

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 8, 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. Jamal Lewis, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Mr. Eudes Budhai Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Mrs. Carmery Mendez-Battle, District Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Simpkins at 6:04 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Amy Vele (6:23 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: Special Education, Elementary, Mathematics, Music and Social Studies Teachers; 6th Assignments English Teacher; Certified Stipend Positions; Afterschool Clerical Support; Classroom Teacher Aide; School Monitor (Lunch); Partner Agency Worker. 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

Second: Jillian Villon

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

No: _____

Abstained: _____

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:07 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

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

Second: Branwen MacDonald
No: _____ Abstained: _____

3. Resume Public Meeting – 7:07 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. Superintendent/President Report Continued

A. Superintendent's Report Continued

- Budget Adoption
 - [Educational Plan & Budget #5](#) – Cynthia Hawthorne, Dr. Mauricio and Eudes Budhai.

6. Hearing of Citizens

Yvette Houston would like the limit of tickets for graduation to be more than just eight (8).

Calvin Culberson stated he is tired of being chased off school property. The coaches need to buckle down and do their job. There was an incident that happened in Ossining and the coach didn't know what happened. Mr. Culberson said let the coaches coach and the players play.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Adoption of 2025/2026 Proposed Budget

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education hereby adopts the budget for the 2025/2026 school year in the amount of \$131,740,528 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 20, 2025.

B. 2025/2026 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 20 2025, as required by Education Law Section 1716(7).

C. Abolishment of Positions/ Preferred Eligible List (PEL)

That the Superintendent of Schools recommends the followings abolishment of positions/Preferred Eligible List (PEL) to the Board of Education for approval:

Name: Ahunna Akoma

Position: Director of Innovative Initiatives, Data, Accountability and Grants

Action: Preferred Eligible List (PEL)

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Last Day Worked: June 30, 2025

D. 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. Employee #: 4186

Position: Elementary Teacher

Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Initial;
Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), Initial

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Tenure Area: | Juul Agreement to extend probationary period from August 29, 2025 to August 28, 2026 |
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- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 2. Name: | Tatiana O'Connor**^ |
| Position: | Elementary Teacher |
| Certification: | Early Childhood Education (Birth - Grade 2), Initial |
| Location: | Oakside Elementary School |
| Tenure Area: | Elementary |
| Probationary Start Date: | August 27, 2025 (Anticipated) |
| Probationary End Date: | August 26, 2029 (Anticipated) |
| Length of Probation: | Four (4) Years |
| Salary: | \$82,716 (MA, Step 5) |

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|--------------------------|--|
| 3. Name: | Vilmarie Feliciano**^ |
| Position: | Social Studies Teacher |
| Certification: | Students with Disabilities (Grades 7-12) Generalist, Initial |
| Location: | Social Studies (Grades 7-12), Initial |
| Location: | Peekskill High School |
| Tenure Area: | Social Studies |
| Probationary Start Date: | August 27, 2025 (Anticipated) |
| Probationary End Date: | August 26, 2029 (Anticipated) |
| Length of Probation: | Four (4) Year |
| Salary: | \$80,074 (MA, Step 4) |

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|------------------------|---|
| 4. Name: | Alexander Florez**^ |
| Position: | Mathematics Teacher |
| Certification: | Mathematics (Grades 7-12), Professional |
| Location: | Peekskill High School |
| Tenure Area: | Mathematics |
| Probationary End Date: | August 26, 2029 (Anticipated) |
| Length of Probation: | Four (4) Years |
| Salary: | \$99,922 (MA, Step 10) |

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|-----------------------|---|
| 5. Name: | Michelle Luongo |
| Position: | 6th Assignment English Teacher |
| Certification: | Literacy (Grades 5-12), Professional |
| | Special Education (Grades 1-6), Professional |
| Effective Start Date: | April 7, 2025 (Anticipated) |
| Effective End Date: | June 27, 2025 (Anticipated) |
| Salary: | Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract |

6. Name: Andrea Winston
Position: 6th Assignment English Teacher
Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: April 7, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: June 27, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
7. Name: Michelle Cruz
Position: 6th Assignment English Teacher
Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: April 7, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: June 27, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
8. Name: Ashley Aucar
Position: 6th Assignment English Teacher
Certification: Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), Professional
Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Professional
English to Speakers of Other Languages, Professional
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: April 7, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: June 27, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
9. Name: Jenna Burke
Position: 6th Assignment English Teacher
Certification: Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), Initial
Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Professional
Literacy (Birth-Grade 6), Initial
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: April 7, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: June 27, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
10. Name: Eliza Falk
Position: Music Teacher
Certification: Music, Initial (Pending)

Location: Oakside Elementary School
 Tenure Area: Music
 Probationary Start Date: August 27, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Probationary End Date: August 26, 2029 (Anticipated)
 Length of Probation: Four (4) Years
 Salary: \$60,190 (BA, Step 2)

11. Name: Emily Jeris
 Position: Special Education Teacher
 Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Initial
 Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), Initial
 Location: Woodside Elementary School
 Tenure Area: Special Education
 Probationary Start Date: August 27, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Probationary End Date: August 26, 2029 (Anticipated)
 Length of Probation: Four (4) Years
 Salary: \$77,990 (MA, Step 3)

