

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION

VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
July 1, 2025

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL
5:30 PM

Annual Reorganization Meeting as Required by Law

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

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

Absent With Prior Notice:

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM & CALL TO ORDER –

Having a quorum, the Annual Reorganization Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by the School District Attorney at the William L. Buck School. Motion to enter Executive Session at 5:30 pm was made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wilson to discuss Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 8:08 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Vice President Wilson.

The Annual Reorganization Meeting was reconvened at 8:10 pm, at the William L Buck School by the District Clerk.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*****ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ACTIONS*****

The Attorney administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected and re-elected Trustees: Annette Matthew, John Maier, and Markus Wilson. The term will be from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028.

3. The Attorney administered the Oath of Office to the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Unal Karakas.

4. The Attorney called for nominations for the Office of President for 2025-2026.

Trustee Hernandez nominated Melissa Herrera for Office of President and seconded by Trustee Maier.

5. Motion made by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Trustee Maier that Melissa Herrera, to be President of the Board of Education of the district for the school year 2025-2026. **7-0 motion unanimously carried.**

The Attorney then administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board President, Melissa Herrera.

6. President Herrera called for nominations for the Office of Vice President for 2025-2026.

Trustee Hernandez nominated Markus Wilson as Vice President, seconded by Trustee Nunez.

7. Motion made by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Trustee Nunez that Markus Wilson, to be Vice President of the Board of Education of the district for the school year 2025-2026. **7-0 motion unanimously carried.**

The Attorney then administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board Vice President, Markus Wilson.

8. Motion made by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Trustee Vice President Wilson that Jennie L. Padilla be appointed to serve as District Clerk for the 2025-

2026 school year. The annual compensation for this position will be \$20,000.00.

7-0 motion unanimously carried.

The Attorney then administered the Oath of Office to the re-elected District Clerk, Jennie Padilla.

9. The Board of Education of 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, 2026, as follows: President Herrera, Trustee Maier, and Vice President Wilson. Motion made by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Vice President Wison. **7-0 motion unanimously carried.**

10. Motion made by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Vice President Wilson that Brian Cleary be appointed Treasurer for the 2025-2026 school year at an annual salary of \$14,306. **7-0 motion unanimously carried.**

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

11. Motion made by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Vice President Wilson, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Trustee 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. **7-0 motion unanimously carried.**

Motion made by Vice President Wilson and seconded by Trustee Maier, to move items #12-29 as listed, **7-0 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, Alisa Clark, John Maier, Cynthia Nuñez, Markus Wilson, and Annette Matthew.

13. That the firm of Guercio & Guercio, LLP, be and is hereby appointed as School District Attorney for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, at an annual

retainer of \$65,000, with an hourly rate of \$255 per hour for attorneys, \$145 per hour for legal interns, and \$145 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 2025-2026 school year.

15. That RS Abrams be appointed as the District's Independent Auditor for the school year 2025-2026, at an annual compensation not to exceed \$38,100.

16. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Cerini & Associates, LLP, as its Claims Auditor for the 2025-2026 school year at an annual fee of \$8,520.

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 2025-2026 school year, at the annual fee of \$24,300.

19. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints H2M as District Architects for the 2025-2026 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 2025-2026:

Designate J.P. Morgan Chase, as the principal depository and the paying agent for school funds, and Metropolitan, NY Class, Flushing Bank, and NYLAF, as secondary depositories and the secondary paying agents for school funds, for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

23. That Dr. Christopher Keogh be appointed as the District's Records Access Officer, to serve without compensation.

24. That Angela Liatto be appointed as the District's Records Management Officer, to serve without compensation.

25. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Dr. Jack Mitchell as Security Coordinator at no additional compensation.

