

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, November 26, 2013.

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>
Trustee Chiachiere	Trustee DiSibio	Superintendent Robb-Fund
Trustee Douglas	Trustee Greco Jacobs	Asst. Supt. for Business Brosnan
Trustee Evans		Asst. Supt. for Special Services Sells-Asch
Trustee Pomerantz		Coordinator of Curric. & Assessment Schozer
Trustee Stris		Principal Capozzoli
		Principal Gruen
		Principal Huplosky
		Principal Steele
		School District Attorneys Frazer and Perna
		District Clerk Michels

Approximately 80 Visitors

Convening

The meeting was convened at 7:06 p.m. by President Douglas.

CONVENING

Quorum

Five members being present, a quorum was determined.

QUORUM

Executive Session

An Executive Session was held immediately to discuss the personnel history of a particular person on a motion made by President Douglas, seconded by Trustee Stris and carried unanimously. The Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendents, and the attorneys were invited to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

\*Attorneys Frazer and Perna arrived at 7:15 p.m..

Reconvening

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

RECONVENING

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

Quorum

Five members being present, a quorum was determined.

QUORUM

Approval of the Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the November 16 and November 19, 2013 meetings.

MINUTES OF 10/22, 11/16, & 11/19/13 MEETINGS APPROVED

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

To approve the Minutes of the October 22, 2013 meeting.

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

Correspondence

CORRESPONDENCE

Frazer & Feldman

- Invitation to the Annual Election Seminar
- Legal Loop
- Superstorm Sandy Assessment Relief Act

Guercio & Guercio

- Affordable Care Act-Planning for 2015 Compliance
- Race to the Top Withdrawal
- Superstorm Sandy
- Health & Safety Precautions for Students with Disabilities

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Adrienne Robb-Fund

Superintendent Robb-Fund welcomed the parents and the students and thanked them for attending. Several students will be honored in recognition of their artwork. Superintendent’s Conference Day was held on November 5; professional development focused on the new Common Core. Parents have been invited to their children’s classroom to celebrate American Education Week. Our Energy Performance Contract provided for the installation of 11 new boilers throughout the district. At times not all classrooms had heat, and students were moved to other classes until the problems were resolved. Thank you to Assistant Superintendent for Business, Meredith Brosnan; Director of Facilities, Jim Daly; and the custodial staff for keeping on top of this situation. Our students honored our veterans and learned about Veteran’s Day. Educational Planning was held Saturday, November 19, and on Saturday December 7 the District Building Inspections will be held beginning at Dever and moving to each of the other buildings. Everyone is invited to attend. On Thursday we will celebrate the national holiday of Thanksgiving. In keeping with Thanksgiving, the word of the month is “gratitude” and the strategy of the month is “re-reading.”

Resignation of a Noon Hour Aide

To accept the resignation of Donna Platovsky as a Noon Hour Aide at Wheeler Avenue School effective November 1, 2013.

D. PLATOVSKY RESIGNED  
AS A NHA

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

Employment of a Noon Hour Aide

To employ Andrea Iervolino as a Noon Hour Aide assigned to Wheeler Avenue School on Step 1 (\$10.10 per hour) effective November 27, 2013 and unless sooner terminated.

A. IERVOLINO EMPLOYED AS A  
NHA

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

Substitute Classroom/Noon Hour Aide

To add Donna Platovsky as a Substitute Classroom/Noon Hour Aide.

D. PLATOVSKY ADDED AS A  
SUBSTITUTE CRA/NHA

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

**Committee Reports**

**EDUCATION** [F. Chiachiere, T. Pomerantz]

Trustee Pomerantz reported that the Education Committee met on November 6<sup>th</sup> with the Superintendent and the Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment to review the alignment of the Common Core with instruction. Trustee Pomerantz attended two workshops during Superintendent’s Conference Day, namely, Common Core in ELA and math, and she reported that the District is meeting the challenge.

Education Reports

Student Recognition:

Over 40 students were recognized for their artwork that was either on display in Rochester during the NYSSBA Convention in October, included in our 2013-2014 Calendar, or on display in the District Office Lobby. The art teachers from Willow, Donna Geidel, and Howell, Karen Martorana were present. Trustee Chiachiere commented that fine and performing arts are a very important part of our lives.

At 8:55 p.m. President Douglas called for a five-minute recess.  
At 9:00 p.m. the meeting was reconvened by President Douglas.

Superintendent Robb-Fund gave an overview of the New Teacher Orientation and Mentoring Programs.

Curriculum Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment, Caroline Schozer, explained the NWEA results administered this fall.

Salary Gates

To approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for gate increases according to the Board/VSTA contract:

Natalie Gregorek	Step 14 to Step 15 effective October 16, 2013
Sue Simeone	Step 9 to Step 10 effective November 16, 2013

SALARY GATES APPROVED

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

Employment of a Mentor Teacher

To employ Karen Higgins as a mentor teacher at a rate of \$51.79 per hour, not to exceed 15 hours, effective November 27, 2013.

