

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

BUSINESS MEETING
January 24, 2024

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL
6:45 PM

Members Present: President LaRocco, Vice-President Hernandez, Trustee Herrera, Trustee Maier, Trustee Nunez, Trustee Wheeler and Trustee Wilson

Others Present: Superintendent Karakas, Dr. Lisa Conte, and School District Attorney & Associate

Absent With Prior Notice: N/A

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

Having a quorum, the Business Meeting was called to order at 6:51 pm by President LaRocco at the William L. Buck School. Motion to enter Executive Session at 6:51 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 7:28 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wilson. Motion Unanimously carried.

The Business Meeting was reconvened at 7:33 pm, at the William L. Buck School by President LaRocco.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 13, 2023, January 3, 2024, and January 10, 2024. - Motion to approve the minutes made by Vice President Hernandez and seconded 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 received three mail correspondence. The first one was from Mr. Mark Onorato, President of the Valley Stream Directors Association, and it was dated January 10, 2024. The letter was a request for the district to recognize the association and Mr. Mark Onorato as Acting President.

The second letter was from a Ms. Michele A. Knight dated January 10, 2024. This letter was to submit her resignation as of June 30, 2024.

The third letter was from Mr. Michael Weinick, a Nassau BOCES Trustee, dated January 2024. The letter was to ask the Board for their continued support and vote in the upcoming re-election.

I also received an email on January 17, 2024 from Ms. Rachel Figurasmith, a parent in the district. The letter was requesting a meeting with the Board Members to discuss the upcoming election, her experiences with the process in the past, and how to ensure a fair and transparent election.

This concludes my report.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – MR. UNAL KARAKAS

We started the new year off strong at Valley Stream 24, as we had a lot of exciting events that took place this month.

Our three buildings hosted Scripps Spelling Bees, attended by competing students'

families. There were two winners from each school who will now compete in an online spelling bee, aiming for regional qualification. We're confident our students will do an incredible job. We are proud of each and every one of them!

Seven of our instrumental music students, two fifth-graders and five sixth-graders, performed at the All County Music Festival, held at Tilles Center. They made us proud and showcased our excellent music program at Valley Stream 24. A special thank you to our music teachers for coordinating our students' attendance and performances at the festival.

I met with the student council representatives of all three buildings to discuss Vision 2030 and school meals. We reviewed the January lunch calendar together, with students sharing their feedback. We went over each day's lunch offering, and I marked down which option students enjoyed. Pizza and chicken dishes were popular choices! Our student council representatives want to participate in food tastings with me and conduct surveys for more input, ensuring our menu reflects our students' preferences. This is student leadership at its finest!

I thoroughly enjoy visiting classrooms and witnessing the remarkable efforts of our teachers, staff, and students. From Kindergarten to sixth grade, students are actively engaged in collaborative learning, and our dedicated teachers ensure individualized instruction for every child. Here are just a few pictures from this month's learning happening in our schools.

I am pleased to share an update on our ongoing efforts to expand our recruitment outreach. Currently, we have established partnerships with 30 colleges and universities in the area. This year, we expanded our partnerships in two significant ways. Firstly, we formed a collaboration with Iona University, known for its diverse student body. Secondly, we're thrilled to announce our partnership with Howard University, an HBCU. Our collaboration with Howard University showcases our commitment to diversity in recruitment. This partnership enables us to reach a wider pool of talented candidates nationwide. Additionally, there's an upcoming recruitment fair at Howard University on April 10th, where I will represent our district. This event includes not only Howard University students but

also those from other HBCUs, providing a valuable opportunity to connect with prospective candidates in the field of education.

We're pleased to announce that this year's Pre-K Registration will commence earlier in the school year, starting on February 1st. Families have received information through their schools and can also access it on our the bottom of our district website's homepage. Our Pre-K program is state and federally funded through grants, so we encourage our families to take advantage of this offering. For Kindergarten registration, please note the following dates: January 31st at BAS, February 1st at RWC, and February 2nd at WLB. Students currently enrolled in our district's Pre-K program do not need to re-register.

In very exciting news, some of our sixth-grade students participated in the South Asian American Woman Alliance's Math Contest for the first time this year. Among the 200+ students from 11 districts, one of our students secured second place, and three others received honorable mentions. That is incredible! Leading our sixth-grade Challenge program is Ms. Risa Miller, who is here with us today and who continuously supports critical thinking with our learners. We thank Ms. Miller for always going the extra mile to push our students learning to the next level. We will now hand out certificates to the students who were recognized from the SAAWA math contest. (Once the certificates are handed out, Ms. Weber will be introduced to discuss P.E. at RWC with student presentations to follow.)

