

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

BUSINESS MEETING
May 13, 2026

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL
6:15 PM

Members Present: President Herrera, Vice President Wilson, Trustee Clark, Trustee Hernandez, Trustee Maier, and Trustee Matthew

Others Present: Superintendent Karakas, Dr. Christopher Keogh, Dr. Jack Mitchell, and School District Attorney

Absent With Prior Notice: N/A

I. Call to Order

Having a quorum, the Business Meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm by President Herrera at the William L. Buck School. Motion to enter Executive Session at 6:16 pm was made by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Trustee Clark to discuss Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 7:21 pm by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Vice President Wilson. Motion unanimously carried.

The Business Meeting was reconvened at 7:30 pm, at the William L. Buck School by President Herrera. Motion unanimously carried.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** April 28, 2026 and May 6, 2026.

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**

I have nothing to report at this time. Thank you.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – DR. UNAL KARAKAS

Hello Valley Stream 24 community. We have only 6 more weeks of school left if you can believe it, and an exciting night tonight where we honor our students.

Our district motto is make the connection- innovating our future.

I'm excited to share some incredible news from our Olympics of the Visual Arts competition.

Our Challenge program students competed against 75 teams from across New York State against other students from higher grades such as seventh and eighth grade, and I'm proud to say that four of our seven teams earned top placements.

Our Drawing Team earned 1st place.

Our Architecture Team earned 2nd place, and both our Painting and Sculpture teams earned 3rd place finishes.

Beyond the awards, what stood out most was our students' creativity, perseverance, and sportsmanship throughout the entire experience.

We are incredibly proud of all of our students and grateful to our Ms. Plutner and our art teachers for supporting such meaningful opportunities for the students of Valley Stream 24.

Our district continues to find meaningful ways to foster a love of literacy in our schools. One wonderful example is our elementary poetry contests, including this special event at William L. Buck School. It is truly inspiring to watch our students memorize poems, build confidence, and fully immerse themselves in their presentations in front of

classmates, families, and judges. Thank you to our Library Media Specialists and Reading AIS teachers for helping create experiences like these that make literacy come alive for our students.

Our annual sixth grade Ashokan trip took place last week, and our students had a wonderful experience engaging in the outdoors, building connections with their peers, and creating lasting memories together. This trip continues to be a meaningful tradition in our district. Thank you to Dr. Scott Comis for organizing this experience each year, and thank you to our Board of Education and community for continuing to invest in opportunities like these for our students.

We are also very proud of our sixth grade Challenge students, who participated in a Mock Trial today. Thank you to Ms. Plutner, Ms. Rosenthal, our parents, and especially our students for making this such a meaningful experience. Our students had the opportunity to step into the role of attorneys and witnesses, learning what it means to defend ideas, advocate respectfully and think critically. These kinds of real-world learning experiences help prepare our students for the future in engaging and memorable ways.

This month also featured several staff appreciation days and weeks across our district. Beginning with May 1st, we celebrated Principals Appreciation Day. We are incredibly grateful to our principals for their leadership, dedication, and the care they show to their school communities each and every day.

We also want to recognize our teachers and all educators throughout our buildings. You are on the front lines every day helping our students learn, grow, and succeed, and we deeply appreciate all that you do for our children and families.

May 6th was Nurses Appreciation Day, and we are fortunate to have such caring and dedicated nurses in our schools. They support our students not only medically, but emotionally as well, and are often the first people to connect with families when a child is not feeling well.

Let's give all of our staff a well deserved round of applause for their hard

work and commitment to our students and district community.

We are excited to share that the air conditioning project continues to progress nicely. The installers completed their installation, and the electrical work is underway. Asbestos abatement is taking place at Brooklyn Avenue Friday evening. We are hoping for the project to be completed in the coming weeks and thank the Board and community for their investment in this critical project. Thank you again to Charlie Brocher for his work with facilities and coordinating this project.

Last night, we held our district band concert led by Mr. Shmorhun. Our students performed several wonderful musical pieces, and I continue to be impressed by how much they grow and improve each year. It was also great to see such a strong turnout from our families and community members supporting our students.

Kudos to our student musicians for their hard work and dedication, and thank you to Mr. Shmorhun and all of the staff who support and encourage our students throughout the year. These performances truly showcase the talent, confidence, and growth of our students.

