

Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen held in the Auditorium of the James A. Dever School on Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>
Trustee Chiachiere Trustee DiSibio Trustee Evans Trustee Greco Jacobs Trustee Subbiondo Trustee Stris	Trustee Gorham	Superintendent Lison Asst. Supt. for Business Brosnan Asst. Supt. for Curric. & Instr. Roth Director of Special Services Sells-Asch District Clerk Michels Building Principal Capozzoli Building Principal Gruen Building Principal Huplosky Building Principal Zerillo Approximately 35Visitors

Convening

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. by President Stris.

CONVENING

Quorum

Six members being present, a quorum was determined

QUORUM

Executive Session

An Executive Session was held immediately to discuss negotiations on a motion made by Trustee DiSibio, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents were invited to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reconvening

The meeting was reconvened at 8:05 p.m. by President Stris.

RECONVENING

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

President Stris welcomed all in attendance and pointed out the exits.

Quorum

Six members being present, a quorum was determined

QUORUM

Approval of the Minutes

Resolution: To approve the minutes of the Aug. 21, Sept. 4, Sept. 10, 2007

MINUTES OF 8/21, 9/4, 9/10  
MEETINGS APPROVED

Moved by Trustee Stris, seconded by Trustee Subbiondo and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Memos received from Ehrlich Frazer & Feldman:

- Legislation Shifts Burden of Proof back to Schools
- Procedural Safeguards Notice
- Article by Jerry Ehrlich regarding Transportation Issues

Thank you letter from George Faber, Nassau BOCES, regarding the Special Election

Acknowledgement cards were received from Christine Seaman and Karin Sarli for sympathy cards sent

CORRESPONDENCE

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Elizabeth Lison

Superintendent Lison reported on a very successful school opening with over 2100 students attending our schools on September 5th. She thanked the administration, teachers, parents, and students for their participation. The Accountability student performance reports were received for 2007 in Math, Social Studies, Science and ELA, and students made "adequate yearly progress" in all areas. The Little League Field at Howell Road School is complete with the dedication ceremony being held on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Time Capsule dedication will take place on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. The Time Capsule, which will contain information from the 1964-65 World's Fair as well as the Chunkies (housed at James A. Dever and Willow Road Schools) will be opened in 100 years. Sixth Grade students will be participating in a Basketball tournament sponsored by Assemblyman Thomas Alfano. Sixth graders from all four schools will enjoy a healthy competition in October and May. Wheeler Avenue School will be honored with the Waldinger Cup Award for having the most participants in their summer reading program.

Tenure Recommendation – Special Education Teacher

After reviewing the recommendation of the Building Principals, and conducting classroom lesson observation and portfolio review, the Superintendent recommends Maria Romeo, Special Education Teacher, assigned to Willow Road School, be granted tenure effective October 15, 2007.

M. ROMEO GRANTED TENURE

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

The following two resolutions were unanimously approved under a consent agenda on a motion made by Trustee Chiachiere, and seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs.

Resignation of Classroom Aides

- a) To accept the resignation of Maria Vulpetti as a Classroom Aide at James A. Dever School effective August 17, 2007. M. VULPETTI RESIGNED
- b) To accept the resignation of Lucille Yanotti as a Classroom Aide at Wheeler Avenue School effective August 28, 2007. L. YANOTTI RESIGNED

Resignation of Noon Hour Aides

- a) To accept the resignation of Loren Stevens as a Noon Hour Aide at Willow Road School effective August 30, 2007. L. STEVENS RESIGNED
- b) To accept the resignation of Theresa Clements as a Noon Hour Aide at Willow Road School effective September 5, 2007. T. CLEMENTS RESIGNED
- c) To accept the resignation of Michele Agueros as a Noon Hour Aide at Wheeler Avenue School effective September 10, 2007. M. AGUEROS RESIGNED

Rescind Resolution of Employment of a Noon Hour Aide

To rescind the resolution appointing Nancy Semos as a Noon Hour Aide made at the August 21, 2007 Board meeting. RESCIND APPOINTMENT OF N. SEMOS AS NHA

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Subbiondo and carried unanimously.

Employment of a Classroom Aide

To employ Eleanor Oliver as a Classroom Aide assigned to James A. Dever School Effective September 7, 2007 on Step 1 (\$14,799). E. OLIVER EMPLOYED AS A CRA

Moved by Trustee Greco Jacobs seconded by Trustee Evans and carried unanimously.

