

Peekskill City School District  
1031 Elm Street  
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECEMBER 3, 2024

Board of Education

Mr. Michael Simpkins, President  
Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., Vice President  
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald  
Mr. Eric Rekeda  
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

Amy Vele was absent.

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: Per Diem School Counselor; Classified/Certified Stipend Positions and Student Teaching Field Work. 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: Jillian Villon

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Rekeda

Second: Branwen MacDonald

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

Michael Simpkins  
Jillian Villon  
Christina Washington

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:30 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: Eric Rekeda  
No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Resume Public Meeting – 7:38 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. Policy Readings

A. First Reading - [#9520.6 Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace](#)

May I please have a motion to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adopt policy #9520.6  
Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

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

Second: Branwen MacDonald  
No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_

7. 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:

1. Name: Charles Fardales  
Position: Physical Education Teacher  
Location: Woodside Elementary School  
Action: Non Paid Workers Compensation  
Effective Date: November 25, 2024 - January 6, 2025  
(Anticipated)

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Greta Schorr  
Position: Per Diem School Counselor  
Certification: School Counselor, Permanent  
Location: Woodside Elementary School  
Effective Start Date: November 25, 2024 (Anticipated)  
Effective End Date: January 2, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Stipend: \$308 per day, as worked, no benefits

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Salary/ Funding Source:
2.	Macchia, Angie	Oakside Elementary School LEAP - Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60.00 per hour (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV grant)
3.	Ruiz, Raquel	Oakside Elementary School LEAP - Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60.00 per hour (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV

				grant)
4.	Holman, Josephine	Lifeguard	2024 - 2025 School	\$45.00 per hour (General Fund)
5.	Brady, Nikki	Modified Girls Softball Head Coach	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$3,442 (General Fund)
6.	Boscia, Valerie	Peekskill Middle School - Modified Girls Volleyball Coach	August 15, 2024 - November 15, 2024 (Anticipated)	\$4,009 (General Fund)
7.	Mannion, Lisa	Peekskill High School - Guardians of Equity	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$2,000 (Grant Funded)
8.	Reed, Nina	Peekskill High School - Guardians Of Equity	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$2,000 (Grant Funded)
9.	Di Cuio, Emily	Peekskill Middle School - Guardians of Equity	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$2,000 (Grant Funded)
10.	Luongo, Michelle	Peekskill Middle School - Guardians of Equity	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$2,000 (Grant Funded)
11.	Dundon, Patricia	LEAP - Administrator Support	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$210 per day (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek)

VI. Correction:

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

1. Name: Catherine Espinal Moreta\*\*\*^
- Position: Bilingual School Psychologist
- Certification: School Psychologist, Permanent  
Bilingual Education (Pps/Admin)  
Permanent  
Extension
- Location: Woodside Elementary School
- Tenure Area: School Psychology
- Probationary Start Date: January 2, 2025 (Anticipated)
- Probationary End Date: January 1, 2028 (Anticipated)
- Length of Probation: Three (3) Years

Action: Correcting Start Date, Correcting  
Probationary End Date  
Salary: \$107,751 (MA 30, Step 9)

Classified:

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

#	Employee:	Program/Position:	Effective Date/s:	Salary/ Funding Source:
1.	Otero, Erly	Oakside Elementary School LEAP - Aide	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$47.00 (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek)
2.	Mitchell, Angela	Saturday Academy Administrative Support	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$21.00 (Community Schools Funding)

- 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: Diego Gonzalez  
Request: Student Teaching Field Work  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Assigned to: Romina Caceres-Cosme  
College/University: Drexel University  
Effective Date/s: December 16, 2024 - March 28, 2025  
(Anticipated)
2. Name: Christopher Macaluso  
Request: Student Teaching Field Work  
Location: Peekskill Middle School  
Peekskill High School  
Assigned to: Anthony Di Cuio  
Patricia Johnson  
College/University: SUNY Cortland  
Effective Date/s: January 2, 2025 - January 15, 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. Contract - Catapult Learning, LLC  
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Catapult Learning, LLC, for the 2024/2025 school year. Not to exceed \$2,162.28 (\$95.00 per Program Hour).
- C. Side Letter of Agreement - Peekskill Association of Education Secretaries (PAES)/Retitle (No: Christina Washington (7.C.)  
That the Board of Education approve the Side Letter of Agreement with Peekskill Association of Education Secretaries (PAES) concerning an unaffiliated grant funded position to be retitled from Senior Office Assistant to Database Manager as per Westchester County Civil Service.  
Compensation \$75,000  
Effective October 31, 2024  
Roisin Crisci.
- D. Memorandum of Understanding - Mercy University Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)  
That the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding Partnership with Mercy University Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) 2025 - 2030.
- E. Memorandum of Understanding - P-Tech Partners  
That the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the following as Partners for the P-Tech Program for the 2024 - 2025 school year:  
Ossining Union Free School District  
Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES  
SUNY Westchester Community College  
Open Door Family Medical Center  
Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corp
- F. Memorandum of Understanding - SUNY Westchester Community College (New York State Smart Scholars Early College High School Program)  
That the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding with SUNY Westchester Community College in implementing the New York State

Smart Scholars Early College High School Program, commencing March 1, 2024 - August 31, 2028.

G. Approving Consent Agenda

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

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

Second: Eric Reveda

No: Christina Washington (7.C.) Side Letter of Agreement - Peekskill Association of Education Secretaries (PAES)/Retitle

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

Branwen MacDonald commented she met with WPSBA Advocacy committee last night and there have been changes to the Foundation Aide Formula. She now sees the different regional needs. Even wealthy districts have needy students and struggle to get a good education. Whatever we can do we should to support one another and lift all up. We want the formula to be fair and want our neighbors needs to be met and to understand it.

President Simpkins is appreciative of Branwen for bringing the information back to the Board.

8. Executive Session

9. Adjournment in Memory of [Ms. Ellen Evans](#)

A. Adjournment in Memory of Ms. Ellen Evans

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Simpkins asked for a motion to adjourn in memory of Ms. Ellen Evans.

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Christina Washington

Jillian Villon

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Carmery Mendez-Battle  
District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod  
Deputy District Clerk