K. HIGGINS EMPLOYED AS A  
MENTOR TEACHER

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

Employment of a Part-time ESL Teacher

To employ Anna Bonventre as a part-time (.7) ESL Teacher at Willow Road School on Step 1 MA (\$67,086 pro-rated for the number of hours worked) effective December 4, 2013 through June 30, 2014 and unless sooner terminated.

A. BONVENTRE EMPLOYED AS  
A PART-TIME ESL TEACHER

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

Employment of a Noon Hour Supervisor

To employ Andrew Lalama as the Noon Hour Supervisor at James A. Dever School at a salary of \$40 per hour, 2 ½ hours per day, effective November 27, 2013 through June 30, 2014 and unless sooner terminated.

A. LALAMA EMPLOYED AS A  
NOON HOUR SUPERVISOR

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

Child Care Leave of Absence – First Year

To approve a first-year Child Care Leave of Absence for Maria L’Heureux, Classroom Teacher assigned to Wheeler Avenue School, effective December 6, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR CCL APPROVED FOR  
M. L’HEUREUX

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

Employment of a Replacement Classroom Teacher

To employ Stephanie Lotito as a Replacement Classroom Teacher assigned to Wheeler Avenue School, on Step 1 MA (\$67,086) effective December 6, 2013 through June 30, 2014 and unless sooner terminated.

S. LOTITO EMPLOYED AS A REPLACEMENT CLASSROOM TEACHER

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

Salary Recommendations

To establish the 2013-2014 salaries as recommended by the Superintendent for an increase of 1.5% as listed below:

SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Pamela Arata, Technology Specialist I	\$50,340
Ami Anci, Occupational Therapist	\$70,447
Shirley Fils-Ami, Occupational Therapist	\$67,918
Shoshana Bazini, .8 FTE Physical Therapist	\$58,050

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

Substitute Teacher List

To approve the updated Substitute Teacher List for the 2013-2014 school year.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST UPDATED AND APPROVED

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

Employment of an Art Teacher

To employ Christine Caruso as the Art Teacher assigned to Wheeler Avenue School on step 1MA (\$67,086) on three years probation effective January 6, 2014 and unless sooner terminated in accordance with the VSTA/Board Contract in effect on the date of employment.

C. CARUSO EMPLOYED AS AN ART TEACHER

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

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE** [J. DiSibio, D. Evans]

Trustee Evans reported that the Business Committee met with Assistant Superintendent Brosnan to review the Five-year Plan and the Internal Audit Reports from July through October.

Treasurer's Report

To accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending October 31, 2013.

TREASURER'S REPORT ACCEPTED

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

Budget Transfer

To approve the following transfer effective November 27, 2013:

BUDGET TRANSFER APPROVED

<i>From:</i> A2630.150.01 Comp Assisted Instruct-Salaries	\$50,000
<i>To:</i> A2630.400.01 Comp Assisted Instruct-Contractual	\$50,000

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

**POLICY COMMITTEE** [W. Stris, J. Greco Jacobs]

Trustee Stris reported that the Policy committee met and reviewed the following policies:

- 4321 Programs for Students with Disabilities
- 5153 Students Assigned to Schools and Classes
- 9420 Evaluation of Staff
- 9420.1 Building Principal and Classroom Teacher Evaluations

The committee is researching a new, friendlier version of a website for the District's policies. At our last Board meeting a community member inquired about the District calendar. The calendar is included on our website. The next Policy Committee meeting is at 5 p.m. on December 11 and it is open to the public.

Trustees Stris and Pomerantz attended a policy workshop given by NYSSBA. They attended workshops on the basics of writing policies, and they reviewed case studies on the implication of policies.

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

Committee on Special Education Reviews

To ratify and adopt the Committee on Special Education Reviews dated 10/10, 10/11, 10/15, 10/18, 10/22, 10/23, and 10/29/13.

CSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

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

Committee on Pre-school Special Education Reviews

To ratify and adopt the Committee on Pre-school Education Reviews dated 10/28 and 11/13/2013.

CPSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

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

Special Education Services Contracts

SE SERVICES CONTRACTS  
APPROVED

To approve the following Special Education Services Contracts for the 2013-2014 school year:

- Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism (NSSA)
- All Children’s Therapy

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

Impartial Hearing Officers

IMPARTIAL HEARING  
OFFICERS ROTATIONAL  
LIST UPDATED

To remove David Nydick from the Impartial Hearing Officers Rotational List, and add Patricia Phelan to the Impartial Hearing Officers Rotational List.

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

Acceptance of a Donation

TARGET DONATION  
ACCEPTED

To accept a donation from Target from their “Take Charge of Education” Program for Wheeler Avenue School in the amount of \$169 to purchase general school supplies.

