

# **WORK SESSION BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **Valley Stream Union Free School District Twenty-Four Minutes of the Work Session Meeting of *October 7, 2015***

The meeting took place at the William L. Buck School.

President Trogel called the Work Session meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

In attendance: President Trogel, Vice President Pellicane, Trustees DePace, Hernandez, Iadevaio, LaRocco, and Maier.

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Fale and Director of Finance & Operations, Jack Mitchell

Motion: John Maier, seconded by Anthony Iadevaio, to suspend the no public speakers rule at work sessions and allow the public to speak at tonight's meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

The following items were discussed at tonight's work session meeting:

Smart Schools Investment Plan (District Technology Plan) was reviewed and approved. Attendance at board conferences was discussed amongst the board and the audience with the audience voicing objections to spending money on Board conferences, with the exception of the local NYSSBA Conference, due to the financial constraints the District is facing this year. It was agreed that we would continue to use H2M Architects for Building Survey and 5 Year Capital Plan.

Fundraising possibilities were also discussed with the Board and the audience and we are awaiting our attorney's response as to the legality of fundraising for outdoor education.

The audience raised questions as to where the \$230,000 received from grants from our Legislators went. Dr. Fale explained that we had to use some of this money to add Security around the District on the weekends due to vandalism at Brooklyn Avenue. Some of the money was used for additional Special Education staff that was needed. The balance will remain in the fund balance for emergencies.

Motion: Lawrence Trogel, seconded by Donna LaRocco, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following as part-time monitors, effective October 13, 2015, at the appropriate rate of pay in accordance with UPSEU: Erica Posligua, Christine Lahey and Diana Quintana. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion: John Maier, seconded by Armando Hernandez, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Bibi Razack as a Certified Teaching Assistant effective October 8, 2015. This will be a three year probationary appointment, said probationary period to expire on October 7, 2018. Compensation for this appointment will be at the current rate of the Valley Stream Central High School District's Teaching Assistant Agreement, at Step 1. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion: Armando Hernandez, seconded by Donna LaRocco, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Carol Cannonito as a home tutor for a student in accordance with their 504 Plan. These services will be provided throughout the 2015-2016 school year as needed. Compensation will be in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Valley Stream Teachers Association and Valley Stream School District 24. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion: Anthony Iadevaio, seconded by Donna LaRocco, to authorize the board members and officers of the board to attend the New York State School Boards (NYSSBA) Conference in New York City from October 18-20, 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion: Anthony Iadevaio, seconded by Paul DePace, to authorize two board members or officers of the board to attend the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference in Boston, Massachusetts from April 9 – 11, 2016. A vote was taken as follows:

Lisa Pellicane	-	No
John Maier	-	No
Armando Hernandez	-	No*
Lawrence Trogel	-	No
Donna LaRocco	-	No
Anthony Iadevaio	-	Yes
Paul DePace	-	Yes

Motion was denied by a 5-2 vote.

Motion: Donna LaRocco, seconded by Anthony Iadevaio, that at the discretion of the Board, one member or officer of the board may be authorized to attend the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference in Boston, Massachusetts from April 9- 11, 2016. A vote was taken as follows:

Lisa Pellicane	-	No
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John Maier	-	No
Armando Hernandez	-	No
Lawrence Trogel	-	Yes
Anthony Iadevaio	-	Yes
Donna LaRocco	-	Yes
Paul DePace	-	Yes

Motion was approved by a 4-3 vote.

(\*Mr. Hernandez has requested that his explanation for the two nay votes be inserted into the minutes as a matter of record as follows: “My NAY vote was because this year’s constricted financial environment is not conducive for board members to travel outside of the NYC area for conferences.”)

Motion: Donna LaRocco, seconded by Armando Hernandez, that the Board of Education of the Valley Stream School District 24, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the submission of an APPR Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department and hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and the Board President to execute such application on behalf of the District. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion: Paul DePace, seconded by Anthony Iadevaio, that the Board of Education of the Valley Stream School District 24, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the submission of an APPR Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department and hereby ratifies the execution and submission of such application on October 7, 2015 by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board President. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion: Lisa Pellicane, seconded by Anthony Iadevaio that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and adopts the District Technology Plan for the 2015-2018 School Years. Motion unanimously carried.

The Work Session meeting was put on hold at 9:25 PM to allow for the Meeting of the Audit Committee.

**Meeting of the Audit Committee  
(the Board as a Whole)  
October 7, 2015**

Mrs. Marianne Van Duyne from R.S. Abrams, our independent auditor, presented the final audit report of financial reports for the 2014-2015 school year at 9:25 PM. The District received an “Unmodified Opinion” which is the best opinion that a school district can receive.

The Board discussed the auditors findings and asked questions of the auditor.

Motion: John Maier, seconded by Donna LaRocco that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Audit Committee (the Board as a Whole), the report from R.S. Abrams is hereby accepted by the Board for the year ending June, 2015. The Board authorizes a copy of this report to be sent to the State Education Department in accordance with Section 107.2(r) of the Commissioner’s Regulations by the required filing date. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting of the Audit Committee was concluded at 9:50 PM.

The Work Session meeting resumed at 9:51 PM.

Discussion continued on agenda items.

Motion: John Maier, seconded by Anthony Iadevaio that the work session be adjourned at 10:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Johanna Owen*

Johanna Owen  
District Clerk