That concludes the Superintendent's Report.

PRESENTATIONS:

Recognition of South Asian American Women's Alliance Math Contest Participants

Robert W. Carbonaro Student Presentation

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 Hernandez, Trustee Maier and Trustee Herrera.

In hopes of better promoting our high schools and all the good things that are happening within them, a series of videos personalized have been posted on the Central High School District web page. These videos will allow our community a glimpse into each of our schools! Please take a moment and view them if you have a sixth grade student that is transitioning this year or if you would just like to see. I believe they are exceptionally well done!

Dr. Jennifer DiMaio hosted the District Wellness Centers monthly parent forum, “How to Help Your Child Manage Stress.” They presented families with an overview on student stress and how parents can facilitate the development of positive coping mechanisms. Again, this is helpful to know if you have a transitioning student and find that these services may benefit your children and families.

The second annual Academic Programming Night at Keller Auditorium was held last week. Parents and students from around the district heard from district directors and chair people of the academic areas so that they could learn about the different course paths, options, and opportunities available to the students in grade 7-12. Parents and students inquired about our CTE programs, elective options, dual college enrollment courses, and the Seals of Biliteracy and Civil Readiness. It’s great information to have when planning your transition.

Thank you Madam President that concludes my report.

Residency Hotlines:

Valley Stream School District	516-872-5677
Village of Valley Stream	516-592-5140
Town of Hempstead	516-584-5000

B. LEGISLATION REPORT - TRUSTEE NUÑEZ

I have nothing to report at this time.

VIII. LIST OF ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A. PERSONNEL – VICE PRESIDENT HERNANDEZ

Vice President Hernandez 1st , to move A1, Trustee Maier 2nd 7,0,0

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Dr. Angela Austin, holding a School District Leader Professional Certificate, as Director of Pupil Services, effective January 29, 2024, pursuant to the terms of the Wage and Benefits Agreement between the Board of Education and Dr. Angela Austin, which includes the compensation and probationary term of January 29, 2024 to January 28, 2028 as set forth therein and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate same subject to review by counsel.

Vice President Hernandez 1st , to move A2, Trustee Maier 2nd 7,0,0

2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education in mutual agreement with Lisa Sells-Asch, will conclude her employment as Interim Director of Pupil Services effective February 9, 2024.

Vice President Hernandez 1st , to move A3, Trustee Wilson 2nd 7,0,0

3. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the irrevocable letter of resignation of Michele A. Knight dated January 10, 2024, with the resignation effective close of business June 30, 2024.

Vice President Hernandez 1st , to move A4-A14, Trustee Maier 2nd 7,0,0

4. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the permanent appointment of Valerie McGovern, as Typist Clerk, Part-Time, effective February 23, 2024 in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Exam 2031D, established May 16, 2023.

5. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following Salary Changes, effective February 1, 2024:

Lisa Bernstein	Step 3	MA + 45
Ariana Arnone	Step 4	MA + 60
Julia Sollin	Step 5	MA
Katarina Sloboda	Step 4	MA

6. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Renee Revan-Raysor, School Monitor Part-Time, effective December 22, 2023.

7. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Joan Nielsen, School Monitor Part-Time, effective January 2, 2024.

8. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints E’Naijza P. Gillespie as a School Monitor Part-Time, effective January 25, 2024. Compensation for this appointment will be Step 1 in accordance with the agreement between the District and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU).

9. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Rosalie A. Giovannelli as a School Monitor Part-Time, effective January 25, 2024. Compensation for this appointment will be a Step 1 in accordance with the agreement between the District and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU).

10. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Rosa Morales as a School Monitor Part-Time, effective January 25, 2024 (pending Civil Service clearance). Compensation for this appointment will be a 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 hereby appoints Elysia Walcott Harrison as a School Monitor Part-Time, effective January 25, 2024 (pending Civil Service clearance). Compensation for this appointment will be a Step 1 in accordance with the agreement between the District and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU).

12. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Kristen Lacroce Sylvia as a School Monitor Part-Time, effective January 25, 2024 (pending Civil Service clearance). Compensation for this appointment will be a Step 1 in accordance with the agreement between the District and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU).