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

Acceptance of a Donation

DONATION ACCEPTED  
GUITAR

To accept a donation from Dr. Adrienne Robb-Fund of a guitar valued at \$120.

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Stris, with thanks, and carried unanimously.

Acceptance of Two Donations

DONATIONS ACCEPTED  
J. DEJOSE GRANT RECIPIENT

To accept two donations from DonorsChoose.org to the James A. Dever School of two tubano drums (valued at \$465.91) and other assorted instruments (valued at \$363.90) in response to two grants submitted and received by the music teacher, Johanna DeJose.

Moved by Trustee Evans, with thanks, seconded by Trustee Stris and carried unanimously.

Acceptance of a Donation

DONATION ACCEPTED

To accept the donation of a bookcase for the Wheeler library from Lois Waxman, a former Wheeler Teacher, and two Wheeler Avenue School families, the Cavaliere Family and the Fratarcangeli Family, with an approximate value of \$200.

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Stris, with thanks, and carried unanimously.

Conference Attendance

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE  
FRNC WASHINGTON, D.C. -  
TRUSTEE CHIACHIERE

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board approves the attendance of Trustee Frank Chiachiere to attend the Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, D.C. as the Area Liaison representing the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association and to lobby on behalf of the District and the Association with elected representatives and federal education officials; and authorizes the payment of reasonable and necessary travel expenses of Dr. Chiachiere, in accordance with District policy.

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

**High School Report**

In Trustee DiSibio’s absence, Trustee Chiachiere reported that a high school student, Michael Yang, was appointed the AP Scholar of New York State. VS Central HSD was the only district in the state to receive this honor. Mr. Yang took 18 AP courses and maintained an average of 4.83.

**Report of the Attorney**

Below is an excerpt of the written report submitted by Florence Frazer regarding inBloom, a shared learning infrastructure to be implemented by NY State:

All school districts currently collect and store certain student data. Valley Stream School District 13 (“District”) does not collect students’ Social Security numbers, nor does the New York State Education Department (“SED”) receive that information from any source. Rather, District students are assigned a unique student ID number upon enrollment, and that number remains with the student throughout his/her time in the Valley Stream elementary and Valley Stream high school district schools.

It should be noted that student data collection is not a new concept. In fact, school districts have been required to report student information to SED, in accordance with state and/or federal law for a number of years. The District is required by law to submit certain information to SED, either via BOCES, or directly to SED, often for state aid purposes or in connection with federal aid programs.

Among the information currently required to be submitted to SED is the following: demographic data, enrollment data, eligibility for free or reduced lunch program, English as a Second Language status, ethnicity data, special education/section 504 status, attendance and suspension information.

Currently, school districts share student data with third party vendors which provide services such as student transportation, student scheduling, special education management services, school lunch programs, etc. More often than not, however, when districts contract with a vendor to provide needed services, the vendor's software program is not compatible with existing school data software, requiring the district to pay not only for the vendor's service, but also for the cost of integrating the vendor's software with the school district's local data system. Clearly this is not a prudent use of limited district resources.

The **Shared Learning Infrastructure** is a standardized data access and user authorization system, which will reduce costs for school districts. SED has contracted with inBloom, a not-for-profit corporation based in Atlanta, Georgia, to provide such services.

- inBloom does not provide educational software;
- inBloom will provide data integration service and content search services;
- inBloom cannot sell student data, or use data for commercial purposes; and
- inBloom will provide a high level of security for student data, including both intrusion protection and encryption of data.

Simply stated, inBloom's service is designed to connect student information in one integrated format, such that teachers, administrators, and SED will be able to compile and analyze data from many sources without having to convert various software formats.

Finally, in fulfillment of its obligations as a participant in the federal educational funding program known as "Race to the Top," SED will establish single sign-on **Education Data Portal** which will allow authorized educators, parents and students to log in and view student educational data by means of a "data dashboard."

New Business

Trustee Stris reported on his attendance at the Residency Advisory Committee meeting. Superintendent Robb-Fund and Assistant Superintendent for Business Brosnan were also in attendance. There was a legal update on residency issues in the three Valley Stream School Districts and Suffolk County. They reported on the responsibilities and concerns of "homeless children."

Executive Session

At 9:25 p.m. Trustee Stris made a motion for an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel history of a particular person and legal matters, seconded by Trustee Chiachiere and carried unanimously. The Superintendent and the Attorneys were invited to attend.

At 10:15 p.m. the attorneys left the meeting.  
At 10:26 p.m. the Superintendent left the meeting.

Reconvening

At 11:14 p.m. the meeting was reconvened by President Douglas.

Adjournment

At 11:15 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Stris, seconded by Trustee Chiachiere and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECONVENING

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

*Denise Michels*

Denise Michels  
District Clerk