

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Board of Education

Mrs. Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon, President
Mr. Michael Simpkins, Vice President
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald
Mr. Samuel North
Mrs. Maria Pereira
Mr. Colin Smith
Mrs. Jillian Villon

Central Office

Mrs. Mary Keenan Foster, Interim Superintendent
Ms. Robin Zimmerman, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Dr. Joseph Mosey, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Mr. Daniel Callahan, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Ms. Debra McLeod, District Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Aspinall-Kellawon at 6:05 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Michael Simpkins and Colin Smith arrived late.

2. Proposed Executive Session

A. Open Meeting

- (Note: The Board will enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a particular contractual and personnel items. The public part of the meeting will open at approximately 7:00 p.m.)

B. Adjourn to Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn Meeting in order to enter to Executive Session

Motion: Maria Pereira

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Maria Pereira
Jillian Villon

Second: Branwen MacDonald

No: _____ Abstained: _____

C. Adjourn Executive Session

Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

Second: Michael Simpkins

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Maria Pereira
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

3. Resume Public Meeting

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was reconvened in the George Birdas Room at 7:19 p.m.

4. Hearing of Citizens

A. Public Participation at Board Meetings

George Ondek would like Superintendent Foster to stay in her position. He congratulated Colin Smith on his election as Councilman for the City of Peekskill. Mr. Ondek would like for the Board to revisit the veteran's tax and consider giving maximum benefits for veterans. He also suggested instead of a nationwide search for a superintendent, use local advertisements.

Joe Johnson asked what will the BOE do with the absence of a BOE member? President Aspinall-Kellawon stated it is costly to run an election to fill the seat. The BOE could put someone in the seat or leave it vacant.

5. Superintendent/Board President Report

A. [Superintendent's Report](#)

- [Student Council Report](#) – Kaylyn Vazquez, Presenter
- Update on November 7th Superintendent's Conference Day
- [K-12 Insight Focus Survey Report](#) - Laurie Carlin, Presenter

B. Contracts Under \$10,000

Superintendent Foster read into the minutes the following contracts under \$10,000:

- Comprehensive Action Model for Peekskill, Inc. (CAMP Inc.)/PHS; After-School Program called the Elton Brand Academy; Extension of contract March 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018; \$0.
- Paul Kwame Johnson; Provide Drama Workshop services in the Decroix/Marceau technique to Peekskill CSD students; November 2017 - May 31, 2018: \$0

C. Grants/Donations Under \$5,000

Superintendent Foster read into the minutes the following grants/donations under \$5,000:

- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO); Hydration Stations to be placed in Elementary Schools, Hillcrest, Oakside and Woodside Elementary Schools; Estimated cash value \$3,389.92.
- Gary Kellawon, GK Interactive, LLP/PHS; Robotics Team for First Tech Challenge Competition; \$1,000.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

A. [Strategic Planning Process](#) – Lorenzo Licopoli, Ph.D., presenter

8. Policy Readings

9. Accepting of Minutes

A. Business Meeting October 24, 2017

B. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the following minutes:

Business Meeting October 24, 2017

Motion: Samuel North
Second: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Maria Pereira
Michael Simpkins
Colin Smith
Jillian Villon

Michael Simpkins
No: _____ Abstained: _____

10. Consent Agenda - Personnel

A. Personnel Agenda Certificated

I. Resignation

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following teacher resignation to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Donald Shropshire
Position: Special Education Teacher
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective: November 17, 2017 (Close of business)

2. Name: Noel Cabassa
Position: School Guidance Counselor Department Leader
Action: Resignation
Effective: November 6, 2017

II. Leave of Absence

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following non-paid leave of absence to the Board of Education for approval: N/A

III. Retirement

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following retirement resignations to the Board of Education for approval: N/A

IV. Appointments

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following appointments to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Daniel Russo
Position: Music Teacher (.5 FTE)
Certification Status: Music; Initial
Start Date: November 20, 2017
End Date: June 22, 2018
Salary: \$64,571 (pro-rated)

2. Name: Alicia Adams
Position: School Psychologist; Leave Replacement
Certification Status: School Psychologist; Permanent
Start Date: November 15, 2017
End Date: January 31, 2018 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$308/day as worked, no benefits

