

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 9, 2024

Board of Education

Mrs. Branwen MacDonald, President
Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., Vice President
Mr. Eric Rekeda
Ms. Amy Vele
Mrs. Jillian Villon

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
Ms. Debra McLeod, District Clerk
Mrs. Carmery Mendez-Battle, Deputy District Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President MacDonald. at 6:01 p.m. George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Amy Vele (6:02 p.m.) arrived late. Pamela Hallman-Johnson and Michael Simpkins were 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: Reading Leave Replacement Teacher; Special Education Teacher; Stipend Positions; Classroom Teacher Aide; Classroom/Lunch Teacher Aide; Sr. Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking); Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking); Maintenance Mechanic (Buildings); and 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: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Jillian Villon

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____

Abstained:_____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda
Jillian Villon

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:18 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Jillian Villon

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr .

No: _____

Abstained:_____

3. Resume Public Meeting – 7:19 p.m.

The meeting reconvened in the George Birdas Room.

- Pledge of Allegiance

President MacDonald asked for a motion to add the following to the consent agenda:

Litigation resolution

Resignation of Clerical Substitute (Per Diem), Carmery Mendez-Battle

Resignation of Deputy District Clerk, Carmery Mendez-Battle

Resignation of District Clerk, Debra McLeod

Appointment of District Clerk, Carmery Mendez-Battle

Appointment of Deputy District Clerk, Debra McLeod

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Second: Amy Vele

No: _____

Abstained:_____

4. 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. Retirement:

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

1. Name:

Lewis Di Marco

Position:

Special Education Teacher

Location:

Woodside Elementary School

Action: Retirement from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: July 1, 2024
Last Date Worked: June 30, 2024

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:

1. Name: Melissa Perlowitz
Position: Elementary Teacher
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence
Effective Date/s: August 30, 2023 through June 30, 2024
(Anticipated)

IV. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Lena Dabsheh
Position: Reading Leave Replacement Teacher
Location: Oakside Elementary School
Certification: Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2)
Initial Certificate
Effective Start Date: January 4, 2024
Effective End Date: June 30, 2024 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$72,974* (MA, Step 2)

2. Name: Carina Cortes
Position: Special Education Teacher
Location: Oakside Elementary School
Certification: Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6),
Professional Certificate; Childhood Education
(Grades 1-6), Professional Certificate
Tenure Area: Special Education (Grades 1-6)
Probationary Start Date: January 4, 2024
Probationary End Date: January 3, 2028 (Anticipated)
Length of Probation: Four (4) Years
Salary: \$96,042* (MA, Step 10)

**Salaries indicated are subject to approval of the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) collective bargaining unit Memorandum of Agreement, which is being considered for approval at this evening's Board of Education meeting.*

	Employee:	Position/Program:	Effective Dates:	Stipend:
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3.	Chavarria, Denise	LEAP/ARP After School Program Educational Liaison	January 2, 2024-March 28, 2024	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract (LEAP Grant Funded).
4.	Esposito, Josie	LEAP/ARP After School Program Teacher	January 2, 2024-March 28, 2024	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract (LEAP Grant Funded).
5.	Nassisi, Jane	LEAP/ARP After School Program Teacher	December 27, 2023-March 28, 2024	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract (LEAP Grant Funded).
6.	Newby, Jessica	Oakside Elementary School - STEAM Standards Alignment Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.
7.	Molle, Melissa	Uriah Hill Elementary School - STEAM Standards Alignment Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.
8.	Rossi, Jamie	Hillcrest Elementary School - STEAM Standards Alignment Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.

9.	Wetmore, Melanie	Woodside Elementary School - STEAM Standards Alignment Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.
10.	Badurski, Jennifer	Hillcrest Elementary School Science Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.
11.	Esposito, Emily	Hillcrest Elementary School Science Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.
12.	Feliz, Jennifer	Oakside Elementary School Science Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.
13.	Lopez, Nina	Woodside Elementary School Science Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.
14.	Quijada, Axa	Oakside Elementary School Science Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.
15.	Wetmore, Melanie	Woodside Elementary School Science Curriculum Work	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with

				the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.
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V. Correction:

- A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following correction(s) of appointment(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: Stacy Whetsel
Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: December 9, 2023
Last Date Worked: December 8, 2023
2. Name: Nefertiti Hall
Position: School Monitor (Lunch)
Location: Oakside Elementary School
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: December 16, 2023
Last Date Worked: December 15, 2023
3. Name: Destiny Mosley
Position: 1:1/Floater Teacher Aide
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: January 4, 2024
Last Date Worked: January 3, 2024
4. Name: Carmery Mendez-Battle
Position: Clerical Substitute (Per Diem)
Status: Part-Time Availability (PTA)
Action: Resignation for the Purpose of Accepting a Promotion with Peekskill City School District
Date Effective: January 9, 2024
Last Date Worked: January 9, 2024

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:

1. Name: Kristen Ruggiero
Position: Custodial Worker
Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence
Effective Date/s: January 2, 2024 through January 16, 2024
(Anticipated)

