

Peekskill City School District  
1031 Elm Street  
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MAY 6, 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. 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 6:04 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Eric Rekeda (6:06 p.m.), Vice President Jenkins, Jr., (6:11 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: Per Diem Substitute Teacher; CPSE/CSE Out of District Chairperson Substitute; SEL Program Specialist; Interim Elementary Principal; Interim Elementary Assistant Principal ; Certified/Classified Stipend Positions; and Security Aide. 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  
Michael Simpkins  
Jillian Villon  
Christina Washington

Second: Jillian Villon  
No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:03 p.m.  
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

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

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

3. Public Hearing on Proposed 2025/2026 Budget - 7 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. [Proposed 2025/2026 Budget](#) – Dr. Mauricio and Cynthia Hawthorne

C. Public Comments

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

4. Resume Public Meeting Immediately after Public Hearing

5. Report of President/Superintendent

A. Superintendent's Report

- [Peekskill Pride](#)

6. Hearing of Citizens

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

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:

1. Name:	Michael Rivera
Position:	Leave of Absence Replacement Teacher
Location:	Peekskill Middle School
Action:	Resignation from Peekskill City School District
Effective Date:	April 28, 2025 (Anticipated)
Last Date Worked:	April 22, 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: N/A

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Anthony Turner  
Position: Per Diem Substitute Teacher  
Certification: N/A  
Location: Peekskill Middle School  
Peekskill High School  
Effective Start Date: May 1, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Effective End Date: June 26, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Stipend: \$140 per day, as worked, no benefits
2. Name: Mabel Vasquez  
Position: CPSE/CSE Out of District Chairperson Substitute  
Certification: School Psychologist, Permanent; Bilingual Education (PPS/Admin) Permanent Extension  
Location: Administration Building  
Effective Start Date: May 7, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Effective End Date: June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Salary: \$350 per day, as worked, no benefits
3. Name: Eleanor Marantz  
Position: SEL Program Specialist  
Certification: Students with Disabilities (Birth-Grade 2), Professional; Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2), Professional  
Location: Administration Building  
Effective Start Date: May 7, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Effective End Date: October 31, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Salary: \$350 per day, as worked, no benefits
4. Name: Melissa Russo  
Position: Interim Elementary Principal

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

Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School

Effective Start Date: July 1, 2025 (Anticipated)

Effective End Date: June 30, 2026 (Anticipated)

Salary: \$153,088 (Step 6)

5. Name: Amanda Cardona

Position: Interim Elementary Assistant Principal

Certification: School Building Leader, Initial; Early Childhood Education, Professional

Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School

Effective Start Date: July 1, 2025 (Anticipated)

Effective End Date: June 30, 2026 (Anticipated)

Salary: \$134,331 (Step 9)

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Stipend:
6.	Adujar, Mark	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Administrator	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$210 per session (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
7.	Bueno, Ana	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Clinician	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
8.	Suarez, Diana	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Clinician	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
9.	Pena, Laura	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Teacher Leader	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
10.	Burns, Yolanda	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$50 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)

		Academy- Teaching Assistant		
11.	Gonzalez, Judith	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Teaching Assistant	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$50 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
12.	Fernandez, Joanni	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Teaching Assistant	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$50 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
13.	Giha, Lucrecia	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Teaching Assistant	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$50 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
14.	Montoya, Jessica	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Teacher	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
15.	Van Riper, Michelle	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Teacher	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
16.	Ferreras Molina, Sindy	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Teacher	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
17.	Alonza, Lenin	Peekskill City School District Summer Enrichment Academy - Teacher	July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 (Title I Funding, Title III Funding)
18.	Granda, Maria	Peekskill High School - Track and Field, Assistant Coach	April 21, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$5076 (Prorated) (General Fund)