3. Name: Amy Honey
Position: Home-bound Tutor
Certification Status: Special Education; Permanent
Effective Dates: November 15, 2017 through June 30, 2018
Stipend: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
4. Name: Keren Larkin
Position: JV. Basketball Coach (Girls)
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Winter Season
Stipend: \$4,662
5. Name: Frederick Howard
Position: Indoor Track Coach (Boys)
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Winter Season
Stipend: \$5,733
6. Name: Paul Piliero
Position: Indoor Track Coach (Girls)
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Winter Season
Stipend: \$5,733
7. Name: Timothy Murphy
Position: Intramurals (Oaksdale)
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Fall, Winter and Spring Seasons
Stipend: \$1,282 per season
8. Name: Demetric Gardner
Position: Intramurals (Hillcrest)
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Fall, Winter and Spring Seasons
Stipend: \$1,282 per season
9. Name: Anthony DiCuio
Position: Intramural Softball (Middle School)
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Winter Season
Stipend: \$1,282
10. Name: Cami Blazejewski
Position: Intramural Swimming (Middle School)
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Winter Season
Stipend: \$641
11. Name: Jonathan Iasillo
Position: Intramural Swimming (Middle School)
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Winter Season
Stipend: \$641
12. Name: Catherine McCabe
Position: Intramural Volleyball (Middle School)
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Winter Season

- Stipend: \$1,282
13. Name: Cami Blazejewski
 Position: Intramural Soccer (Girls-Middle School)
 Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Winter Season
 Stipend: \$1,282
14. Name: Raul Ortiz
 Position: Intramural Soccer- Boys (Middle School)
 Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Spring Season
 Stipend: \$1,282
15. Name: Charles Rice
 Position: Intramural Flag Football (Middle School)
 Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Spring Season
 Stipend: \$1,282
16. Name: Patricia Scorzello
 Position: Great Potential Site Director; PHS Summit
 Effective Dates: 2017-2018 School Year
 Stipend: \$5,000 (grant funded)
17. Name: James Gerth
 Position: Technical Director; PHS DRAMA: Fall Production
 Effective Dates: FALL 2017
 Stipend: \$1,539
18. Name: James Gerth
 Position: Technical Director; PHS DRAMA: Spring Production
 Effective Dates: SPRING 2018
 Stipend: \$1,539
19. Name: James Gerth
 Position: Set Designer; PHS DRAMA: Fall Production
 Effective Dates: FALL 2017
 Stipend: \$1,539
20. Name: James Gerth
 Position: Set Designer; PHS DRAMA Spring Production
 Effective Dates: SPRING 2018
 Stipend: \$1,539
21. Name: Ana Aguero
 Position: ENL Specialist
 Effective Dates: 2017-2018
 Stipend: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract not to exceed \$15,000 & no more than 25 hours per week

V. Corrections:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following corrections of appointments to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Nicole Messia
Position: Teacher Aide LOA Replacement
Start Date: August 31, 2017
Correction to End Date: December 4, 2017
Salary: \$12,276 (prorated)

2. Name: Stacy Leitner***
Position: Elementary Teacher
Certification Status: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6),
Professional Certificate
Tenure Area: Elementary Teacher
Probationary period begins: August 31, 2017
Probationary period ends: August 30, 2020
Corrections to Length of Probation: Three (3) years

3. Name: Summer Casucci
Position: Elementary Teacher (LOA) Oakside
Certification: Childhood Education (Grade 1-6), Initial
Start Date: August 31, 2017
Corrections to End Date: December 5, 2017 (extended time)
Salary: \$308 per day as worked, no benefits

4. Name: Summer Casucci
Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher
Certification: Childhood Education (Grade 1-6), Initial
Correction to Start Date: December 6, 2017
End Date: June 22, 2018
Salary: \$120 per day as worked, no benefits

5. Name: Christen McDonnell
Correction; rescind Position: Debate Club Advisor
Location: High School
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 School Year
Stipend: \$2,565

6. Name: Willier Heyward***
Position: Elementary Teacher
Certification Status: Childhood Education (Grade 1-6),
Professional Certificate
Tenure Area: Elementary Teacher
Probationary period begins: August 31, 2017
Probationary period ends: August 30, 2020
Length of Probation: Three (3) years
Salary: \$70,148 MA Step 4