Employment of a Classroom Aide

To employ Nancy Semos as a Classroom Aide assigned to Wheeler Avenue School effective September 5, 2007 on Step 1 (\$14,799). N. SEMOS EMPLOYED AS A CRA

Moved by Trustee Greco Jacobs, seconded by Trustee Evans and carried unanimously.

Employment of a Classroom Aide

To employ Michele Agueros as a Classroom Aide assigned to Wheeler Avenue School effective September 11, 2007 on Step 1 (\$14,799). M. AGUEROS EMPLOYED AS A CRA

Moved by Trustee Greco Jacobs, seconded by Trustee Subbiondo and carried unanimously.

Appointment of a Substitute Clerk Typist

To appoint Adele Marchesi as a substitute Clerk Typist at Wheeler Avenue School at \$25 per hour effective August 27, 2007 through September 30, 2007. A. MARCHESI APPOINTED AS A SUBSTITUTE CLERK TYPIST

Moved by Trustee Greco Jacobs, seconded by Trustee Evans and carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**EDUCATION** [F. Chiachiere, D. Evans]

Education Report:

Denise DeMeo, Summer School Principal, presented the highlights of the 2007 Summer School Program. Trustee Chiachiere thanked Ms. DeMeo for a very successful program.

Employment of a Replacement Speech Teacher

To employ Maura Dantuono as a Replacement Speech Teacher assigned to Willow Road School in accordance with the Board/VSTA contract in effect on the date of employment, effective September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, and unless sooner terminated, on Step 1MA (\$58,294). M. DANTUONO EMPLOYED AS A REPLACEMENT SPEECH TEACHER

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Employment of a Part-time (.5) Special Education Teacher

To employ Laurie Katz as a part-time (.5) Special Education Teacher at Wheeler Avenue School on Step 1 MA (\$58,294 pro-rated) effective September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and unless sooner terminated. L. KATZ EMPLOYED AS A .5 SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Rescind Employment of a Part-time Art Teacher

To rescind the resolution appointing Courtney Van Hove as a part-time Art Teacher at the August 21, 2007 Board meeting, since she accepted a full-time position in another district.

RESCIND EMPLOYMENT OF  
C. VAN HOVE

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Subbiondo and carried unanimously.

Employment of a Part-time (.21) Art Teacher

To employ Stefanie Cacchioli as a part-time (.21) Art Teacher at Howell and Willow Road Schools on Step 1 MA (\$58,294 pro-rated) effective September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and unless sooner terminated.

S. CACCHIOLI EMPLOYED AS A  
.21 ART TEACHER

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Subbiondo and carried unanimously.

Resignation of a Teacher Assistant

To accept the resignation of Jenna Pino as a Teaching Assistant at James A. Dever School effective August 22, 2007.

J. PINO RESIGNED

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Employment of a Teaching Assistant

To employ Jillian Karlewicz as a Teaching Assistant at James A. Dever School effective September 5, 2007, on three years probation, and unless sooner terminated, on Step 1 (\$23,564) in accordance with the Board/Teaching Assistant Contract in effect on the date of employment.

J. KARLEWICZ EMPLOYED AS A  
TA

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Change in Salary Step

To change the salary step for Dianna Chappell from 6MA to 6MA+15 effective September 1, 2007.

D. CHAPPEL SALARY STEP  
CHANGED TO 6MA +15

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Salary Increments

To approve the Salary Increments effective September 1, 2007 as listed:

SALARY INCREMENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Michelle Daddino	4MA	4MA+15
Paula Scavelli	9MA+45	9MA+60
Lou Panacciulli	12MA+45	12MA+60
Mary Frances Scott	7MA	7MA+15
Elizabeth Abballe	7MA+15	7MA+30

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Resignation of a Reading Teacher

To accept the resignation of Elizabeth McBride, Reading Teacher at Howell Road School, effective October 12, 2007.

E. MCBRIDE RESIGNED

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously. The Board thanked Mrs. McBride for her tenure in the district and wished her well.

Substitute Teacher List

To approve the Substitute Teacher List for the 2007-2008 school year.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST  
APPROVED

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Evans and carried unanimously.

