

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

BUSINESS MEETING
March 25, 2026

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL
6:45 PM

Members Present: 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: President Herrera

I. Call to Order

Having a quorum, the Business Meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Vice President Wilson at the William L. Buck School. Motion to enter Executive Session at 6:46 pm was made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Hernandez to discuss Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion to exit Executive Session at 6:46 pm by Trustee Hernandez and seconded by Vice President Wilson. Motion to enter Executive Session at 6:56 pm was made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Hernandez to discuss Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 7:23 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Hernandez. Motion carried.

The Business Meeting was reconvened at 7:29 pm, at the William L. Buck School by Vice President Wilson. Motion carried.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 25, 2026 and March 11, 2026. Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Trustee Hernandez and

second by Trustee Maier. 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**

I have nothing to report at this time.

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

Good evening everyone. We are getting ready to close out the month of March, which means we only have three more months in this school year if you can believe it. But a lot of great events are planned in those next three months.

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

And with that, Dr. Keogh, Dr. Comis, and I had the opportunity to attend the League of Innovative Schools Spring Convening in Seattle last week, where we joined approximately 170 districts who are in the special league nationwide. We participated in professional learning focused on innovative approaches to teaching and learning and visited the Issaquah School District to see their work in action. One highlight was their interdisciplinary approach, where eighth grade students combined science and literacy by conducting experiments and engaging in advocacy writing and reading connected to their science experiments. The writing wasn't a summary of their experiment but took that work to the next level by actually writing an advocacy piece. We look forward to sharing more at the April Work Session—But I know I can speak on behalf of our team that this was such a valuable learning experience for us and we look forward to integrating ideas into our innovative work. Thank you to the Board for investing in these opportunities for our district to always be on the cutting edge of teaching and learning.

With the Board's approval of the Elks Lodge dictionary donation, three representatives visited all three schools to present dictionaries to our third

grade students. The students were excited to receive them, and many shared that they do not own a physical dictionary, which reflects how much has shifted to digital. This was a wonderful opportunity to place a tangible resource in our students' hands, reinforcing our goal of balancing digital tools with traditional materials. We are grateful to the Elks for their generous support of our schools.

This month, we celebrated Read Across America Week, reinforcing the importance of literacy in our classrooms. At Robert W. Carbonaro School, students enjoyed a special Masked Reader assembly following a week of mystery read alouds by staff, who revealed their identities at the event. Students were highly engaged and excited to guess the readers. We thank the Carbonaro staff and all of our teachers for continuing to inspire a love of reading.

I can't say enough about how our teachers and students are utilizing the redesigned classroom learning spaces that the Board has invested in and that we continue to expand. During a recent visit to a sixth-grade math class, students were solving equations directly on their whiteboard desks - an incredible tool that allows them to think, write, and problem solve in real time while giving teachers clear insight into student thinking. It is truly rewarding to see these spaces in action, supporting engagement and deeper learning for our students.

Our Vision 2030 work continues in partnership with Successful Practices Network. This month, Linda Jordan worked with our administrative team and kindergarten pilot teachers on the Science of Learning, aligned to our Vision 2030 cornerstones. She shared insights on brain research and how students engage today, along with practical strategies that can be implemented right away. A key takeaway was the importance of student discussion as a way to process and deepen thinking, which also supports multilingual learners. We look forward to continuing this work and thank SPN for their ongoing partnership in advancing Vision 2030.

We are excited to share that the air conditioning project is now underway at Brooklyn Avenue School and Robert W. Carbonaro School. The images shown reflect a prototype installation completed this week at Brooklyn Avenue, and the work has been done very well. Charlie

Brocher and the team will continue coordinating with the installation and electrical contractors as the project progresses over the coming weeks. It is great to see this important work officially in motion.

March 26- Coffee Hour at BAS (10:00 am)

March 27- BAS Pizza Lunch

April 1- Presidents/Principals Meeting (12:00 pm)

April 2-8- Spring Recess (No School)

April 15- BOE Work Session at 6:45 pm

April 15+16- State ELA Exam Grades 3-6 (Computer-Based)

April 23- Coffee Hour (Zoom at 6:00 pm)

April 24- Multicultural Dance Assembly at RWC (6:00 pm)

April 27- Fifth Grade Soccer Tournament at South High School (4:00pm)

April 28- BOCES Budget Vote and BOE Business Meeting (7:30 pm)

April 29- Fifth Grade State Science Exam (computer-based)

April 30- Sixth Grade Hockey Tournament at South High School (4:00 pm)

What a great presentation! Thank you.

That concludes my Superintendent's Report tonight.

- RWC Presentation

Tonight we welcome Robert Carbonaro School to showcase Enrichment for All and Challenge in the school.

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 Hernandez, 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:

Valley Stream Central High School District is the proud owner of 10 5th Street. They did the closing on that building last week. So, good things to come right down the block from Brooklyn Avenue School. Keep on the lookout.