7. Name: Anthony Turner
Position: Sophomore Class Co-Advisor
Location: Peekskill High School

- Effective Dates: 2017-2018 School Year
Stipend: \$1,026
8. Name: Jodi Fernandez
Position: Sophomore Class Co-Advisor
Location: Peekskill High School
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 School Year
Stipend: \$1,026
9. Name: Tricia Schultz***
Position: Special Education Teacher
Certification Status: Students w/ Disabilities (1-6) (5-9) (7-12)
Tenure Area: Special Education
Effective Date: September 1, 2016
Probationary period begins: September 1, 2016
Probationary period ends: August 31, 2019
Salary: \$73,331 MA+30, Step 1
10. Name: Jonathan Barone***
Position: Science Teacher
Certification Status: Chemistry; Initial
Probationary Start Date: October 23, 2017
Probationary End Date: October 22, 2020
Length of Probation: Three (3) years
Salary: \$74,773 MA Step 6

Classified

I. Appointments

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following appointments to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Tai'ana Searight
Position: School Monitor
Probationary Start date: November 15, 2017
Probationary End date: November 15, 2018
Salary: \$11/hour, following the school calendar, 3.5/hours /day, 5 days/week, no benefits
2. Name: Taylor Lyman
Position: Teacher Aide; (1:1)
Probationary Start Date: November 15, 2017
Probationary End Date: November 14, 2018
Salary: \$13,299
3. Name: Angela King
Position: Security Aide; Per Diem
Location: District wide
Effective Start Date: November 15, 2017
Effective End Date: June 30, 2018
Salary: \$14/hour, as worked, not to exceed (4) Four days/week

4. Name: Tracy Overby
 Position: Secretary to School Principal
 Probationary Start Date: October 25, 2017
 Probationary End Date: January 17, 2018
 Salary: \$61,902

5. Name: Jan Wells
 Position: Secretary to School Principal
 Probationary Start Date: October 25, 2017
 Probationary End Date: January 17, 2018
 Salary: \$64,474

6. Name: Joanne Clark
 Position: Secretary to School Principal
 Probationary Start Date: October 25, 2017
 Probationary End Date: January 17, 2018
 Salary: \$64,474

II. Resignations

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following resignations to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Yolanda Oravec
 Position: Office Assistant; per Diem
 Reason: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
 Effective Date: October 20, 2017

2. Name: Yulma Mendez Salazar
 Position: School Monitor (Lunch); Oakside
 Reason: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
 Effective Date: November 2, 2017

3. Name: Nancy Cusano
 Position: Office Assistant; Middle School
 Reason: Resignation for the purpose of Retirement
 Effective Date: November 30, 2017

III. Corrections

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following correction of previous appointments to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Laura Belfiore
 Position: Newspaper Co-Advisor
 Location: Peekskill High School
 Effective Dates: 2017-2018 School Year
 Stipend: \$2,052

2. Name: Cathleen Hannigan
 Position: Newspaper Co-Advisor
 Location: High School
 Effective Dates: 2017-2018 School Year

Stipend: \$2,052

IV. Student Teachers, Volunteers, Interns

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following candidates for student teaching and internship to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Tyler Kroll
Request: Observation
Location: Peekskill High School
Assigned to: April Kellam
College: Mercy College
Effective Dates: October 27, 2017 through November 3, 2017

2. Name: Christopher Conklin
Request: Observation
Location: Peekskill High School
Assigned to: Paul Piliero
College: Manhattanville College
Effective Dates: October 25, 2017 through November 1, 2017

3. Name: Lynda Gomi
Request: Spellbinders
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Assigned to: Randal Lichtenwalner, Principal
Effective Dates: November 15, 2017 through June 22, 2018

4. Name: Elizabeth Martinez
Request: Student Teaching
Location: Woodside
Assigned to: Gloria Cordova
College: Manhattanville College
Effective Dates: January 22, 2018 through May 11, 2018

5. Name: Kristin Ohberg
Request: Volunteer; Varsity Girls Basketball
Effective Dates: 2017-2018 Winter Season

Using an asterisk (*) at the end of the individual appointment resolutions with the following quoted language as a legend at the end of the personnel resolutions or as a legend below the consent agenda:

*For Volunteers- As per Volunteer Board Policy 4532 - the following volunteers are approved for 10 or less events for current school year

** The appointment resolutions for classroom teachers (or building principal) are conditioned upon meeting the requirement of the current tenure laws and pursuant to the provisions of Regents Rule§30-1.3. Accordingly, to be eligible for tenure consideration the probationer must have at least three years of effective or highly effective APPR ratings pursuant to §3012-c and/or §3012-d of the Education Law during the four year period under review and may not receive an ineffective rating during the last year of probation.

*** For classroom teachers with prior tenure as a teacher in a New York public school district or BOCES, the probationary term will be three years if there is proof of prior tenure and an APPR rating during the final year of service in the previous school district or BOCES.

