



Wallkill Rail Station. Postcard courtesy Anita Vandermark

Missing music and art in VC elementary schools

"There is no surer method of evading the world than by following Art, and no surer method of linking oneself to it than by Art." ~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The second Valley Central School District budget vote occurred on June 18th, and it included some drastic budget cuts, such as removing arts and music from the remaining four elementary schools. Immediately parents and community members responded with outrage, resulting in a large community informational meeting on July 17th where the school district offered two strategies to engage the community to fundraise to return arts and music to elementary schools.



SHAWN DELL

JOYCE

Locally Grown

Option 1 is to raise \$21,688-\$43,376 to create after-school arts and music clubs with advisers (who may or may not be certified teachers) that will serve from 110 to 220 students

per school at a cost of about \$50 per student.

Option 2 is to raise \$201,666-\$403,332 to reinstate certified art and music teachers into the schools which would serve existing school populations at a cost between \$100 -200 per child (half year vs. full year instruction).

Both are proposed as band-aid fixes for the upcoming school year.

Parents, current and former students, teachers and community members stepped up to the plate and formed a new group called "ADAM; All District Arts and Music" and approached the Wallkill River School of Art (a nonprofit arts organization) to be the booster organization to assist the Herculean effort of fundraising these ginormous sums in a short period. Within 11 days this small group has already raised over \$5,000. Never underestimate the power of parents!

"Our goal is to restore arts and music instruction in the Valley Central School District Elementary Schools, during the regular school day with certified teachers, by fundraising for it this year, and by doing all that we can to make sure it is included in the 2014-2015 school district budget.," says volunteer committee chair Jane Samuelson.

ADAM's vision states "We believe that exposure

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and instruction in art and music is essential to providing a well-rounded education for the children of our school district. We are united in our support of art and music education as a foundation for critical thinking, cultural enrichment, and academic, social and emotional development. It has been consistently shown that art and music not only have a positive impact on brain development, but also in successful test scoring, study habits, and an overall interest in school; students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively. Art and music provide an opportunity for students to engage in a creative and emotional outlet that supports academic learning, as they involve listening, questioning, creating, performing, and reflecting; all of which incorporate the development of a whole child."

ADAM's purpose is purely to solicit donations to give to the VCSD for the purpose of arts and music programming. It's actually the VCSD itself that will decide which teachers get hired or which become afterschool club leaders.

I felt immediate outrage that the school district would choose to cut arts and music and then rely on the community to make up for the school district's lack of planning and drastic solution. This could be a dangerous precedent to set in our community. If we are successful in raising the funds to reinstate the teachers this year, would we also have to do it again next year? What if they cut more programs, would we also have to fundraise to fill this need? Clearly this isn't a long term solution, but we parents cannot condemn this year's elementary students to a school year without arts and music.

The VCSD urges pressuring state representatives and the Governor's office to repair school district funding imbalances. While that may help in future years, it won't help this year's elementary students. Ms. Claire (Pahucki) is opening Ms. Claire's Montessori School at 8 Factory Street reaching out to students Pre K - First Grade. One focus the school has is to work hand in hand with the Valley Central Kindergarten teachers and parents to provide a consistent education to each child attending "part time." Ms. Claire's teachers will continue what each child is studying at VC during the time they are at Ms. Claire's as well as expand on those concepts.

Other private schools like Montgomery Montessori have also been major donors to the ADAM committee. Director Parinaz Mohktari says, "...we firmly believe the arts are a crucial part of EVERY child's education. That said, we would like to donate to support your cause, and hope to see art and music returned to your children's classrooms."

The Wallkill River School of Art has received numerous phone calls from parents asking for art classes for their elementary aged children, and turning to the private sector to fill the gap.

If you feel as we do, and want to see art back in the schools this year; please join ADAM or make a donation at <http://www.wallkillriverschool.com/adam.html> or call (845) 457-ARTS.

to: the LLC, 353 Carter Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550.

Purpose: any lawful activity. #75436

283 Broadway Newburgh, LLC

Notice of Formation of 283 Broadway Newburgh, LLC (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 7/23/13. Office Location: Orange County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: the LLC, 353 Carter Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550. Purpose: any lawful activity. #75437

BLUE MOON CABARET NY LLC

Notice of Formation of BLUE MOON CABARET NY LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC). Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on June 12, 2013. Office location: Orange County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 337 Pressler Road, Wallkill, NY 12589. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. #75113

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC)

Name: WNG Properties, LLC. Articles of Organization filed by the Department of State of New York on: 04/18/2013. Office location: County of Orange. Purpose: any and all lawful activities. Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 12 Hickory Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550. A Certificate of Change was filed: 04/26/2013 changing the address the SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 12 Hickory Avenue, New Windsor, NY 12553 #75217

Notice of Formation of LAWRENCE AVENUE PROPERTIES LLC a domestic limited liability company (LLC). Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 9/24/2002. The LLC is located in Orange County. The SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the office location: 593 Lake Road, Newburgh, New York 12550. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. #75119

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is: Alexander Hill & Associates, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 5/17/2013. The County in which the Office is to be located: Orange. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 434 Bramertown Rd., Tuxedo Park, NY 10987. Purpose: any lawful activity. #75139

Notice of Formation of CAT TUONG, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/19/13. Office location: Orange County. Princ. office of LLC: 411 Broadway, Newburgh, NY 12550. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Bloom & Bloom, P.C., 530 Blooming Grove Tpke., P.O. Box 4323, New Windsor, NY 12553, regd. agent upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful activity. #75142

Notice of Formation of ROUTE 94 PROPERTIES LLC a domestic limited liability company (LLC). Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 9/24/2002. The LLC is located in Orange County. The SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the office location: 593 Lake Road, Newburgh, New York 12550. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. #75144

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the domestic Limited Liability Company is: Mike Pascale Promotions LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 23 May 2013. The County in which the Office is to be located: Ulster. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: United States Corporation Agents, 7014 13th Avenue, Ste 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful activity. #75147

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: HURRICANE OF

NEWBURGH, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/24/13. Office location: Orange County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 827-829 Broadway, Newburgh, New York 12553. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. #75156

Notice of Formation of 37 TAFT AVENUE LLC, a domestic limited liability company (LLC). Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 15, 2013. The LLC is located in Orange County. The SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the office location: 660 Broadway, Newburgh, New York 12550. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. #75216

Notice of Formation of NAVA PROPERTIES LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY on June 18, 2013. NY office location ORANGE County. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her to 526 Liberty Street, Newburgh NY 12550. Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity. #75218

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the domestic Limited Liability Company is: Eden's Greens LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: June 6th, 2013. The County in which the Office is to be located: Orange. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 14 Ridge Avenue, Walden, NY 12586. Purpose: Any lawful activity. #75277

Notice of formation of ZAFAR REALTY LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Secty of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/22/2012. Office location, County of Orange. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail

process to: The Hampton NY 109 #75287

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Limited Liability (Montessori, LLC. were filed with the York (SSNY) offic County in which th Orange. The SSNY the LLC upon who be served. The ad shall mail a copy of LLC is: 99 Union 12549. Purpose: A #75438