19.	Kness, Chrstopher	Peekskill High School - Pioneer Club Advisor/Coach	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$2836 (General Fund)
20.	Kearney, Delilah	Peekskill High School - Pioneer Club Advisor/Coach	March 15, 2025 - June 15, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$2836 (General Fund)
21.	Molle, Melissa	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher	May 28, 2025 - June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
22.	Yurek, Katherine	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher	May 28, 2025 - June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
23.	Echevarria, Jaclyn	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher	May 28, 2025 - June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
24.	Garone, Erin	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher	May 28, 2025 - June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
25.	Ramirez, Marlym	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher	May 28, 2025 - June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
26.	Rosa, Rita	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher	May 28, 2025 - June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
27.	Lopez, Nina	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher	May 28, 2025 - June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$60 per hour (General Fund)
28.	Soto, Reyna	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teaching Assistant	May 28, 2025, May 29, 2025, May 31, 2025, June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$50 per hour (General Fund)
29.	Lopez, Bridget	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teaching	May 30, 2025, June 2, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$50 per hour (General Fund)

		Assistant		
30.	Lee, Andre	Peekskill High School - Program Facilitator	2024 - 2025 School Year	Stipend (not to exceed \$4,005) Terms of employment are in accordance with each bargaining unit's contract (Grant Funded)

VI. Correction:

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

1. Name: Michael Rivera  
Position: Assistant Coach, Track and Field  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Effective Start Date: March 15, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Effective End Date: April 21, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Action: Rescind Offer  
Stipend: \$5,076
2. Name: Kevin Gourdine  
Position: Intramurals Flag Football Coach  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Effective Start Date: March 15, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Effective End Date: April 21, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Action: Rescind Offer  
Stipend: \$2,550

Classified:

I. Resignation:

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

1. Name: Raquel Ali  
Position: Office Assistant (Automated Systems)  
Location: Peekskill Middle School  
Action: Resignation from Peekskill City School District  
Effective Date: May 27, 2025 (Anticipated)  
Last Date Worked: May 26, 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: Anthony Turner  
Position: Security Aide  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence  
Effective Date/s: May 1, 2025 through June 26, 2025  
(Anticipated)

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Ricky Gillison  
Position: Security Aide  
Program: PCSD Summer Enrichment Program  
Location: Peekskill Middle School  
Dates Effective: Summer 2025  
Stipend: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Schools Security Aides' Association (PSSAA) contract.

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Stipend:
2.	La Belle, Tina	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Registered Professional School Nurse (RN)	May 28, 2025, May 29, 2025, May 30, 2025, May 31, 2025, June 2, 2025, & June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	\$50/Hour (General Fund)
3.	Gonzales Pomalaya, Anabeli	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Secretary / Clerical	May 29, 2025, (Anticipated)	Terms of employment are in



		Support		accordance with the Peekskill Association of Educational Secretaries (PAES) contract. (General Fund)
4.	Mendez, Ayleen	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Secretary / Clerical Support	May 28, 2025, May 30, 2025, May 31, 2025, June 2, 2025 & June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Association of Educational Secretaries (PAES) contract. (General Fund)
5.	Andrade Maldonado, Deysi	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher Aide	May 28, 2025 & May 29, 2025 (Anticipated)	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Teacher Aides Organization (PTAO) contract. (General Fund)
6.	Bailey, Yolanda	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher Aide	June 3, 2025 (Anticipated)	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Teacher Aides Organization

				(PTAO) contract. (General Fund)
7.	Bates, Lasean	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher Aide	May 29, 2025 & May 30, 2025 (Anticipated)	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Teacher Aides Organization (PTAO) contract. (General Fund)
8.	Chunchi, Myrka	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher Aide	May 28, 2025 & May 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Teacher Aides Organization (PTAO) contract. (General Fund)
9.	Dabbs, Stephanie	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher Aide	June 2, 2025 (Anticipated)	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Teacher Aides Organization (PTAO) contract. (General Fund)
10.	D'elia, Julie	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher Aide	May 31, 2025 (Anticipated)	Terms of employment are in accordance

				with the Peekskill Teacher Aides Organization (PTAO) contract. (General Fund)
11.	Erazo Pinto, Tatiana	Uriah Hill Parent /Student Orientation and Screening - Teacher Aide	May 30, 2025 & June 2, 2025 (Anticipated)	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Teacher Aides Organization (PTAO) contract. (General Fund)

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: N/A

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.