**** Classroom Teachers with two years of Jarema Act Credit in this school district shall serve a two year probationary term if during the two years of Jarema Act service they received APPR ratings pursuant to §§3012-c and/or 3012-d of the Education Law. Where the probationary term is shortened, to be eligible for tenure conferral, the probationer must have at least three effective and/or highly effective APPR ratings and the APPR rating in the final year of probation may not be an ineffective rating.

11. Consent Agenda - Special Services

A. Contract - Hendrick Hudson Central School District

That the Board of Education approves four (4) contracts with Hendrick Hudson Central School District to provide 2017 Extended School Year (ESY) special education programs for four students with disabilities. Rate is based on the Non-Resident Tuition (N.R.T.) Rate set by New York State and will be funded by the Special Aid Fund.

B. Amended Contract - ProCare Therapy

That the Board of Education approve the amended contract with ProCare Therapy to provide the service of a Physical Therapy Assistant an additional 5 weeks until December 8, 2017. Cost increased from \$13,000 to \$19,000. Funding increase is from General Fund.

C. Amended Contract - Therapeutic Horizons

That the Board of Education approve the amended contract with Therapeutic Horizons for 2017-18 School Year to provide the service of an Occupational Therapy Assistant an additional 7 weeks until December 22, 2017. Cost is increased from \$18,000 to \$31,000. Funding increase is from General Fund.

12. Consent Agenda - Business/Finance

A. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the Months of August and September 2017

That the Board of Education approve the Financial Statements for the months of August and September 2017.

B. Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the Month of October 2017

That the Board of Education approves the Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the month of October 2017.

C. Budget Appropriation Transfers - September 2017

That the Board of Education approves the Budget Appropriation Transfers for the month of September 2017.

13. Other Agenda Items

A. Disposal of Surplus Items

That the Board of Education approve the attached list for disposal as per Board Policy #6900.

B. Boys' Swim/Dive Team Merger

That the Board of Education approve the merger of Peekskill City School District Boys' Swim/Dive Team, for the 2017/2018 school year, with Hendrick Hudson and Croton High Schools, due to the insufficient number of participants.

C. Appointment of Hearing Officer - Joseph Wooley

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District hereby appoints Joseph Wooley, Esq. as the Hearing Officer in the Matter of the Disciplinary Proceeding against the employee named in the attached confidential notice of charges dated November 14, 2017. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Section 75 of the Civil Service Law. Mr. Wooley shall cause a record to be made of such hearing, which

will be referred to the Board, along with his recommendations for review and final decision by the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section 75 of the Civil Service Law, the employee named in the attached confidential notice of charges dated November 14, 2017, is hereby suspended without pay effective November 15, 2017, for not more than thirty days pending the hearing and determination of those charges.

14. Approving Consent Agenda

A. Approving Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 10.A. - 13.C.

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Second: Michael Simpkins

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Samuel North

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Colin Smith

Jillian Villon

15. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

A. Guidelines to Speak to the Board of Education

Victoria Kravitz expressed concern that a mission statement should last more than 3 years. She inquired the about the strategic plan that was put in place in the past, what worked and what didn't.

16. Committee Reports/Board Reflections

A. Upcoming events

- o PHS: "The High School Musical", November 16, 17 at 7 p.m. and November 18 at 2 and 7 p.m.
- o Hall of Fame dinner: 6:30 p.m., Colonial Terrace
- o Robotics Competition: January 6, 2018 - Recruiting for judges. Contact Carlo Vindrini
- o Youth Bureau: Community Thanksgiving Dinner, November 16 at 8 p.m.; Men Who Cook, December 2

Michael Simpkins commented the athletic committee met with Adam Lodewick and talked about things they would like to do to bring the department up-to-date. He toured the athletic facilities with Mr. Lodewick. Work needs to be done to the locker rooms, uniforms and fields. This will encourage students to participate. Mr. Simpkins would like to arrange a meeting with Superintendent Foster, Mr. Arthur and Mr. Lewis to discuss the next phase of organizing the athletic committee before reaching out to parents/coaches etc.

President Aspinall-Kellawon would like student to sit on the BOE

17. Executive Session

A. Executive Session:

B. Adjourn Executive Session

18. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Aspinall-Kellawon asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Michael Simpkins

Second: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Samuel North
Maria Pereira
Michael Simpkins
Colin Smith
Jillian Villon

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Debra McLeod
District Clerk