

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 22, 2025

Board of Education

Mr. Michael Simpkins, President
Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., Vice President
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald
Mr. Eric Reveda
Mrs. Christina Washington

Central Office

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent
Ms. Cynthia Hawthorne, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Jamal Lewis, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Mr. Eudes Budhai Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Mrs. Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Mrs. Carmery Mendez-Battle, District Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Simpkins at 6:07 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Vice President Jenkins, Jr. arrived late. Amy Vele and Jillian Villon were absent.
Proposed Executive Session Subject to Board Approval

B. 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: 6th Assignment ENL Teachers; Certified/Classified Stipend Positions; and Classroom Teacher Aide. 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.)

C. Adjourn to Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn Meeting in order to enter to Executive Session

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Branwen MacDonald

Second: Christina Washington
No: _____ Abstained: _____

Eric Reveda
Michael Simpkins
Christina Washington

D. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:01 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Eric Reveda
Michael Simpkins
Christina Washington

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

2. Resume Public Meeting – 7:05 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was reconvened in the Ford Auditorium.

4. Report of President/Superintendent

A. Superintendent's Report

- [Peekskill Pride](#)

5. Hearing of Citizens

Hillcrest Elementary School was represented with the Student Council President, Communication Officer and a student translating the speeches into Spanish, thanking Senator Harckham, the Board, Dr. Mauricio, Cynthia Hawthorne, Carmine Crisci and Dr. Aviles-Rodriguez for their new playground with inclusive equipment. Students wanted a new playground and now they have one. A student in a wheelchair can now enjoy the playground like the other students.

There were also fifth grade news reporters, representing the Hillcrest newspaper named Hawkeyes#, thanked the Board for supporting the LEAP Program to allow them to start a newspaper club. They had the opportunity to collaborate with PHS Mercury news and gained great insight into journalism and broadcasting. They are hoping the Board will support a newspaper club at the middle school level. The Board was presented with a gift of the first two (2) published copies of their newspaper and a custom pen.

6. Superintendent's Report Continued

A. Superintendent's Report Continued

- [Hillcrest Presentation](#) – Crystal Hernandez, Dr. James Gordon, and Michelle Hernandez

7. Old Business

8. New Business

A. Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Administrative Budget Vote - 2025/2026

WHEREAS, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Putnam/Northern Westchester County (hereinafter "BOCES") has proposed its tentative

administrative budget for the 2025/2026 school year (July 1, 2025 through June 30,

2026), now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOCES tentative administrative budget for the 2025/2026 school year in the amount of \$12,136,000 be, and hereby is, approved by the Board.

B. [Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Board Member Election](#)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District cast one vote for each of the two (2) candidates regarding vacancies on the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of the Sole supervisory district of Putnam and Northern Westchester Counties for a three-year term from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028. The candidates are:

Frank Schnecter

Tina MacKay

C. Approving New Agenda Items

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves New Agenda items 8.A. - 8.B.e

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Christina Washington

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained:_____

9. Policy Readings

10. Accepting of Minutes

A. Business Meeting March 25, 2025

B. Business Meeting/Work Session April 8, 2025

C. Approval of Minutes

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

Business Meeting March 25, 2025

Business Meeting/Work Session April 8, 2025

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Christina Washington

Second: Christina Washington

No: _____ Abstained:_____

11. Consent Agenda - Personnel Agenda

A. Personnel Agenda

Certified:

I. Resignation:

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

II. Termination:

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

III. Retirement:

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

IV. 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:	Daniela Antunes Cardoso
Position:	ENL Teacher
Location:	Peekskill Middle School
Action:	Non Paid Leave of Absence
Effective Date:	May 13, 2025 - June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name:	Ashley Martinez
Position:	6th Assignment ENL Teacher
Certification:	Literacy (Grades 5-12), Professional English to Speakers Of Other Languages, Professional
Location:	Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date:	April 5, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date:	June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary:	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
2. Name:	Diego Rendon Arboleda
Position:	6th Assignment ENL Teacher
Certification:	English to Speakers Of Other Languages, Initial
Location:	Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date:	April 5, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date:	June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)

Salary:

Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract

3. Name:

Maryellen Sasaguay

Position:

6th Assignment ENL Teacher

Certification:

English to Speakers of Other Languages, Permanent

Location:

Peekskill Middle School

Effective Start Date:

April 5, 2025 (Anticipated)

Effective End Date:

June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)

Salary:

Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Salary:
4.	Merriweather, Vernon	Peekskill High School - Varsity Softball Head Coach	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$6993 (General Fund)
5.	Smith, Allen	Peekskill High School - Track Assistant Coach	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$5,076 (General Fund)
6.	Rodney, Lanay	Hillcrest Elementary School - Intramurals Volleyball Coach	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$2,550 (General Fund)
7.	Gooding, Jayme	Hillcrest Elementary School - Intramurals Flag Football	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$2,550 (General Fund)
8.	Chavarria, Isabella	Teaching Assistant - PCSD Summer Enrichment Academy @ Peekskill Middle School	Summer 2025 - July 7, 2025 through July 31, 2025 (16 Total Days)	\$50 (General Fund)
9.	Henderson, Winter	Teaching Assistant - PCSD Summer Enrichment Academy @ Peekskill Middle School	Summer 2025 - July 7, 2025 through July 31, 2025 (16 Total Days)	\$50 (General Fund)

VI. Correction:

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

1. Name: Basy Esteves
Position: LEAP Teaching Assistant
Location: Oakside Elementary School
Effective Date/s: April 12, 2025 - June 27, 2025 (Anticipated)
Action: Change in Pay Rate
Stipend: \$50.00 per hour
2. Name: Tatiana O'Connor
Position: Elementary Teacher
Certification: Early Childhood Education (Birth - Grade 2),
Initial
Location: Oakside Elementary School
Probationary Start Date: August 27, 2025 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: August 26, 2029 (Anticipated)
Action: Correcting Salary Amount
Salary: \$89,170 (MA+15, Step 5)

Classified:

I. Resignation:

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

II. Termination:

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

III. Retirement:

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

IV. 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

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Laura Rincon
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
Location: Oakside Elementary School
Status: Probationary
Probationary Start Date: May 1, 2025 (Anticipated)

Probationary End Date: April 30, 2026 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$20,166.12 (Prorated)

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Salary:
2.	Perez, Kisha	Registered Professional School Nurse (RN) - PCSD Summer Enrichment Academy @ Peekskill Middle School	Summer 2025 - July 7, 2025 through July 31, 2025 (16 Total Days)	\$50 (General Fund)

VI. Correction:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following staff correction(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.

*** 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.

**** Classroom Teachers with two years of Jarema Act Credit in this school district shall serve a two-year probationary term.

^ Appointment is contingent upon successful completion of the onboarding process and contingent upon obtaining required certification by the start date.

12. 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 208 students for declassification, classification, review and/or placement.

13. Consent Agenda - Business/Finance

A. Extraclassroom Activities - February 2025

That the Board of Education, accept the February 2025 financial statements for the Peekskill High School and Middle School Extraclassroom Activity Accounts.

B. Contract - Health and Welfare Services

That the Board of Education approve the contracts for health and welfare services provided to the children residing in Peekskill and attending non-public schools, for the 2024-2025 school year.

Katonah-Lewisboro Union Free School District - \$1,869.51 per pupil; 1 student

C. Contract - Changemakers Project

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Changemakers Project, commencing the Spring of 2025 - the Spring of 2026 Cost of \$5,000 plus any mentor-teacher stipend dictating by district policy, and transportation costs to and from the departure airport (e.g. school bus).

D. Contract - United Way (After School)

That the Board of Education approve the contract with United Way (After School) commencing on or about February 24, 2025 - June 30, 2025. \$0 cost to the District.

E. Contract - United Way (Summer)

That the Board of Education approve the contract with United Way (Summer) commencing on or about July 1, 2025 - July 30, 2025. \$0 cost to the District.

14. Other Agenda Items

A. Overnight Field Trip - Albany, NY

That the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip for 11th & 12th grade Fellows (4) will be traveling to Albany to attend the 2025 MBK Symposium on April 30, 2025 - May 1, 2025.

B. Election Inspector

That the Board of Education approve the following, as Election Inspector for the Annual Budget Vote and Election on May 20, 2025:

William Chisolm, 1020 Constant Avenue, 16 hours, \$350

15. Approving Consent Agenda

A. Approving Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 11.A. - 14.B.

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Rekeda

Michael Simpkins

Christina Washington

Second: Eric Rekeda

No: _____

Abstained: _____

16. Committee Reports/Board Reflections

17. Executive Session

18. Adjournment in [Memory of Mrs. Ruth Cooley](#)

A. Adjournment in Memory of Mrs. Ruth Cooley

19. There being no further business to come before the Board, President Simpkins asked for a motion to adjourn in memory of Mrs. Ruth Cooley.

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Christina Washington

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Carmery Mendez-Battle

District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod

Deputy District Clerk