

Regular meeting of the Board of Education and Public Hearings of Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen held in the Auditorium of the James A. Dever School on Tuesday, February 25, 2014.

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>
Trustee Douglas	Trustee Chiachiere	Superintendent Robb-Fund
Trustee Evans		Asst. Supt. for Business Brosnan
Trustee DiSibio		Asst. Supt. for Special Services Sells-Asch
Trustee Greco Jacobs		Coordinator of Curric. & Assessment Schozer
Trustee Pomerantz		Principal Capozzoli
Trustee Stris		Principal Gruen
		Principal Huplosky
		Principal Steele
		School District Attorneys *Frazer and Perna
		District Clerk Michels
		Approximately 50 Visitors

Convening CONVENING
The meeting was convened at 7:05 p.m. by President Douglas.

Quorum QUORUM
Six members being present, a quorum was determined.

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

*Attorney Frazer arrived at 7:30 p.m.

At 7:47 p.m. the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents left the Executive Session.

Reconvening RECONVENING
The meeting was reconvened at 8:08 p.m. by President Douglas.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

Quorum QUORUM
Six members being present, a quorum was determined.

Approval of the Minutes MINUTES OF 1/28 and 2/12/14
To approve the Minutes of the January 28 and February 12, 2014 meetings. MEETINGS APPROVED

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

Correspondence CORRESPONDENCE
Frazer & Feldman

- Amendments to the Regulations Governing Impartial Due Process Hearings
- Veterans’ Exemption – Public Notice Requirements
- Health Care Reform Part X – Employer Mandate Regulations

Guercio & Guercio

- Opt-out Requests Update
- Real Property Tax Law
- Board of Regents Adjustments to Common Core Implementation & Regulatory Amendments
- Common Core Adjustments & Regulatory Update
- Affordable Care Act
- inBloom Update

NYSSBA Letter from the Executive Director, Timothy Kremer, thanking the district for continuing membership

PUBLIC HEARING FOR VETERANS’ EXEMPTION

At 8:10 p.m. President Douglas opened the Public Hearing on the anticipated proposed resolution adopting a Veterans’ property tax exemption. President Douglas explained the purpose of the hearing, and he asked if there were any comments from the public. Several VFW Post members were in attendance. Mr. Peter Zullo, a Malverne resident and a member of Post 44, thanked the board for recognizing the needs of veterans, namely those that are retired, and he stated this was “a long time coming.” He asked when the exemption would take effect. The response from the Board was, “during the next round of school taxes.” Ms. Hassett, a Malverne district resident, thanked the board for their consideration.

At 8:15 p.m. on a motion made by Trustee Stris, seconded by Trustee DiSibio, the Public Hearing for Veterans Exemption was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR GOLD STAR PARENT EXEMPTION

At 8:15 p.m. President Douglas opened the Public Hearing on the anticipated proposed resolution adopting a Gold Star Parent property tax exemption. President Douglas explained the purpose of this hearing, and he asked if there were any comments from the public. Mr. Peter Zullo, Post 44, asked how many district residents would benefit from the Veterans' Exemption, and if there were any Gold Star Parents in Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen. Assistant Superintendent for Business Brosnan stated that there were no Gold Star Parents in the district, 337 veterans were in the service during combat, 410 were in the service, but non-combatant, and 53 veterans are disabled. Mr. Ronald Feltington, a Valley Stream resident, requested that the Gold Star Parent Exemption be bundled with the Veterans Exemption. Mr. Ed Howard, a Malverne district resident, asked if these exemptions included people serving in the Reserves. Attorney Perna indicated that if they meet the requirements for the exemptions, they will be included.

