

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Board of Education

Mrs. Jillian Villon, President
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald
Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Mr. Samuel North
Mrs. Maria Pereira
Mr. Michael Simpkins

Student Representative

Central Office

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent
Ms. Robin Zimmerman, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Daniel Callahan, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Mrs. Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Ms. Debra McLeod, District Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Villon at 5:33 p.m. in Peekskill High School, Room 222.

A. Recording of Attendance

Maria Pereira left at 6:51 p.m. Pamela Hallman-Johnson was absent.

2. Proposed Executive Session Subject to Board Approval

A. Open Meeting

(Note: The Board will enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular contractor(s) and employment history of particular person(s) for Stipend positions. The Board will (or may) take action after the executive session. 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

Second: Michael Simpkins

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Samuel North

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 6:51 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Maria Pereira
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

Second: Samuel North
No: _____ Abstained: _____

3. Public Hearing on Cold War Veteran's Tax Exemption

The meeting was reconvened in the Peekskill High School Auditorium at 6:45 p.m.
Debra McLeod, District Clerk opened the Public Hearing.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Hearing on Cold War Veteran's Tax Exemption: Robin Zimmerman read the following proposed resolution:
WHEREAS, New York Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b was amended to provide eligible Cold War veterans with a real property tax exemption from school taxes similar to exemptions offered under other provisions of the real property tax law so long as the School District in which the real property is located, after public hearing, adopts a resolution authorizing the exemption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District hereby authorizes the application of the Cold War Veteran Tax Exemption as contained in New York Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b, as amended, and such exemption shall be applicable to school taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b(2)(a)(i), the Board adopts the ten percent (10%) exemption for Cold War veterans, which amount shall not exceed the statutory basic maximum of \$8,000 set forth therein;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b(2)(b), the Board adopts the exemption for Cold War veterans with service-connected disability ratings, which amount shall not exceed the statutory basic maximum of \$40,000 set forth therein.

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:49 p.m.

4. Resume Public Meeting

The meeting was reconvened in the Peekskill High School Auditorium at 6:57 p.m.

5. Superintendent/Board President Report

A. Superintendent's Report

- [Peekskill Pride](#)

Dr. Mauricio gave a COVID update. Governor Hochul will make a decision early March regarding the mask mandate. The Governor also released a memo and she will look at health data metrics as she makes her decision. Before the District makes a decision, they confer with the Governor and the Health Department.

Peekskill Middle School drama students performed a song from "School House Rock, Jr."

6. Hearing of Citizens

A. Public Participation at Board Meetings

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

7. Superintendent's Report Continued

A. Superintendent's Report Continued

- [Woodside Presentation](#) – Susana Boyko
- [Operations & Maintenance](#) – Carmine Crisci
- [Technology](#) – Janice Reid

8. Old Business

9. New Business

10. Policy Readings

A. First Reading: Policy #[0101 Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms](#)

This policy has been modified to reflect guidance from the State Education Department (SED) addressing the context of building code requirements for bathroom signage, which require signs to be on the wall next to the bathroom door.

B. First Reading: Policy #[8110 School Building Safety](#)

Annual visual inspections of school buildings are no longer required by state law: This policy sets out the basic requirements of the Board with regard to ensuring a safe and healthy school environment. These laws and regulations set requirements for school building safety including provisions for building inspections, capital planning, construction safety and a safety rating and monitoring system.

C. First Reading: Policy #[8112 Health and Safety Committee](#)

A Health and Safety Committee is required under the Uniform Code of Public School Building Inspections. This committee participates in the investigation and disposition of complaints and ensures that the district takes action to remedy serious conditions affecting health and safety. They further ensure that all construction and maintenance activities comply with the Uniform Safety Standards for school and maintenance projects set forth in the Commissioner's regulations.

D. Second Reading: Policy #[1230 Public Comment at Meeting](#)

This policy reflects decisions of the Commissioner of Education and opinions of the Committee on Open Government related to public comment.

E. Approval of Policies

That the Board of Education approve the following policy:
#1230 Public Comment at Meeting

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Second: Samuel North

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

No: _____

Abstained:_____

11. Accepting of Minutes

- A. Business Meeting January 18, 2022
- B. Special BOE Meeting January 21, 2022
- C. Business Meeting/Work Session February 1, 2022
- D. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the following minutes:
Business Meeting January 18, 2022
Special BOE Meeting January 21, 2022
Business Meeting/Work Session February 1, 2022

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
No: _____ Abstained:_____

President Villon asked for a motion to add the Cold War Veteran's Tax Exemption Resolution to the consent agenda.

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

Second: Samuel North
No: _____ Abstained:_____

President Villon asked for a motion to add to the consent agenda, the consent of the Board for the Superintendent to approve a PFA retirement incentive.

