

Peekskill City School District  
1031 Elm Street  
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APRIL 11, 2023

Board of Education

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

Central Office

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent  
Ms. Cynthia Hawthorne, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Mr. Jamal Lewis, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services  
Mr. Eudes Budhai Interim 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 MacDonald. at 6:00 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Michael Simpkins (6:10 p.m.) arrived late.

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: Teaching Assistants; Leave Replacement Teacher; Per Diem Substitute Teacher; Family Support Specialist; Physical Education Teacher; Stipend Positions; Junior Administrative Assistant (Schools); Clerical Substitute; and Volunteers. 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: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Samuel North

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson  
Allen Jenkins, Jr  
Branwen MacDonald.  
Samuel North  
Eric Reveda  
Jillian Villon

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

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

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:15 p.m.  
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.                      Second: Jillian Villon

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson  
Allen Jenkins, Jr  
Branwen MacDonald.  
Samuel North  
Eric Reveda  
Michael Simpkins  
Jillian Villon

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

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

3. Resume Public Meeting – 7:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened in the Ford Auditorium.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Report of President/Superintendent

A. Superintendent's Report

- [Peekskill Pride](#)

5. Hearing of Citizens

A. Public Participation at Board Meetings

Victoria Kravitz would like to know how to access the 20/21 Insight Survey reports; She also inquired will the Board be supporting a plan to add AP chemistry and AP physics to the middle school curriculum? President MacDonald supports moving forward with AP courses.

6. Superintendent/President Report Continued

A. Superintendent's Report Continued

- [Educational Plan & Budget Workshop #5](#) – Cynthia Hawthorne and Eudes Budhai

7. Consent Agenda

A. Adoption of 2023/2024 Proposed Budget

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education hereby adopts the budget for the 2023/2024 school year in the amount of \$115,703,261 and directs the District Clerk to present the adopted budget as a proposition on the ballot to be presented to the residents of the school district at the annual budget vote and election to be held on May 16, 2023.

B. 2023/2024 Property Tax Report Card

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education adopts the attached Property Tax Report Card and directs the Superintendent of Schools to submit the Property Tax Report Card to the State Education Department by the end of the business day immediately following the Board's adoption, but no later than twenty-four (24) days

prior to the date of the annual budget vote and election dated May 16, 2023, as required by Education Law Section 1716(7).

C. 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: Brian Cuzzi  
Position: Music Teacher  
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District  
Effective: June 30, 2023 (Last day worked 6/23/2023)
2. Name: Diana Kienle  
Position: Special Education Teacher  
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District  
Effective: June 30, 2023 (Last day worked 6/23/2023)

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: Marisol Cabrera \*\*  
Position: Teaching Assistant  
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School  
Certification: Early Childhood Education (Birth - Grade 2), Professional  
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant  
Probationary Start Date: April 24, 2023  
Probationary End Date: April 23, 2027  
Length of Probation: Four (4) Years  
Salary: \$33,340 (Prorated)
2. Name: Jennifer Crowell \*\*  
Position: Teaching Assistant  
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School  
Certification: Teaching Assistant, Level I

Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant  
 Probationary Start Date: April 10, 2023  
 Probationary End Date: April 9, 2027  
 Length of Probation: Four (4) Years  
 Salary: \$33,340 (Prorated)

3. Name: Tracy Austria  
 Position: Elementary Leave Replacement Teacher  
 Certification: Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6, Permanent  
 Location: Hillcrest Elementary School  
 Effective Start Date: March 30, 2023  
 Effective End Date: June 23, 2023  
 Salary: \$69,456 (MA, Step 1) (Prorated)

4. Name: Frances Campbell  
 Position: Per Diem Substitute Teacher  
 Certification: N/A - MA  
 Effective Start Date: April 10, 2023  
 Effective End Date: June 23, 2023  
 Salary: \$120 per day as worked, without benefits

5. Name: Sonia Patino Siguenza  
 Position: Family Support Specialist  
 Location: Family Resource Center  
 Effective Start Date: April 11, 2023  
 Effective End Date: June 30, 2024  
 Salary: \$50,000 (Prorated)

6. Name: Miranda Mattiace \*\*\*  
 Position: Physical Education Teacher  
 Location: Peekskill Middle School  
 Certification: Physical Education, Initial  
 Tenure Area: Physical Education  
 Probationary Start Date: August 30, 2023  
 Probationary End Date: August 29, 2026  
 Length of Probation: Three (3) Years  
 Salary: \$58,400 (BA, Step 3)