B. LEGISLATION REPORT - PRESIDENT HERRERA

I have nothing to report at this time.

VIII. LIST OF ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A. PERSONNEL – VICE PRESIDENT WILSON

Trustee Clark 1st, to move items A1-A2, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the written request of the employee named in the attached Confidential Schedule “A,” dated March 16, 2026, for an extension of the employee’s probationary period for an additional calendar year. The employee’s new tenure date shall be June 30, 2027.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the permanent appointment of Vincent D’Arco, as a Custodian, effective April 8, 2026.

Trustee Clark 1st, to move item A3, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

3. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the irrevocable letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Toni Hertwig, Classroom Teacher, dated March 6, 2026, with the resignation effective close of business June 30, 2026.

Trustee Clark 1st, to move item A4, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

4. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the irrevocable letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Margaret Otton, Classroom Teacher, dated March 13, 2026, with the resignation effective close of business June 30, 2026.

Trustee Clark 1st, to move item A5, as listed Trustee Hernandez 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

5. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the irrevocable letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Maria Evangelista, Classroom Teacher, dated March 10, 2026, with the resignation effective close of business June 30, 2026.

Trustee Clark 1st, to move item A6, as listed Trustee Hernandez 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

6. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the irrevocable letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Lisette Lucifero, Classroom Teacher, dated March 17, 2026, with the resignation effective date of April 23, 2026.

Trustee Clark 1st, to move items A7-A14, on consent Trustee Hernandez 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

7. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Tatiana Arguello, as a School Monitor Part- Time, effective March 26, 2026, pending civil service clearance. Compensation for this appointment will be Step 1 in accordance with the agreement between the District and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU).

8. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves to appoint Yessenia Cruz, holding a Certificate in School Social Worker, as a Temporary Substitute which may turn into a Leave Replacement for Jo-Anne Casucci, to be effective on or around March 26, 2026. The duration of this appointment will extend until the return of Jo-Anne Casucci, but no later than June 26, 2026, or earlier at the discretion of the Board of Education. Compensation will be at the daily substitute rate of pay until Mrs. Casucci has exhausted all her allowable time and then will be at Step 1 MA, consistent with the provisions outlined in the Valley Stream Teachers Association (VSTA) Contract.

9. **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, pending successful completion of the onboarding process, for the 2025-2026 School Year:

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:

Yessenia Cruz

10. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Renell Perminter, as a School Monitor Part- Time, effective March 26, 2026, pending civil service clearance. Compensation for this appointment will be Step 1 in accordance with the agreement between the District and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU).

11. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Linda Bonacasa, PT School Monitor, effective March

13, 2026.

12. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following persons to serve as assistant election inspectors for the Annual Budget Vote Meeting on May 19, 2026, compensation at the rate of \$235 for the day:

Brooklyn Avenue School

Benny Bejarano
Johana Murphy

William L. Buck School

Danielle Camastro
Barbara Carroll
Sandra A. Lattimore

Robert W. Carbonaro School

Deborah Khublall
Maria F. Gemma Sy

13. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following persons to serve as chief election inspectors for the Annual Budget Vote Meeting on May 19, 2026, compensation at the rate of \$250 for the day:

Ronald J. Garofalo
Stephen Haner
Mary E. Hansen Sterger
Ramsey Jenkins III

14. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following staff to teach the Learning Lab Program for ELA and/or MATH for the 2025-2026 school year. Compensation is in accordance with the appropriate hourly rate of pay as per the current Valley Stream Teachers' Association contract.

ROBERT W. CARBONARO SCHOOL:

Alexis Thomas (Substitute)

Kathleen Murray (Substitute)

B. EDUCATION – TRUSTEE MAIER

Trustee Maier 1st, to move items B1-B2, as listed Trustee Clark 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 the dates listed below, 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.

Dates: 02/25/2026, 02/27/2026, 02/13/2026, 03/10/2026

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 the dates listed below, 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.

Dates: 01/26/2026, 03/11/2026, 02/25/2026, 02/05/2026, 02/06/2026, 02/13/2026, 03/05/2026, 03/06/2026, 02/05/2026, 01/15/2026, 02/10/2026

C. FINANCE – TRUSTEE MATTHEW

Trustee Matthew 1st, to move item C1, as listed Trustee Hernandez 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, Claims Auditor's Report, Appropriation Status Report, Revenue Status Report, Trial Balance for January 2026 and the Claims Auditor's Report for February 2026.

