

Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 via zoom # Meeting ID: 970 7095 0532 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. 10 visitors

Convening

The meeting was convened at 7:17 p.m. by President Vicente.

CONVENING

Quorum

Seven members being present, a quorum was determined.

QUORUM

Executive Session

The Board immediately moved into Executive Session on a motion made by Trustee Cavaliere, seconded by Trustee Farrell and carried unanimously to discuss legal matters and Superintendent’s contract. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business and HR, and School District Attorneys were invited to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reconvening

The meeting was reconvened at 8:00 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 January 19, 2021 Committee Meeting; January 26, 2021 Board of Education Meeting.

MINUTES OF 1/19/21.  
COMM. MTG., 1/26/21  
BOE MTG.  
APPROVED

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

Correspondence

A thank you card was received from the Fowler family.  
An invitation to the Wheeler Avenue PTA Founder’s Day Celebration was received.

CORRESPONDENCE  
Fowler family  
Wheeler Ave. PTA

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Superintendent Evelyn introduced Assistant Superintendent LaRocca to provide the Board and community with an update relative to our instructional programs as it relates to special areas. Assistant Superintendent LaRocca presented a power point to share the many ways the special areas, which include Gifted & Talented, English as a new language, Art, Music, Physical Education and Library, have adapted to teaching during the COVID pandemic. She was joined by District Art Coordinator Janis Boremski.

Trustee Oliveri reported her findings of the specific budgets that were presented and reviewed at the Nassau BOCES Budget Review Committee meetings.

**Committee Reports**

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

Approve Employment Agreement – Assistant Superintendent of Business & Human Resources

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the attached Employment Agreement with Gerard N. Antoine, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Human Resources for the period of January 16, 2021 through January 15, 2022.

G. ANTOINE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT APPROVED

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

Appointment of Long-Term Substitute Teacher

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby appoints Kara Gibbons as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher in place of Alyssa Rivera at a rate of \$140 per day, effective February 1, 2021 for a period not to exceed 60 days unless otherwise extended by the Board of Education.

K. GIBBONS EMPLOYED AS LONG-TERM SUB. TEACHER

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

Appointment of Replacement Librarian

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves Erin Lallier as a Leave Replacement effective February 24, 2021 conditioned upon the continuation of the leave of the teacher whom she is replacing and for the duration of such leave, unless sooner terminated on the teacher’s salary schedule MA Step 1 at a rate of \$72,173.

E. LALLIER EMPLOYED AS LEAVE REPLACEMENT LIBRARIAN

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

Appointment of Classroom Aide

To appoint Lodeen Stewart as Classroom Aide at the Willow Road School on Step 1 (\$17,468) effective February 24, 2021 pending Civil Service approval and unless sooner terminated.

L. STEWART EMPLOYED AS CLASSROOM AIDE - WRS

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

Memorandum of Agreement – Temporary Nursing Services

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby ratifies the attached memorandum of agreement with the Valley Stream Teachers’ Association to provide a stipend for temporary nursing services.

TEMP. NURSING SVCS. MOA APPROVED

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Cavaliere 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.*

**CONSENT AGENDA (Agenda items 6-7)**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Resignation of Noon-Hour Aide

To accept the resignation of Lodeen Stewart, Noon-Hour Aide at the James A. Dever School effective February 23, 2021, letter dated January 29, 2021.

L. STEWART RESIGNATION APPROVED

Substitute List

To approve the Substitute List for 2020-2021.

SUBSTITUE LIST 2020-2021 APPROVED

**END CONSENT AGENDA – EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

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

There is no report this month.

