

Peekskill City School District  
1031 Elm Street  
Peekskill, New York

**BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

Board of Education

Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., President  
Mrs. Jillian Villon, Vice President  
Mrs. Pamela Hallman-Johnson  
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald  
Mr. Samuel North  
Mrs. Maria Pereira  
Mr. Michael Simpkins

Central Office

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Villon. at 6:06 p.m. in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202 relating to the COVID-19 emergency, the Board met at PHS auditorium but, In-person attendance will NOT be permitted. The District will provide video-conference links online, translated into Spanish, as well as a section for public comments via our BoardDocs website.

A. Recording of Attendance

Virtual Participants:

Pamela Hallman-Johnson

Pamela Hallman-Johnson, Branwen MacDonald and Maria Pereira arrived late.

2. Proposed Executive Session

A. Open Meeting

\*(Note: The Board will enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters regarding the appointment of a particular contractor(s) and employment history of particular person(s) for the following positions: Extra-Curricular Activities; PKMS After-School Program; Student Teacher and Mentors. 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: Samuel North

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Michael Simpkins

No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_

Samuel North  
Michael Simpkins  
Jillian Villon

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:28 p.m.  
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

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	

3. Resume Public Meeting – In Person Attendance is Not Permitted  
The meeting was reconvened at 7:31 p.m. in the PHS auditorium.
  - A. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Superintendent/Board President Report
  - A. Hybrid and Increased In-Person Learning Update and Peekskill Pride
5. Hearing of Citizens  
There were no citizens wishing to be heard.
6. Superintendent/President Report Continued
  - A. Superintendent's Report Continued
    - Operations & Maintenance – Carmine Crisci
    - Technology – Janice Reid
    - Educational Plan & Budget #3 – Robin Zimmerman
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Policy Readings
  - A. Second Reading: Policy #4311.1-R/Display of the Flag Regulation
  - B. Second Reading: Policy #4511 Textbook Selection and Adoption - TABLED  
Motion to Table Policy #4511 Textbook Selection and Adoption

Motion: Samuel North	Second: Jillian Villon
Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson	No: _____ Abstained: _____
Allen Jenkins, Jr.	
Branwen MacDonald	
Samuel North	
Maria Pereira	
Michael Simpkins	
Jillian Villon	

C. Second Reading: Policy #4513 Library Materials Selection

D. Approval of Policies

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following policies:

4311.1-R/Display of the Flag Regulation

4511 Textbook Selection and Adoption - TABLED

4513 Library Materials Selection

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

10. Accepting of Minutes

A. Business Meeting January 19, 2021

B. Business Meeting/Work Session February 2, 2021

C. Special BOE Meeting February 3, 2021

D. Special BOE Meeting February 9, 2021

E. Special BOE Meeting February 17, 2021

F. Approval of Minutes

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

Business Meeting January 19, 2021

Business Meeting/Work Session February 2, 2021

Special BOE Meeting February 3, 2021

Special BOE Meeting February 9, 2021

Special BOE Meeting February 17, 2021

Motion: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

Second: Samuel North

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

No: \_\_\_\_\_

Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_

Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Samuel North

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

11. Agenda Item for Consideration

A. Contract - New Era Creative Space Inc. (NECS)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the contract with New Era Creative Space Inc. commencing February 1, 2021 - June 25, 2021 not to exceed \$6,000.

Motion: Maria Pereira

Second: Michael Simpkins

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

No: \_\_\_\_\_

Abstained: Samuel North

## 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: Phillip Harrison  
Position: Special Education Teacher  
Location: Hillcrest  
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District  
Effective: June 30, 2021

2. Name: Diane Tual  
Position: Special Education Teacher  
Location: Peekskill Middle School  
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District  
Effective: June 30, 2021

#### 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:

1. Name: Gina Nadeau  
Position: Mentor  
Mentee: Anilda Eliazer  
Effective Dates: 2020-2021 school year  
Salary: \$1,590 Stipend – Mentor Teacher –Grant Funded Title IIA

2. Name: Rodney Arthur

Position: Principal  
 Action: Tenure in the Peekskill City School District  
 Effective: February 24, 2021

3. Name: Darren Di  
 Position: Empire State PKMS Program - Teacher  
 Effective Dates: 2020-2021  
 Stipend: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA)

