

These are the official minutes of the regular meeting of the Valley Stream UFSD #30 Board of Education as corrected.

Date: October 25, 2010

Location of Meeting:
Shaw Avenue Library Media Center

Board Members Present:

E. Antonelli, C. Pean, K. Cummings
C Stewart, J. Lavery

Board Members Absent:

Staff Members Present:

E. Kanas, Superintendent of Schools
S. Freifelder, Interim Assistant Supt for Business
R. Meloni, Director of Technology
G. Poole, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
P. Stellino – Interim Director of Special Education
A. Hudson, E. Malone, J. Singleton, Building Principals
G. Abbate, Director of Facilities
A. O'Brien, District Clerk

Staff Member Absent:

Others in Attendance:

L. Argento, D. Cerrone, N. Bart, T. McElwee, K. Merkle, M. Mahoney, J. Granger, L. Weick, W. Files, A. Roberts, A. Auciello, M. Hevia, A. Hessing, D. Jean-Baptiste, S. Chon, A. Pernick, A. Hackmack, A. Vogt-Dunn, M. Pooran-Mangal, J. Ward, et al.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m.

I. Superintendent's Report

- a. Alan Yu of Cullen & Danowski, LLP gave an External Audit Report.
- b. G. Poole gave an update on the implementation of the action plan to meet new state benchmarks.
- c. The First Public Reading Board Policies, Regulations and Exhibits (#6640, #6645, 6700, 6700-R), (#4452 - #4810) (4526-R) were presented.
- d. The Second Public Reading Board Policies, Regulations and Exhibits (#0100), (#4000 - #4327) were presented.
- e. The monthly reports were accepted as submitted
- f. Mr. Singleton gave an update on the activities for the month of October at the Clear Stream Avenue School.

II. Board President's Report

- a. Correspondence – There was none.
- b. Trustee Antonelli reminded the Board as to the submission of their self-evaluation document.
- c. Trustee Antonelli gave an update on the Wellness Committee.

IV. Public Comment

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Reading/Adoption of Minutes (see attachments)

1. On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Lavery and carried, the Board of Education dispensed with the reading of the minutes as listed.

Regular Meeting	September 27, 2010
Audit Committee Meeting	October 18, 2010
Work Session Meeting	October 18, 2010

2. On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Lavery and carried, the Board of Education accepted as corrected the minutes as listed.

Regular Meeting	September 27, 2010
Audit Committee Meeting	October 18, 2010
Work Session Meeting	October 18, 2010

VI. Education – New Business

a. Rescind of Board Motion

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education rescinded item VI-A and item VI-B on the 09/27/10 Agenda, since the District has subsequently received evidence that Eric Van Keuren has been issued his professional certification retroactive to 09/01/10.

b. Resignation

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education accepted the letter of resignation from Tara Lang from the position of contract substitute teacher effective close of business 10/08/10

c. Appointment

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education amended and approved the following appointments as listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Salary</u>	Probationary <u>Term</u>
Tara Lang	Leave Replacement, AIS Teacher	Districtwide	10/12/10**	MA, Step 1	n/a
Tami McElwee	Elementary Classroom Teacher*	Districtwide	10/27/10	MA + 60, Step 7	2 years

* to work as Staff Developer

** **retroactively approved**

d. Appointment Amendment

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved the amendment of the appointment of Lisa Rutkoske, Assistant Superintendent for Business to include “with all the powers and duties granted to the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business in the resolutions adopted at the 07/07/10 Reorganization meeting”. (Ms. Rutkoske was originally appointed at the 08/23/10 Regular Meeting (VI-D))

VI. Education – New Business (continued)

e. Appointment Amendment

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education retroactively approved the amendment of the appointment of Paul Stellino, Interim Director of Special Education to include “with all the powers and duties granted to Harriet Rabinowitz in the resolutions adopted at the 07/07/10 Reorganization Meeting”. (Mr. Stellino was originally appointed at the 09/27/10 Regular Meeting (VI-D)).

f. Appointment – AIS Academy

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education retroactively approved the attached list of additional teachers and substitute teachers for the AIS Academy to be paid at the agreed upon rate set in the Side Agreement with the Valley Stream Teacher’s Association for the school year 2010-11.

g. Club

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved the following club addition for the 2010-11 school year.

<u>Gr.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>Co-Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Level/ Compensation</u>	<u>Reason for Revision</u>
5 & 6	CSA	Step	Develop school spirit through are of stepping	14-16	Stephanie Cooke	Cl, \$1,175 (shared)	Co-sponsor due to large group 9/27/10 (VI-O)

h. Student Participant Observer Placement

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education authorized placement of the following student participant observer.

<u>University/Student</u>	<u>School/Assignment</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Adelphi University Karina Coello	Forest Road School Emilia Kister, Music	25 hours, Fall semester

i. Student Teacher Placement

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education authorized placement of the following student teachers.