Motion: Samuel North
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

Second: Michael Simpkins
No: _____ Abstained:_____

12. Consent Agenda - Personnel

- A. Personnel Agenda
Certificated

I. Resignation:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following faculty resignation(s) to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Matthew Evans
Position: Teaching Assistant
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective: February 18, 2022 (Last Day Worked 2/18/2022)

II. Retirement:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following retirement resignation(s) to the Board of Education for approval: N/A

III. Leave of Absence:

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

IV. Appointment:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following faculty appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval:

| | Employee: | Position/Program: | Effective Dates: | Stipend: |
|----|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | John Kozloski | Modified (Boys) Track Coach | Spring 2022 | \$3,095 |
| 2. | Patricia Vernon | PHS Drama Choreographer | Spring 2022 | \$1,397 (Pro-rated) |
| 3. | Jodi Fernandez | PHS Drama Director | Spring 2022 | \$4,470 |
| 4. | Carlo Vidrini | PHS Drama Tech Director | Spring 2022 | \$1,676 |
| 5. | Carlo Vidrini | PHS Drama Set Designer | Spring 2022 | \$1,676 |
| 6. | Melvin Bolden | PHS Sound/AV | Spring 2022 | \$1,676 (Pro-rated) |
| 7. | Rita Hobby Barrett Pleasant | PKMS Empire Program Teaching Assistant | February 16, 2022 - June 24, 2022 | Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) Contract (Empire grant funding) |

V. Correction:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following correction(s) of appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: John Kozloski

Position: Health Leave Replacement Teacher
Certification: Health Education, Initial
Effective Start Date: December 13, 2021
Effective End Date: June 24, 2022
Salary: \$308 per day as worked, without benefits
Action: Correct effective end date

2. Name: Doris Cagiao
Position: Mathematics Leave Replacement Teacher
(6th Assignment)
Certification: Mathematics 7-12, Permanent
Location: Peekskill High School
Effective Start Date: August 30, 2021
Effective End Date: February 18, 2022
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with
the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA)
contract
Action: Correct effective end date

3. Name: Sarah Peterson
Position: Mathematics Leave Replacement Teacher
(6th Assignment)
Certification: Mathematics 7-12, Professional
Location: Peekskill High School
Effective Start Date: August 30, 2021
Effective End Date: February 18, 2022
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with
the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA)
contract
Action: Correct effective end date

4. Name: Minuse Thelusma
Position: Mathematics Leave Replacement Teacher
(6th Assignment)
Certification: Mathematics 7-12, Professional
Location: Peekskill High School
Effective Start Date: August 30, 2021
Effective End Date: February 18, 2022
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with
the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA)
contract
Action: Correct effective end date

5. Name: Jessica Rizzuti
Position: Elementary Teacher (6th Assignment)
Certification: Mathematics 7-12, Professional

Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: October 14, 2021
Effective End Date: November 23, 2021
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
Action: Correct effective end date

6. Name: Milagros Guzman
Position: Elementary Teacher (6th Assignment)
Certification: Earth Science, Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: October 14, 2021
Effective End Date: November 23, 2021
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
Action: Correct effective end date

7. Name: Michael Tanzi
Position: Elementary Teacher (6th Assignment)
Certification: Earth Science, Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: October 14, 2021
Effective End Date: November 23, 2021
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
Action: Correct effective end date

8. Name: Scott Tabone
Position: Elementary Teacher (6th Assignment)
Certification: English 7-12, Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: October 14, 2021
Effective End Date: November 23, 2021
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
Action: Correct effective end date

9. Name: Michelle Luongo
Position: Elementary Teacher (6th Assignment)
Certification: Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6, Permanent
Location: Peekskill Middle School

Effective Start Date: October 14, 2021
Effective End Date: November 23, 2021
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
Action: Correct effective end date

10. Name: Megan Myones
Position: Elementary Teacher (6th Assignment)
Certification: ESOL, Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: October 14, 2021
Effective End Date: November 23, 2021
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
Action: Correct effective end date

11. Name: James Smith
Position: Co-Ed Pioneer Club Advisor/Coach
Effective Dates: Spring 2022
Salary: \$2,945
Action: Correct effective dates

12. Name: Salvatore Dodaro
Position: Co-Ed Pioneer Club Advisor/Coach
Effective Dates: Spring 2022
Salary: \$2,945
Action: Correct effective dates

Classified

- I. Resignation:
 - A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following staff resignation(s) to the Board of Education for approval:
 - 1. Name: Dania Castillo
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective: December 14, 2021 (Last day worked: 12/14/2021)
- II. Retirement:
 - A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following staff retirement resignation(s) to the Board of Education for approval: N/A

III. Leave of Absence:

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

IV. Appointment:

- A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following staff appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval: N/A

V. Correction:

- A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following staff correction(s) of appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval: N/A

Student Teachers, Volunteers, Interns:

I. Appointment:

- A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval: N/A

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 (or administrators appointed after June 30, 2020) with prior tenure as a teacher or administrator 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.

