

May 15 (tomorrow night)- District Spring Band Concert at WLB (7:00 pm)
May 19- Brooklyn Avenue Spring Chorus Concert (2:00 pm)
May 20- Exhibit Night
May 20- Budget Vote- BOE Special Meeting
May 22- Coffee Hour with the Superintendent at RWC (10:00 am)
May 22- District Spring Orchestra Concert at WLB (7:00 pm)
May 26- Memorial Day (No School)
May 27- Fifth Grade Soccer Tournament at South High School (4:00 pm)
June 4- BOE Work Session (7:30 pm)
June 6- Eid al-Adha (No School)
June 11- BOE Business Meeting (7:30 pm)

And now for the moment all of us have been waiting for. We have several different awards to give out tonight. I will begin by introducing the Friends of Bridge Awards.

Congratulations again to all our students for their accomplishments. We are very proud of you.

That concludes my Superintendent's report tonight.

The President and Vice President presented speeches and citations/awards to out-going Trustee Wheeler.

PRESENTATIONS:

Friends of Bridge Award Winners Recognition
Presidential Awards
SAAWA Math Award Winners Recognition

Olympics of the Visual Arts Awards
Art Awards – Legislative Exhibit, Art in Heart Show

VII. OTHER REPORTS:

A. VALLEY STREAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

There are three delegates from Valley Stream UFSD Twenty-Four on the Central High School Board of Education: President Hernandez, Vice President Herrera, and Trustee Maier.

Residency Hotlines:

Valley Stream School District	516-872-5677
Village of Valley Stream	516-592-5140
Town of Hempstead	516-584-5000

Trustee Maier:

Last night the Central High School recognized tenure. We had about 20 teachers and TA's receive tenure. The next meeting for the high school will be on June 3. That concludes my report.

B. LEGISLATION REPORT - TRUSTEE NUÑEZ

I have nothing to report at this time.

VIII. LIST OF ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A. PERSONNEL – VICE PRESIDENT HERRERA

V.P. Herrera 1st, to move item A1 as listed Trustee Wheeler 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Dr. Christopher Keogh, effective July 1, 2025, as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, holding a Professional Certificate as a School District Leader, pursuant to the terms of the Wage and Benefits Agreement between

the Board of Education and Dr. Christopher Keogh, which includes the compensation and probationary term of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029 as set forth therein and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate same subject to review by counsel.

V.P. Herrera 1st, to move items A2-A6 as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following additions to the per diem substitute list for the 2024-2025 School Year:

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Azaria Khan (effective May 15, 2025)

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER AIDE

Gina Tomaszewski (pending civil service clearance)

SUBSTITUTE PART-TIME MONITOR

Justin Lucifero (pending civil service clearance)

3. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves an extension of a leave of absence for FMLA paternity leave for Phillip Testa, Physical Education Teacher, until on or around May 19, 2025.
4. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the permanent appointment of Kenneth Martinez, as an Assistant Head Custodian, subject to the rules of the Nassau County Civil Service Commission. This permanent appointment will be effective June 1, 2025.
5. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following person to serve as an assistant election inspector for the Annual Budget Vote Meeting on May 20, 2025, with compensation at the rate of \$235 for the day:
 - Edward Sciacca

6. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Amanda Plutner, effective August 29, 2025, as an Enrichment for All and Challenge Teacher, holding a Certificate in Childhood Education (1-6), for a 4-year probationary period. Their probation expiration will be August 28, 2029*. Compensation will be at Step 1 MA in accordance with the current negotiated agreement between the Valley Stream Teachers' Association and the Board of Education.

*To be eligible to receive tenure, the probationer must receive composite or overall APPR ratings of either effective or highly effective in at least three of the four preceding years, and if the probationer receives an ineffective composite or overall APPR rating in the final year of the probationary period they will not be eligible for tenure at that time.

B. EDUCATION – TRUSTEE MAIER

Trustee Maier 1st, to move items B1-B2, as listed Trustee Wilson 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accepts the confidential recommendations of the Committee on Pre-School Special Education previously approved by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education on 03/28/2025, 03/26/2025, 02/26/2025, 03/28/2025, 04/08/2025, 04/23/2025, 04/10/2025, 04/23/2025, 04/29/2025, 04/10/2025, 04/25/2025, 04/25/2025, 04/25/2025, 04/23/2025, 04/04/2025, 05/02/2025, 02/24/2025, 04/04/2025, 02/24/2025, 04/04/2025 for the 2024/2025 School Year, pertaining to students being considered for pre-school special education services as set forth in a schedule provided to the Board of Education and the Board of Education hereby approves and ratifies said recommendations of the Committee on Pre-School Special Education.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accepts the confidential recommendations of the Committee on Special Education previously approved by the Committee on Special Education on 04/09/2025, 03/17/2025, 03/17/2025, 02/28/2025, 04/22/2025, 03/21/2025, 04/08/2025, 04/03/2025, 04/11/2025, 04/03/2025, 03/12/2025, 04/03/2025, 03/25/2025,

02/24/2025, 03/17/2025, 03/28/2025, 03/27/2025, 04/04/2025, 04/02, 2025, 04/02/2025, 03/24/2025, 04/02/2025, 04/02/2025, 04/03/2025 for the 2024/2025 School Year, pertaining to students being considered for special education services as set forth in a schedule provided to the Board of Education and the Board of Education hereby approves and ratifies said recommendations of the Committee on Special Education.