<u>University/Student</u>	<u>School/Assignment</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Hofstra University Katalin Papp	Shaw Avenue School Paul Farinacci, K-6 Art	1/26/11-3/18/11
Hofstra University Stephanie Michael	Clear Stream Ave. School Gina Lombardo, Gr. 3	1/26/11-3/18/11
Hofstra University Jennifer Herman	Clear Stream Ave. School Valerie Taliercio, Gr. 2	1/26/11-3/18/11
C. W. Post Sherry Johnson	Shaw Avenue School Jacqueline Capewell, Library Media	Fall Semester

VI. Education – New Business (continued)

j. Student Observer Placement

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education authorized placement of the following student observer.

<u>University/Student</u>	<u>School/Assignment</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Adelphi University Alyssa Puccio	Forest Road School Joanna Rashkin, Gr. 5	25 hours, Fall semester, social studies
St. John’s University Jennifer Duran	Clear Stream Ave. School Stefan Debler, Gr. 6 and add’l. teachers as appropriate) Shaw Avenue School Regina Tyler, Gr. 4	8 hours, Fall semester, science 10 hours, Fall semester, general education

k. School Psychologist Student Intern

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education authorized placement of the following student intern.

<u>University/Student</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Adelphi University Kathryn Taylor	Shaw Avenue School John Comcowich, Ph.D.	2010-2011
Iona College Ashley Lopez	Clear Stream Ave School Jennifer Orellana	2010-2011

l. Contract – Special Education Services

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved the attached contract with North Merrick UFSD for the provision of special education services for a parentally placed student as per IDEA regulations.

m. Committee for Special Education

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education agreed to provided programs and services for the following special education students as indicated.

n. Committee for Preschool Special Education

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education agreed to provide programs and services for the following preschool special education students as indicated.

o. Nassau BOCES Letter of intent - Increase

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved an increase in the Letter of Intent/Co-Ser #A607for BOCES Western Suffolk to provide update services for school planning by \$5,700 for the 2010-11 school year.

VI. Education – New Business (continued)

- p. Nassau BOCES Letter of Intent - Increase
On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved an increase in the 2010-2011 Nassau BOCES Letter of Intent for the purchase of Discovery Education streaming Basic for Clear Stream Avenue, Forest Road and Shaw Avenue Schools. (The prorated cost, 10/01/10 through 06/30/10, is \$3,543.75.)
- q. Nassau BOCES Letter of Intent - Increase
On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved an increase in the 2010-2011 Nassau BOCES Letter of Intent for the license renewal and maintenance support for the District’s video surveillance equipment at the Shaw Avenue School in the amount of \$2,227.72.
- r. Consultant Services – Schoolwide, Inc.
On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved the provision of Writing Fundamentals professional development, as provided by Schoolwide, Inc., during the 2010-2011 school year, at a cost not-to-exceed \$9,000.
- s. Consultant Services – Heinemann
On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved the provision professional development services by Heinemann in the area of Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment training at a cost not-to-exceed \$2,880.
- t. Consultant Services – The Collaborative Classroom
On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved the provision of up to 18 days of professional development services by Nell Landman in the area of “The Collaborative Classroom,” at a cost not-to-exceed \$10,800.
- u. Superintendent’s Goals
On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried, the Board of Education approved the attached Superintendent’s goals for the 2010-11 school year.
- v. Tax Certiorari
WHEREAS, in 1938, at the specific request and behest of the County of Nassau, New York State granted county-wide property assessment jurisdiction to the County of Nassau; and

WHEREAS, aside from upstate Tompkins County, Nassau is the only county-wide assessing unit in New York State, with over 415,000 parcels, and is second in size only to the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, in its original consideration of the County of Nassau’s petition for assessment jurisdiction, the New York State legislature expressed concerns that the enormity of the assessment load would result in erroneous assessments and subsequent challenges; and

VI. Education – New Business (continued)

v. Tax Certiorari (continued)

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature, aware that school districts are highly dependent on a secure property tax base and that school budgets would be vulnerable as a result of inaccurate tax rolls, thereby endangering the education of children, decreed in 1948 that the County of Nassau, with its broader range of revenues, should be held responsible for costs and penalties resulting from its errors in assessment; and

WHEREAS, in order to secure control of a county-wide system and the benefits thereof, the County of Nassau pledged and guaranteed to the State of New York to protect its school districts from any negative consequences resulting from the assessment procedures utilized by the County of Nassau ; and

WHEREAS, for decades, schools and taxpayers within the County of Nassau have suffered from the inequities caused by the adherence of the County of Nassau to an irrefutably and admittedly flawed assessment process; and

WHEREAS, legal challenges to commercial assessments made by the County of Nassau have been, either negligently or willfully, permitted to languish in the courts for years and years, accruing interest at exorbitant rates prior to their eventual settlement by the County of Nassau; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, in order to facilitate an assessment roll relatively free from errors and potential challenges, the New York State Legislature granted the Nassau County Assessment Review Commission one (1) full year for review prior to the establishment of its final assessment roll; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, has denied the attempt by the County of Nassau to shift responsibility for multi-year back payments for tax certiorari costs from the County of Nassau to local school districts in derogation of the pledge and guarantee previously made by the County of Nassau; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, has denied an attempt by the County of Nassau to implicate school districts in its move to shift to villages, towns and special districts the funding of tax certiorari judgments; and