**BUSINESS** [C. Subbiondo, J. DiSibio]

Treasurer's Report

To accept the Treasurer's Report for the month ending August 31, 2007.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Moved by Trustee Subbiondo, seconded by Trustee DiSibio and carried unanimously.

**POLICY COMMITTEE** [B. Gorham, J. Greco Jacobs]

Policies to be Adopted

To adopt the following policies:

POLICIES ADOPTED

- 1710 Relations with Education Research Agencies
- 2310 Regular Meetings
- 2350 Board Meeting Procedures
- 2450 Policy Dissemination
- 4220 Curriculum Development

Moved by Trustee Greco Jacobs, seconded by Trustee Chiachiere and carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** [Vice President D. Evans]

To ratify and adopt the Committee on Special Education Review dated 8/3/07.

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Chiachiere and carried unanimously.

### **Report of the Attorney**

Florence Frazer

No report this month since the attorney was not present.

In lieu of the Report of the Attorney, Trustee Stris gave the following Historical Interlude:

As we all know School Districts in New York State were first established under legislation passed in 1812 and 1814. There were thirteen such School Districts established in the Town of Hempstead on Long Island. The land that encompasses present day Valley Stream came under the name of "School District 9 - Near Rockaway and District 13 - West Meadow." Thus, Common District 13 was the first School District in Valley Stream and from it evolved Valley Stream School District 24 in 1894 and Valley Stream 30 in 1923.

The first schoolhouse in District 13 was built in 1858, replaced in 1872 and again in 1891. The fourth documented schoolhouse, in District 13, was built in 1905 as a wooden clapboard school. This was demolished in 1930 and the present brick Wheeler Avenue Schoolhouse was erected on Wheeler Avenue in 1925. This was followed by the building of the Corona Avenue (James A. Dever School) in 1950 and the Howell Road and Willow Road Schools in 1953.

#### **Mr. William Gilmore- 1891-1994**

Early Newspapers lists Mr. Gilmore as a Teacher/Principal. Since there was only one schoolhouse in the district we can also call him a pre-Superintendent. He had two teachers under his supervision. He served in the third schoolhouse in the district.

#### **Mr. Sweet – 1895-1904**

The only information we have on Mr. Sweet is that he was also a Teacher/Principal and served in the third schoolhouse in the district.

#### **Mr. Leslie Smith – 1904-1928**

Leslie Smith also called "Pop Smith" came to work in Valley Stream on a bicycle from Hewlett. He also was a Teacher/Principal. In 1918, the staff of the third wooden schoolhouse consisted of four teachers, one teacher/principal and one janitor. He served in the fourth schoolhouse of the district.

#### **Ira C. Mummert**

Ira C. Mummert was hired as a teacher/principal on April 21, 1928 and retired in June of 1955. During his 27 years of service to school district thirteen Mr. Mummert was a staunch supporter of expanded service to children in the district. He is a perfect example of an individual who outlived all his detractors.

The minutes of the district are replete with references to the stormy relationship that at times existed between his stewardship of the schools and the Board of Education. Some Board minute examples include:

- April 26, 1932 - "statement by Mummert to public to embarrass board."
- March 5, 1933 - "The Teacher's Committee reported that they had interviewed the principal in connection with contract for next year and report that Mr. Mummert now understands his position and in the future harmony should prevail."
- April 17, 1934 - "certain practices the board disapproves:
  - ✓ Absent him from the school building when orders issued prohibit this.
  - ✓ Information received that criticism has been made of the board.
  - ✓ Criticism of the board not accepted in cooperative spirit.
  - ✓ Damage to property of the district by the students not given the proper attention.
  - ✓ Misrepresentation as to the number of times the lantern slide were being used.
  - ✓ Title of Supervising Principal superfluous."
- February 22, 1944 - "Mr. Mummert reported an incident where he claimed he found it necessary to administer punishment to a student who has given much trouble and the matter has become a court case, the parents having brought suit. Mr. Mummert was instructed that hereafter in cases of this kind, call in the parent and then, if no remedy is affected, refer case to the Children's Court."
- A district Court Judge finds Mummert guilty of spanking too severe.
- April 25, 1944 - faculty supports principal
- June 11, 1946 - Mr. Wohlsen, Principal of Central High School accuses Mummert.
- April 27, 1948 - Issue with Wohlsen resolved.
- September 28, 1948 - Board reprimands Mummert with this resolution. "The Board once again had to severely reprimand Principal Mummert for his unwarranted criticism of the action of the Board at a public gathering in the school Auditorium. Such public meetings was attended by two members of the School Board and thus the Board had it on unimpeachable authority that principal Mummert had so far forgotten his position as to falsely intimate that the Board was not providing facilities for the educational needs of the district. He then had the brazen effrontery to publicly attempt to hold the School Board up to ridicule referring to them in the most slighting and contemptuous manner. It was recalled that only a short time ago Principal Mummert had publicly referred to the Board as a 'bunch of penny pinchers' and that apparently the reprimand he had received on that occasion had made no impression, indicating that a more forceful reminder was required to impress Principal Mummert that his impertinence would not be tolerated. It was once again pointed out to the Principal that it was the function of the Board to establish policy and the function of the Principal to carry it out. It was resolved by Trustee Barkmann that the salary of Ira C. Mummert, as Principal, be set at the rate of \$6,300 per year unless a higher sum be required by law and in such case, then at the minimum amount so provided. Seconded by Trustee Hannum and carried unanimously."
- June 28, 1948 - Nassau Superintendent Mr. Gross asks board to reconsider \$500.00 penalty on Mummert.

