

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 4, 2025

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. 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 6:03 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Vice President Jenkins, Jr. (6:05 p.m.) arrived late. 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: Teaching Assistant, Physical Education and ENL Teacher Leave Replacements; CPSE/CSE Out of District Chairperson; SEL Program Specialist; and Certified Stipend Positions. 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

Second: Eric Rekeda
No: _____ Abstained: _____

Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon
Christina Washington

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:20 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

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

Second: Branwen MacDonald
No: _____ Abstained:_____

3. Resume Public Meeting – 7:24 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was reconvened in the Ford Auditorium.

4. Report of President/Superintendent

A. Superintendent's Report

- [Peekskill Pride](#)
- MBK Recognition
- [Black History Month Launch](#)

5. Hearing of Citizens

Martin McDonald thanked the school district for the work they do.

6. Superintendent/President Report Continued

A. Superintendent's Report Continued

- [Woodside School Presentation](#) – Staci Woodley and Cynthia Welker

7. Policy Reading

A. First Reading - Background Check Policy

President Simpkins asked for a motion to waive the 2nd reading and to approve the Background Check Policy.

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

Second: Branwen MacDonald
No: _____ Abstained:_____

8. 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:
 1. Name: Nairobi Hernandez
Position: CPSE/CSE Out of District Chairperson
Location: Administration Building
Action: Resignation from Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: February 28, 2025 (Anticipated)
Last Date Worked: February 28, 2025 (Anticipated)
- 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: Nyrie Holliman
Position: Teaching Assistant
Location: Peekskill High School
Action: Non Paid Leave of Absence
Effective Date: February 3, 2025 - March 15, 2025 (Anticipated)
- V. Appointment:
 - A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following faculty appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval:
 1. Name: Remy Espinal Paulino
Position: Teaching Assistant Leave Replacement
Certification: Teaching Assistant Level I
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Effective Start Date: February 5, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: March 28, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$34, 687 (Prorated)
 2. Name: Eleanor Marantz
Position: CPSE/CSE Out of District Chairperson
Certification: Students with Disabilities (Birth - Grade 2), Professional

Location: Administration Building
 Effective Start Date: February 28, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Effective End Date: June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$72,262 (MA, Step 1)(Prorated)

3. Name: Greta Schorr
 Position: SEL Program Specialist
 Certification: School Counselor, Permanent
 Location: Administration Building
 Effective Start Date: February 28, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Effective End Date: June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$350 per day, as worked, no benefits

4. Name: Nyrie Holliman
 Position: Physical Education Leave Replacement Teacher
 Certification: Physical Education, Internship
 Location: Woodside Elementary School
 Effective Start Date: February 3, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Effective End Date: March 15, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$72, 262 (MA, Step 1) (Prorated)

5. Name: Kirsten Kupetz
 Position: ENL Teacher Leave Replacement
 Certification: English to Speakers of Other Languages, Permanent
 Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
 Effective Start Date: January 27, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Effective End Date: March 12, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$350 per day, as worked, no benefits

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Stipend:
6.	Roldan, Patricia	Peekskill Middle School LEAP - Teacher	2024 - 2025 School Year	\$60 per hour (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV grant)

VI. Correction:

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

Classified:

I. Resignation:

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

1. Name: Cheyenne Travis
Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: February 15, 2025 (Anticipated)
Last Date Worked: February 14, 2025 (Anticipated)

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:

1. Name: Remy Espinal Paulino
Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Action: Non Paid Leave of Absence
Effective Date/s: February 5, 2025 through March 28, 2025 (Anticipated)
2. Name: Sophia Skolnick
Position: Occupational Therapist
Location: District Wide
Action: Non Paid Leave of Absence
Effective Date/s: December 18, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)

V. Appointment:

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

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Stipend:
1.	Quizhpi Sacasari, Sonia	Oakside Elementary School 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).
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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:

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. Extraclassroom Activities - November 2024

That the Board of Education, accept the November 2024 financial statements for the Peekskill High School and Middle School Extraclassroom Activity Accounts.

C. Overnight Field Trip - MVCC, Utica NY

That the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip for 12 students with the Robotics team, to compete in the Robotics Championship in Utica NY, March 8, 2025 - March 9, 2025.

D. Approving Consent Agenda

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

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained:_____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

Christina Washington

9. Executive Session

10. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____ Abstained:_____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

Christina Washington

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Carmery Mendez-Battle
District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod
Deputy District Clerk