

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 28, 2025

Board of Education

Mr. Michael Simpkins, President
Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., Vice President
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald
Mr. Eric Rekeda
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 6:00 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Allen Jenkins, Jr. (6:09 p.m.) and Amy Vele (6:18 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: Per Diem Substitute Teacher; 6th Assignment Positions; Permanent Substitute Teacher; Certified/Classified Stipend Positions; 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: Eric Rekeda
No: _____ Abstained: _____

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:05 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

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

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

2. Resume Public Meeting – 7:10 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

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

6. Superintendent's Report Continued

A. Superintendent's Report Continued

- [STEAM Update – Dr. Kern Mojica](#)
- [Educational Planning and Budget Workshop #2](#) – Dr. Mauricio and Cynthia Hawthorne

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Policy Readings

10. Accepting of Minutes

A. Business Meeting December 17, 2024

B. Business Meeting/Work Session January 7, 2025

C. Approval of Minutes

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

Business Meeting December 17, 2024

Business Meeting/Work Session January 7, 2025

Motion: Amy Vele

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

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

No: _____

Abstained: _____

11. Consent 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: N/A

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Shana Wolf
Position: Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Certification: Music, Initial
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Effective Start Date: February 3, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$165 per day, as worked no benefits
2. Name: James Holden
Position: 6th Assignment Mathematics Teacher (0.20 FTE)
Certification: Mathematics (Grades 5-9), Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: January 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: April 4, 2025 (Anticipated)

- Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty (PFA) Contract
3. Name: Justin Maldonado
Position: 6th Assignment Mathematics Teacher (0.20 FTE)
Certification: Mathematics (Grades 7-12), Emergency COVID-19
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: January 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: April 4, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty (PFA) Contract
4. Name: Brian Donahue
Position: 6th Assignment Mathematics Teacher (0.20 FTE)
Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: January 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: April 4, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty (PFA) Contract
5. Name: Laura Sullivan
Position: 6th Assignment Mathematics Teacher (0.20 FTE)
Certification: Mathematics (Grades 7-12), Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: January 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: April 4, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with Peekskill Faculty (PFA) Contract
6. Name: Darren Di
Position: 6th Assignment Mathematics Teacher (0.20 FTE)
Certification: Middle Childhood (Grades 5-9), Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: January 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: April 4, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with Peekskill Faculty (PFA) Contract
7. Name: Michael Perlett
Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher
Certification: Physical Education, Initial
Location: Peekskill High School

Effective Start Date
Effective End Date:
Salary:

January 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
\$175 per day, as worked, no benefits

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Salary:
8.	Gordon, James	Restorative Practices Administrator Assignment	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$4,700 (General Fund)
9.	Diaz, Jocelyn	Oakside Elementary School LEAP - Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV grant)
10.	Bentancourt, Leigh	Oakside Elementary School LEAP - Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV grant)
11.	Bentancourt, Alexis	Oakside Elementary School LEAP - Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV grant)
12.	Curras, Samantha	Oakside Elementary School LEAP - Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV grant)
13.	Lynch, Kris	Individual Tutors	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
14.	Connor, Shannon	Individual Tutors	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
15.	Stahlie, Anna	Peekskill High School Extended Day - ENL Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
16.	Park, Maria	Peekskill High School Extended Day - ENL Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
17.	Ishoo, Leslie	Peekskill High School Extended Day - ENL Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
18.	Fuego, Lidia	Peekskill High School Extended Day - ENL Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (General Fund)

19.	Valenzuela, Valeria	Hillcrest Elementary School - After School Professional Learning Community	2024 -2025 School Year	\$47 per hour (General Fund)
20.	Wecht, Jenna	Hillcrest Elementary School - After School Professional Learning Community	2024 -2025 School Year	\$47 per hour (General Fund)
21.	Tama, Joseph	Hillcrest Elementary School - After School Professional Learning Community	2024 -2025 School Year	\$47 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: Arianna Lopez
Position: Lifeguard
Certification: Lifeguard certification
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: 2024 - 2025 School Year
Action: Correcting salary amount
Salary: \$41.04/per hour
2. Name: Josephine Holman
Position: Lifeguard
Certification: Lifeguard certification
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: 2024 - 2025 School Year
Action: Correcting salary amount
Salary: \$41.04/per hour
3. Name: Megan Myones
Position: ENL Teacher Leader
Location: Peekskill High School
Effective Dates: 2024 - 2025 School Year
Action: Correcting stipend amount
Salary: \$4,000

Classified:

I. Resignation:

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

1. Name: Lilian Alonzo Perez

Position:	Classroom Teacher Aide
Location:	Woodside Elementary School
Action:	Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date:	January 24, 2025
Last Date Worked:	January 23, 2025

2. Name:	Isabella Escobar Tobin
Position:	1:1 Teacher Aide
Location:	Peekskill High School
Action:	Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date:	January 25, 2025
Last Date Worked:	January 24, 2025

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:

1. Name:	Kathleen Gargano
Position:	Classroom Teacher Aide
Location:	Peekskill Middle School
Action:	Resignation for the purpose of retirement from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date:	February 1, 2025 (Anticipated)
Last Date Worked:	January 31, 2025 (Anticipated)

2. Name:	Dawn Asper
Position:	Classroom Teacher Aide
Location:	Woodside Elementary School
Action:	Resignation for the purpose of retirement from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date:	February 4, 2025 (Anticipated)
Last Date Worked:	February 3, 2025 (Anticipated)

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:

#	Employee:	Program/Position:	Effective Date/s:	Stipend:
1.	Bailey, Ariyah	Oakside Elementary School LEAP - Teacher Aide	2024 -2025 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Teacher Aides' Organization (PTAO) Contract. (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV Grant)
2.	Tello Espinoza, Judith	Oakside Elementary School LEAP - Teacher Aide	2024 - 2025 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Teacher Aides' Organization (PTAO) Contract. (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV Grant)

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: Jylene Guaba
Request: Student Teaching Experience
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Assigned to: Donna Marzella
College/University: SUNY Cortland
Effective Date/s: January 27, 2025 - May 14, 2025 (Anticipated)

#	Name of Partner Agency Worker:	Location:	Organization / Program:	Effective Dates:
2.	Schrier, Benjamin	Peekskill Middle School	School of Rock	Thursday, Friday January 30, 2025 -

				June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
3.	Kretzer, Aidan	Peekskill Middle School	School of Rock	January 30, 2025 - June 30, 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.

B. Substitute Rates

That the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the following pay rate for the following non-bargaining unit members

effective January 1, 2025:

Teaching Assistant (Certified) Substitute & Leave Replacements (Per Diem)

\$125.00 per diem jobs worked in all schools (Previously \$112.50/day)\$125.00 per diem

jobs worked in all schools (Previously \$112.50/day)

Custodial Worker Substitute (Per Diem)

\$16.50/Hour (Previously \$16.32/Hour)

C. Custodial Worker (PT) Rates

That the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education

approve the following pay rate for the following bargaining unit members effective

January 1, 2025:

Custodial Worker (Part Time Status)

\$16.50/Hour (Previously \$16.32/Hour)

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 28 students for

declassification, classification, review and/or placement.

B. Contract - GS Bubbles, LLC dba Bubble Bus/Saturday Academy

That the Board of Education approve the contract with GS Bubbles, LLC dba Bubble

Bus/Saturday Academy, commencing September 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. Not to

exceed \$1,001.60. (1X)

13. Consent Agenda - Business/Finance

A. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the Months of November and December 2024

That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer's Report for the months of November and December 2024.

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

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

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

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

14. Other Agenda Items

A. Overnight Field Trip - Pennsylvania/College Tour

That the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip for 40 PHS students who will travel to Pennsylvania for a college tour, April 2 - 4, 2025.

B. Overnight Field Trip - Albany, NY

That the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip for 12th Grade MBK students to attend the Stand & Deliver Retreat in Albany, NY, February 12, 2025 - February 14, 2025.

C. Overnight Field Trip - Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

That the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip for 10 PHS students who will travel to Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY for a Robotics Competition, January 31, 2025 - February 2, 2025.

D. Extraclassroom Activity - Sociedad Hispanica de Amistad (New)

That the Board of Education approve the newly proposed Extraclassroom Activity Club -Sociedad Hispanica de Amistad.

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: Branwen MacDonald

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Christina Washington

16. Committee Reports/Board Reflections

Branwen MacDonald commented the PTO did a great job with the Winter Wonderland dance. It was amazing, a beautiful experience, and how polite the students were. She thanked everyone that made it happen.

Jillian Villon thanked the administrators for the college tour trips. Also, to show support to students with the play on Friday night.

17. Executive Session

18. Adjournment in Memory of [Mr. James Pappas](#)

A. Adjournment in Memory of Mr. James Pappas

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Simpkins asked for a motion to adjourn in memory of Mr. James Pappas.

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Jillian Villon

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Christina Washington

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Carmery Mendez-Battle
District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod
Deputy District Clerk