

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF EDUCATION VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

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BUSINESS MEETING  
FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL  
OCTOBER 19, 2022

6:45 PM It is anticipated that the Board of Education will immediately consider a motion to enter executive session [for purposes of discussing a personnel matter and contract matters] and reconvene the public portion of the Business Meeting at 7:30 PM.

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**Members Present:** President Maier, Vice-President La Rocco Trustees Nunez, Wheeler, Wilson, and Herrera

**Others Present:** Superintendent Dr. Don Sturz, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jack Mitchell, School District Attorney, Director of Technology Mark Onorato, District Clerk Elizabeth Fleurimond

**Absent With Prior Notice:** Trustee Hernandez

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Motion to enter Executive Session at 6:48 PM by Trustee Nunez, seconded by Vice President La Rocco to discuss Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Executive Session concluded at 7:35 PM by Vice President La Rocco seconded by Trustee Wheeler. Motion unanimously carried. The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM, at the William L. Buck School, by President John Maier.

## **II. Salute to Flag**

**III. Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Vice President La Rocco and seconded by Trustee Wilson to approve the minutes for September 21, 2022, and October 12, 2022. Motion unanimously carried.

**IV. Welcome to Visitors:** A question was submitted digitally by Ms. Arroyo regarding policy 9300 and answered by Trustee Wheeler.

## **V. Correspondence Report – District Clerk – Mrs. Elizabeth Fleurimond**

1. September 27, 2022 Resignation Letter Received from Fatiha Fathy.
2. September 29, 2022 FOIL request received from the Oceania Khan seeking campaign expenditures information.
3. September 30, 2022 FOIL request received from Cornell University seeking certified tally results and official ballots from 2017-2022.
4. October 11, 2022 FOIL request received from Christopher Kirby in regard to property lines.
5. October 11, 2022 FOIL Request received from Stonybrook University DEI plans, Board of Education discussions, curriculum and policy changes, and possible committee timelines.

## **VI. Superintendent Report-**

Dr. Sturz thanked administrators, staff, students, and parents for participating in Unity Day. Unity around kindness, acceptance, and inclusion sends a message that no child shall ever experience bullying.

Dr. Sturz acknowledged Board of Education Appreciation Week and the service of the members of the Board of Education. Dr. Comis, Mr. Iacono, and Mrs. Gaddy introduced students who made a presentation in appreciation of the Board of Education.

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

**A. PERSONNEL –TRUSTEE MARKUS WILSON-** Motion to consent agenda made by Trustee Wilson seconded by Trustee Wheeler to move all items 1-6 as listed.

**1. BE IT RESOLVED,** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints the following teacher liaisons for clubs/departments for the 2022-2023 school year at the appropriate Club Rate per the VSTA contract as follows:

Teacher Liaisons for Departments:

ENL - Kathleen Murray  
Nurses - Estelle Dempsey

Science

WLB - Christine Brenneis  
RWC - Shannon Quinn  
BAS - Kathleen Carter

Robert W. Carbonaro School – Clubs:

Fitness Club - Stephanie Shapiro/Tara Brady  
Student Council - Cathy Haufler/Pam Fowler  
Book Club - Chelsea Cittadino  
Broadcast Club - Susan Blaesi  
Robotics - Julia Sollin  
Ariana Arnone  
  
Spanish - Matt Roth

Brooklyn Avenue School Clubs:

Art/STEAM Club - Nicole Barci  
Fitness Club - Kelly Martin/Toni Hertwig  
Sports Club - Michael Whelan  
Student Council - Kaitlyn Gillespie/Joanna Gallo  
Robotics - Cheryl Calamiong  
Spanish - Janet Marrero

William L. Buck School - Clubs:

Chess - Chris Chruma  
Essential Skills for Board Games - Lisette Lucifero  
Wellness & Mindfulness - Jeannie Gavigan/Kerriann Pieper  
Student Council - Marissa Campo/Christine Iadevaio  
Robotics - Samantha Ponzio  
Spanish - Janet Marrero

District – Instrumental Music:

Jr. Orchestra – B Club - Gary Garzetta  
Sr. Orchestra – B Club - Gary Garzetta  
Jr. Band – B Club - Nicholas Shmorhun  
Sr. Band – B Club - Nicholas Shmorhun  
District Instrumental Music – C Club - Nicholas Shmorhun

**2. 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 2022-2023 School Year:

**TEACHER:**

Gia Clemente  
Margalit Amar  
David LeWinter

**3. BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board hereby appoints the following to teach the Learning Lab Program for ELA and/or MATH for the 2022-2023 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:**

Kathy Carter  
Joanna Gallo  
Kaitlyn Gillespie  
Jennifer Joyce  
Kara Kinkela (sub)  
Vinnny Milano  
Sam Ponzio  
Carol Wright

**WILLIAM L. BUCK SCHOOL:**

Katerina Slobodo  
Ashleigh Jones  
Naomi Narain  
Lisette Lucifero  
Sara Philip

**ROBERT W CARBONARO SCHOOL:**

Arian Arnone  
Stephanie Shapiro  
Julia Sollin  
Matt Roth  
Shannon Weber  
Chelsea Cittadino  
Jean Oestreich  
James Fischman (Sub)

**4. BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board accepts the resignation of Fatiha Fathy as a School Monitor, Part-time effective September 27, 2022.

**5. BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby approves the appointment of Donna Bailey as a School Monitor, Part-time, effective October 24, 2022, pending Civil Service and Fingerprint clearance. Compensation for this appointment will be at Step 1 in accordance with the agreement between the District and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU).

