

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 4, 2022

Board of Education

Mrs. Jillian Villon, President
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald, Vice President
Mrs. Pamela Hallman-Johnson
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. Jamal Lewis, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
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 5:32 p.m. The Board met virtually
 - A. Recording of Attendance
Pamela Hallman-Johnson and Michael Simpkins arrived late.
Virtual Participants:
Pamela Hallman-Johnson and Allen Jenkins, Jr.
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 the following positions: Permanent Substitute Teacher and Leave Replacement Teachers. 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: Branwen MacDonald

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

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

No: _____ Abstained:_____

C. Adjourn Executive Session 6:39 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

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

Second: Michael Simpkins
No: _____ Abstained:_____

3. Resume Public Meeting

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was reconvened in the Peekskill High School Auditorium at 7:14 p.m.

4. Superintendent/Board President Report

A. Superintendent's Report

- [Peekskill Pride](#)
- [COVID Update](#)

5. Hearing of Citizens

A. Public Participation at Board Meetings

The following comments were submitted online:

Rev. George Coniglio of 1840 Crompond Rd wrote: It is with upmost respect and concern for our community that I encourage the School District to replace in classroom classes with remote learning. The sudden increase in local covid cases and hospitalizations requires us to come together to protect our young people. If there is a need, I would like to suggest exploring various means to fund equipment to those families without internet access. I would be willing to support such efforts. God Bless and stay safe.

Ariel Ferguson of 243 Depew Street wrote: As current data shows a rise in the number amongst teachers, parents, and children. Why is there such opposition to remote learning until things are under control? Parents are not being unreasonable to expect an honest answer in regards to this question.

Amy of 117 Wells Street wrote: I honestly do not feel safe than my children go to school due to the rise in cases. As a parent were supposed to be the voice for our children. I stand with many other parents on saying please switch them to remote until at least the numbers start going down.

Malinda of 1314 Crompond Road wrote: The safest place for the children is at home. Right now how do we feel safe to send them to school with many other children and teachers that do not wear the mask the right way in a class of 24 students? There's

no way to keep them 6 feet apart. I believe remote is the best right now. Unless the numbers start going down, I do not feel safe for my children in school. How can we expect them to learn when they're worried about the person that coughed or sneezed? Our children need to be home.

Judi Lewis Ockler of 424 Smith Street wrote: Where is the detailed plan in place to accommodate for remote learning, particularly for the arts programs? Peekskill Middle School has been without a drama instructor since September. The substitutes have ranged from the Social Studies teacher, and English major sub who had no previous experience in drama, and another who led them in a game of hide and seek for the entire period. Currently, there is no drama teacher supervising the spring performance; they supposedly open in two weeks, and they haven't begun to work on the second half of the show. Today, my child watched a video online for chorus class. I consider it unacceptable as a working professional in the arts to know that our school's athletic programs remain open while the rest of the schools' programs go virtual-often without teacher supervision or instruction or get canceled.

Dr. Mauricio reiterated answers from the COVID Update (see PowerPoint) stressing the challenges students face with virtual learning as opposed to in person learning. Due to staffing issues, the high school and middle school will move to remote learning January 5 – 7.

6. Superintendent's Report Continued

A. Superintendent's Report Continued

- [Proposed Girl's Flag Football](#) – Austin Goldberg
- [Uriah Hill Presentation](#) – Carmen Vargas

7. Consent Agenda

A. Personnel Agenda

Certificated

I. Resignation:

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

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:

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Name: | Deborah Feliciano |
| Position: | Teaching Assistant |
| Action: | Non-paid Leave of Absence |
| Effective: | January 4, 2022 through June 30, 2022 |

IV. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Heather Amabile
 Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher
 Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
 Effective Start Date: January 3, 2022
 Effective End Date: June 24, 2022
 Salary: \$120 per day as worked, without benefits (Not to exceed four (4) days per week or twenty-eight (28) hours per week)

2. Name: Charitssa Taveras
 Position: Elementary Leave Replacement Teacher
 Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Emergency COVID-19

 School: Oakside Elementary School
 Effective Start Date: January 11, 2022
 Effective End Date: April 1, 2022
 Salary: \$68,430, MA, Step 1 (Pro-rated)

3. Name: Amanda Leggio
 Position: Reading Leave Replacement Teacher
 Certification: Early Childhood Education (Birth - Grades 2), Initial

 School: Oakside Elementary School
 Effective Start Date: January 4, 2022
 Effective End Date: May 31, 2022
 Salary: \$308 per day as worked, without benefits

V. Correction:

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

1. Name: Charitssa Taveras
 Position: Elementary Leave Replacement Teacher
 Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Emergency COVID-19

 School: Oakside Elementary School
 Effective Start Date: August 30, 2021
 Effective End Date: January 10, 2022
 Salary: \$308 per day as worked, without benefits
 Action: Correct effective end date

Classified

I. Resignation:

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

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.

B. Approving Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 7.A.

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Second: Samuel North

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

No: _____

Abstained:_____

Allen Jenkins, Jr
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Maria Pereira
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

6. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

A. Guidelines to Speak to the Board of Education

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

Maria Pereira thanked Austin Goldberg for the proposal of bringing together a Girls' Flag Football team and she congratulated Bethani Overby for being nominated as Lohud's Player of the Week.

President Villon thanked those presenting this evening.

7. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

B. Adjourn Executive Session

8. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

Motion: Maria Pereira

Second: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

No: _____

Abstained:_____

Allen Jenkins, Jr
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Maria Pereira
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Debra McLeod
District Clerk