- July 5, 1949 – “Board has decided, in the interest of harmony and better cooperation, to reinstate his salary for the coming school year to \$6,800.”
- April 6, 1950 – Mummert agrees on how people will be hired.
- April 4, 1951 – Principal Veimeister terminated by Mummert.
- April 13, 1951 – Mummert and Veimeister appeal to board.
- October 29, 1951 – Mummert is granted a year paid leave of absence for the 1952-53 school year. District 24 minute book minutes of June 1952 state: “A letter from the clerk of District 13 advised the Board that Ira C. Mummert had been granted a one year leave of absence effective July 1, 1952 and Mr. Stranton Miller was appointed acting Principal.
- June 1955 – Mummert retires.
- 1957 – Mummert employed as a substitute teacher in District 24.
- On June 22, 1966 the Wheeler Avenue School Auditorium is named in honor of Ira C. Mummert.
- In 1985 Mummert celebrates his one-hundredth birthday.

The following speech, by Trustee Taub was delivered at the dedication exercise on June 22, 1966 and is recorded in the June 28, 1966 board minute book.

“It is a great privilege being asked to speak in honor of a man, Ira C. Mummert, who devoted 27 years of his life to advancing education in district #13. Mr. Mummert arrived in Valley Stream in the fall of 1928 from Roaring Springs, Pennsylvania, to assume the principalship of Wheeler Avenue School. At that time it consisted of 21 rooms, nine of which had just been completed, and 550 students in grades kindergarten through eighth. Four of these classrooms, and the eight room wooden schoolhouse that was located where the new wing now stands, were used by the high school pending the completion of Central in 1929.

Almost immediately Mr. Mummert started his efforts to make District #13 an outstanding leader in the field of education. He instituted such programs as: vocal music, full time physical education teachers, dental hygiene, standardized testing and the use of a basic reading series.

He watched the farmlands being converted into housing developments after World War II. His foresight led to the planning and opening of the Corona Avenue School in 1950 and the Howell and Willow Roads Schools two years later. He provided leadership as the District Principal during the years when the enrollment rose to more than 4,500 students. He maintained a sound educational program despite the fact that double session was required for a short time during that vast building period.

Mr. Mummert was, and still is, a fine educator: respected by all who have worked for him. He has etched his name in the hearts of countless numbers of persons who have been associated with him. Even today, eleven years after his retirement as District Principal he substitutes in Central High School in Latin and English.

You may wonder why I am mentioning his background, which seems to recall the past rather than the present. The Board of Education has asked that I dedicate this great hall to Mr. Mummert in recognition of his many years of conscientious and highly qualified service to the students and parents of District #13. Therefore, on behalf of the many parents past and present who have matured under his guidance, and the hundreds of teachers who have profited from his leadership, I hereby name this hall as the Ira. C. Mummert Auditorium. This official designation has been placed over the center doors of the auditorium and shall hereby serve as a permanent reminder of the man who gave so much of himself to others in this community.”

#### **James A. Dever**

He was Principal of the Wheeler Avenue School from 1950 to 1953.

Assistant District Principal from July 1, 1953 to January 23, 1954.

