

Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 via zoom # Meeting ID: 927 9427 5868 as authorized by Executive Order of the Governor.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Trustee Cavaliere
Trustee Chiachiere*
Trustee Farrell
Trustee Oliveri
Trustee Pomerantz
Trustee Stris
Trustee Vicente

Superintendent Evelyn
Asst. Supt. for Curr. LaRocca
Asst. Supt. for Spec. Svcs. Sells-Asch
Asst. Supt. for Bus. & HR Antoine
Dir. of Tech. and Innov. DiMango
School District Attorney Sheahan
School District Attorney Shishko
District Clerk Rosamilia

Approx. 2 visitors

Convening

The meeting was convened at 7:15 p.m. by President Vicente.

CONVENING

Quorum

Six members being present, a quorum was determined.

QUORUM

*arrived at 7:36 p.m.

Executive Session

The Board immediately moved into Executive Session on a motion made by Trustee Stris, seconded by Trustee Pomerantz and carried unanimously to discuss the personnel of a particular company and contractual nurse negotiations. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, and School District Attorneys were invited to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reconvening

The meeting was reconvened at 8:04 p.m. by President Vicente.

RECONVENING

Quorum

Seven members being present, a quorum was determined.

QUORUM

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

Approval of the Minutes

To approve the minutes of the November 7, 2020 Special Meeting (Bldg. Inspection), November 17, 2020 Committee and Special Meeting, November 24, 2020 Board of Education Meeting.

MINUTES OF 11/7/20.
BLDG. INSPEC., 11/17/20
COMM. & SPEC. MTG.,
11/24/20 BOE MTG.
APPROVED

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

Correspondence

There is no correspondence this month.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Culturally Responsive Instruction/Anti-Racism

Superintendent Evelyn and Assistant Superintendent LaRocca presented a power point and discussed the best practices that Valley Stream Thirteen has been engaged in relative to equity, diversity and culturally responsive sustaining education as well as the professional development work we have been doing about anti-racism in our district.

Committee Reports

EDUCATION COMMITTEE [F. Chiachiere, Chairperson; G. Cavaliere]

Leave of Absence Unpaid

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves a one (1) year unpaid leave of absence for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year as a reasonable accommodation for a disability to the employee listed on Confidential Schedule "A".

UNPAID LEAVE OF
ABSENCE APPROVED

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

Credit for Advanced Study

To approve the credit for advanced study effective February 1, 2021 as listed in accordance with the VSTA/Board Agreement:

CREDIT FOR ADVANCED STUDY APPROVED

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Annemarie Gunn (James A. Dever School)	13MA+45	13MA+60
Susana Sousa (Howell Road School)	3.5MA	3.5MA+15
Robert D’Agostino (Wheeler Avenue School)	2MA	2MA+15
Hilary Whitney-Rene (Willow Road School)	3.5MA	3.5MA+15

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

Appointment of Permanent Substitute Teacher

To appoint Danielle Ciervo as a Permanent Substitute Teacher assigned to the Howell Road School at a rate of \$125 per day effective December 17, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and unless sooner terminated.

D. CIERVO EMPLOYED AS PERM. SUB. TEACHER

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

Appointment of Noon-Hour Aide

To appoint Deirdre Benincasa as a Noon-Hour Aide assigned to the Wheeler Avenue School at a rate of \$13 per hour effective December 17, 2020 pending Civil Service approval and unless sooner terminated.

D. BENINCASA EMPLOYED AS NOON-HOUR AIDE

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

Rescind Appointment

RESOLVED the Board of Education hereby rescinds the resolution of November 24, 2020 to appoint Benjamin Schulman as a Noon-Hour Aide.

THIS ITEM WAS NOT READ OR VOTED ON

This item was not read or voted on and was placed on the January 26, 2021 agenda.

Employment of Mentor Teacher

To employ Christy Taveira for Jennifer Martin (.5 Speech Teacher at Willow Road School) as a mentor effective December 17, 2020 at a rate of \$55.71 per hour for no more than 30 hours.

C. TAVEIRA EMPLOYED AS MENTOR TEACHER

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

Substitute List

To approve the Substitute List for 2020-2021.