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Salary:
12.	Granda, Maria	Peekskill High School - Spring Track Coach	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	N/A - Volunteer
13.	Granda, Maria	Chaperone	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$45 per hour (General Fund)
14.	Peterson, Edward	Announcer	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$45 per hour (General Fund)
15.	Brady, Nikki	Peekskill Middle School - Boys and Girls Intramurals Swimming Coach	March 15, 2025 - June 2025 (Anticipated)	\$1418 (General Fund)
16.	Rodney, Lanay	Peekskill Middle School - Modified Girls Basketball	November 15, 2024 - March 11, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$4,009 (General Fund)

	Mentor Teacher	Teacher Mentee	Effective Date/s:	Salary:
17.	Jodi Fernandez	Anel Rivera Guerrero	April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$1,559 (Prorated)

VI. Correction:

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

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Name: | Maria Park |
| Position: | Teacher Mentor |
| Location: | Peekskill High School |
| Effective Date/s: | September 23, 2024- February 6, 2025 |
| Action: | Rescind Offer |
| Stipend: | \$1,559 (Prorated) |

Classified:

I. Resignation:

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

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Name: | Jayda Robinson |
| Position: | 1:1 Teacher Aide |
| Location: | Peekskill High School |
| Action: | Resignation from Peekskill City School District |
| Effective Date: | December 24, 2023 |
| Last Date Worked: | December 23, 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(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: | Jan Wells |
| Position: | Afterschool Clerical Support |
| Location: | Oakside Elementary School |
| Dates Effective: | 2024-2025 School Year |
| Stipend: | Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Association of Educational Secretaries (PAES) Contract. |

2. Name: Yoralis Peralta Malena
 Position: Afterschool Clerical Support
 Location: Woodside Elementary School
 Dates Effective: 2024-2025 School Year
 Stipend: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Association of Educational Secretaries (PAES) Contract.

3. Name: Karaline Cardona
 Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
 Location: Woodside Elementary School
 Status: Probationary
 Probationary Start Date: March 31, 2025
 Probationary End Date: March 30, 2026 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$19,016.64 (Prorated)

4. Name: Christal Scott
 Position: School Monitor (Lunch)
 Location: Oakside Elementary School
 Status: Probationary
 Probationary Start Date: April 7, 2025
 Probationary End Date: April 6, 2026 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$17.00/hour. As worked, without benefits.

5. Name: Madelin Ruballos Rivera
 Position: School Monitor (Lunch)
 Location: Oakside Elementary School
 Status: Probationary
 Probationary Start Date: April 9, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Probationary End Date: April 8, 2026 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$17.00/hour. As worked, without benefits.

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: Angelo Centrone
 Request: Field Experience
 Location: Peekskill Middle School

Assigned to: Peekskill High School
 Patricia Johnson
 Anthony Di Cuio
 College/University: SUNY Cortland
 Effective Date/s: May 19, 2025 - June 2, 2025 (Anticipated)

#	Name of Partner Agency Worker:	Location:	Organization / Program:	Effective Dates:
2.	Paris Dawson	Hillcrest Elementary School	NECS	March 19, 2025 - June 27, 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.

*** 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.

- E. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the Month of February 2025
 That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer's Report for month of February 2025.
- F. [Budget Appropriation Transfers](#) - March 2025
 That the Board of Education approves the Budget Appropriation Transfers for the month of March 2025.
- G. [Budget Transfers for External Audit](#) - 2024/2025

That the Board of Education approves the attached Budget Transfer request for 2024-2025 Fiscal Year to increase the purchase order for the external audit.

H. [Budget Transfers for Maintenance](#) - 2024/2025

That the Board of Education approves the attached Budget Transfer request for 2024-2025 Fiscal Year for Maintenance Department.

I. [Budget Transfers for Special Education](#) - 2024/2025

That the Board of Education approves the attached Budget Transfer request for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year for the Special Education Department.

J. Contract - Equity Consulting Group

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Equity Consulting Group, commencing April 9, 2025 - August 31, 2025. Not to exceed \$19,800.

K. 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.

Lakeland Union Free School District - \$1,692.74 per pupil; 34 students

Ossining Union Free School District - \$1,225.74 per pupil; 43 students

L. Stipulation of Settlement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves to Stipulation of Settlement in connection with a threatened impartial hearing on behalf of the student whose name is on file in the District office, a copy of which has been previously reviewed by the members of the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute said Stipulation of Settlement on behalf of the Board.

M. Stipulation of Settlement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Stipulation of Settlement on behalf of the student whose name is on file in the District office, a copy of which has been previously reviewed by the members of the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute said Stipulation of Settlement on behalf of the Board.

N. Stipulation of Settlement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Stipulation of Settlement on behalf of the student whose name is on file in the District office, a copy of which has been previously reviewed by the members of the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute said Stipulation of Settlement on behalf of the Board.

O. Field Trip Over 100 Miles - Howe Caverns, Howes Caves, NY

That the Board of Education approve the Field Trip over 100 miles for the Peekskill High School 10th grade Earth Science class (83 students) to go to Howe Caverns, Howes Caves, NY on May 9, 2025.

P. Approving Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 7.A. - 7.O.

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

Vice President Jenkins, Jr. commented the Audit Committee met and received a good report. The District is budgeting for cyber security. Whatever the Audit Committee recommend the District puts into play. Vice President Jenkins, Jr. thanked Cynthia Hawthorne for her assistance.

8. Executive Session

9. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

Motion: Amy Vele

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Christina Washington

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Carmery Mendez-Battle
District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod
Deputy District Clerk