

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION
VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

VIRTUAL MEETING

WORK SESSION
7:30 PM

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL
MARCH 2, 2022

Members Present: President Pellicane, Vice-President Maier, Trustees Hernandez, Herrera, LaRocco, Wheeler and Wilson.

Others Present: Superintendent Don Sturz, Assistant Superintendent Jack Mitchell and School District Attorney Joe Lilly

Absent With Prior Notice:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session was called to order at 6:45 PM, at the William L. Buck School, by President Pellicane.

Motion to enter Executive Session at 6:45 PM was made by Trustee Hernandez, seconded by Trustee LaRocco, to discuss Personnel and Contractual obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made to adjourn Executive Session at 7:40 PM was made by Vice-President Maier, seconded by Trustee Wilson. Motion unanimously carried.

The Work Session was reconvened at 7:40 PM at the William L. Buck School by President Pellicane.

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Dr. Sturz spoke about today being the first day that masks were optional for students and staff as per NYSDOH.

Dr. Sturz provided a comparison of the Enrichment For All and the Challenge program.

III. ACTION ITEMS:

Motion made by Vice-President Maier, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to move item 1 listed. Motion unanimously carried.

1. WHEREAS, on February 27, 2022, Governor Hochul announced that the statewide universal mask mandate for school buildings, which was previously imposed by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to emergency regulation 10 NYCRR § 2.60, would be repealed effective March 2, 2022; and

WHEREAS, no actions from the New York State Department of Health or the Nassau County Department of Health have been inconsistent with the Governor's announcement on February 27; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of any controlling statewide or countywide mask mandate; the authority for setting rules and requirements for masks and face coverings reverts to the Board of Education;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Valley Stream 24 Union Free School District hereby declares that, provided no other controlling state or local law, rule regulation or decision/order is subsequently adopted requiring mandatory face covering/masking in public schools, it shall be the policy of the Board of Education that each individual in the Valley Stream 24 Union Free School District will have the discretion to determine whether they will or will not wear a mask or face covering while on District property or at school-related functions, subject to exceptions as provided herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if a school-related function occurs at another school district or other location off District property which has adopted mandatory masking requirements, all Valley Stream 24 students or staff members taking part in such function must respect local masking rules.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, at the discretion of any Valley Stream 24 school nurse, all individuals on District property or taking part in school functions will hereby be required to wear masks or face coverings inside school nurses' offices, while being examined by a school nurse, or while being supervised by a

school nurse, if the individual displays COVID-like symptoms or is otherwise suspected of having been in contact with COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby rescinds any portion of the District's Re-Opening Plan for 2021-22 or any other school-based COVID-19 practice or policy regarding mandatory face masking that is in conflict with this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to apply the District's Code of Conduct in a manner that prevents harassment, bullying, or intimidation against any individual in the District based on their individual decision whether to wear or not to wear a mask or face covering while on District property or at school-related functions.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to go back into executive session at 7:58 PM was made by Vice-President Maier, seconded by Trustee LaRocco. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to adjourn the executive session at 8:53 PM was made by Trustee Wheeler, seconded by Trustee Hernandez. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to adjourn the Work Session at 8:54 PM was made by Trustee Hernandez, seconded by Trustee Wilson. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Biscardi

Jennifer Biscardi
District Clerk