D. POLICY - TRUSTEE CLARK

Trustee Clark 1st, to move item D1, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following policies/regulations are presented to the Board for consideration and first reading:
 - #6168- Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach, and Notification
 - #6168R- Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach, and Notification Regulation
 - #5550- Student Privacy under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, IF ANY:

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Hernandez 1st, to move items X1-X16, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 5-0 motion carried.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby ratifies an agreement with the Valley Stream Teachers Association dated March 25, 2026, regarding a unit member's sick leave bank.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Rockville Centre 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 Rockville Center Schools 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.
 4. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Garden City 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.
 5. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Freeport 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.
 6. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and North Merrick 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.
 7. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Hicksville School District 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.
 8. **WHEREAS**, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish

to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2026-27 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative”) for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the Valley Stream UFSD 24 School District is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to participate in the Cooperative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement (Recitals) attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

9. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received correspondence from the group Long Island Against Charter Schools seeking to have the Board President sign correspondence advocating for the New York State School Boards Association (“NYSSBA”) to advocate for lawmakers to codify local voter approval of charter schools and their expansion, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to sign and submit correspondence advocating for NYSSBA to advocate for lawmakers to codify local voter approval of charter schools and their expansion.

10. **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 2026 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.
11. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby adopts the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2026- 2027 school year in the amount of \$43,131,639 to be presented to the qualified voters of the District at the Annual Meeting.
 12. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Valley Stream UFSD 24 hereby approves the Property Tax Report Card for the 2026-2027 school year and authorizes submission to the State Education Department and publication of the 2026-2027 Property Tax Report Card.
 13. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the placement of the following voter propositions at the annual budget vote & election on May 19, 2026 and directs the District Clerk to place said propositions in the annual notice of said vote & election.

Proposition #1:

SHALL the proposed budget of expenditures of Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, for the year 2026–2027 be approved in the amount of \$43,131,639 and for the purposes shown in the statement thereof presented at the annual meeting, and that such sum be raised through a levy upon the taxable property in Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four after first deducting the monies from state aid and other sources, as provided by law.

Proposition #2:

SHALL the Board of Education of Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four be authorized to appropriate and expend the maximum amount of \$1,200,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund established for the purpose of completing capital improvements as follows: Renovating Three (3) Classrooms District Wide and Resurfacing the Parking Lot and Playground at William L. Buck. All of the above to include labor, materials, equipment and incidental costs.

Proposition #3:

SHALL the proposed budget of expenditures of Valley Stream Central High School District, Nassau County, New York for the year 2026–2027 be approved in the amount of \$173,600,882 and that the sum be raised through a levy upon the taxable property in the Valley Stream Central High School District, after first deducting the monies from state aid and other sources, as provided by law.

Proposition #4:

SHALL the Board of Education of the Valley Stream Central High School District be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of financing capital improvements to District facilities and sites, including but not limited to additions, reconstruction, renovation, rehabilitation, expansion and equipping of District buildings and grounds; site work and improvements; parking areas and paving; sidewalks and curbing; drainage and utility infrastructure; ADA features; auditoriums; ceilings; computer and technology systems; data and communication networks; doors; mechanical, electrical, plumbing and sanitary systems; energy management and conservation systems; exterior and interior lighting; fencing; flooring; fire safety and suppression systems; heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; gymnasiums; masonry; roofs; security systems; toilet rooms; walls; windows; furnishings and equipment permanently affixed to buildings, and similar projects together with architectural, engineering and other incidental costs related thereto; with the ultimate amount of such Capital Reserve Fund to be \$15,000,000, plus accumulated interest, and with a term of fifteen (15) years, to be funded by transfers of unappropriated fund balance from the District's general fund and interest earned thereon.

14. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Valley Stream Union Free School District #24 desires to embark upon district-wide access control projects at W.L. Buck Elementary School, R.W. Carbonaro Elementary School, and Brooklyn Avenue Elementary School and a shingle roof replacement project at Brooklyn Avenue Elementary School to be funded via grants and capital budgets.

WHEREAS, the Proposed Projects at W.L. Buck Elementary School, R.W. Carbonaro Elementary School, and Brooklyn Avenue Elementary School are subject to classification under the State Environmental

Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, in Section 617.5 (a), the SEQRA Regulations define Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the scope of this Proposed Project has been examined by the Board of Education and has been found to fall within the action types that are included in the SEQRA Type II Actions, specifically, Sections 617.5(c) (1, 2 & 10) which reads as follows “routine activities such as maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility; and replacement, rehabilitation of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 of this part; and “routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings” ; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Proposed Project is Type II Action which requires no further review under SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed projects from the New York State Education Department.

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

District laminator:

Model - Ultima 65
 Serial# - UG00317G-001111364
 Tag# - 201700006

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: March 25, 2026			
COD E	DESCRIPTI ON	FROM	TO
A9060 .8	Hosp & Med Insur	\$140,000. 00	
A5540 .4	Transportation Expenses Stork Bussing & WE Transportati on		\$140,000.0 0
	TOTALS	\$140,000. 00	\$140,000. 00

X. DISCUSSION

XI. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Business Meeting by Trustee Maier at 7:52 pm and seconded by Trustee Hernandez. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie L. Padilla

Jennie L. Padilla
District Clerk