

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF EDUCATION VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

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BUSINESS MEETING  
November 29, 2023

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL  
6:45 PM

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**Members Present:** Vice-President Hernandez, Trustee Herrera, Trustee Maier, Trustee Nunez, and Trustee Wheeler.

**Others Present:** Superintendent Karakas, Dr. Lisa Conte, Dr. Jack Mitchell, and School District Attorney

**Absent With Prior Notice:** President LaRocco and Trustee Wilson

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Motion to exit Executive Session at 7:36 pm by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Herrera. Motion unanimously carried.

The Business Meeting was reconvened at 7:43 pm, at the William L. Buck School, by Vice President Hernandez.

### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** October 18, 2023, November 8, 2023, and November 15, 2023. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Motion unanimously carried.

**IV. WELCOME TO VISITORS:** Vice President Hernandez welcomed all in attendance to the Business Meeting and further specified conditions of public comments/questions.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT– MS. JENNIE PADILLA, DISTRICT CLERK** - A FOIL request was received on Monday, November 27, 2023. The request came from Anthony Bonelli. The request was for bank statements.

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

In July, Mr. Karakas met with our PTAs for a Meet and Greet. They expressed a desire for district unity through a planned event. The Harlem Wizards game idea was brought up, and all agreed it would be a great opportunity to bring the district together. The hard work of PTAs and volunteers, from planning to execution, made it a remarkable experience. Over 300 tickets were sold, and the gym was packed. A big thank you to our PTAs, parents, community members, and our hard-working staff. The event showcased our district's strength and unity. We truly MADE THE CONNECTION.

Responding to the community preference for evening meetings, Mr. Karakas introduced Coffee Hour with the Superintendent in the evenings this year. The recent session at William L. Buck School delved into discussions on innovation and our shared vision for the future, emphasizing a co-created and collaborative approach. The presence of parents and PTA members from all three schools highlighted the interconnectedness and collaboration. Mr. Karakas is excited to share more insights in upcoming Coffee Hours. The next one is planned for December 21st at Brooklyn Avenue School.

Mr. Karakas had the pleasure of attending the student council elections this month and was truly impressed by the eloquent speeches delivered by the students in front of a sizable audience. Speaking in public requires courage and practice, and he was immensely proud of the students for showcasing both. His gratitude extends to the dedicated teachers, principals, and parents for their efforts in preparing the students for this event.

In exciting news, we are launching Valley Stream Vision 2030. Why 2030? In seven years, our Kindergarten students will be graduating from sixth grade. This week, Mr. Karakas met with the teachers to start gathering their input on their thoughts on what

this Vision can look like for the district. The world is evolving and changing. The goal of Vision 2030 is to think of ways to enhance the school experience for the students and the staff. The key guiding question is: What will school be like for the current Kindergarteners once they graduate in 2030? Stay tuned for more updates on this as we work to continuously elevate our work and be cutting edge!

### **PRESENTATION:**

Art Presentation: The building art teachers from the 3 elementary schools presented art awards to three selected students from their schools. The students that were present came up to receive their awards and let those in attendance know about the art work.

State and School Building Assessment Data Report: Dr. Lisa Conte, shared district-wide data while the building principals shared school-specific data from NWEA assessments as well as the recently released State Assessment reports.

Motion to enter a brief intermission of the Business Meeting was made at 8:24 pm by Vice President Hernandez

The Business Meeting was reconvened at 8:29 pm by Vice President Hernandez.

## **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.

Thank you to everyone involved from the planning to the participation in the Harlem Wizard event that took place on November 16<sup>th</sup> at South High School. The event was extremely well attended by the families and students in our community. It provided everyone with a remarkable and memorable evening. One can only imagine how much work went into putting this event together and we all wanted to say that it did not go unnoticed. The Board of Education alongside our Superintendent are thankful for all that was done to provide this experience.

For those of us in the Central High School District, a reminder that Intramural Sports begin on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and will run each Sunday until December 17<sup>th</sup>. Offering an opportunity for students to improve their athletic abilities while building lasting friendships. For more information you can visit the Valley Stream Central High School District web page.

**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**

The Board of Education together with the Superintendent of Schools are happy to report that Valley Stream District 24's application for the CEP (Community Eligibility Program) has been approved for all the students in District 24, effective November 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027. The program as first reported to you in July 2023 provides free breakfast/lunch to all students in our district for the next 4 years irrespective of income eligibility.

**VIII. LIST OF ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

**A. PERSONNEL – VICE PRESIDENT HERNANDEZ**

**Trustee Wheeler 1<sup>st</sup> to move A1-A11 by consent, Trustee Maier 2<sup>nd</sup> 5,0,0**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education appoints Karina Lorenzo, holding a Certificate in Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2), as a Leave Replacement for Keith Goldstein, retroactive to November 6, 2023, until the return of Keith Goldstein, but no later than June 26, 2024 (or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education). Compensation will be at Step 1 MA in accordance with the Valley Stream Teachers Association (VSTA) Contract.