C. FINANCE – TRUSTEE WILSON

Trustee Wilson 1st, to move item C1 as listed Trustee Nunez 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

1. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby accepts the Treasurer's Report, Collateral Report, Claims Auditor's Report, Appropriation Status Report, Revenue Status Report, Trial Balance for March 2025 and the Claims Auditor's Report for April 2025.

D. POLICY - TRUSTEE WHEELER

Trustee Wheeler 1st, to move items D1-D2, as listed Trustee Wilson 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

1. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education reviews the following policies for first reading:

Policy 6170 - Artificial Intelligence
Policy 6300 - Extreme Heat

2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education reviews and adopts the following revised policies:

Policy 1108 - Use of School Facilities
Policy 1313 - Donations
Policy 2001 - Superintendent of Schools
Policy 5110 - School Admissions/Residency Requirements

Policy 5130 - Access to Student Records
Policy 5144 - Student Wellness
Policy 5500 - Student Transportation Services

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, IF ANY:

X. NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Maier 1st, to move items X1-X6, as listed Trustee Wilson 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the recommendation from the Nassau County Cooperative of Superintendents for Buildings & Grounds, for the Blinds, Shades, Motorized Drapes Restoration of Stage Curtains Bid 2024-25, exercising the first one-year period renewal option of three additional one-year periods in said bid to Master Carrier Window/Acme Window Treatments.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and West Hempstead UFSD for student health and welfare services for the 2024-2025 school year and further authorizes the Board President and Superintendent of Schools to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.
3. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the District to enter into an agreement with Kids Learning Loft Applied Behavior Analysis Services, PLLC for consultant services for the 2025 – 2026 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.
4. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the recommendation from H2M Architects for the award of bid SED No. 28-02-24-02-0-001-027, for Contract G1 for EPDM roofing at the William L. Buck School, to More Roofing Inc., Yaphank, New York for the total amount of \$272,000.

5. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the recommendation from H2M Architects for the award of bid SED Nos. 28-02-24-02-0-001-027, 28-02-24-02-0-004-030, 28-02-24-02-0-002-029, for Contracts E1, E2, E3, for District-Wide Door Hold Opens Installation at the William L. Buck School, Robert W. Carbonaro School, Brooklyn Avenue School, to NCD Communications, Islandia, New York for the total amount of \$608,264.29.
6. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the following Budget Transfers for the 2024-2025 School Year.

BUDGET TRANSFER FOR BOARD APPROVAL			
DATE: May 14, 2025			
CODE	DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
A2610.405	Audio Visual Expenses	\$ 5,650.00	
A2110.400-71	Copier Leases-BAS		\$ 2,195.00
A2110.400-72	Copier Leases-WLB		\$ 975.00
A2110.400-73	Copier Leases-RWC		\$ 2,480.00
	Canon Copiers - Extra Copies PO# 43515		
A2630.46	Computer Software	\$ 7,000.00	
A2630.49	BOCES E-Rate Services		\$ 7,000.00
	Curriculum & Instruction Software - IXL		
A9050.8	Unemployment Insurance	\$ 8,388.00	
A1621.406-81	Heating/Cooling Expense-BAS		\$ 2,796.00
A1621.406-82	Heating/Cooling Expense-RWC		\$ 2,796.00
A1621.406-83	Heating/Cooling Expense-WLB		\$ 2,796.00
	Honeywell - Energy Performance		
A9060.8	Hosp & Med Insur	\$ 42,986.00	
A2110.473	Charter School Tuition		\$ 42,986.00
	The Academy Charter School - Uniondale Campus		
A2610.405	Audio Visual Expenses	\$ 14,942.00	
A1620.406-11	Gas/Electric BAS		\$ 2,400.00
A1620.406-13	Gas/Electric WLB		\$ 12,542.00
	Higher energy cost and usage		
TOTALS		\$ 78,966.00	\$ 78,966.00

XI. DISCUSSION

XII. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to re-enter Executive Session at 8:30 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wilson. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session by Trustee Maier at 9:44 pm and seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to adjourn the Business Meeting at 9:44 pm by Trustee Wheeler and seconded by Trustee Clark. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie L. Padilla

Jennie L. Padilla
District Clerk