At 8:25 p.m. on a motion made by Trustee Stris, seconded by Trustee Evans and carried unanimously, the Public Hearing for the Gold Star Parent Exemption was closed.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Adrienne Robb-Fund

Superintendent Robb-Fund reported that February is Healthy Heart Month. Students made Valentines for Veterans and participated in the Jump Rope for Hearts Program. The parent workshop on helping your child with math was very successful, and additional workshops will be scheduled. The SCOPE Winter Enrichment Program began and the feedback has been positive. Students are learning foreign languages, science and art. The evening kindergarten registration was rescheduled for March 4 at 6:30 p.m. at James A. Dever School. The first Budget Ambassadors meeting will take place on February 28 at 9 a.m. in the Dever cafeteria. Contact Meredith Brosnan if you are interested in becoming a Budget Ambassador. The Annual Legislators Breakfast is on March 15 at Memorial at 8 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Meredith Brosnan will be awarded the Pathfinder Award by Town Supervisor Kate Murray; and several Board Members received Board Achievement Awards from NYSSBA: Sean Douglas, Debra Evans, Jeanne Greco Jacobs, and Toni Pomerantz. Bill Stris was awarded the NYSSBA Board Lifetime Achievement Award.

Trustee Douglas congratulated all the Board Members for their achievements. He thanked Bill Stris for all he does to keep the Board updated on the new rules and regulations.

Substitute Noon Hour/Classroom Aide

To add Deanna Ventura as a substitute Noon Hour/Classroom Aide.

D. VENTURA ADDED AS A SUB
NH/CRA

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 February 10 and reviewed the NWEA update, Gifted & Talented Program, the April 11 Spelling Bee, STEM Pilot for grades five and six, and the Literacy Task Force on vocabulary and writing. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 10 a.m.

Education Report

Curriculum Coordinator Schozer introduced the four librarians who gave an overview on the District Library Program and Online Databases.

Salary Gates

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

SALARY GATES APPROVED

<u>Step 9 to Step 10</u>	<u>Step 14 to Step 15</u>	<u>Step 19 to Step 20</u>
Janis Boremski (D) (effective 5/1/14)	Josette Green (D) (effective 3/16/14) Lisa Mulqueen (H) (effective 5/16/14)	Susan Nissen (D) (effective 3/1/14) Cynthia Shannon (Wi) (effective 2/1/14)

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

Child Care Leave of Absence – 1st Year

To accept a 1st year Child Care Leave of Absence for Mary Frances Scott, the music teacher assigned to Wheeler Avenue School, effective March 8, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

M. SCOTT CCL 1ST YEAR
APPROVED

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

Employment of a Replacement Music Teacher

Employment of Matthew Spinks as a replacement music teacher assigned to Wheeler Avenue School effective March 9, 2014 through June 30, 2014 on Step1BA (\$57,684).

M. SPINKS EMPLOYED AS A
REPLACEMENT MUSIC
TEACHER

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

School Calendar 2014-2015

To approve the school calendar for the 2014-2015 school year.

2014-2015 SCHOOL CALENDAR
APPROVED

Moved by Trustee Pomerantz, seconded by Trustee DiSibio 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 Pomerantz, seconded by Trustee Stris and carried unanimously.

Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

To accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement, in accordance with Section 5.9 of the VSTA Agreement, for Susan Barone, teacher assigned to the Willow Road School, effective July 1, 2014.

RESIGNATION FOR
RETIREMENT ACCEPTED FOR
S. BARONE

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

Resignation of the Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment

To accept the resignation of Caroline Schozer, the Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment, effective June 30, 2014.

C. SCHOZER RESIGNATION
ACCEPTED

Moved by Trustee Pomerantz, seconded by Trustee Stris and carried unanimously.
On behalf of the Board, Trustee Stris wished Mrs. Schozer well.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE [J. DiSibio, D. Evans]

Trustee DiSibio reported that the Business Committee met on February 6 (rescheduled from February 3 due to inclement weather) and discussed the final development of the five-year projection and state aid.

Treasurer's Report

To approve the Treasurer's Reports for the month ending January 31, 2014.

