

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

BUSINESS MEETING
April 28, 2026

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL
6:45 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 6:52 pm by President Herrera at the William L. Buck School. Motion to enter Executive Session at 6:52 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 7:28 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Clark. Motion unanimously carried.

The Business Meeting was reconvened at 7:34 pm, at the William L. Buck School by President Herrera. Motion unanimously carried.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 25, 2026 and April 15, 2026. Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Trustee Hernandez and second by Trustee Maier. Motion unanimously carried.

IV. **WELCOME TO VISITORS:** At this time, the Board of Education

welcomes questions or comments relative to the items on tonight's agenda.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT– MS. JENNIE PADILLA,
DISTRICT CLERK**

I have nothing to report at this time.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – DR. UNAL KARAKAS

Hello Valley Stream 24 community. We are closing out the month of April, which means we are getting closer to the end of the school year. A lot of exciting events are taking place.

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

Literacy is the backbone of student learning, and I truly enjoy opportunities to visit classrooms and also read to students. This month, I read to Mrs. Fitzgerald's third grade classroom and I read the book *The Sour Grape*, which I actually picked up at a recent PTA Book Fair. I asked questions around character development, foreshadowing, prediction, and identifying main idea. Students demonstrated strong comprehension through their responses, reflecting the effectiveness of classroom instruction and alignment to our district's instructional priorities. Thank you to Mrs. Fitzgerald and her third grade classroom for allowing me to read.

Earlier this month, I was able to join several of our Board members at the NSBA Conference in San Antonio. There were a lot of topics ranging from hiring with AI, to transforming education through culture and student belonging, and I was especially pleased to see the Central High School District present on restorative practices. A big thank you to the entire team at the VSCHD for their presentation on an important topic. Deborah Norville was one of the keynote speakers and she spoke about the importance of gratitude and respect in the workforce. She spoke about how when organizations show gratitude and appreciation, it strengthens resilience and improves decision-making. She also mentioned that respect-driven environments lead to measurable improvements in student outcomes, school climate, and staff morale. It was a great

conference, and I thank the Board for investing in opportunities like these that continue to advance our work at VS24.

We are excited to share that the air conditioning project continues to progress nicely. The installers are completing their installation, and the next phase is to have our electrical work completed. You can see in the pictures that the installation of our air conditioners at RWC and BAS have been completed, and the installers have done a great job. We thank Mr. Brocher for working with them to expedite this important project for our district.

The annual sixth grade hockey tournament took place this week and it was a lot of fun and friendly competition. All of the students who competed did an incredible job and we are very proud of them. Robert W. Carbonaro School took home the trophy for the second consecutive year. Thank you to our PE teachers for preparing our students and Assisting yesterday, and a big thank you to Dr. Comis for working as our athletics liaison and making yesterday's event possible.

Today, Robert Carbonaro held its spring concert with the theme of Wicked. It was a great event with a lot of parents in attendance. Thank you to Ms. Wilkey for a job well done, as well as the Carbonaro team.

Our schools all hosted multicultural dance shows, and I was at the Carbonaro evening performance on Friday in which the PTA worked to have South High School students, led by Mr. Hsi, perform various cultural dances. One of our very own Carbonaro parents also performed for our families. The PTA also organized food from various cultures for parents and community members. We thank the Central High School District for their partnership and incredible performances, and we thank our PTAs for always partnering with our schools to make events like these possible. Also, a special thank you to Mr. Longo, one of our Carbonaro parents, who were behind the stage assisting with the music as he does every year.

For the fourth year in a row, William L. Buck is once again a No Place for Hate School. We are incredibly proud of our student leaders, Mrs. Ritterband, Principal DeBlasio, and the entire community for their dedication to fostering a culture of acceptance and inclusion. Their

efforts truly reflect our ongoing commitment to making our schools a welcoming place for all.

We are in state testing season, and I wanted to share the remaining dates with our community. The remaining exams are on April 29th (tomorrow) for grade 5 as that is the State Science Exam. May 7+8 is the grade 3-5 Math Assessment and May 11+12 is the sixth-grade math assessment. Our technology team, led by Mr. Onorato, has done an outstanding job ensuring that our overall technology infrastructure is fully prepared to support a smooth testing experience. Thank you to our leadership team and our staff for preparing our students.