13. **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 2023-2024 School Year:

SUBSTITUTE PART TIME MONITOR

Jeanine Martin (effective January 25, 2024 pending Civil Service clearance)
Damali Bailey (effective January 25, 2024 pending fingerprinting and Civil Service clearance)

14. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following additional teacher to teach the Learning Lab Program for ELA and/or MATH for the 2023-2024 school year. Compensation is in accordance with the appropriate hourly rate of pay as per the current Valley Stream Teachers' Association contract:

Brooklyn Avenue School

Ashley Goldman

Vice President Hernandez 1st , to move A15, Trustee Maier 2nd 7,0,0

15. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves Julia Sollin, a probationary Library Media Specialist in this District, in compliance with the provisions of Education Law Section #3012 and Part 30-1 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, having been appointed to such position by resolution of this Board effective January 27, 2020, be granted tenure as a Library Media Specialist. It having been shown that Julia Sollin holds a valid New York State Public School Teacher Certificate in Library Media Specialist, and permitting service as indicated in the public schools of the State of New York. It further having been shown that Julia Sollin's probationary service, which will expire on January 26, 2024, was competent, efficient and satisfactory. The Board of Education of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four does hereby grant tenure and appoint tenure to Julia Sollin, effective January 27, 2024, to the position of Library Media Specialist.

B. EDUCATION – TRUSTEE WILSON

Trustee Wilson 1st , to move B1-B2, Vice President Hernandez 2nd 7,0,0

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 12/19/2023, 11/20/2023, 12/18/2023, 12/06/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/14/2023, 11/22/2023, 12/07/2023, 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 01/09/2024, 12/18/2023, 11/30/2023, 11/29/2023, 12/04/2023, 01/09/2024, 12/04/2023, 12/14/2023, 11/20/2023, 01/03/2024, 01/09/2024, 11/30/2023, 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 MAIER

Trustee Maier 1st , to move C1, Trustee Wilson 2nd 7,0,0

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 November 2023.

D. POLICY - TRUSTEE WHEELER

I have nothing to report at this time.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, IF ANY:

X. NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Maier 1st , to move X1-X5, Trustee Wilson 2nd 7,0,0

1. WHEREAS, the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four ("District") has engaged Milburn Flooring for general construction work on Districtwide Flooring ((Projects # 280-224 -020-001-026, 280-224 -020-004-028, 280-224 -020-002-028); and

WHEREAS, the District's Engineer, H2M, recommends modification to the existing contracts for a change order in the amount of a credit of

\$12,420 for unused allowances less the amount to be paid for with allowances included in the Milburn Flooring agreement for materials and labor required to be performed in addition to the work set forth in the Milburn Flooring agreement with the District.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts Change Orders # G1 - 1, G2 - 1, G3 - 1 (Contract # 1) to the contract with Milburn Flooring for work on Districtwide Flooring (Projects # 280-224 -020-001-026, 280-224 -020-004-028, 280-224 -020-002-028), and to be credited with allowance money included in the Milburn Flooring agreement in the amount of \$12,420.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorize Valley Stream UFSD #24 to be the lead District in the Nassau County School Facilities Association Purchasing Consortium in assuming the responsibility for advertising of bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, reporting the results to the Board of Education and making recommendations for the 2024-25 school year, regarding blinds and shades for school buildings.

3. WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the School District to dispose of 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 serves the best interest of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four, and

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

Item Make/Model Machinery/Device Year

1 Meyers 8ft snow plow 2008

4. 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 2023-2024 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, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the following Budget Transfers for the 2023-2024 School Year:

VALLEY STREAM UFSD #24

TRANSFER BUDGET CODES
OVER \$ 5,000

BUDGET TRANSFER FOR BOARD APPROVAL			
DATE: January 24, 2024			
CODE	DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
A2110.12	Teachers 1-6 Salaries	\$ 3,050.00	
A1430.49	BOCES Reg. Teacher Certification		\$ 3,050.00
	Diversity Recruiting		
A2630.46	Computer Software	\$ 828.00	
A2630.49	BOCES e-Rate Services		\$ 828.00
	Google Workspace EDU-Annual Svc		
A1240.15	Central Admin Salary	\$ 7,000.00	
A2020.4	Supervision Expenses		\$ 2,000.00
A1240.4	Supt Office Expense		\$ 5,000.00
	NSBA, NYSCOSS, and AASA Conferences		
A2110.12	Teachers 1-6 Salaries	\$ 3,010.00	
A1621.406-81	Heating/Cooling Expense-BAS		\$ 1,505.00
A1621.406-82	Heating/Cooling Expense-RWC		\$ 1,505.00
	Cunningham Duct - Boiler Cleaning		
A1240.15	Central Admin Salary	\$ 5,701.25	
A1240.16	Central Office Salaries		\$ 5,701.25
	Additional Clerical Support from Consultant		
A1325.45	Treasurer Supplies	\$ 95.00	
A1325.16	Treasurer-Salary		\$ 95.00
	Salary Determined Post Budget		
A1620.160-1	Custodial Salaries-BAS	\$ 828.53	
A1620.161-3	Custodial Overtime-WLB	\$ 1,223.97	
A1620.16	Custodial Salaries		\$ 2,052.50
	Districtwide Floater		
A1620.160-1	Custodial Salaries-BAS	\$ 6,296.80	
A 1620.160-3	Custodial Slaries-WLB		\$ 6,296.80
	Employee Shift		
A2110.160-3	LCH/CRM/CPY Aides-WLB	\$ 12,880.04	
A1620.162-1	Security Aide Salary-BAS		\$ 8,226.76
A1620.162-2	Security Aide Salary-RWC		\$ 2,262.52
A1620.162-3	Security Aide Salary-WLB		\$ 2,390.76
	Two Year Overtime Payback		
A1621.161-2	Maintenance Overtime Salaries-RWC	\$ 2,152.00	
A1621.16	Maintenance Salaries		\$ 2,152.00
	Salary Determined Post Budget		
A2020.150-3	Building Principals Salaries-WLB	\$ 938.00	
A2020.150-1	Building Principals Salaries-BAS		\$ 938.00
	Stipend		
A2020.15	Building Principal Salaries	\$ 23,855.33	
A2020.160-1	Buildg Office Salaries-BAS		\$ 6,824.00
A2020.160-2	Buildg Office Salaries-RWC		\$ 8,922.00
A2020.160-3	Buildg Office Salaries-WLB		\$ 8,109.33
	Salaries Determined Post Budget		
A2110.12	Teachers 1-6 Salaries	\$ 8,814.00	
A2110.120-3	Teachers 1-6 Salaries-WLB		\$ 8,814.00
A2110.124-3	Support Services Salaries-WLB	\$ 168,981.00	

VALLEY STREAM UFSD #24

TRANSFER BUDGET CODES
 OVER \$ 5,000

BUDGET TRANSFER FOR BOARD APPROVAL			
DATE: January 24, 2024			
CODE	DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
A2110.121-1	Kindergarten Teachers Salaries-BAS		\$ 8,438.00
A2110.121-2	Kindergarten Teachers Salaries-RWC		\$ 148,192.00
A2110.121-3	Kindergarten Teachers Salaries-WLB		\$ 12,351.00
	Employee Shifts		
A2110.124-1	Support Services Salaries-BAS	\$ 11,624.69	
A2110.123	After School Programs		\$ 10,757.00
A2110.123-3	After School Programs-WLB		\$ 867.69
	Additional Teacher for Robotics		
A2110.12	Teachers 1-6 Salaries	\$ 440,010.00	
A2110.120-1	Teachers 1-6 Salaries-BAS	\$ 200,000.00	
A2110.120-2	Teachers 1-6 Salaries-RWC	\$ 239,735.60	
A2250.151	Inclusion Teachers Salaries		\$ 91,554.00
A2250.151-2	Inclusion Teachers Salaries-RWC		\$ 618,937.60
A2250.151-3	Inclusion Teachers Salaries-WLB		\$ 169,254.00
A2250.161	Inclusion Aides Salaries	\$ 9,752.53	
A2250.160-2	CSE Classroom Aides-RWC		\$ 600.00
A2250.161-1	Inclusion Aides Salaries-BAS		\$ 9,152.53
A2610.150-3	Library Salaries-WLB	\$ 9,170.00	
A2610.150-1	Library Salaries-BAS		\$ 4,884.00
A2610.150-2	Library Salaries-RWC		\$ 4,286.00
	Employee Shifts		
A2815.160-1	School Nurses Salaries-BAS	\$ 5,354.50	
A2815.160-2	School Nurses Salaries-RWC	\$ 11,773.00	
A2815.160-3	School Nurses Salaries-WLB	\$ 3,093.00	
A2815.4	Health Services Expenses	\$ 54.50	
A2815.16	School Nurses Salaries		\$ 20,275.00
	Salaries Determined Post Budget		
	TOTALS	\$ 1,176,221.74	\$ 1,176,221.74

XI. DISCUSSION

XII. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to re-enter Executive Session at 7:54 pm made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wilson to discuss certain discuss certain Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to exit the Executive Session at 9:36 pm made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wilson. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to adjourn the Business meeting at 9:36 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wilson. Motion unanimously carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie L. Padilla
Jennie L. Padilla
District Clerk