I want to give a huge congratulations to our very own President Melissa Herrera for completing her degree in speech pathology from Queens College. She completed the degree with Summa Cum Laude, and earned several awards for her service to the community. To be a Board President and on the phone with me all week every week, and to complete her degree while also being a mom full-time is truly commendable. Please join me in congratulating President Herrera.

These are upcoming important dates and events to be aware of.

May 14- Orchestra Concert at WLB (7:00 pm)

May 15- Poetry Contest at BAS

May 15- WLB Spring Chorus Concert (2:00 pm)

May 19- Exhibit Night (7:30 pm)

May 19- Budget Vote

May 20- BAS Spring Chorus Concert (2:00 pm)

May 21- Fifth Grade Soccer Tournament at South High School (4:00 pm)

May 25- Memorial Day (No School)

May 27- Eid al-Adha (No School)
June 3- BOE Work Session (6:45 pm)
June 10- BOE Business Meeting (7:30 pm)- Retirements and teacher
tenure recommendations
June 11- Little Mermaid Drama Club Performance
June 12- Half-Day for Students (11:30 am Dismissal)
June 15- WLB Graduation (7:00 pm)
June 16- BAS Graduation (7:00 pm)
June 17- RWC Graduation (7:00 pm)
June 19- Juneteenth (No School)
June 26- Last Day of School (9:30 am Dismissal)

And now for what everyone has been waiting for. The student award
presentations!

We are so proud of all of our students for earning local, regional, and
national recognition. Congratulations to all!

That concludes my Superintendent's report tonight.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Valedictorian from South HS**
- **Salutatorian from South HS**
- **Friends of Bridge Award Winners Recognition**
- **Presidential Awards**
- **Olympics of the Visual Arts Awards**
- **Art Awards – Legislative Exhibit, Art in Heart Show, Colors of Long Island, Artist of the Week**
- **Elks Lodge – Annual Americanism Essay Contest**

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: Vice President Wilson, Trustee Maier, Trustee Hernandez.

Residency Hotlines:

Valley Stream School District 516-872-5677

Village of Valley Stream 516-592-5140

Town of Hempstead 516-584-5000

VICE PRESIDENT WILSON:

Last night we had the great pleasure of attending our tenure award dinner held at Memorial Junior High School. Where we honored our amazing administrators, principals, teachers, and aids as they were awarded tenure. The meals were provided by our amazing culinary arts students who once again knocked it out of the park. The food was great. If you get a chance please join them some time and enjoy their food. The only other report is next Tuesday is board elections. Please come out and support your preferred candidates and vote for the budget please. Thank you.

B. LEGISLATION REPORT – PRESIDENT HERRERA

I have no report at this time.

VIII. LIST OF ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A. PERSONNEL – VICE PRESIDENT WILSON

V.P. Wilson 1st, to move items A1 & A2, as listed Trustee Hernandez 2nd 6-0 motion unanimously carried.

- 1. BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following Teacher Aides to provide supervision after school with the Drama Club, as needed, effective May 14, 2026, through June 11, 2026. Compensation will be in accordance with the agreement between the Board and the agreement with the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU) at an hourly rate of pay:

- Elizabeth Smyth

2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent

of Schools, the Board of Education approves a leave of absence for maternity/childcare purposes for Leigh Tamburello, Elementary Classroom Teacher, on or around September 2, 2026, until on or around December 4, 2026.

B. EDUCATION – TRUSTEE MAIER

Trustee Maier 1st, to move items B1 & B2, as listed Trustee Clark 2nd 6-0 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 03/10/2026, 03/12/2026, 03/25/2026, 03/25/2026, 03/25/2026, 03/27/2026, 04/13/2026, 04/15/2026, 04/15/2026, 04/17/2026, 04/17/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/23/2026, 04/27/2026 for the 2025/2026 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 03/11/2026, 03/18/2026, 03/23/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/26/2026, 03/31/2026, 04/13/2026, 04/13/2026, 04/13/2026, 04/13/2026, 04/13/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/15/2026, 04/15/2026, 04/20/2026, 04/20/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/23/2026, 04/27/2026, 04/27/2026, 04/28/2026 for the 2025/2026 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 MATTHEW

Trustee Matthew 1st, to move item C1, as listed Trustee Hernandez 2nd 6-0 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 2026.

D. POLICY – TRUSTEE CLARK

Trustee Clark 1st, to move item D1, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 6-0 motion unanimously carried.