	Employee:	Position/Program:	Effective Dates:	Stipend:
4.	Frank Cancro	Time Keeper, Scorekeeper, Chains	Winter 2021	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
5.	Jacqueline Kilanowski	Great Potential Middle School Site Director	Spring 2021	\$2,286.90 (Grant funded)
6.	Michael Tanzi	Empire State PKMS Afterschool Program Science Teacher	2020-2021	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
7.	Paul Coster	Empire State PKMS Afterschool Program Clinical Staff	2020-2021	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
8.	Leslie Detres	Empire State PKMS Afterschool Program Clinical Staff	2020-2021	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
9.	Jose Fernandez	Empire State PKMS Afterschool Program Clinical Staff	2020-2021	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
10.	Luz Gonzalez	Empire State PKMS Afterschool Program Clinical Staff	2020-2021	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
11.	Jacqueline Kilanowski	Empire State PKMS Afterschool Program Clinical Staff	2020-2021	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract

V. Correction:

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

1. Name: Airy Ferreras  
Position: Oakside Afterschool Program Teacher  
Effective Dates: January 19, 2021 - January 29, 2021  
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract. NYS School Improvement Grant funding (SIG 1003)  
  
Action: Correct effective end date
2. Name: Brandon LaBella  
Position: Hillcrest Afterschool Program Teacher  
Effective Dates: 2020-2021  
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract. NYS School Improvement Grant funding (SIG 1003)  
  
Action: Rescind appointment
3. Name: Axa Quijada \*\*  
Position: Elementary Teacher  
Certification: Childhood Education (1-6) & Students w/Disabilities (1-6) & Bilingual Education Extension; Initial  
  
Tenure Area: Elementary Teacher  
Probationary Start Date: December 5, 2016  
Probationary End Date: September 29, 2022  
Length of Probation: Four (4) years probationary period  
Salary: \$93,587 MA+45, Step  
Action: Correct probationary end date

Classified

I. Resignation:

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

1. Name: Madison Manzari  
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide  
Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School  
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District  
  
Effective: February 5, 2021  
Last Day Worked: February 5, 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

VI. 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: Chad Wilson  
Request: Student Teacher  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Assigned to: Jessica VanGalen  
College: Fordham University  
Effective Dates: Spring 2021
2. Name: Brian Mishk  
Request: Observation - Up to 10 Hours Total  
Location: Peekskill Middle School  
Assigned to: Emily DiCuio & Pasquale Salvatore  
College: Grand Canyon University  
Effective Dates: Spring 2021
3. Name: Mari Robles  
Request: Observation - 40 Hours Total  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Assigned to: Jennifer Michel  
College: Vassar College  
Effective Dates: Spring 2021

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 one (1) student for declassification, classification, review and/or placement.

#### B. Contract - Pleasantville Union Free School District

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Pleasantville UFSD to provide non-resident tuition for educational services for two students (one with disabilities/one general education student) for the 2020-2021 school year. Rate is set by New York State.

### 14.Consent Agenda - Business/Finance

#### A. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the Month of December 2020

That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer's Report for month of December 2020.

#### B. Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the Month of January 2021

That the Board of Education approves the Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the month of January 2021.

#### C. Extraclassroom Activities - December 2020

That the Board of Education, accept the December 2020 financial statements for the Peekskill High School and Middle School Extraclassroom Activity Accounts.



D. Contract - Arts 10566 Inc.

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Arts 10566 Inc. to commencing January 25, 2021 - June 25, 2021. Not to exceed \$28,500.

E. Contract - 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 2020/2021 school year:

White Plains City School District; \$1,170.88 per student, 10 students

F. 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 18, 2021 at \$0 cost to the District.

G. Southern Westchester BOCES Cooperative Bid 2021-2022

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the participating school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services, adopting this Resolution to bid jointly in those supplies, commodities, materials and equipment set forth below NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Peekskill City School District agrees to participate with other school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Westchester County, New York, adopting in this joint bidding of Art Supplies, General School Supplies, Office Supplies, Fine Paper Supplies, Audio Visual Supplies & Equipment; Custodial Supplies; Trash Liners; Custodial Paper Supplies; Laser and Ink Jet Toners OEM & Compatibles; Lumber Supplies; Microcomputer Hardware; Office & Classroom Furniture and Graphing Calculators

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall remain in effect until receipt by BOCES of written withdrawal from the Resolution by the school district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is agreed that the specifications as presented will be used, and that this Board agrees to bid its required amount of said commodities jointly with other participating school districts in Southern Westchester and the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services. The recommendation of the Purchasing Steering Committee will be considered when this Board acts on the purchase of said commodities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the invitation to bid will be advertised by BOCES in the Journal News in accordance with the provisions of Section 103 to the General Municipal Law.