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Gabriela Riera Rodriguez
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
Probationary Start Date: January 10, 2024 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: January 9, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$18,737.64 (Prorated)
2. Name: Jailah Kingsley
Position: Classroom/Lunch Teacher Aide
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Probationary Start Date: January 10, 2024 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: January 9, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$18,737.64 (Prorated)
3. Name: Ayleen Mendez
Position: Sr. Office Assistant (Automated Systems)
(Spanish Speaking)
Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
Probationary Start Date: January 10, 2023 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: January 9, 2024 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$60,204 (Prorated)
4. Name: Laura Velardo-Cruz
Position: Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking)

Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Probationary Start Date: January 16, 2023 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: January 15, 2024 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$49,350 (Prorated)

5. Name: Michael Aponte
Position: Maintenance Mechanic (Buildings)
Probationary Start Date: January 10, 2024 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: January 9, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$65,101 (Prorated)

VI. Correction:

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

1. Name: Mahogany Smith
Position: Personnel Assistant
Location: Administration Building - Office for Administrative Services
Status: Provisional
Start Date Effective: January 16, 2024 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$75,000.00 (Prorated)
Action: Update anticipated start date

Student Teachers, Volunteers, Interns:

I. Appointment:

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

	Name of Partner Agency Worker:	Location	Organization/ Program	Effective Dates
1.	Molly Gibson	Hillcrest Elementary School with Elizabeth Ojeda	State University of New York at Fredonia	January 10, 11, and 12, 2024

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, commencing September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. Not to exceed \$12,275.

C. Contract - Antonia Arts (Saturday Academy)

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Antonia Arts (Saturday Academy), commencing September 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. Not to exceed \$300.00 plus \$50.00 for supplies to facilitate four (4) instances of Saturday Academy classroom workshops/event.

D. Contract - Einstein Program

That the Board of Education approve the contract with The Einstein Program, tentatively commencing January 1, 2024 - June 28, 2024. Not to exceed \$32,500.

E. Contract - Student Assistance Services

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Student Assistance Services, commencing January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024. Not to exceed \$85,000.

F. MOA - Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District hereby ratifies, effective January 9, 2024, the agreement between the Board and Peekskill Faculty Association, dated July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to incorporate said memorandum of agreement into a

more formal written agreement and further authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute said formal written agreement.

G. Treasurer's Report - November 2023

That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer's Report for month of November 2023.

H. Field Trip Over 100 Miles - The Albany Academies/Albany NY

That the Board of Education approve the field trip over 100 miles for 15 students from the Robotics Team who will be competing in a robotics tournament at The Albany Academies, Albany NY on January 13, 2024.

I. Overnight Field Trip - Mohawk Valley Community College/Utica, NY

That the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip for 10 students from the Robotics Team who will be competing in a robotics tournament at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY from January 20, 2024 - January 21, 2024.

J. Resolution - Litigation

RESOLVED the Board of Education hereby authorizes the law firms of Frantz Law Group, APLC and Ingerman Smith, LLP to commence legal action against the parties identified on Confidential Schedule "A" with respect to the litigation discussed in executive session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board President is authorized to sign the attached retainer agreement with Frantz Law Group, APLC and Ingerman Smith, LLP and take all steps necessary to effectuate the litigation.

K. Resignation - Deputy District Clerk

That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education herewith accepts the resignation of Ms. Carmery Mendez-Battle, Deputy District Clerk, effective January 9, 2024.

L. Resignation - District Clerk

That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education herewith accepts the resignation of Ms. Debra McLeod, District Clerk, effective January 9, 2024.

M. Appointment - District Clerk

That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education herewith appoints Ms. Carmery Mendez-Battle as District Clerk for the remainder of the 2023/2024 school year, effective January 10, 2024; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said appointment as District Clerk shall be compensated at the annual rate of \$68,000.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves an Individual Agreement, dated January 9, 2024, between the District and Ms. Mendez-Battle to govern her terms and conditions of employment as District Clerk effective January 10, 2024 as presented to the Board at this meeting. A copy of said Agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

N. Appointment - Deputy District Clerk

WHEREAS, the District Clerk will need additional support and assistance throughout the 2023/2024 school year; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education herewith appoints Ms. Debra McLeod to serve as Deputy District Clerk to assist the District Clerk for the remainder

of the 2023/2024 school year, effective January 10, 2024; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said appointment as Deputy District Clerk shall be compensated at the annual rate of \$12,590.00; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves an Individual Agreement, dated January 9, 2024, between the District and Ms. McLeod to govern her terms and conditions of employment as Deputy District Clerk effective January 10, 2024 as presented to the Board at this meeting. A copy of said Agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

O. Approving Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 4.A. - 4.N.

Motion: Eric Rekada

Second: Amy Vele

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____

Abstained:_____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Rekada

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

President MacDonald administered the [Oath of Office of District Clerk](#) to Carmery Melendez-Battle.

5. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Jillian Villon

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____

Abstained:_____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Rekada

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Debra McLeod
District Clerk