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

Policies for 1st Reading

- 0105 Equity, Inclusivity and Diversity in Education

POLICIES FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

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

The Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. Topics discussed were open items pertaining to the bond. The asphalt and bushes at Wheeler Avenue School will be replaced in late March or early April. James A. Dever, Howell Road and Willow Road Schools will be completed during Spring break. The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:45 p.m.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE [Vice President P. Farrell]**

Agreement of Therapeutic Services

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

APEX THERAPEUTIC SVCS. AGR. APPROVED

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

Consultant Services – Temporary Nursing Services  
RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the attached Letter of Agreement between Soliant Services, LLC and the District to provide temporary nursing services and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute same.

SOLIANT SVCS. AGR.  
APPROVED

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

**CONSENT AGENDA (Agenda items 3-6)**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

School Calendar for 2021-2022  
To approve the 2021-2022 school calendar.

2021-2022 SCHOOL  
CALENDAR APPROVED

Impartial Hearing Officer Rotational List  
BE IT RESOLVED that effective January 27, 2021 Arthur Venezia be deleted from the Impartial Hearing Officer list for the district.

A. VENEZIA DELETED  
FROM IHO LIST

Committee on Special Education Reviews  
To ratify and adopt the Committee on Special Education Reviews dated 1/8, 1/12, 1/15(WRS), 1/15(HRS), 1/20, 1/21, 1/22, 1/26, 1/27, 1/28, 1/29, 2/3, 2/4, and 2/8/2021.

CSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

Committee on Pre-school Special Education Reviews  
To ratify and adopt the Committee on Pre-school Education Reviews dated 1/22/2021 and 1/29/2021.

CPSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

**END CONSENT AGENDA – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Report of the Attorney**

School District Attorney Sheahan reported on an appeal regarding the suspension of a student. In Commissioner's decision, petitioner, the parent of a student attending school in the district, appealed the Superintendent's decision to suspend the student for a total of five days. Initially, the student was suspended by the Principal for five days. After a long-term suspension hearing, the presiding hearing officer recommended the student be found guilty but no additional penalty be imposed. The Superintendent adopted the hearing officer's recommendation. On several occasions the district notified petitioner of its policy requiring a suspension of five days or less be appealed to the Superintendent and Board of Education within 30 days of a decision and before commencing an appeal to the Commissioner of Education. In the decision, the Commissioner noted that students who are suspended from school for five days or less may appeal the suspension to the Commissioner unless a school district has adopted a policy requiring students to appeal short-term suspensions to the Board of Education first. The District had adopted such a policy and petitioner was given repeated, explicit notice of said policy. The Commissioner found that the 30-day appeal deadline was reasonable and had been clearly communicated to petitioner. As such, Commissioner dismissed the appeal and upheld the district's actions.

**High School Report**

Trustee Pomerantz reported that the High School met on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. It was discussed that the proposed budget maintains all the district's existing programs while adding additional services to meet the social and emotional needs of our students and families. It also provides for improving the technological capabilities of our services and programs. The proposed 2021-2022 calendar was also discussed. Three members of the International Thespian Honor Society from Central High School's performing arts program have been selected to perform in the New York Thespian statewide virtual performance. The next High School business meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

**Old Business**

There is no old business to report.

**New Business**

There is no new business to report.

**Recognition of Visitors**

Several parents asked questions concerning the upcoming sixth grade graduation ceremonies and end of year activities. Superintendent Evelyn responded to their inquiries.

Cristina Arroyo inquired on what does a culturally responsive curriculum entail, does it model the NYS culturally responsive framework and are there documents accessible to the public. Superintendent Evelyn and Assistant Superintendent LaRocca responded to her inquiries.

**Executive Session**

At 8:45 p.m. a motion for Executive Session was made by Trustee Stris, seconded by Trustee Chiachiere and carried unanimously to discuss Superintendent's contract. The School District Attorneys were invited to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reconvening

The meeting was reconvened at 9:22 p.m. by President Vicente.

Quorum

Seven members being present, a quorum was determined.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Trustee Stris, seconded by Trustee Oliveri and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

RECONVENING

QUORUM

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

*MaryAnn Rosamilia*

MaryAnn Rosamilia  
District Clerk