B. Correction to Clerical Substitute Rates

That the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the following pay rates for the following non-bargaining unit members, for the 2024-2025 school year:

Clerical Substitutes

\$21.00 per hour for per diem jobs;

\$30.00 per hour after having worked twenty-five (25) consecutive per diem jobs in the same temporary long-term position/assignment. (Rate effective on the twenty-sixth (26th) day worked in said position/assignment.)

C. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the Month of March 2025

That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer's Report for month of March 2025.

D. [Budget Appropriation Transfers - April 2025](#)

That the Board of Education approves the Budget Appropriation Transfers for April 2025.

E. Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the Month of March 2025

That the Board of Education approves the Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the month of March 2025.

F. Extraclassroom Activities - March 2025

That the Board of Education, accept the March 2025 financial statements for the Peekskill High School and Middle School Extraclassroom Activity Accounts.

G. Amended Contract - Bases & Bases Consulting LTD

That the Board of Education approve an amended contract with Bases & Bases Consulting LTD (originally dated June 18, 2024), commencing September 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. The parties mutually agreed to increase the number of hours by an additional 100 and the contract amount by an additional \$20,000. Not to exceed \$170,000.

H. Award of Bid - 2025/2026 Universal Pre-K

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District requested proposals for universal pre-kindergarten services;

WHEREAS, the School District received proposals in response to its request, which were opened by the School District on April 25, 2025;

WHEREAS, the School District Administration reviewed and evaluated the proposals

submitted in response to the School District's request for proposals;  
WHEREAS, based upon said review and evaluation of the proposals, the Administration recommends that the Board of Education award the contract for universal pre-kindergarten services to WestCOP Aunt Bessie's Open Door and Family Services of Westchester, Inc.;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District authorizes the School District to enter into contracts with WestCOP Aunt Bessie's Open Door and Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of universal pre-kindergarten services in accordance with the terms and conditions of the School District's request for proposals subject to the preparation of an agreement approved by counsel.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute an agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

I. Election Inspectors

That the Board of Education approve the following, as Election Inspectors for the Annual Budget Vote and Election on May 20, 2025:

Arroyo, Edwin; 659 Highland Ave 2; 16 hours; \$350

Johnson, Ransom T; 807 Main St 3H; 16 hours; \$350

J. SEQRA Resolution

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District desires to replace the existing playground equipment at the Hillcrest Elementary School (hereinafter the "Project");

WHEREAS, said capital improvement is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA);

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility is classified as a Type II Action under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1));

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 is classified as a Type II Action under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2));

WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(10));

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Project is classified as Type II

Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1),(2), and (10) of the SEQR Regulations.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed projects from the New York State Education Department.

K. Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") - Hillcrest Playground Project

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District applied for a Community Resiliency, Economic, Sustainability, and Technology Program ("CREST") Grant through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") for the construction of a playground at Hillcrest Elementary School; and  
WHEREAS, as part of the grant process, DASNY provided a Grant Disbursement Agreement to the School District in connection with the playground project.  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District approves the Grant Disbursement Agreement between DASNY and the School District in the form attached hereto for the construction of a playground at Hillcrest Elementary School through a grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 to be funded from the CREST program.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District hereby authorizes the Board President, the Superintendent of Schools or the Assistant Superintendent for Business to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Grant Disbursement Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

L. Approving Consent Agenda

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

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

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

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

Christina Washington

Branwen McDonald commented the Board Policy Committee met and the Board will have the discussion at the next Board meeting where the selection of a student board member needs to be refined. It is important for students to know what the

Board does. The Committee is also refining three (3) other policies Extreme Heat, Parking Permits and the usage of AI.

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: 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 7:50 p.m.

Carmery Mendez-Battle  
District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod  
Deputy District Clerk