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

27. To appoint the District's Committee Special Education (CPSE & CSE) for the school year 2025-2026 as per the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education:

- a. Administrator/Director of Pupil Services: Mr. John Boniello Jr.
- b. School Physician: Dr. Giuseppe Delloruso
- c. School Psychologists: Dr. Suzanne Dalal, Shira Greenblatt, Kerriann Pieper, Traci Ritterband, Antonious Hanien
- d. Resource Room Classification: Christine Iadevaio, Sophia Oliva
- e. Special Education Classes Classification: Jennifer Albahae, Christine Anson, Susan Blaesi, Marissa Campo, Kaitlyn Gillespie, Samantha Joltin, Karen Kane, Kelly Martin, Deborah Murray, Stacy Pagliaro, Annmarie Rachoi,

Amy Rappaport, Donna Ruggiero, Kelly McNamara, Adianna Ulino,
Nicolette Hernandez

- f. Speech Language Therapist and Occupational Therapist Classification:
 - Catherine Herr, Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Maria Herzner, Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Alexis Thomas, Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Paige Brickman, Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Michelle Schaake, Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Megan Breen, Occupational Therapist
- 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.
- h. Certified Professional from Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Office of Children with Special Needs, Early Intervention Program – when applicable, and student teachers when applicable
- i. Section 504 Compliance Officer: Mr. John Boniello Jr.

28. To appoint Mr. John Boniello Jr. as the District Homeless Liaison for the 2025-2026 school year.

29. To make appointments of impartial hearing officers as needed on behalf of the Board of Education for the 2025-2026 School Year, in accordance with Policy 5425.

Trustee Hernandez 1st, to move item 30, as listed V.P. Wilson 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

30. To appoint the District's Board of Registry for the school year 2025-2026 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

V.P. Wilson 1st, to move item 31, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

- 31. The rate of pay for such registry is set as follows:
 - a. Chief Election Inspectors: \$260 per day
 - b. Assistant Election Inspectors: \$245 per day
 - c. Meals and Refreshments for Election Workers: up to \$400 per day

V.P. Wilson 1st, to move item 32 as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

- 32. The President of the Board of Education will appoint the following Chairpersons for the following Board committees:
 - a. Education: Trustee Nunez
 - b. Finance: Trustee Matthew
 - c. Policy: Trustee Clark
 - d. Legislation: Trustee Nunez
 - e. Personnel: Vice President Wilson
 - f. DEI: Vice President Wilson

Trustee Nunez 1st, to move items 33-44, as listed Trustee Hernandez 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

- 33. To authorize membership for the District Twenty-Four Board of Education for 2025-2026 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

34. To authorize the President of the Board of Education to appoint an official delegate to the New York State School Boards Association's annual meeting.

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

- New York State School Boards – October 23-25, 2025 New York, New York

36. 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 10-12, 2026 San Antonio, Texas

37. 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 – October 23-25, 2025 New York, New York
- National School Boards Association – April 10-12, 2026 San Antonio, Texas

38. 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.

39. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to attend the League of Innovative Schools Conferences, with expenses paid by the district.

40. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools and Board Members to attend the SCOPE Annual Dinner, with expenses paid by the district.

41. To appoint Dr. Jack Mitchell as Purchasing Agent for the fiscal year 2025-2026. In the absence of Dr. Mitchell, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to assume this responsibility, at no additional compensation.

42. To appoint Dr. Giuseppe Dellorusso, as the School Physician for the school year 2025-2026 at an annual compensation of \$4,650.

43. To authorize the establishment of the District's Petty Cash funds for the school year 2025-2026 in the amounts as indicated:

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

44. To appoint the Assistant Superintendent for Business as the "custodian/supervisor" of the petty cash funds.

Trustee Hernandez 1st, to move item 45, as listed V.P. Wilson 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

45. 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 1, 2025

- August 27, 2025
- September 17, 2025
- October 22, 2025
- November 19, 2025
- December 17, 2025
- January 28, 2026
- February 25, 2026
- March 25, 2026
- April 21, 2026
- May 13, 2026
- June 10, 2026

Trustee Hernandez 1st, to move items 46-59, as listed Trustee Nunez 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

