

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

BUSINESS MEETING
February 26, 2025

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL
6:45 PM

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

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

Absent With Prior Notice: Trustee Maier and Trustee Wilson

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

Having a quorum, the Business Meeting was called to order at 6:42pm by President Hernandez at the William L. Buck School. Motion to enter Executive Session at 6:42 pm was made by Trustee Nunez seconded by Trustee Wheeler to discuss Contractual Obligations. Motion carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 7:34 pm by Trustee Wheeler and seconded by Trustee Nunez. Motion carried.

The Business Meeting was reconvened at 7:39 pm, at the William L. Buck School by President Hernandez.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 22, 2025 and February 5, 2025.
Motion to approve the Minutes made by Trustee Wheeler and seconded by Trustee Nunez. Motion 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 one FOIL Request by email since our last BOE Business Meeting. It was sent on February 12, 2025 from John Pavacic from Christian Nursing Registry, Inc. Thank you and that concludes my Correspondence Report.

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

Good evening Valley Stream 24 families. It is the month of February, and we have already surpassed the 100th Day of School. We are more than half way through the school year, and a lot of great work continues to happen in our district.

I always start our monthly updates with our District's motto, Make the Connection –Innovating Our Future, as it continues to inspire and guide the work we do. I chose the picture in this slide because it demonstrates an artificial hand, and I put that there because we are working on prototypes with Vision 2030 pilot work that we will share more about in the near future as some of our teachers and students are partnering with Northwell Health to demonstrate their prototype once it is complete. Stay tuned for more information on exciting projects happening in our district with Vision 2030!

Literacy is the backbone of all academic success. As such, this month we honored World Read Aloud Day across our district. Students had mystery readers read to them. I had the pleasure of reading to classes as well. The picture on the left is me reading to Ms. Fowler and Ms. Anson's third grade class, and the picture on the right is me reading to Ms. O'Shea and Ms. Hernandez's fifth grade class. I read the book The Reflection in Me to

students and adjusted the questions I asked based on grade level standards. The students had wonderful answers and thought critically about the text. We thank all of our educators for instilling a love of reading in our students.

Councilwoman Melissa Miller came to Carbonaro School with Veteran Luke Magliaro to receive Valentines for Vets cards made by our students. Veteran Magliaro spoke to students about his experience as a vet and inspired our students with his story. You can see that picture on the right. On the left, we had representatives Hawa Bassett and Christopher Murray from Laura Gillen's office come and collect Valentines for Vets cards. We thank our principals, our Student Council advisors, and teachers for allowing our students to engage in such impactful work like this as we honored our Vets during Valentines Day.

As we make the connection with others, we also have to remember to make the connection with ourselves. This month our district celebrated PS I Love You Day. Here you can see pictures of our students and staff in purple, including Mr. Chruma and Principal DeBlasio on the right. PS I Love You Day is all about self-love and acceptance and embracing the differences we all have and viewing them as assets that make us all the unique people we are. Our psychologists and social workers really do an incredible job supporting the social and emotional growth of our students through lessons, as well as all of our staff and administrators.

I held Coffee Hour at BAS this month where I spoke with parents about our priorities, innovative practices, and events taking place across our district. Coffee Hour is always a great way to learn about the work taking place in our district, and an informal way to answer any questions families might have. Our families' input is always valuable, so I encourage families to attend any of the upcoming Coffee Hours. The Coffee Hour flyer is on our district website, and I will share the date of the next Coffee Hour in an upcoming slide.

William L. Buck Student Council Advisors alongside Student Council Representatives visited Ronald McDonald House to bake cookies for children and families in need. They also took a tour of the site. When we talk about the first half of our district motto, Make the Connection, this is exactly what we are referencing. We thank Ms. Iadevaio, Ms. Campo, parent volunteers, and our student council representatives for engaging in

meaningful community service

The second half of our motto is about Innovating our Future. Fifth Grade Challenge students used Tinkercad to design 3D-snowflakes. After mastering their designs, they taught Kindergarten students how to create the 3D snowflakes. This was done after engaging in reading of Snowflake Bentley, reinforcing the uniqueness of snowflakes and the value of individuality. Kindergarten students first drew their own designs before watching the 3D printing process in action. This hands-on, cross-grade collaboration is exactly what Vision 2030 is all about—using technology in meaningful ways to enhance learning and foster connections between students.

