

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
DECEMBER 17, 2024

Board of Education

Mr. Michael Simpkins, President
Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., Vice President
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald
Mr. Eric Reveda
Ms. Amy Vele
Mrs. Jillian Villon
Mrs. Christina Washington

Central Office

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent
Ms. Cynthia Hawthorne, Assistant Superintendent for Business
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 6:05 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Allen Jenkins, Jr. (6:07 p.m.) and Amy Vele (7:07 p.m.) arrived late.

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: Physical Education Teacher; Teaching Assistant; Certified/Classified Stipend Positions; Security Aide; Jr. Administrative Assistant (School Districts); Registered Professional Nurse; Classroom Teacher Aide and Partner Agency Workers. 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
Yes: Branwen MacDonald
Eric Rekeda
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon
Christina Washington

Second: Jillian Villon
No: _____ Abstained: _____

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:06 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Eric Rekeda
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon
Christina Washington

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

2. Resume Public Meeting – 7:11 p.m.
 - Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting was reconvened in the Ford Auditorium.
4. Report of President/Superintendent
 - A. Superintendent's Report
 - [Peekskill Pride](#)
 - [Uriah Hill School Presentation](#) – Melissa Russo and Amanda Cardona
5. Hearing of Citizens
There were no citizens wishing to be heard.
6. Superintendent's Report Continued
 - A. Superintendent's Report Continued
 - [Capital Projects Update](#) - Mosaic Architects
 - [Educational Planning and Budget Workshop #1](#) – Dr. Mauricio and Cynthia Hawthorne
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Policy Readings
10. Accepting of Minutes
 - A. Business Meeting November 19, 2024
 - B. Business Meeting/Work Session December 3, 2024
 - C. Approval of Minutes
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the following minutes:
Business Meeting November 19, 2024
Business Meeting/Work Session December 3, 2024

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Amy Vele

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Eric Rekeda
Michael Simpkins
Amy Vele
Jillian Villon
Christina Washington

No: _____ Abstained: _____

11. Consent Agenda - Personnel Agenda

Certified:

I. Resignation:

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

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Name: | Melanie Jacobson |
| Position: | Per Diem Substitute |
| Location: | District Wide |
| Action: | Resignation from Peekskill City School District |
| Effective Date: | December 6, 2024 (Anticipated) |
| Last Date Worked: | December 6, 2024 (Anticipated) |

II. Termination:

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

III. Retirement:

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

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: | Yejin Lee |
| Position: | ENL Teacher |
| Location: | Peekskill High School |
| Action: | Non Paid Leave of Absence |
| Effective Date: | February 26, 2025 - April 7, 2025 (Anticipated) |

V. Appointment:

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

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Name: | Christopher Moljo |
| Position: | Physical Education Teacher |
| Certification: | Physical Education, Professional |
| Tenure Area: | Physical Education |

Effective: January 4, 2025 (Anticipated)

2. Name: Carolina Aguirre**^
Position: Teaching Assistant
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Peekskill High School
Certification: Teaching Assistant Level I
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant
Probationary Start Date: January 6, 2025 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: January 5, 2029 (Anticipated)
Length of Tenure: Four (4) Years
Salary: \$34,687 (Step 1)

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Salary:
3.	Thompson, Nicolette	Winter Varsity Cheer Coach	November 11, 2024 - March 11, 2025	\$5,575 (General Fund)
4.	Guardino, Yolanda	Chaperone	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$45.00 per hour (General Fund)
5.	Rios, Michelle	Great Potential Site Coordinator	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$4,711 (Great Potential Grant)
6.	Dorado, Lisa	Great Potential Site Coordinator	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$4,711 (Great Potential Grant)
7.	Vidrini, Carlo	Peekskill High School - Drama Set Designer Fall 2024	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$1,702 (General Fund)
8.	Kilanowski, Jacqueline	Great Potential Site Coordinator	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$4,711 (Great Potential Grant)
9.	Smithson, Justin	Peekskill High School - Drama, Set Director	Spring 2025	\$1,702 (General Fund)
10.	Castro, Paul	Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad Club	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
11.	Aguero, Ana	Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad Club	2024- 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (General Fund)

VI. Correction:

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

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Name: | Terry Sandler |
| Position: | Drama, Spring Tech Director |
| Location: | Peekskill High School |
| Effective Date/s: | 2024 - 2025 School Year |
| Action: | Rescinding Appointment |
| Salary: | \$1,702 |

Classified:

I. Resignation:

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

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Name: | Joseph Schaffer |
| Position: | 1:1 Teacher Aide |
| Location: | Peekskill |
| Action: | Resignation from the Peekskill City School District |
| Effective Date: | January 21, 2025 (Anticipated) |
| Last Date Worked: | January 20, 2025 (Anticipated) |

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: | Lynn Holliman |
| Position: | Security Aide |
| Program: | Night School |
| Location: | Peekskill High School |
| Dates Effective: | Fall 2024 |

Stipend: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Schools Security Aides Association (PSSAA) Contract.