WHEREAS, it is the County of Nassau that is responsible for its own property assessments, including, but not limited to any flaws, errors or delays therein, and that school districts within the County of Nassau have no role whatsoever in either making such assessments or in responding to challenges to such assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Executive of the County of Nassau, Edward P. Mangano, has called upon the Nassau County Legislature to unilaterally, without the approval of the State of New York and/or the consent of the school districts of the County of Nassau, relieve the County of Nassau of its pledge, guarantee and lawful obligation to hold such school districts harmless for back payments of multi-year tax certiorari settlements, thereby shifting the costs of such payments onto local school property taxes and local school property taxpayers; and

VI. Education – New Business (continued)

v. Tax Certiorari (continued)

WHEREAS, any assertion that abandonment of the pledge, guarantee and obligation of the County of Nassau contained in language in the proposed Budget of the County of Nassau for Fiscal Year 2011 means “no property tax increase” is false and misleading, resulting in no real cost avoidance, but merely a shift in the lawful responsibility of the County of Nassau on to the schools within the County of Nassau; and

WHEREAS, such action would only raise school taxes to the taxpayers of the County of Nassau without adding any educational value; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Valley Stream UFSD #30 Board of Education opposes any legislation, from whatever source, that would shift the responsibility of the County of Nassau for funding multi-year tax certiorari settlements of its assessment errors onto the local school district tax levy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to the following representatives for their endorsement, which shall be shown by their counter-signatures on the Resolution when returned to this Board of Education:

Members of the Nassau County Legislature

Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly, representing Nassau County districts

Members of the Town Councils of Hempstead, North Hempstead and Oyster Bay

Village Official

VII. Business – New Business

a. Terminations

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education retroactively approved the termination of the following employees.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Frank Biondo	Cleaner	Part Time Cleaner	Step 3	CSA	10/14/2010*
Michael Colucci	Cleaner	Part Time Sub Cleaner	Step 1	District	10/18/2010

*as per attached letter of resignation

VIII. Business – New Business (continued)

b. Civil Service Appointments

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education approved the following civil service appointments with no benefits, in accordance with the salary schedule in effect for non-aligned employees.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Theresa Benavides	School Monitor	Part Time Substitute	Step 1	District	10/14/10
Francesco Giuliano	Cleaner	Part Time Substitute	Step 1	District	10/26/10
Maryann K. Leap	Registered Nurse	Part Time Substitute	\$105.00 Per diem	District	10/26/10
Michael Colucci	Cleaner	Part Time	Step 1	CSA	10/19/10

c. Management Representation Letter

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education approved the attached management representation letter for fiscal year ending 06/30/10 and retroactively authorized the Superintendent of Schools and Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business to execute such.

d. Management Letter, Audit Opinion and Financial Statements 2009-10

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education accepted and approved the management letter, audit opinion and financial statements for fiscal year ending 06/30/10. Please note that the management letter and audit opinion are prepared by Coughlin Foundotos Cullen & Danowski (external auditor) while the financial statements are prepared by The Galamery Co. with assistance from the business office. (These reports are on file in the business office.)

e. Membership

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education authorized annual membership in the amount of \$75.00 in The Horace Mann League of the USA for Dr. Elaine Kanas.”

VIII. Finance – New Business

a. Treasurer’s Report

On a motion by Trustee Lavery, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education accepted and approved the attached Treasurer’s Report for the month ending September 2010.

b. Revenue & Expenditure Reports

On a motion by Trustee Lavery, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education accepted and approved the 2010-11 Revenue and Expenditure Reports that are attached.

VIII. Finance – New Business (continued)

c. Transfers between Accounts

On a motion by Trustee Lavery, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education approved the transfers between accounts for the 2010-11 school year as delineated in the attached sheet.

d. Claims Auditor Findings

On a motion by Trustee Lavery, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the Board of Education adopted the internal claim audit finding of R. S. Abrams for their 09/24/10 and 10/05/10 visits. Please note that 591 items were reviewed and there were 4 non-conformances (99.323% in conformance). Please see the attached documents.

IX. Items of Information

a. Monthly Maintenance Report

The monthly maintenance report for October was accepted as submitted.

b. Vandalism Report

The monthly vandalism report for October was accepted as submitted.

X. Old Business

XI. Public Comment

- a. There were 4 questions with regard to classroom size at Shaw Avenue School.
- b. There was a question regarding the ramifications of the proposed change in sewer tax.
- c. There was a question regarding the status of assessing the new implementations in the district..

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried, the regular meeting was reopened at 9:57 p.m. in order to correct the resolution VI-C (for Tami McElwee's start date to read 10/27/10). On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Cummings and carried the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne O'Brien
District Clerk