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

- April 29- Fifth Grade State Science Exam (Computer-based)
- May 1- WLB Poetry Contest
- May 4-6- Sixth Grade Ashokan Trip
- May 6- BOE Work Session- 6:45 pm
- May 7+8- Grade 3-5 State Math Assessment (Computer-based)
- May 11+12- Grade 6 State Math Assessment (Computer-based)
- May 12- Band Concert at WLB (7:00 pm)
- May 13- BOE Business Meeting- 7:30 pm (Student Awards)
- 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)

It is an exciting time of the year with a lot of events coming up. We look forward to all of them and finishing out the school year strong. That concludes my Superintendent's Report tonight.

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 Hernandez:

Our last High School district business meeting was held at the beautiful Central HS Keller Auditorium. We had the honor of recognizing a lot of our high school district students with well-deserved music awards. Our elementary school students that aspire to pursue music are extremely lucky to be going into a wonderful program.

Our upcoming meeting are a Committee Meeting on May 5th and a Business Meeting on May 12th. Both will be held at Memorial Junior High School.

B. LEGISLATION REPORT - PRESIDENT HERRERA

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

VII. LIST OF ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A. PERSONNEL – VICE PRESIDENT WILSON

V.P. Wilson 1st, to move items A1-A5, as listed Trustee Clark 2nd 6-0 motion unanimously carried.

1. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the irrevocable letter of resignation

of Dr. Jack Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent for Business, dated March 26, 2026, with the resignation effective close of business June 30, 2026.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the irrevocable letter **of resignation** of Kayla Gonsalves, dated April 13, 2026, with the resignation effective close of business June 30, 2026.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Maureen Munnely, School Monitor Part-Time, effective April 23, 2026.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Maiya Grappie, School Monitor Part-Time, effective May 1, 2026.

5. 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:

Erin Ware
Olivia Lee
Fabia Khandaker

V.P. Wilson 1st, to move item A6, as listed Trustee Hernandez 2nd 6-0 motion unanimously carried.

6. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Jessica Witkiewicz, holding certificates in Early Childhood Education and Childhood Education, as a Leave Replacement Teacher, effective April 29, 2026, through June 26, 2026. Compensation will be at Step 1 MA in accordance with the current negotiated agreement between the Valley Stream Teachers' Association (VSTA) and the Board of Education.

V.P. Wilson 1st, to move items A7-A8, as listed Trustee Clark 2nd 6-0 motion unanimously carried.

7. 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 \$245 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
David Nelson

So. Corona Avenue Firehouse

Pauline Davis

8. 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 \$260 for the day:

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

B. EDUCATION – TRUSTEE MAIER

Trustee Maier 1st, to move items B1-B2, as listed Trustee Hernandez 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 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: 03/10/2026, 03/10/2026, 03/04/2026

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: 03/19/2026, 03/13/2026, 03/25/2026, 02/04/2026, 03/17/2026, 03/26/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/23/2026, 03/27/2026, 03/31/2026, 03/23/2026, 03/25/2026, 03/17/2026, 03/31/2026, 03/19/2026, 03/26/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/18/2026, 03/11/2026, 03/26/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/25/2026, 03/11/2026, 03/12/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/12/2026, 03/23/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/11/2026, 03/23/2026, 03/18/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/11/2026

C. FINANCE – TRUSTEE MATTHEW

Trustee Matthew 1st, to move item C1, 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 hereby accepts the Treasurer's Report, Collateral Report, Claims Auditor's Report, Appropriation Status Report, Revenue Status Report, Trial Balance for February 2026 and the Claims Auditor's Report for March 2026.

D. POLICY - TRUSTEE CLARK

Trustee Clark 1st, to move items D1-D5, as listed Trustee Maier 2nd 6-0 motion unanimously carried.