2. Name: Roberto Alvarenga
Position: Jr. Administrative Assistant (School Districts)
Location: Administration Building; Office of Special Services
Civil Service Status: Permanent
Start Date Effective: December 7, 2024
Salary: \$81,411.00 (Prorated)
3. Name: Lena Rzyz[^]
Position: Staff Assistant - Finance & Administration
Location: Administration Building; Business Office
Status: Probationary
Probationary Start Date Effective: January 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date Effective: January 20, 2026 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$87,000.00 (Prorated)
4. Name: Kisha Perez[^]
Position: Registered Professional Nurse (School)
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Status: Probationary
Probationary Start Date Effective: January 13, 2025 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date Effective: January 12, 2026 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$68,694.00 (Prorated)
5. Name: Ariyah Bailey
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Status: Probationary
Probationary Start Date Effective: November 7, 2024
Probationary End Date Effective: November 6, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$19,016.64 (Prorated)

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:

1. Name: Chelsea Johnson
Request: Fieldwork Teaching Experience
Location: Peekskill High School
Assigned to: George Goess, Apryl Shillingford, Katherine Cray
College/University: Mercy University
Effective Date/s: December 2024 (Anticipated)
2. Name: Nadia Zerafa
Request: Student Teaching Experience
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Assigned to: Ben Bloom
College/University: SUNY New Paltz
Effective Date/s: January 21, 2025 - March 14, 2025 (Anticipated)
3. Name: Emily Conners
Request: Student Teaching Experience
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Assigned to: Brittany Doino
College/University: SUNY Cortland
Effective Date/s: January 27, 2025 - May 14, 2025 (Anticipated)
4. Name: Jennifer Crowell
Request: Student Teaching Experience
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Assigned to: Peggy Owens
College/University: SUNY Cortland
Effective Date/s: January 27, 2025 - May 14, 2025 (Anticipated)
5. Name: Joseph DiPiazza
Request: Student Teaching Experience
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Assigned to: Julia Shillingford
College/University: SUNY Cortland
Effective Date/s: January 27, 2025 - May 14, 2025 (Anticipated)

#	Name of Partner Agency Worker:	Location:	Organization / Program:	Effective Dates:
1.	Andre, Rainey	Districtwide	Noo Moves Ent. (House of Content)	January 2, 2025 (Anticipated)
2.	Grant, Rahiim	Districtwide	Noo Moves Ent. (House	January 2, 2025

			of Content)	(Anticipated)
3.	Smythe, Jamar	Districtwide	Noo Moves Ent. (House of Content)	January 2, 2025 (Anticipated)

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.

^ 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 26 students for declassification, classification, review and/or placement

B. Contract - Noo Moves Entertainment, LLC

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Noo Moves Entertainment, LLC, to provide an eight (8) week student mentoring program costing \$200 per week (Minimum 2 group session). Commencing December 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.

13. Consent Agenda - Business/Finance

A. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the Month of October 2024

That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer's Report for month of October 2024.

B. Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the Month of November 2024 Meeting

That the Board of Education approves the Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the month of November 2024.

C. [Budget Appropriation Transfers - November 2024](#)

That the Board of Education approves the Budget Appropriation Transfers for the month of November 2024.

D. Contract - Andrea Moffett

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Andrea Moffett, to be the piano accompanist for the PKMS winter concert (rehearsal and snow date), for December 10, 2024. Not to exceed \$450.

E. Use of Facilities Agreement - The Center for Visual Management LLC/Oakside Elementary School

That the Board of Education approve the Use of Facilities Agreement with The Center for Visual Management LLC/Oakside Elementary School, commencing December 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.

14. Other Agenda Items

A. Donation Peekskill Education Foundation and Rotary Club

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 Peekskill Education Foundation and Rotary Club a donation in the amount of \$6,000 for a greenhouse at Oakside.

B. Donation - Mr. Volpacchio

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 Mr. Volpacchio a Holy Stone HS720E 4K EIS Drone with UHD Camera at an estimated cost of \$200.

C. Donation - New York Presbyterian

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 New York Presbyterian, \$1,000 for enrichment supplies for 21st CCLC After School Program.

D. Agreement - Peekskill Administrator Association (PAA)

That the Board of Education approve the agreement with Peekskill Administrator Association (PAA) concerning the Title and Salary for Carmen Vargas.

Whereas the District would like to appoint Ms. Vargas as the Director of Multilingual Programs and World Languages effective December 2, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, Ms. Vargas will retain her current annual salary at \$178,670 for the remainder of the 2024 - 2025 school year. Ms. Vargas shall be entitled to any subsequently negotiated across the board salary increase applicable to the PAA and the Title of Director.

15. Approving Consent Agenda

A. Approving Consent Agenda

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

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Rekeda

Michael Simpkins

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Christina Washington

16. Committee Reports/Board Reflections

- President Simpkins commented the Board received an invitation for Hillcrest music concert at PKMS on December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

17. Executive Session

18. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Christina Washington

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Rekeda

Michael Simpkins

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Christina Washington

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Carmery Mendez-Battle
District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod
Deputy District Clerk