2020/2021 SUBSTITUTE LIST APPROVED

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

**In order to be eligible for tenure, an individual receiving a probationary appointment as a classroom/special education teacher must receive annual composite or overall APPR ratings of H or E in at least three of the four preceding years, and if the individual receives a rate of I in the final year of the probationary period, he or she will not be eligible for tenure at that time.*

BUSINESS COMMITTEE [P. Farrell, Chairperson; J. Oliveri]

Treasurer’s Report

To approve the Treasurer’s Report for November 2020.

TREASURER’S REPORT
11/30/20 APPROVED

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

Substitute Pay for Custodians

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby establishes the rate of pay for Substitute Cleaners at \$14 per hour effective January 1, 2021.

SUB. PAY FOR CUSTODIANS ESTABLISHED

Moved by Trustee Farrell, seconded by Trustee Cavaliere and carried unanimously.

POLICY COMMITTEE [W. Stris, Chairperson; J. Oliveri]

There is no report this month.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE [T. Pomerantz, Chairperson; W. Stris; G. Cavaliere]

Trustee Pomerantz reported that the Willow Road and Wheeler Avenue libraries should be completed by the end of the summer. The next meeting of the Facilities Committee is scheduled for January 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via zoom.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE [Vice President P. Farrell]

CONSENT AGENDA (Agenda items 1-4)

The following items were approved on a motion for a Consent Agenda by Trustee Farrell, seconded by Trustee Oliveri and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Rescind Resolution - Capco Shades

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves a settlement agreement and general release with Capco Shades, Inc. and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute same, and it is further

CAPCO SHADES 7/29/20
RESOLUTION RESCINDED

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby accepts Capco Shades, Inc.’s withdrawal of the bid submitted on May 15, 2020, and it is further

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby rescinds its resolution of July 29, 2020 determining to disqualify Capco on the basis of non-responsibility.

Approval of ATC Contract

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the attached Letter of Agreement between ATC Testing and Screen Services, LLC and the District and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute same.

ATC TESTING AND SCREEN
SVCS. AGREEMENT
APPROVED

Committee on Special Education Reviews

To ratify and adopt the Committee on Special Education Reviews dated 11/18, 11/20, 11/24, 11/30 and 12/1/20.

CSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

Committee on Pre-school Special Education Reviews

To ratify and adopt the Committee on Pre-school Education Reviews dated 11/18/20.

CPSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

END CONSENT AGENDA – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Report of the Attorney

School District Attorney Sheahan reported on an Education Law Section 3020-a proceeding. The district filed charges against a tenured high school teacher and coach (“respondent”) based on “acts of misconduct, conduct unbecoming a teacher, insubordination, and neglect of duty”. The teacher was charged with misconduct related to bullying and harassment of students during class and during athletic events and practices. Among the allegations were that the teacher would call students names, intimidate them, and threaten students academically by altering their grades based upon their athletic performance. The hearing officer found multiple instances of misconduct and that the teacher did not show remorse. Significantly, the hearing officer found that altering student grades or using the threat of altering grades based upon student athletic performance was misconduct warranting termination. Therefore, the hearing officer determined that there was just cause to terminate respondent from the district.

High School Report

Trustee Pomerantz reported that the high school met on December 8, 2020. Members of South’s clubs, honor societies and staff teamed up to create food baskets for families within the community. The school donated 50 baskets and distributed them to families to brighten their Thanksgiving holiday. Additionally, many pounds of food were also donated to Holy Name of Mary R.C. Church food pantry. Memorial hosted its 7th grade team trivia tournament. Members of North’s STOP Club teamed up and prepared a feast for families at Bethany House of Long Island. Students of North’s Ecology Club teamed up to adorn the building grounds by spending an afternoon planting tulip bulbs. South students celebrated Spirit Week by transforming the hallways with colorful decorations that reflected the holiday and school spirit. Central High School Junior Ashlee Enderica was awarded a \$5,000 prize for taking second place in the prestigious “Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2020”. The high school district will hold its annual building inspection on Saturday, January 9, 2021 and the next business meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

Trustee Stris added that the Board of Education hereby approved a request for a medical leave of absence for Superintendent Heidenreich for a period of up to twelve weeks. Assistant Superintendent Odell was appointed acting Superintendent.

Old Business

There is no old business to report.

New Business

Superintendent Evelyn thanked Senator Todd Kaminsky for a donation of toys to the children in Valley Stream Thirteen.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Trustee Stris, seconded by Trustee Farrell and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Rosamilia

MaryAnn Rosamilia
District Clerk