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

- #6168- Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach, and Notification

2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education reviews and adopts the following new regulation:

- #6168R- Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach, and Notification Regulation

3. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education reviews and adopts the following new policy:

- #5550- Student Privacy under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

4. BE IT RESOLVED, the District hereby abolishes Policy #6169 as the Policy has been incorporated into other District policies and is no longer required to be maintained as a separate policy.

5. 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:

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, IF ANY:

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Hernandez 1st, to move items 1-8, 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 ratifies a side letter of agreement dated April 1, 2026 between the district and the Directors Unit of Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four relative to the use of vacation days.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Uniondale 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, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Textbook Central for centralized textbook distribution services and textbook information and management services for the 2026-2027 school year at the rate set forth in the Agreement and further authorizes the Board President 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 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.

5. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Assignment of Contract to transfer the contract from Sunbright Transportation LLC to Nassau Transportation Services, Inc., and authorizes the Board President to execute the Assignment of Contract.

6. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and West Hempstead UFSD for student health and welfare services for the 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, that the Superintendent of Schools, or his designee is hereby authorized to proceed with the disposal of the following items:

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT FOR MARCH			
Barcode	Description	Building	
2429	Projector	BAS	
2446	Projector	BAS	

8. 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: April 28, 2026			
CODE	DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
A2250.150-	RR/Speech/cid Salaries-	\$31,500.00	

1	BAS	
A1620.406-11	Gas/Electric-BAS	\$6,050.00
A1620.406-12	Gas/Electric-RWC	\$650.00
A1620.406-13	Gas/Electric-WLB	\$22,800.00
A1620.406-21	Water Expenses-BAS Utility Bills - Nat Grid, PSEG, & Liberty	\$2,000.00
A2250.400-3	Special Ed Related Service	\$500.00
A2250.45	Speical Ed Supplies Printer Ink and Headphone Sets	\$500.00
A2010.16	Curriculum Salaries	\$1,051.00
A2110.400-73	Copier Leases-RWC Canon May/Jun Contractual Invoices - 909-4	\$1,051.00
A2010.150	Assistant Superintendent	\$2,952.00
A2110.400-73	Copier Leases-RWC Canon Extra B/W and Color Copies- 909-3	\$2,952.00
A2010.150	Assistant Superintendent	\$100.00
A2110.400-73	Copier Leases-RWC Canon Extra B/W and Color Copies- 909-2	\$100.00
A2110.450-4	Math Supplies	\$3,100.00

A2110.400-72	Copier Leases-WLB		\$1,100.00
A2110.400-73	Copier Leases-RWC Canon Extra B/W and Color Copies- 909-1		\$2,000.00
A2010.16	Curriculum Salaries	\$686.00	
A1670.400-3	Central Printing Expense-WLB		\$268.00
A2110.400-72	Copier Leases-WLB Canon May/Jun Contractual Invoices - 909-6		\$418.00
A9010.8	Employee Retirement	\$20,000.00	
A1420.400-2	Negotiations Attorney	\$25,000.00	
A1420.4	Attorney Fees Feb thru Jun Estimated Invoices		\$45,000.00
A2250.150-1	RR/Speech/CID Salaries-BAS	\$175,000.00	
A2250.400-3	Special Ed Related Services Additional funds needed for related services		\$175,000.00
A2110.121-2	Kindergarten Teachers Salaries-RWC	\$70,000.00	
A2250.477	Special Ed Tuition New student		\$70,000.00
A2110.124-3	Support Services Salaries-WLB BOCES Curriculum	\$30,000.00	
A2010.49	Development		\$30,000.00

Increased Curriculum Expense			
H1620.293-23-04	2023-24 Brooklyn Ave Flooring Replacements	\$80,097.00	
H1622.425-24-01	2024-25 AC Window Unit Installations & Electrical For BAS/RWC		\$80,097.00
	Closed Out Capital Projects		
	TOTALS	\$439,986.00	\$439,986.00

X. DISCUSSION

XI. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to re-enter Executive Session at 8:02 pm was made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Vice President Wilson to discuss Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 8:27 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Vice President Wilson. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to adjourn the Business Meeting by Trustee Maier at 8:27 pm and seconded by Vice President Wilson. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie L. Padilla
Jennie L. Padilla
District Clerk