TREASURER'S REPORT
APPROVED

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

Veterans' Exemption

To approve the amended resolution as follows:

VETERANS' EXEMPTION

Whereas, a public hearing was held on February 25, 2014 in the Auditorium of the James A. Dever School, and

APPROVED

Whereas, the Board wishes to extend real property tax exemptions to eligible and qualified property owners pursuant to Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(2), now, therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Education of Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen hereby adopts the definitions of "qualified owner," "qualifying residential real property" and "veteran" as provided in the Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(1)(c),(d) and (e), respectively, and

Be it further resolved that eligible recipients shall be entitled to the exemptions provided in Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(2)(a), (b) and (c) to a maximum of six thousand dollars, four thousand dollars and twenty thousand dollars, respectively, and

*Be it further resolved that tenant-stockholders of eligible cooperative corporations, shall be eligible to receive such exemptions as provided in Real Property Tax Law 485-a(6), and

**Be it further resolved that recipients of these exemptions shall be permitted to transfer, on a pro-rata basis, the exemption to another home purchased within the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen as provided in Real Property Tax Law 485-a(8).

* *Extends, to residents of cooperatives, this exemption on the same basis as owners of real property.*

** *Allows recipients of this exemption who sell their home and purchase another home within the district to transfer the exemption on a prorated basis.*

Moved by Trustee DiSibio as amended, seconded by Trustee Stris and carried unanimously.

On the Question: Trustee Stris requested the following statement be included herewith in accordance with Policy 2360: "This is not an easy decision for a school board member who is charged with the financial stewardship of the district. Providing this tax benefit to veterans increases the property taxes for others in the community. Our state officials could have used an income tax credit, which has a far broader base, rather than the limited property tax base in each individual school district. Simply put, if the legislature and governor wanted to confer another benefit on a particular group, the state should have paid for it, rather than placing local schools in such a precarious position. Our veterans and gold star parents deserve no less."

Gold Star Parent Exemption

To approve the amended resolution as follows:

GOLD STAR PARENT
EXEMPTION APPROVED

Whereas, a public hearing was held on February 25, 2014 in the Auditorium of the James A. Dever School, and

Whereas, the Board wishes to extend a real property tax exemption to the parent(s) of a child who died in the line of duty while serving in the United States armed forces during a period of war as permitted by Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(7), now, therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen hereby adopts the definitions of "Gold Star Parent" as provided in the Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(7)(a), and

Be it further resolved that such a Gold Star Parent shall be entitled to the exemptions provided pursuant to Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(7), to a combined maximum of ten thousand dollars, and as limited by Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(7)(c).

Moved by Trustee DiSibio as amended, seconded Stris by Trustee and carried unanimously.

On the Question: Trustee Stris requested the following statement be included herewith in accordance with Policy 2360: "This is not an easy decision for a school board member who is charged with the financial stewardship of the district. Providing this tax benefit to veterans increases the property taxes for others in the community. Our state officials could have used an income tax credit, which has a far broader base, rather than the limited property tax base in each individual school district. Simply put, if the legislature and governor wanted to confer another benefit on a particular group, the state should have paid for it, rather than placing local schools in such a precarious position. Our veterans and gold star parents deserve no less."

Disposal of Obsolete, Surplus or Unusable District Property: Computer Equipment
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Valley Stream Union Free School District 13 hereby declares the articles of property listed on attachment "1" to be obsolete, surplus or unusable property whose market value is indeterminate, and hereby directs the Superintendent to sell said property for market value at a public sale, if possible, and to otherwise dispose of any remaining unsold property in an appropriate manner.

DISPOSTAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

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

State Environment Quality Review Negative Declaration, Notice of Non-Significance
WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen is the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Process for the purpose of required determinations respecting the proposed Capital Improvement Projects as follows:

SEQR DECLARATION

- a. James A. Dever School
 - 1. Door Replacement SED # 28-02-13-02-0-001-030
- b. Howell Road School SED # 28-02-13-02-0-002-019
 - 1. Basketball Court Reconstruction
 - 2. ADA Ramp Construction
 - 3. Door Replacement
- c. Wheeler Avenue School SED # 28-02-13-02-0-003-021
 - 1. Door Replacement
- d. Willow Road School SED # 28-02-13-02-0-004-015
 - 1. Gym Roof Replacement
 - 2. Parking Lot/Playground Reconstruction