	Employee:	Position/Program:	Effective Dates:	Stipend:
7.	Charles Rice	Modified wrestling Coach	Winter 2022-2023	\$3,992
8.	Nyrie Holliman	Flag Football Intramurals Coach	Spring 2023	\$2,550

9.	Erika Velez	Oakside Afterschool Program Teacher Aide	March 27, 2023 - June 23, 2023	Terms of employment are in accordance with the PTAO contract
10.	Todd Newby	Spring Regents Prep English Teacher	April 10, 2023 - May 10, 2023	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
11.	Ellen Jones	Spring Regents Prep English Teacher	April 10, 2023 - May 10, 2023	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
12.	Bjorn Bridgewater	Spring Regents Prep Mathematics Teacher	April 10, 2023 - May 10, 2023	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
13.	Matthew Adler	Spring Regents Prep Mathematics Teacher	April 10, 2023 - May 10, 2023	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
14.	Thomas Malcolm	Spring Regents Prep Social Studies Teacher	April 10, 2023 - May 10, 2023	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
15.	Zorielle Rodriguez-Alcazar	Spring Regents Prep Social Studies Teacher	April 10, 2023 - May 10, 2023	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
16.	Sharon Courtney	Spring Regents Prep Social Studies Teacher	April 10, 2023 - May 10, 2023	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract
17.	Daysi Suero	Spring Regents Prep Spanish Teacher	April 10, 2023 - May 10, 2023	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (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: Christa Offenbacher  
Position: ENL Leave Replacement Teacher  
Certification: TESOL, Permanent  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Effective Start Date: March 24, 2023  
Effective End Date: May 2, 2023  
Salary: \$308 per day as worked, without benefits  
Action: Correct effective start and end date
2. Name: Nicholas Agnello  
Position: Special Education/Science Leave  
Replacement Teacher (6th Assignment)  
Certification: Students with Disabilities - Grades 7-12 -  
Generalist, Professional  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Effective Start Date: March 6, 2023  
Effective End Date: June 23, 2023  
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with  
the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA)  
contract  
Action: Correct effective end date
3. Name: William Thompson  
Position: Special Education/Science Leave  
Replacement Teacher (6th Assignment)  
Certification: Students with Disabilities - Grades 7-12 -  
Generalist, Initial  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Effective Start Date: March 6, 2023  
Effective End Date: June 23, 2023  
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with  
the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA)  
contract  
Action: Correct effective end date
4. Name: Michael Telesco  
Position: Special Education/Science Leave  
Replacement Teacher (6th Assignment)  
Certification: Students with Disabilities - Grades 7-12 - Earth  
Science, Professional  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Effective Start Date: March 6, 2023  
Effective End Date: June 23, 2023  
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
|         | the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract |
| Action: | Correct effective end date                         |
- 
- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 5. Name:              | Jason Torres  |
| Position:             | Special Education/Science Leave Replacement Teacher (6th Assignment)                          |
| Certification:        | Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), Initial  |
| Location:             | Peekskill High School   |
| Effective Start Date: | March 6, 2023   |
| Effective End Date:   | June 23, 2023   |
| Salary:               | Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract |
| Action:               | Correct effective end date  |
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- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 6. Name:              | Scott Tabone  |
| Position:             | Special Education/Science Leave Replacement Teacher (6th Assignment)                          |
| Certification:        | Students with Disabilities - Grades 7-12 - English, Professional                              |
| Location:             | Peekskill High School   |
| Effective Start Date: | March 6, 2023   |
| Effective End Date:   | June 23, 2023   |
| Salary:               | Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract |
| Action:               | Correct effective end date  |
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- |                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7. Name:         | Megan Myones                       |
| Position:        | Mentor                             |
| Mentee:          | Jaclyn Baiata                      |
| Effective Dates: | September 1, 2022 - March 24, 2023 |
| Salary:          | \$1,559 (Grant Funded) (Prorated)  |
| 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:
    1. Name: Kristina Stanley
    - Position: Classroom/Lunch Teacher Aide
    - Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
    - Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District

Effective: December 2, 2022 (Last day worked effective: 12/2/2022)