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

- #3700- Expense Reimbursement
- #9000- Formulation, Adoption, and Amendment of Policies
- #9400- Board of Education Meetings- Types, Agendas, Procedures, and Minutes

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, IF ANY: N/A

X. NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Hernandez 1st, to move items X1-X16, as listed V.P. Wilson 2nd 6-0 motion unanimously carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement dated April 29, 2026 between the district and the Valley

Stream Teachers Association (VSTA) relative to daily substitute coverage.

2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Hempstead UFSD for student health and welfare services for the 2025-2026 school year and further authorizes the Board President and the 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 Achieve Beyond for special education services for the 2026 – 2027 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 hereby authorizes the District to enter into an agreement with All Children's Therapy for special education services for the 2026 – 2027 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.
5. **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 Blue Sea Educational Consulting Inc. for special education services for the 2026 – 2027 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.
6. **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 First for special education services for the 2026 – 2027 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to

effectuate said Agreement.

7. **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 for special education services for the 2026 – 2027 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.

8. **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 Management Advisory Group for services related to the management of the System to Track and Account for Children (STAC) reimbursement for the 2026 – 2027 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the

necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.

9. **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 Max Scholar for reading and special education services for the 2026 – 2027 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.

10. **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 New York Therapy Placements Services Inc. for special education services for the 2026 – 2027 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.

11. **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 United Staffing Solutions for special education services for the 2026 – 2027 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute

the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.

12. 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 White Glove for special education services for the 2026 – 2027 school year and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.

13. 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 Lexington School for the Deaf for special education services for a resident student 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.

14. WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison

BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the “ROC”);

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Valley Stream UFSD 24, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC and its attorneys to negotiate Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits (DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, “Ed Law 2d”) related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain Teacher and Principal APPR data;”

WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and The Education Cooperative (TEC), to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant

DPA's;

WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Valley Stream UFSD 24 Board of Education authorizes the use of DPAs negotiated by the RIC ROC and its attorneys, consistent with its needs and the needs of its students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Valley Stream UFSD 24 reserves to itself the right to make determinations regarding the use of such DPAs and the software and/or technology resources to which they relate and to consult with its own legal counsel to review any specific issues or concerns before executing any DPA.

15.BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby awards the Partial School Year

Contract to First Student, Inc., beginning on March 10, 2026, through June 30, 2026, and authorizes the Board of Education President to execute the contract as set forth in the schedule below:

# Students	Monthly/student	Monthly/matron	Total
Annual Cost @ 4 months			
1	\$4,500.00	\$3,700.00	\$32,800.00

16.BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the following Budget Transfer for the 2025-2026 School Year.

BUDGET TRANSFER FOR BOARD APPROVAL DATE: May 13, 2026			
CODE	DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
H1620.293-	2022-23 - Brooklyn Avenue School	\$71,862.43	

22-01	HVAC Upgrades		
	2024-25 AC Window Unit		
H1622.425-24-01	Installations & Electrical For BAS/RWC		\$71,862.43
	Closed Out Capital Projects		
A2110.120-2	Teachers 1-6 Salaries - RWC	\$45,000.00	
A5540.4	Transportation Expenses		\$45,000.00
	First Student		
A2250.400-3	Special Ed Related Services	\$650.00	
A2250.4	Special Ed Expenses		\$650.00
	Interpreting Services and iPad		
	Speech App		
A1621.407-3	Sitework	\$9,850.00	
A1621.458-01	Grounds-BAS		\$3,150.00
A1621.458-03	Grounds-WLB		\$6,700.00
	BAS/WLB Fences		
A2070.43	Inservice Trng-RWC	\$150.00	
A2010.49	BOCES Curriculum Development		\$150.00
	BOCES PD		
A2110.12	Teachers Salaries 1-6	\$100,000.00	
A2110.456	District Workbooks	\$10,000.00	
A2110.47	Tuition	\$15,000.00	
A2110.473	Charter School Tuition		\$125,000.00
	Six New Charter School Students		
	TOTALS	\$252,512.43	\$252,512.43

XI. **DISCUSSION**

XII. **AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to re-enter Executive Session at 8:26 pm was made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Hernandez to discuss Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 10:14 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Hernandez. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to adjourn the Business Meeting by Trustee Maier at 10:14 pm and seconded by Trustee Hernandez. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie L. Padilla

Jennie L. Padilla
District Clerk