H. Tax Certiorari - 400 Main Street Corporation

WHEREAS, the Peekskill City School District is a respondent in certain tax certiorari proceedings filed by 400 Main Street Corporation pertaining to Parcels 32.8-5-5 and 32.8-5-6 for

tax years 2014 through 2020; and

WHEREAS, the parties have negotiated a tentative resolution of the proceedings, as set

forth in the Stipulation of Settlement and Order attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the School District to

resolve the proceeding in accordance with the Stipulation without further litigation;

NOW, BASED UPON THE FORGOING, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the settlement of the tax proceedings as set forth in the Stipulation of Settlement and

Order;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ingerman Smith, LLP is authorized to execute the Stipulation and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval by the Court, the Assistant Superintendent for Business shall be authorized to issue a refund payment in accordance with the Stipulation.

I. Change Orders

That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Business, in accordance with the change in scope of work on capital construction projects policy number 7335, approve the following change orders:

Contractor Change Order# Description Amount

Laura Li Industries CO-GC-002 Ash removal \$ 8,471.50

Laura Li Industries CO-GC-003 Additional fencing \$ 10,900.00

Laura Li Industries CO-GC-004 Install fence and gate around bleachers \$ 15,300.00

Laura Li Industries CO-GC-005 Sewer upgrades \$ 18,480.00

S&L Plumbing and Heating CO-PC-001 Install reduced pressure zone device \$ 6,149.35

Fanshawe, Inc. CO-EC-001 Replace current transformer and meter \$ 15,526.33

15. Other Agenda Items

A. Gymnastics Merger

That the Board of Education approve the merger of Peekskill City School District Gymnastics Team, for the 2021 - 2022 school year, with Somers School District, due to the insufficient number of participants.

B. Nomination for BOCES Board of Education

That the Peekskill Board of Education nominate Michael Simpkins to serve a three-year term (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024) on the Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

C. Donation - Community Center Northern Westchester

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 Community Center Northern Westchester a donation of new pajamas.

D. Donation - GDC Development Corp

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 GDC Development Corp a donation of \$5,000 for the purchase of Chromebooks.

E. Donation - Giving Friends

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 Giving Friends a donation of new garments.

F. Donation - Carol Cornish

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 Carol Cornish a donation of a 1969 Ovation guitar.

16. Approving Consent Agenda

A. Approving Consent Agenda

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

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

17. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

A. Guidelines to Speak to the Board of Education

18. Committee Reports/Board Reflections

A. Branwen McDonald reported she has been attending advocacy sessions with our State representatives. We need a coordinated effort to make our voices heard. They are putting together a letter and a template and there will be a phone call day. This is an opportunity to make ourselves heard.

President Jenkins, Jr. asked, "Can a student move to hybrid learning"? Dr. Mauricio commented at the end of the third marking period the District will recanvas families giving them the opportunity to move to hybrid or stay fully virtual for the remainder of the school year. Whichever direction the District heads in and the Board supports greater in person learning by bringing in students 4 or 5 days, we will reopen it up to the families. There will be a survey sent out on Friday via email, phone call, text message, and will be published on the website.

President Jenkins, Jr. stated there will be an informational parent meeting on March 10 from 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. The District needs your input to make sure the best possible decision is made. Parents will have an opportunity to have their voices heard. He was also glad students in grades 2 and 3 had the opportunity to see the Harriet Tubman statue. Hopefully, this opens up conversations to bigger and better things.

President Jenkins, Jr., also thanked Mr. Goldberg, saying although it was a shortened season, it was an opportunity for the athletes to close out their athletic career.

19. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

B. Adjourn Executive Session

20. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Debra McLeod  
District Clerk