13. Consent Agenda - Special Services

- A. Special Services/Committee on Special Education
That the Board of Education approve the Recommendation of the District's Committee on Special Education ten (10) students for declassification, classification, review and/or placement.

14. Consent Agenda - Business/Finance

- A. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the Month of December 2021
That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer's Report for month of December 2021.
- B. Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the Month of January 2022
That the Board of Education approves the Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the month of January 2022.
- C. [Budget Appropriation Transfers - February 2022](#)
That the Board of Education approves the Budget Appropriation Transfers for the month of February 2022.
- D. Contract - Marcia Delcourt (Evaluator of the Empire Afterschool Program)
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Marcia Delcourt as Evaluator of the Empire afterschool program, commencing September 1, 2021 - August 30, 2022. Not to exceed \$30,000,
- E. Contracts - Health and Welfare Services
That the Board of Education approve the following contract for Health and Welfare Services provided to the children residing in Peekskill and attending non-public schools, for the 2021/2022 school year:
Yorktown Central School District – \$1,480.05 per student; 27 students
Harrison Central School District - \$1,156.08 per student; 3 students
- F. Contract - Hudson Valley MOCA
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Hudson Valley MOCA to highlight the natural gifts and creative strengths of the students of Peekskill, to help them build a sense of self accomplishment, an understanding of their enormous potential. Commencing September 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. Not to exceed \$15,000.
- G. Contract - Westchester County Board of Elections
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Westchester County Board of Elections for the use of voting machines for the annual School Budget Vote and Election on May 17, 2022 at \$0 cost to the District.

15. Other Agenda Items

- A. PHS Scholarship Fund - Peekskill Park Estate LLC dba Spare Cube
That the Board of Education accepts the donation from Peekskill Park Estate LLC dba Spare Cube for the PHS Scholarship Fund.
- B. Scholarship - The Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber
That the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent for Business that, in accordance with Education Law 1718(2), to accept from The Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber a donation of \$1,000 for the Robotics Program.
- C. MOA - Peekskill Faculty Association/Ratification 2022 - 2023 School Year
WHEREAS, the July 1, 2016 amended labor agreement between the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District (hereinafter referred to as "District") and the Peekskill Faculty Association (hereinafter referred to as "PFA") expires on June 30,

2022.

WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties have engaged in negotiations for a successor agreement to said expiring labor agreement; and
WHEREAS, the representatives of the District and the PFA memorialized their agreement in a Memorandum of Agreement dated February 7, 2022 in the form attached hereto:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District (hereinafter referred to as "Board of Education") herewith ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement hereinabove referenced and authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to implement said Memorandum of Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to execute the new collective bargaining agreement incorporating the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

D. Cold War Veteran's Tax Exemption

WHEREAS, New York Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b was amended to provide eligible Cold War veterans with a real property tax exemption from school taxes similar to exemptions offered under other provisions of the real property tax law so long as the School District in which the real property is located, after public hearing, adopts a resolution authorizing the exemption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District hereby authorizes the application of the Cold War Veteran Tax Exemption as contained in New York Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b, as amended, and such exemption shall be applicable to school taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b(2)(a)(i), the Board adopts the ten percent (10%) exemption for Cold War veterans, which amount shall not exceed the statutory basic maximum of \$8,000 set forth therein;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b(2)(b), the Board adopts the exemption for Cold War veterans with service-connected disability ratings, which amount shall not exceed the statutory basic maximum of \$40,000 set forth therein.

E. Retirement Incentive Consent

That the Board of Education give consent for the Superintendent to approve a PFA retirement incentive.

16. Approving Consent Agenda

A. Approving Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 12.A. - 15.E.

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

17. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

A. Guidelines to Speak to the Board of Education

The following comment was submitted online: Mr. Vindrini thanked everyone for recognizing the robotic team at this evening's meeting. He also wanted to acknowledge Dr. Ferris on her instrumental part in the success of the team over the weekend.

18. Committee Reports/Board Reflections

Branwen MacDonald commented she and Dr. Mauricio attended advocacy meetings with Assemblywoman Galef and Senator Harckham.

19. Executive Session – 8:36 p.m.

A. Executive Session

Motion to move to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

Second: Michael Simpkins
No: _____ Abstained: _____

B. Adjourn Executive Session

Motion to move to Public Session

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
No: _____ Abstained: _____

20. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

Second: Samuel North
No: _____ Abstained: _____

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Debra McLeod
District Clerk