District Principal from January 24, 1954 to June 30, 1974.

During the 1961-62 school year he served as the “Head of the Nassau School Health Council.”

He retired on June 30, 1974 and on December 18, 1973 three PTAs asked to name a school in his honor. The Corona Avenue School was selected.

A portrait, which hangs just outside Principal Gruen’s office, was formally presented at a school assembly on May 26, 1978.

#### **Dr Thomas Lee**

Dr. Thomas was Lee appointed District Principal on July 1, 1974 and continued as District Superintendent for 18 years until June 30, 1992. The March 26, 1974 minutes state:

“Presently Director of Elementary Education at East Ramapo Central School District, Spring Valley, N.Y. Prior to East Ramapo he was employed by the Baldwin School system as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and assistant to the superintendent. Earned bachelor’s degree at the State University at Oswego, and his doctorate degree at St. John’s University.”

In 1978 he correctly became the first person who technically should be called Superintendent of Schools for in that year Education Law changed the title of “District Principal” to “District Superintendent.”

On September 22, 1987 he recommended the closing of the Wheeler Avenue School due to asbestos removal. The four school populations were housed in the remaining three schools for about a year.

On May 12, 1992 he received the Educator of the Year Award from the Hofstra Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. When he retired, Dr. Lee, in lieu of a gift he presented a check for \$1,565.00 to the school district.

#### **Dr. Martin Brooks**

Dr. Brooks was appointed Superintendent on July 27, 1992 and served until August 31, 1998. He has the unique distinction of being the only person to serve as the VSCHSD Superintendent concurrent with his District 13 Superintendence. This occurred during the 1997-98 school year. After he left the high school district, he become the Superintendent of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School district for seven years and retired this past June.

**Mrs. Margaret Daugherty**

Mrs. Daugherty served from July 1, 1998 to July 30, 2003. She served during the restoration of two and building of two new Libraries in the district.

**Dr. Elizabeth Lison**

Dr. Lison is our present Superintendent.

Past Board Presidents commencing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Valerie Clerico - 2000-01, William P. Stris - 2001-02 & 2007-08, Harris Dinkoff - 2002-03, Bonnie Gorham - 2003-04, Frank Chiachiere, Ph.D. - 2004-05, Cathy Subbiondo - 2005-06, and Jeanne Greco Jacobs 2006-07.

President Stris invited the community to visit the Board Room to view the photographs that were put up in August.

Visitors

The following community members spoke regarding district transportation:

Vinny and Sangeeta Pandit, Michael Gallagher, William Clark and Peter Bolasingh.

President Stris provided the following information in regard to the transportation concern:

1. State law mandates that children in grades K-6 who live more than two miles from the school they legally attend must be transported by the Board of Education.
2. If this two-mile mandate were in existence in our district today there would be no regular transportation. There is no child that lives farther than two miles from one of our four schools.
3. The much more liberal transportation policy in District 13 was instituted by the residents of the district by Proposition in 1952 - 55 years ago. (The vote was 706 yes and 612 no)
4. Since this more liberal policy was instituted by the residents, it can only be changed by the voters through a proposition. (Legal opinion)
5. Our sister elementary Districts 24 and 30, follow the state mandate thus they have no regular transportation.
6. The manner by which distance is measured has been in effect by the Board of Education since October 6, 1952. "Distance shall be measured from the point on the sidewalk at the property line of the student's home nearest the school to the nearest entrance to the school building by the shortest route over public streets." (Student Transportation Policy 8410)
7. A change to the transportation policy was presented to the voters in Proposition form at least three times:
  - 1976 - A proposition to extend transportation to every school child who lived more than ½ mile from school was defeated;
  - 1992 - A proposition to go to the state mandated transportation mileage of two miles narrowly failed. At the time if this proposition passed, the budget would have been reduced by \$200,000;
  - 1994 - A proposition for a late bus for private and parochial secondary school students failed. (This was for the high school.)
8. Presently our transportation policy, which is more liberal than the state, costs the residents over \$775,000 for extra buses and vans. This extra amount increases each year and must be added to the budget.
9. A proposition of at least 111 resident signatures, submitted at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting and in proper form, including cost, will be considered by the Board of Education.

Ike Tress - Information on Elmont Library Services and comment on transportation.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

*Denise Michels*  
District Clerk