46. 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 10, 2025
- October 8, 2025
- November 5, 2025
- December 3, 2025 (if necessary)
- January 14, 2026
- February 11, 2026
- March 11, 2026
- April 15, 2026 (if necessary)

-May 6, 2026

-June 3, 2026 (if necessary)

47. To establish the reimbursement rate for mileage at the prevailing rate as established by the IRS.
48. That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to certify payrolls.
49. That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to make budget transfers according to Board Policy #3160.
50. 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.
51. That the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business to prepare all necessary legal advertisements with reference to the securing of bids.
52. That the Board of Education authorizes the Treasurer to sign checks for the School District.
53. That the Board of Education re-adopts Policy #3290, District Investments authorizing the District Treasurer to make investments for the District.
54. 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.
55. That the Board of Education establishes the date for the District’s Budget Hearing for May 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at the William L. Buck School.
56. That the Board of Education establishes the date for the Annual Meeting and voting on the 2025-2026 School Budget and Election of School Board Trustees for Tuesday, May 19, 2026, voting Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

57. That the Board of Education authorizes the dates included on the calendar for student attendance for the school year 2025-2026 adopted on January 22, 2025 to be used for purposes in connection with the annual State Aid attendance reports which reflects the days in session excluding those for religious holidays.

58. To adopt the District's Pay books listed below, authorizing salaries for the school year 2025-2026 effective July 1, 2025.

#1 Administrative Salaries

#2 Teachers' Salaries

#3 Custodian Salaries

#4 Clerical Salaries

#6 Other Civil Service Aides

#7 School Nurses

#8 Teacher Assistants

59. To adopt the summer custodial help hourly wage scale as follows for 2025. Pay Scale Effective 7/1/2025:

Step #1 - \$ 17.00

Step #2 - \$ 17.25

Step #3 - \$ 17.50

Step #4 - \$ 17.75

Trustee Hernandez 1st, to move item 60, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

60. To adopt the salary for the District Courier to be \$18.50 per hour for the 2025/2026 School Year.

Trustee Hernandez 1st, to move items 61-80, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 7-0 motion unanimously carried.

61. That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the salary for per diem substitutes shall be a flat fee of \$130.00 per day effective August 29, 2025.
62. 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 29, 2025.
63. That the Board of Education will bond the District Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer in the amount of \$2,000,000.
64. That the Board of Education will bond the Payroll Clerk in the amount of \$2,000,000.
65. That the Board of Education will bond the Principal Account Clerk in the amount of \$2,000,000.
66. That the Board of Education will bond the Account Clerks in the amount of \$2,000,000.
67. That the Board of Education will bond the District Courier in the amount of \$2,000,000.
68. That the Board of Education designates the Valley Stream Herald, Lynbrook Herald, and The Tribune as the official newspapers of the District.
69. 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.
70. That Charles Brocher, be appointed as the Asbestos Designee per AHERA regulations and Public Law 99-519.
71. That the Board of Education appoints Dr. Christopher Keogh and Dr. Jack Mitchell, as the District DASA Coordinators.

72. That the Board of Education appoints Dr. Suzanne Dalal as DASA Coordinator at Brooklyn Avenue School.
73. That the Board of Education appoints Kerriann Pieper as DASA Coordinator at William L. Buck School.
74. That the Board of Education appoints Karen Serro as DASA Coordinator at Robert W. Carbonaro School.
75. That the Board of Education designates Dr. Christopher Keogh 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.
76. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints Mark Onorato as Systems Administrator.
77. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Mark Onorato as Data Protection Officer.
78. 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, Michael DeBlasio, and Dr. Giuseppe Dellorusso
 - Robert W. Carbonaro School: Estelle Dempsey, Phil Testa, Rosario Iacono, and Dr. Giuseppe Dellorusso
79. 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.
80. That on May 20, 2025 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 21, 2024, Annual Budget Vote and Election one (1) year from the date of the Annual Budget Vote and Election.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING