Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

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

<u>Board of Education</u>
Mrs. Jillian Villon, President
Ms. Amy Vele, Vice President
Ms. Mary Angel Flores
Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald
Mr. Frank Robinson, Jr.
Mrs. Christina Washington
Miss Thalia Martin, Ex-Officio Student Member

<u>Central Office</u>
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 Villon at 6:00 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.
   A. Recording of Attendance
      Frank Robinson, Jr. (6:02 p.m.) and Vice President Vele arrived late. Vice President Vele left at 8:55 p.m.
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: ENL Leave Replacement Teacher; Certified/Classified Stipend Positions; 1:1 Teacher Aide; Clerical Substitutes (Per Diem); and 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: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Yes: Mary Angel Flores No: _____ Abstained:_____
Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Amy Vele
Jillian Villon
Christina Washington

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:10 p.m.
Motion to Move to Public Session

Motion: Frank Robinson, Jr. Second: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Mary Angel Flores No: _____ Abstained:_____
Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Frank Robinson, Jr.
Amy Vele
Jillian Villon
Christina Washington

3. Resume Public Meeting – 7:15 p.m.
   - Pledge of Allegiance
     The meeting was reconvened in the Ford Auditorium.
4. Report of President/Superintendent
   A. Superintendent's Report
      - Peekskill Pride
        The Drama Club did a teaser on their upcoming play "Just Another High School Play".
      - Internet Enabled Devices (Cell Phone) Update – Dr. Budhai
5. Hearing of Citizens
   Residents expressed their concerns over the Artificial Intelligence policy that the Board is considering.

   Thalia Martin, Ex-Officio Student Member report

6. Policy Readings
   A. Policy #8636 Artificial Intelligence: President Villon commented, the use of AI or artificial intelligence has increased among the general public, with the release of ChatGPT and other online tools that generate text, images, and videos in response to a user's prompt. With this new development came opportunities and challenges for school districts. This is an evolving area, and one that will

need to be periodically revisited. This policy is based on NYSSBA's recommendations for how to handle in-school and at-home use of generative AI and the impact on school operations. This is a new policy to the District and President Villon opened it to the Board for a discussion.

Comments were as followed:

Vice President Vele: The District has to be careful on how we build contracts who we partner with. Is the information companies received being sold to other companies of which we have no knowledge of?

Mary Angel Flores: Do we need to use technology? The government cannot move at the speed of safety. We have to be really careful on how to approach an AI policy.

Branwen MacDonald: Wanted to know how are things reported back to the District. What percentage of student's time is spent on this Chat GPT program? We want to end up with community minded, justice people. How are we supporting our teachers in a more humanistic way?

Thalia Martin: Students should be exposed to AI and how to use it properly. We don't want students to be unprepared on how they are operating it.

Allen Jenkins, Jr.: We have to be the ones to regulate it. Educate our students to recognize AI but to also become critical thinkers.

President Villon reiterated there are two (2) separate conversations.

1. AI Policy needs to be addressed
2. Will the District be going full speed ahead in using AI.

7. Delegation Resolution for EPC Financing

A. Delegation Resolution for EPC Financing

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF PEEKSKILL, NEW YORK, DECLARING THE FINDINGS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR THE FINANCING OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT WITH AMERESCO, INC. AND MAKING CERTAIN OTHER DETERMINATIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF PEEKSKILL, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES (by a majority vote of all the members of said Board) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Following the solicitation of proposals, the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Peekskill (the "School District") received proposals from various financial institutions to provide financing for the cost of the energy conservation measures to be implemented under the Energy Performance Contract that the School District has heretofore entered into with AMERESCO, Inc. (the "Agreement").

Section 2. Following a discussion of the Board of Education of the School District, and based upon the written recommendation received from Bernard P. Donegan, Inc., the School District's Municipal Advisor, it is hereby determined that the proposal received from TD Equipment Finance, Inc., or one of its affiliates (the "Lessor") is hereby accepted subject to the negotiation of one or more lease purchase agreements approved by counsel.

Section 3. The President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, the Assistant Superintendent for Business and/or District Treasurer (collectively the "Authorized Representatives" and individually, the "Authorized Representative"), acting on behalf of the School District and with the advice of counsel, are hereby authorized to negotiate, enter into, execute, and deliver one or more lease purchase agreements (the "Equipment Lease") with the Lessor. The Authorized Representatives are hereby further authorized to negotiate, enter into, execute, and deliver such other documents relating to the Equipment Lease (including, but not limited to, escrow and custodian agreements), as the Authorized Representatives deem necessary and appropriate with the advice of counsel. All other related contracts and agreements necessary and incidental to the Equipment Lease are hereby authorized, and such documents shall be filed in the office of the District Clerk and made available for public inspection.

Section 4. The aggregate original principal amount of the Equipment Lease shall not exceed $8,206,620 and shall bear interest at a rate as set forth in the proposal and mature as set forth in the Equipment Lease.

Section 5. The School District's obligations under the Equipment Lease shall be subject to annual appropriation or renewal by the Board of Education of the School District as set forth in the Equipment Lease and the School District's obligations under the Equipment Lease shall not constitute a general obligation of the School District or indebtedness under the Constitution or laws of the State of New York.

Section 6. The proceeds of the Equipment Lease may be applied to reimburse the School District for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said proceeds are authorized, or on or prior to such date in accordance with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department. The foregoing statement of intent with respect to reimbursement is made in conformity with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department.

Section 7. The Authorized Representatives are hereby authorized to take any and all other actions necessary in connection with the Agreement, the Equipment Lease, and all matters related thereto.

Section 8. Upon execution of the Equipment Lease and accompanying Escrow Agreement, the School District designates Webster Bank as a depository of School District funds for purposes of the Equipment Lease.

Section 9. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

B. Approving Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Delegation Resolution for EPC Financing item 7.A.

Motion: Branwen MacDonald Second: Frank Robinson, Jr.

Yes: Mary Angel Flores No: _____ Abstained:_____

Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald
Frank Robinson, Jr.
Jillian Villon
Christina Washington

8. Consent Agenda - Personnel 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: Renee Torchiano
               Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher
               Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
               Action: Resignation from Peekskill City School District.
               Effective Date: October 31, 2025 (Anticipated)
               Last Date Worked: October 31, 2025 (Anticipated)

            2. Name: Reyna Soto
               Position: Teaching Assistant
               Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
               Action: Resignation from Peekskill City School District.
               Effective Date: October 23, 2025 (Anticipated)
               Last Date Worked: October 23, 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:

      V. Appointment:
         A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following faculty appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval:
            1. Name: Kirsten Kupetz
               Position: ENL Leave Replacement Teacher
               Certification: English to Speakers of Other Languages, Permanent

Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Start Date: November 10, 2025 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: June 30, 2026 (Anticipated)
Salary: $75,922 (MA, Step 2)

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Stipend:
2.	Melo, Cinthya	Peekskill High School - ENL SEL Program Clinician	2025 -2026 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract. (General Fund)
3.	Diago, Michael	Peekskill High School - ENL SEL Program Clinician	2025 -2026 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract. (General Fund)
4.	Johnson, Patricia	Peekskill High School - GEMS Advisor	2025 - 2026 School Year	$1728 (General Fund)
5.	Diano, William	Peekskill High School - Junior Varsity Wrestling Head Coach	Winter: November 13, 2025 - March 10, 2026 (Anticipated)	$2767.50 (Spilt 2 ways) (General Fund)
6.	Richard, Katherine	Oakside Elementary School - 21st CCLC - Clinician	2025 - 2026 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract. (21st CCLC (LEAP) Peek and RECOV Grant)
7.	Esteves, Basy	Oakside Elementary School	2025 - 2026 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with

		- 21st CCLC - Teaching Assistant		the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract. (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: Alexis Martinez
   Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide
   Location: Woodside Elementary School
   Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
   Effective Date: October 10, 2025
   Last Date Worked: October 9, 2025

2. Name: Michael Perez
   Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide
   Location: Peekskill High School
   Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
   Effective Date: November 1, 2025
   Last Date Worked: October 31, 2025

3. Name: Eric Guy
   Position: Security Aide
   Location: Peekskill High School
   Status: Temporary
   Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
   Effective Date: November 1, 2025
   Last Date Worked: October 31, 2025

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: Pamela Peralta Vele
   Position: 3:1 Shared Teacher Aide
   Location: Woodside Elementary School
   Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence
   Effective Date/s: December 19, 2025-December 21, 2025 (Anticipated)

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Sabriah McQueen
   Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide
   Location: Woodside Elementary School
   Status: Probationary
   Probationary Start Date: November 5, 2025 (Anticipated)
   Probationary End Date: November 4, 2026 (Anticipated)
   Salary: $22,583.56 (Prorated)

2. Name: Lizana Milena Orrego^
   Position: Clerical Substitute (Per Diem)
   Status: Part-Time Availability (PTA)
   Dates Effective: November 10, 2025 through June 30, 2026
   Salary: $21.00/hour*. As worked, without benefits. Not to exceed four (4) days/week (without District Administrator approval).

*Unless pre-approved to work in a long-term District assignment.

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

#	Name of Partner	Location:	Organization /	Effective Dates:

	Agency Worker:		Program:	
1.	Shakira Dawson	Peekskill Middle School	Student Assistance Services	Monday - Friday November 5, 2025 - June 30, 2026 (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.

B. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the Month of August 2025
   That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer's Report for month of August 2025.
C. Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the Month of September 2025
   That the Board of Education approves the Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the month of September 2025.
D. Contract - Inferno365 Fitness (21st CCLC After School/PKMS; Hillcrest; Oakside)
   That the Board of Education approve the contract with Inferno365 Fitness (21st CCLC After School/PKMS; Hillcrest; Oakside), commencing October 14, 2025 - May 1, 2026. Not to exceed $21,120 (Four (4) classes weekly at $240 per class for 22 weeks).
E. Contract - City of Peekskill/Youth Advocate
   That the Board of Education approve the contract with the City of Peekskill/Youth Advocate, commencing September 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Not to exceed $42,000.

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

Motion: Mary Angel Flores   Second: Branwen MacDonald
Yes: Mary Angel Flores   No: _____   Abstained:_____
Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Frank Robinson, Jr.
Jillian Villon
Christina Washington

President Villon and the Board attended the NYSSBA workshop and they spoke on the subject of AI. This year the focus was on treating each other respectfully. We are all so similar and we are all people and to treat each other with kindness and respect.

9. Executive Session
10. Adjournment
    A. Adjournment
    There being no further business to come before the Board, President Villon asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Branwen MacDonald   Second: Christina Washington
Yes: Mary Angel Flores   No: _____   Abstained:_____
Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Frank Robinson, Jr.
Jillian Villon
Christina Washington

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Carmery Mendez-Battle
District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod
Deputy District Clerk