

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Board of Education

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

Amy Vele (6:15 p.m.) and Jillian Villon arrived late (6:05 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: Director of Multilingual Programs & World Languages; Interim Principal; Interim Assistant Principal; Classified 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: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Eric Reveda
Michael Simpkins
Christina Washington

Second: Erik Reveda
No: _____ Abstained: _____

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:04 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

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

Second: Amy Vele
No: _____ Abstained: _____

3. Resume Public Meeting – 7:10 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.

President Simpkins asked for a motion to include the following to the consent agenda:
Leave of absence for Amanda Cardona
Appointment as interim principal for Amanda Cardona

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

Second: Branwen MacDonald
No: _____ Abstained: _____

6. 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: Carmen Vargas
Position: Elementary Principal
Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
Action: Resignation from Peekskill School District to accept another position within the District

Effective Date: November 29, 2024 (Anticipated)
Last Date Worked: November 29, 2024 (Anticipated)
2. Name: Katherine Ferrigno
Position: School Nurse (RN)
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Action: Resignation from Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: November 4, 2024
Last Date Worked: November 1, 2024
3. Name: Mark Saffadi
Position: School Counselor
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Action: Resignation from Peekskill School District
Effective Date: November 5, 2024 (Anticipated)
Last Date Worked: November 5, 2024 (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: Melissa Russo
Position: Assistant Principal
Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
Action: Non Paid Leave of Absence
Effective Date: December 2, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)

2. Name: Amanda Cardona
 Position: Mathematics Coach
 Location: Woodside Elementary School
 Action: Non Paid Leave of Absence
 Effective Date: December 2, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
3. Name: Mark Saffadi
 Position: School Counselor
 Location: Woodside Elementary School
 Action: Resignation from Peekskill School District
 Effective Date: November 5, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Last Date Worked: November 5, 2024 (Anticipated)

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Carmen Vargas***
 Position: Director of Multilingual Programs & World Languages
 Certification: School District Leader, Professional
 Location: Administration Building
 Tenure Area: Director of Multilingual Programs & World Languages
 Probationary Start Date: December 2, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Probationary End Date: December 1, 2027 (Anticipated)
 Length of Probation: Three (3) Years
 Salary: \$178,670 (Prorated)
2. Name: Melissa Russo
 Position: Interim Principal
 Certification: School Building Leader, Initial
 Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
 Effective Start Date: December 2, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Effective End Date: June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$148,261 (Prorated)
3. Name: Amanda Cardona
 Position: Interim Assistant Principal
 Certification: School Building Leader, Initial
 Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
 Effective Start Date: December 2, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Effective End Date: June 30, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$119,866 (Prorated)

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: Jodi Kotzker-Leggio
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Action: Resignation from Peekskill School District
Effective Date: November 1, 2024
Last Date Worked: October 31, 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(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:	Position/Program	Effective Date/s	Stipend:
1.	Junkins, Mary Ann	Peekskill Middle School LEAP - 1:1 Teacher Aide	2024 - 2025 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the PTAO contract

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. 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. Contracts - Approved Special Education Providers (ASEPS) - 2425

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent for Business that the contracts for the listed 18 Approved Special Education Providers (ASEPS) and

amount of Flo-thru funds assigned to each, commencing September 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. Flo-thru funds are paid by IDEA, Sections 611 & 619.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized and empowered to execute said agreements.

ASEP'S/Amount

Hawthorne Country Day - \$6,885.00,

Westchester Arc - The Children's School for Early Development - \$6,816.00,

Green Chimneys School - \$2,754.00,

New York Institute for Special Education - \$2,754.00,

SAIL at Ferncliff Manor - \$1,377.00,

Easter Seals - Project Soar - \$6,816.00,

Westchester Community Opportunity Program Family Services of

Westchester/Prime Time - \$1,704.00,

Therapeutic PreSchool - \$5,112.00,

HTA of New York - \$10,224.00,

Bilinguals Inc - Child & Parent Services - \$1,704.00,

Fred S Keller School - \$3,408.00,

ACDS Inc - \$18,744.00,

AMIC - Clear View School - \$11,016.00,

Julia Dyckman-Andrus (Orchard School) - \$2,754.00,

Mt. Pleasant Blythedale Union Free School District - \$3,408.00,

The Guidance Center of Westchester - \$1,704.00,

JCC of Mid-Westchester Nursery School - \$40,328.00,

Westchester School for Special Children - \$1,377.00,

Total \$128,885

C. Amendment of Agreement - Jaruwana O'Brien

That the Board of Education approve the amendment of Agreement dated November 5, 2024 with Jaruwana O'Brien to cash out 16 unused vacations days in the amount of \$6364.80.

D. Amendment of Agreement - Carmen Freed

That the Board of Education approve the amendment of Agreement dated November 5, 2024 with Carmen Freed to cash out 11.5 unused vacations days in the amount of \$4,687.75

E. Contract - Catapult Learning LLC

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Catapult Learning LLC, commencing October 21, 2024 - August 31, 2025. Not to exceed \$4,865.13.

F. Contract - Go No Sen Karate/Oakside Extended Residency

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Go No Sen Karate/Oakside Extended Residency, commencing October 1, 2024 - May 30, 2025. Not to exceed \$33,000 (\$1,500 x 22 days).

G. Contract - NWEA

That the Board of Education approve the contract with NWEA, commencing on or about September 25, 2024 - June 30, 2025. Not to exceed \$10,100.

H. Donation - Daisy Jopling

I. Approving Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 6.A.
- 6.H.

Motion: Jillian Villon

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Christina Washington

7. Executive Session

8. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

Motion: Branwen MacDonald

Second: Amy Vele

Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Christina Washington

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Carmery Mendez-Battle
District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod
Deputy District Clerk