This year, we are excited that we have expanded our programs to support our students while maintaining rigorous and supportive programs like Enrichment for All. Our Spanish program has been expanded to grades 3-6, allowing our students to become even more fluent in Spanish by the time they are ready to transition to the VSCHD. The picture on the left is Ms. Marrero teaching a Spanish lesson to our sixth-grade students. The picture on the right is our Enrichment for All class engaging in a virtual field trip and learning about animal adaptations as well as vertebrates and exoskeletons. We look forward to continuing the robust programs we have put in place and thank the Board of Education for investing in opportunities for our students to reach their fullest academic potential.

Valley Stream Central High School District's South High School music students—representing the orchestra, band, and chorus—visited Carbonaro School this month to perform for our students. They also shared inspiring messages about their musical journeys and how their passion for music grew as they transitioned into the Central High School District. This was another way to prepare our students for the transition to the VSCHD. We extend our gratitude to the dedicated teachers at South High School and the VSCHD for their collaboration and inspiration.

Family Forums are ways to celebrate culture in our district. At the end of January, since our last business meeting, William L. Buck School held its Family Forum where the focus was on celebrating the new year. Families brought dishes from different cultures and students engaged in activities to learn about others. It was wonderful to see so many families

connect and welcome the new year together!

Rohan Murphy, an American Paralympian who lost his legs at birth, visited all three of our schools to share his powerful message of perseverance and grit with our sixth graders. A special thank you to Ms. Karen Serro, our social worker at Carbonaro School, for organizing this inspiring visit. When we talk about resilience and self-love, we recognize the importance of providing role models who demonstrate these skills. Rohan Murphy did just that for our sixth graders. We thank Rohan Murphy for coming to Valley Stream 24 this month and sharing his story with us.

Trustee Nunez, Trustee Clark, Mr. DeBlasio, Ms. Walters, and I attended the NSBA Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. During the event, we engaged in sessions focused on national education funding, policy, and governance priorities. Workshops highlighted how U.S. school districts can thrive in a market economy, emphasizing the importance of district branding. As you know, our district's motto drives our work, which is: Make the Connection – Innovating Our Future, which I consistently emphasize in Board meetings and parent engagement events. It is important to always remember this motto as our vision intends to meet every child's needs in the 21st Century and prepare them for the jobs that are out there today.

Additionally, we explored artificial intelligence's role in education, aligning with the innovative work being done at Valley Stream 24 through Vision 2030.

The Institute concluded with advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.

It was a great session, and I think our trustees and administrators who attended will agree that we walked away feeling proud of our district's work and being ahead of the curve with new priorities and how Vision 2030 has us set up for the success we need to thrive in a changing world.

Our Board of Education and our district is also very proud to have received a \$500,000 grant by Assemblywoman Solages this year. I just want to provide a quick update on the projects. 4 out of the 6 water bottle filtration systems are now installed and are operational, as BAS had to have an abatement project completed before continuing with their second water bottle filtration system. Abatement does take time, but we are proud to announce that it has

been completed this week. Therefore, the 5th water bottle filtration system is expected to be installed at the end of this week. RWC will then receive its final water bottle filtration system immediately after BAS completes their installation.

Robert Carbonaro School is also receiving a brand new sensory playground to support all students, and for it to be inclusive for our new 8:1:3 special education program, with the installation still currently on track to take place later this Spring. We received an estimated delivery date for the end of March, and installation will occur later in the spring when we get temperatures of 50 or more degrees on consecutive days.

On behalf of our Board of Education and entire District, we once again thank Assemblywoman Solages for the grant as it truly helps support our students and district community in a profound way.

In great news, our NYSED Accountability Status is in good standing for the second straight year. The designation for good standing is LSI. All of our schools and subgroups of learners received levels 3 and 4, the highest possible levels, for Core Academic Achievement on our State Assessments. We thank our administrators, teachers, and all staff for their hard work in achieving these outstanding results. We also thank our Board of Education for its vision, policies, and investment in our schools and classrooms.

While we know state assessments are only one form of assessment, we do utilize the data in conjunction with other data to support all of our students. Additionally, NYSED still holds school districts accountable for state assessment results, and as such, we are incredibly proud of our results here at VS24.

These are upcoming important dates and events.

March 1- Legislative Breakfast at Memorial Junior High School at 9:00 am.

March 12- Half Day for PTC.

March 12- Our BOE will meet for its Work Session at 7:30 pm.

March 13- Coffee Hour with the Superintendent at RWC at 6:30 pm.

March 19- Half Day for PTC.

March 19- Our BOE will meet again for its Business Meeting at 7:30 pm.