**6. BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints Albertina Acevedo as a Probationary Teaching Assistant, holding a Teaching Assistant Certificate Level 1, effective October 24, 2022. The probationary period expires on October 23, 2026. 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.

**B. EDUCATION – TRUSTEE MELISSA HERRERA-** Motion to consent agenda made by Trustee Herrera seconded by Trustee Wheeler to move all items 1-2 as listed.

**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 Special Education previously approved by the Committee on Special Education on 9/6/22, 9/7/22, 9/7/22, 9/14/22, 9/15/22, 9/15/22, 9/16/22, 9/21/22, 9/22/22, 9/23/22 and 9/29/22 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 Pre-School Special Education previously approved by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education 8/25/22, 9/07/22 and 9/13/22 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.

**C. FINANCE –VICE PRESIDENT DONNA LA ROCCO-** Motion to consent agenda made by Vice President La Rocco, seconded by Trustee Wheeler to move item 1, as listed.

**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 August 2022.

**VIII. 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, President Maier, Trustee Herrera and Trustee Hernandez.

**Residency Hotlines:**

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

**A. LEGAL REPORT:** Representative from the law firm, Guercio and Guercio, LLP

**Attorney Report**

October 2022

Our office recently obtained a favorable decision from the Supreme Court Appellate Division, Second Department in which the Court granted the school district’s appeal seeking to dismiss plaintiff’s claims that the district failed to report suspected child abuse committed by her teacher and stepfather. In this case, which arises under the Child Victims Act, the Plaintiff brought claims against her former teacher under Social Services Law §§ 413 and 420 (“SSL”), alleging that the District failed to report the sexual abuse the teacher was committing against her, as well as abuse by her stepfather which the teacher was made aware about, during the 1972-1973 school year. Section 413 of the SSL, which went into effect September 1, 1973, requires certain school officials to report reasonable suspicion of an “abused child” before them, which is defined as one harmed by a “parent or other person legally responsible for his [or her] care.” Our office moved to dismiss these claims on the grounds that the teacher was not a “person legally responsible” for the student under the law, and that the law obligating districts to report such abuse did not go into effect until after the timeframe of the purported allegations. The Supreme Court denied our motion due to developing case law holding that school districts had to report abuse by teachers under the SSL. The Second Department reversed in full and awarded costs, citing that a teacher could not be a “person legally responsible” for a student under the law. Furthermore, because the plaintiff failed to allege that the District received information about the abuse committed by the plaintiff’s stepfather after SSL § 413 went into effect, the District did not have an obligation to report. Based on the foregoing, the Appellate Court reversed the lower court’s order and granted our motion to dismiss the claims.

**B. LEGISLATION REPORT: TRUSTEE ARMANDO HERNANDEZ**

**C. POLICY COMMITTEE: TRUSTEE KIMBERLY WHEELER-** Motion to consent agenda made by Trustee Wheeler, seconded by Trustee Herrera to move all items, as listed.

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

POLICY 9000- FORMULATION, ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF POLICIES

POLICY 9300- BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP

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

**X. NEW BUSINESS:** Motion to consent agenda made by Trustee Nunez, seconded by Trustee Wheeler to move all items 1-5, as listed.

**1. BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the following charities for the District for the 2022-2023 school Year:

- St. Jude's Children Research Hospital
- American Heart Association
- Island Harvest



**2. BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the following Budget Transfer for the 2022-2023 School year:

<b>BUDGET TRANSFER FOR BOARD APPROVAL</b>			
<b>Date: 10/19/22</b>			
<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
A9060.8	Hosp & Med Insurance	\$ 150,000.00	
A9060.85	Dental Insurance	\$ 35,000.00	
A2250.477	Special Ed - Tuition		\$ 185,000.00
	<b>Special Ed tuition for new Out-of-District Placements</b>		

**3. BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby awards the Emergency Transportation Contract for the period of October 6, 2022 – November 5, 2022, to First Student, for the Mill Neck School for the Deaf, for the amount of \$6,400.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby awards the remaining contract for the period of November 6, 2022- June 30, 2023, to First Student, for the Milk Neck School for the Deaf, for the amount of \$51,200.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the Emergency Transportation Contract as well as the Transportation Contract for the rest of the school year, as set forth in the attached schedule on behalf of the Board of Education.

<u>Bus Company</u>	<u>School</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>Monthly Cost PPPM</u>	<u>Monthly Matron Cost</u>	<u>Yearly Cost</u>
First Student	Mill Neck School For the Deaf	1	\$3,200 ppm (1 month emergency contract)	\$3,200 matron	\$6,400
First Student	Mill Neck School For the Deaf	1	\$3,200 ppm	\$3,200 matron	\$51,200

**4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence- Contract Rider Only (RULER Online SEL Training) for the 2022-2023 school year, and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

**5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the District and Rohan Murphy (Consultant/Speaker) for the 2022-2023 school year, and further authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

## **XI. DISCUSSION**

## **XII. AUDIENCE TO VISITORS-**

Three questions submitted digitally by Ms. Arroyo regarding Policy 8250, the digital card, and term limits were addressed.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn the Business meeting was at 7:55 PM was made by Trustee Wheeler, seconded by Vice President La Rocco.

Motion to enter Executive Session at 8:10 PM by Trustee Wheeler, seconded by Trustee Wilson to discuss Personnel and Contractual Obligations. Motion unanimously carried.

Executive Session concluded at 9:33 PM by Trustee Wheeler seconded by Trustee Wilson. Motion unanimously carried.