2. Name: Roberto Alvarenga  
Position: Secretary to School Principal (Spanish Speaking)  
Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School  
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District for the purpose of accepting a promotion in District  
Effective: April 16, 2023 (Last day worked effective: 4/16/2023)

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 resignation(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: Roberto Alvarenga  
Position: Junior Administrative Assistant (Schools)  
Location: Administration Building - Office of Special Services  
Status: Provisional  
Start Date Effective: April 17, 2023  
Salary: \$73,053.00 (Prorated)

2. Name: Ella Morales  
Position: Clerical Substitute (Per Diem)  
Status: Part-Time Availability (PTA)  
Dates Effective: April 12, 2023-June 30, 2023  
Salary: \$21.00/hour. As worked, without benefits. Not to exceed 4 days/week (without District Administrator prior approval).

3. Name: Jonathan Torres Rossi  
Position: Classroom/Lunch Teacher Aide



Location:	Hillcrest Elementary School
Probationary Start Date:	April 10, 2023
Probationary End Date:	April 9, 2024 (Anticipated)
Salary:	\$16,740.00 (Prorated)

VI. 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:

1. Name: Nancy Costa  
Request: Volunteer  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Assigned to: Dr. Jenna Ferris  
Effective Dates: April 4, 2023 - June 30, 2023
2. Name: Mary George  
Request: Volunteer  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Assigned to: Dr. Jenna Ferris  
Effective Dates: April 4, 2023 - June 30, 2023
3. Name: Vivica Wilson  
Request: Field Work Hours  
Location: Peekskill Middle School  
Assigned to: Natalie Bolden  
College: Mercy College  
Effective Dates: April 27, 2023 - April 28, 2023

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.

- D. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the Month of February 2023  
That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer's Report for month of February 2023.
- E. Contracts- 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 2022-2023 school year:
- Greenburgh Central School District – 4 students, \$1,229.90 per student
  - Harrison Central School District – 2 students, \$1,178.02 per student
  - Lakeland Central School District – 65 students, \$1,509.04 per student
- F. Contract - Westchester Circus Arts  
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Westchester Circus Arts commencing April 5, 2023 - June 30, 2023. Not to exceed \$3,500.
- G. Tax Certiorari - Consent Judgment/Highland Professional Center Condominium  
WHEREAS, the Peekskill City School District is a respondent in certain tax certiorari proceedings filed by Highland Professional Center Condominium pertaining to parcels identified as Section 23.20, Block 1, and Lots 4.1 through 4.34 for tax years 2019 through 2022; 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.

H. Field Trip Over 100 Miles - Albany State House, Albany, NY

That the Board of Education approve the field trip over 100 miles for 30 MBK students to visit the Albany State House, Albany, NY on April 26, 2023.

I. Approving Consent Agenda

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

Motion: Samuel North

Second: Michael Simpkins

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

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

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

Allen Jenkins, Jr

Branwen MacDonald.

Samuel North

Eric Rekada

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

8. Additional Consent Agenda Item

A. Personnel Agenda - Corrected Action

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

Name: Imani Simpkins

Position: Pioneer Special Olympics Sports Teacher Aide

Effective Dates: Spring 2023

Stipend: Terms of employment are in accordance with  
PTAO contract (Title IV Grant Fund)

Action: Rescind appointment

B. Approving Additional Consent Agenda Item

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Additional Consent Agenda items 8.A.

Motion: Samuel North

Second: Jillian Villon

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

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

Abstained:\_ Michael Simpkins

Allen Jenkins, Jr

Branwen MacDonald.

Samuel North

Eric Rekada

Jillian Villon

9. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

A. Guidelines to Speak to the Board of Education

Victoria Kravitz supports having a 9th period at the middle school. She urges the Board to pivot and find the funds necessary to have AP chemistry and AP physics added to the middle school curriculum. Children are not having the same opportunities.

10. Adjournment in Memory of [Ms. Margaret Bishop](#), [Mr. Vincent Corozine](#) and [Ms. Marie Nardone](#)

A. Adjournment in Memory of Ms. Margaret Bishop, Mr. Vincent Corozine and Ms. Marie Nardone

There being no further business to come before the Board, President MacDonald asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of Ms. Margaret Bishop, Mr. Vincent Corozine and Ms. Marie Nardone.

Motion: Samuel North

Second: Michael Simpkins

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

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

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

Allen Jenkins, Jr

Branwen MacDonald.

Samuel North

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Debra McLeod  
District Clerk