March 31- Schools will be closed for Eid.

For building specific events, please visit the calendar on our district website.

Tonight I am excited to introduce our William L. Buck Students who will provide a special Black History Month presentation to our community. To kick things off, I introduce Principal DeBlasio to the podium.

Showcases like this are how we make the connection here at Valley Stream 24. That concludes my Superintendent's report tonight.

PRESENTATIONS:

William L. Buck Student Presentation - Black History Month Celebration

What an amazing performance! Thank you to our William L. Buck Team for putting that showcase on for us.

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

VICE PRESIDENT HERRERA

The next meeting at the High School is scheduled for March 11 at 1 Kent Rd. That concludes my report.

B. LEGISLATION REPORT - TRUSTEE NUÑEZ

In February of 2025 Valley Stream District 24 had the privilege of attending the Advocacy and Equity Symposium in Washington D.C. There were many positive takeaways including but not limited to the importance of public education and the significant impact it has on our children and our community. I am happy to report that Valley Stream District 24 is competitive with our curriculum, programs, and initiatives when compared to other elementary schools across the nation.

Reminder Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 9 am at Memorial Jr High School is the Legislative Breakfast. It is open to the public and we encourage everyone to come. That concludes my report.

VIII. LIST OF ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A. PERSONNEL – VICE PRESIDENT HERRERA

V.P. Herrera 1st, to move A1-A11, as listed Trustee Wheeler 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the permanent appointment of Jonathan Melendez as a Custodian, in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Exam No. 41282024(S263) established February 4, 2025, effective February 27, 2025.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the permanent appointment of Khasharr Mitchell, as a Cleaner, effective February 27, 2025. The appointment is for an 8-week probationary period, said probation set to expire on April 24, 2025. Compensation for this appointment will be in accordance with the agreement between the Board of Education and Local 74 United Service Workers Union (USWU).
3. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of

Schools, that the Board of Education approves to appoint Meghan K. Galgano, holding a Certificate in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), as a Temporary Substitute which may turn into a Leave Replacement for Stephanie Shapiro, to be effective on or around April 20, 2025. The duration of this appointment will extend until the return of Stephanie Shapiro, but no later than June 27, 2025, or earlier at the discretion of the Board of Education. Compensation will be at the daily substitute rate of pay until Ms. Shapiro has exhausted all of her allowable time and then will be at Step 1 MA, consistent with the provisions outlined in the Valley Stream Teachers Association (VSTA) Contract.

4. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves to appoint Ronni A. Schweitzer, holding Certificates in Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), as a Temporary Substitute which may turn into a Leave Replacement for Ariana Arnone, to be effective on or around April 8, 2025. The duration of this appointment will extend until the return of Ariana Arnone, but no later than June 27, 2025, or earlier at the discretion of the Board of Education. Compensation will be at the daily substitute rate of pay until Ms. Arnone has exhausted all of her allowable time and then will be at Step 1 MA, consistent with the provisions outlined in the Valley Stream Teachers Association (VSTA) Contract.
5. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following Salary Changes, effective February 1, 2025:

Paige Brickman	Step 1	MA + 15
Katarina Sloboda	Step 5	MA+15

6. **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 TEACHER

Meghan K. Galgano (effective February 27, 2025)
Michael Gerardi (effective February 27, 2025)
Naomi Candelario (effective February 27, 2025)

SUBSTITUTE PART-TIME MONITOR

J’Niya Smith (pending civil service clearance)

7. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves an increase of the salary of the Board of Registry Election Inspectors to \$235 per day for the 2024-2025 School Year.
8. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a leave of absence for medical purposes for Linda Baxter, School Nurse, on or around March 28, 2025, until on or around June 27, 2025.
9. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves an extension of the leave of absence for medical purposes for Denise Andersen, Elementary Classroom Teacher, through no later than March 31, 2025.
10. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Juanita Walters, Director of Pupil Services, effective close of business June 30, 2025.
11. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Rakhi Ghosh, Full-Time Aide, effective close of business January 31, 2025.

B. EDUCATION – TRUSTEE CLARK

Trustee Clark 1st , to move B1-B2, as listed Trustee Nunez 2nd 5-0 motion 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 2/5/2025, 1/27/2025, 1/14/2025, 1/27/2025, 1/30/2025, 1/27/2025, 1/28/2025 and 2/5/2025, 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 1/15/2025, 1/9/2025, 1/16/2025, 12/9/2024, 1/15/2025, 1/9/2025, 1/28/2025, 1/22/2025, 12/16/2024, 1/6/2025, 1/23/2025, 1/15/2024, 1/24/2025 and 12/4/2024, 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 CLARK

Trustee Clark 1st , to move C1, as listed Trustee Nunez 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby accepts the Treasurer's Report, Collateral Report, Appropriation Status Report, Revenue Status Report, Trial Balance for December 2024 and the Claims Auditor's Report for January 2025.