WHEREAS, in 1995, amendments were made to the SEQRA Regulation (Part 617) to classify projects, which will be excluded from the requirements for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (Type II Actions). The project mentioned above is now classified as Type II Actions as determined by NYCRR Section 617.5 and

WHEREAS, these projects fall under the following categories:

- A. Routine Maintenance and Repair 6NYCRR Section 617.5 (c) (1): Maintenance or repair involving no substantial change in an existing facility.
- B. Replace or Rehabilitation 6NYCRR Section 617.5 (c) (2): Replacement or Rehabilitation or Reconstruction of a structure of facility, in kind, on the same site, unless the work excess a threshold for a Type I action in 6NYCRR Section 617.4.
- C. 6NYCRR Section 617.5 (c) (8); Routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings.

THEREFORE, as the lead agency for the SEQRA determination, the above referenced projects fall under Categories "A" or "B" above. The procedure for Type II Actions, with regard to the SEQRA Process for Capital Projects noted above is "No Additional Action under 6NYCRR Section 617.5 (a)".

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

Resignation of a Maintainer

To accept the resignation of Roberto Carreras as a Maintainer effective February 25, 2014.

R. CARRERAS RESIGNED AS A MAINTAINER

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

Employment of a Custodian

To employ Roberto Carreras as a Custodian assigned to the James A. Dever School effective February 26, 2014 in accordance with the Local 1000 Civil Service Employees Association, Inc. at an annual salary of \$51,091.

R. CARRERAS EMPLOYED AS A CUSTODIAN

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

Civil Service Law Section 75

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Valley Stream Union Free School District No. 13 approves the preferral of charges pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 75 against the individual named in Confidential Attachment A; and

CIVIL SERVICE LAW SECTION 75 (CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT A)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT said individual be suspended without pay for thirty days, effective upon service of the Statement of Charges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education designates and appoints Mr. Arthur Riegel, Esq. to serve as hearing officer in said matter.

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

Health & Welfare Contracts for 2013-2014

- a) To approve the Health and Welfare contract for a Valley Stream UFSD #13 student attending school in the *Jericho Union Free School District* at a rate of \$952.34 per student for the 2013-2014 school year. Total cost for 1 student is \$952.34.
- b) To approve the Health and Welfare contract for a Valley Stream UFSD #13 student attending school in the *Lawrence Union Free School District* at a rate of \$719.94 per student for the 2013-2014 school year. Total cost for 1 student is \$719.94.
- c) To approve the Health and Welfare contract for those Valley Stream UFSD #13 students attending schools in the *East Rockaway Union Free School District* at a rate of \$1,190.36 per student for the 2013-2014 school year. Total cost for 5 students is \$5,951.80.

HEALTH & WELFARE CONTRACTS APPROVED

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

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

Trustee Stris reported that the Policy Committee met on February 10 and reviewed several policies. Several new policies will be brought before the board for a first reading next month. The committee continued to review policy sections 6000 – 8000. The next meeting will be held on February 26 at 5 p.m. in the Board Room.

Policies for 2nd Reading and Adoption

To adopt the following policies after a 2nd Reading:

- 0150 HIV/AIDS
- 0330 Evaluation of Professional Staff (NYSSBA 9420)
- 1100 Public Information Program
- 2210 Board Reorganization
- 2230.1 Appointed Board Officers/Letters of Intent (NEW)
- 2310 Regular Meetings
- 2510 New Board Member Orientation
- 3220 Administrative Council, Cabinets, Committees
- 3240 Line and Staff Relations
- 4315.1 AIDS Instruction
- 4513-R Regulation - Library Materials and Selection
- 4710 Grading System
- 5100 Attendance Policy

POLICIES ADOPTED

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE [Vice President D. Evans]

Committee on Special Education Reviews

To ratify and adopt the Committee on Special Education Reviews dated 1/23, 1/24D, 1/24Wh, 1/27H, 1/27H, 1/28, 1/30Wh, and 1/30/14Wi.

CSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

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

Committee on Pre-school Special Education Reviews

CPSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

To ratify and adopt the Committee on Pre-school Education Reviews dated 1/23, 1/28, and 1/31/14.

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

Additional Voter Registration

ADDITIONAL VOTER
REGISTRATION

To approve additional voter registration at the spring concerts on the following dates:

Howell Road	Thursday, March 13	6:30 - 7:30 PM
James A. Dever	Tuesday, March 18	6:30 - 7:30 PM
Wheeler Avenue	Wednesday, March 19	6:30 - 7:30 PM
Willow Road	Thursday, March 27	6:30 - 7:30 PM

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

Special Education Contract

SE CONTRACT APPROVED

To approve a special education contract between the Bellmore UFSD and Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen for the 2013-2014 school year.

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

Donation

DONATION APPROVED

To approve the donation of two desks and a hutch to the Howell Road School from National Financial Network, LLC with an approximate value of \$150.

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

Donation

DONATION APPROVED

To accept a donation from Mr. & Mrs. Akbar Muhammad of seven Disney movie videos with an estimated value of \$50 for use at the Wheeler Avenue School.

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

District Shared Decision Making Team – Additional Members

DISTRICT SDM TEAM
MEMBERS ADDED

To add the following members to the District Shared Decision Making Team:

Noele Villa	Ruth Palazzolo	Deborah Kalb
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Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Stris and carried unanimously.

District Shared Decision Making Plan

DISTRICT SHARED DECISION
MAKING PLAN APPROVED

To approve the District Shared Decision Making Plan for 2014 through 2016.

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

Informational

Petitions are available for three Board seats that will expire on June 30, 2014, namely, Frank Chiachiere, Sean Douglas, and Debra Evans. This is a 3-year term of office effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017. Petitions are available in the District Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday when school is in session. Petitions require 34 District Thirteen resident signatures and must be returned to the District Clerk by Monday, April 21, 2014 by 5 PM. Please take note that school will be closed for spring break from April 14 through April 18, 2014 and there will be no one available to accept petitions during this time. The District Office will be open on Monday, April 21, 2014 from 9 AM to 5 PM, the date petitions are due.

Petitions on the District Website for the 2015 Election

Trustee Stris made a motion to place the nominating petitions on the Valley Stream 13 website for the 2015 annual election, seconded by Trustee Pomerantz and carried unanimously.

High School Report
Joseph DiSibio

Trustee DiSibio reported that Valley Stream CHS Board met on February 11, 2014. The Board recognized 99 student musicians for their accomplishments in music and their participation in NYS Student Music Association All State Conference, the All County Music Festival and the LI String Festival. Superintendent Heidenreich presented the proposed budget with an increase in the tax levy of 1.49%. This is the lowest tax increase in over eight years; however, this will require a 60% majority vote because it is in excess of the districts allowable tax levy increase of 1.05%. The increase is well below the 2% cap due to the district satisfying its debt obligation under the bond issue that was done 15 years ago. This proposed budget enables the district to restore initiatives taken away in recent years.

Report of the Attorney
Florence Frazer

Attorney Frazer reported on a case regarding Assumption of Risk. “A person who voluntarily participates in an activity whose risks are known, apparent, natural, or reasonably foreseeable as a consequence of participating in this activity, is assumed to have consented to and assessed those risks.” A student was injured during a wrestling match and claimed that the referee was to blame. The case was dismissed based on Assumption of Risk.

Old Business

Trustee Stris read the book Reign of Error by Diane Ravitch and passed it on to Trustee DiSibio.

New Business

Trustees Pomerantz and Stris attended the NYSSBA Public Education and the Law in NYC on January 29. The topic of discussion was “Education Under Fire: Current Legal Issues Affecting Our State and Nation’s Public Schools.”

Trustees Chiachiere, Greco Jacobs, Pomerantz, Stris, and Superintendent Robb-Fund attended the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Conference on January 30 entitled “Suburban Schools In the Center of the Storm.

Adjournment

At 9:25 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Stris, seconded by Trustee DiSibio and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Michels

Denise Michels
District Clerk