2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Daniel Smith, holding a

Certificate in Music, as a Leave Replacement for Joanna Milanese, effective January 2, 2024, until the return of Joanna Milanese, but no later than June 26, 2024 (or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education). Compensation will be at Step 1 MA in accordance with the Valley Stream Teachers Association (VSTA) Contract.

3. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Saima Tabassum, holding a Certificate as a Teaching Assistant Level I, as a Probationary Teaching Assistant, effective December 4, 2023. The probationary period expires on December 3, 2027. Compensation for this appointment will be at Step 1 in accordance with the agreement between the Valley Stream Central High School District and the VSTA Teaching Assistants Unit.

4. **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 TEACHER

Khalila Ashley

5. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Suzanne Dalal, Shira Greenblatt, Keriann Pieper and Traci Ritterband, all holding Certificates as School Psychologists, to conduct initial eligibility meetings as well as out of district meetings, effective November 13, 2023, until no later than December 13, 2023 (or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education). Compensation is in accordance with the hourly rate of pay as per the current Valley Stream Teachers Association (VSTA) Contract, not to exceed a maximum of two (2) hours per approved initial eligibility meeting or out of district meeting.

6. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Aisha Ashraf, School Monitor Part-Time, effective October 27, 2023.

7. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Desiree Padmore, School Monitor Part-Time, effective November 17, 2023.

8. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Janice Crimi, Account Clerk, effective December 13, 2023.

9. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the paybook listed below for the 2023-2024 school year:

#8 - Teacher Liaisons & Clubs

10. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints the following additional teacher liaison for clubs for the 2023-2024 school year at the appropriate Club Rate per the VSTA contract, retroactive to November 6, 2023, as follows:

**William L. Buck School - Clubs:**

Robotics            Kayla Gonsalves

11. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the revised dates for the leave of absence for medical reasons for Keith Goldstein, RWC Early Intervention Teacher, effective September 5, 2023, but no later than December 4, 2023.

**B. EDUCATION – TRUSTEE WILSON**

**Trustee Maier 1<sup>st</sup> to move B1-B2 by consent, Trustee Wheeler 2<sup>nd</sup> 5,0,0**

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 11/13/2023, 10/19/2023, 11/06/2023, 10/31/2023, 10/31/2023, 10/13/2023, 10/19/2023, 11/03/2023, and 10/19/2023, 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 10/12/2023, 10/11/2023, 10/26/2023, 11/01/2023, 09/26/2023, 10/13/2023, 11/16/2023, 11/01/2023, 10/12/2023, 10/13/2023, 10/12/2023, 09/12/2023, 10/13/2023, 11/08/2023, 10/10/2023, 10/11/2023, 10/12/2023, 10/16/2023, 11/02/2023, 10/24/2023, 10/26/2023, 10/11/2023, and 11/06/2023, 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 1<sup>st</sup> to move C1 by consent, Trustee Nunez 2<sup>nd</sup> 5,0,0**

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 September 29, 2023.

**D. POLICY - TRUSTEE WHEELER**

Nothing to report at this time.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, IF ANY:**

**X. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Trustee Maier 1<sup>st</sup> to move X1-X4 by consent, Trustee Nunez 2<sup>nd</sup> 5,0,0**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the appropriation of the sum of FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$425,000) from

the District’s Liability Reserve Fund established by the Board on September 6, 2023, in settlement of the matter listed in Confidential Schedule “A”.

2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the revised Nassau BOCES Transportation Contract for the period September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, as set forth below. This Contract supersedes and replaces the BOCES portion of the 2023-2024 Transportation Contracts disclosed in New Business Resolution #29 of August 23, 2023 and in the Transportation Schedule annexed thereto.

BUS COMPANY	SCHOOL	# OF STUDENTS	MONTHLY COST PPM	MONTHLY COST PER VAN	MONTHLY MATRON COST
NASSAU BOCES	Carman Rd	4	4 @ \$1,403.00	N/A	1 @ \$3,008.10 1 shared @ \$1,504.05
	Childrens Readiness	3	3 @ \$683.20	N/A	1 shared @ \$1,504.05
	CRC @ Endo	2	2 @ \$683.20	N/A	1 shared @ \$1,504.05
	Jerusalem Ave	6	6 @ \$683.20	N/A	1 @ \$3,008.10 1 shared @ \$1,504.05
	Stokes Elementary	1	1 @ \$683.20	N/A	1 shared @ \$1,504.05
	Willets Avenue	2	2 @ \$683.20	N/A	1 shared @ \$1,504.05
	BOCES Monthly Pupil and Matron Cost				
BOCES Yearly Cost					\$302,173.00

3. **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Malverne 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.

4. **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:





Motion to re-enter Executive Session at 8:30 pm made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wheeler to discuss certain Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 9:38 pm made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion to adjourn the Business Meeting at 9:38 pm made by Trustee Maier and seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jennie L. Padilla*

Jennie L. Padilla

District Clerk