D. POLICY - TRUSTEE WHEELER

I have nothing to report at this time.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, IF ANY:

X. NEW BUSINESS – TRUSTEE WHEELER

Trustee Wheeler 1st , to move X1-X9, as listed Trustee Clark 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education hereby ratifies the bargaining agreement between the District and the Directors of Valley Stream School District Twenty-Four for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 and

hereby authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to execute same.

2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Lynbrook UFSD for student health and welfare services for the 2024-2025 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 Our Kids Place Country Day, Inc. for the provision of Universal Pre-Kindergarten Services for the 2025-2026 school year, subject to and conditioned upon the District's receipt of the State's allocation, and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said contract between the District and Our Kids Place Country Day, Inc. on behalf of the Board of Education.
4. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Hempstead for student health and welfare services for the 2023-2024 school year and further authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.
5. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby approves the agreement with Nassau BOCES for the purpose of the participation in the 2025 Nassau BOCES Regional Summer School Program and further authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.
6. **WHEREAS**, Valley Stream Union Free School District 24, the Town of Hempstead, and Bus Patrol America, LLC entered into an Opt-In Agreement dated May 26, 2022 (the "Opt-in Agreement") under Town of Hempstead, New York/Bus Patrol School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program, as authorized by New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (NYS VTL) §1174-a;

WHEREAS, upon its original enactment, NYS VTL §1174-a was set to expire on December 1, 2024, however, the statute was amended on April 20, 2024, to sunset on December 1, 2029;

WHEREAS, Valley Stream Union Free School District 24, the Town of Hempstead, and Bus Patrol America, LLC desire to amend the term of the Opt-in Agreement to reflect this legislative update.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the amended term of the Opt-in Agreement in the School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program made between the Town of Hempstead, School District and Bus Patrol America, LLC, and agrees to be bound by its terms, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate same, subject to review by counsel.

7. **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 24 School District, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC to enter into 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 DPAs;

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; and

BE IT RESOLVED, Board of Education of the Valley Stream 24 School District authorizes the attorneys designated by the ROC to negotiate and approve of DPAs for software and/or technology resources; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Valley Stream 24 School District Board of Education grants the ROC and its designated attorneys the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of DPAs and take such actions so as to effectuate the purposes and intent of this resolution.

8. **WHEREAS**, equipment has been determined to be broken, surplus and/or obsolete, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the School District to dispose of such broken, surplus and/or obsolete equipment, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that such broken, surplus and/or obsolete equipment will be disposed of in a manner that services the best interest of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools, or his designee is hereby authorized to proceed with the disposal of the following items:

<u>Barcode</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Building</u>
2475	Broken Cart (Lab Cabby)	BAS

9. **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.

VALLEY STREAM UFSD #24

TRANSFER BUDGET CODES OVER \$ 10,000

	BUDGET TRANSFER FOR BOARD APPROVAL		
	DATE: February 26, 2025		
CODE	DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
A9060.8	Hosp & Med Insur	\$ 6,000.00	
A2815.4	Health Services Expenses Substitute Nursing Services		\$ 6,000.00
A2250.477	Special Ed-Tuition	\$ 50,000.00	
A2250.400-3	Special Ed Related Services Related Services - White Glove		\$ 50,000.00
A9060.85	Dental Insurance	\$ 20,000.00	
A2250.140	CSE Chairperson Per Diem Per Diem CSE Chairperson		\$ 20,000.00
A2610.405	Audio Visual Expenses	\$ 8,500.00	
A2250.4	Special Ed Expenses Kelly Services - Special Ed Clerical		\$ 8,500.00
	TOTALS	\$ 84,500.00	\$ 84,500.00

XI. DISCUSSION

XII. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to re-enter Executive Session at 8:11 pm made by Trustee Wheeler and seconded by Trustee Nunez to discuss certain Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 9:31 pm made by Vice President Herrera and seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the Business meeting at 9:31 pm by Trustee Wheeler and seconded by Trustee Clark. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie L. Padilla
Jennie L. Padilla
District Clerk