

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

**BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

Board of Education

Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., President
Mrs. Jillian Villon, Vice President
Mrs. Pamela Hallman-Johnson
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald
Mr. Samuel North
Mrs. Maria Pereira
Mr. Michael Simpkins

Central Office

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent
Ms. Robin Zimmerman, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Dr. Joseph Mosey, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Mr. Daniel Callahan, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Dr. Mary Keenan Foster, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Ms. Debra McLeod, District Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Jenkins, Jr. at 6:19 p.m. in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202 relating to the COVID-19 emergency, the Board of Education conducted this meeting at PHS auditorium, however, In-person attendance will NOT be permitted. We will provide video-conference links online, as well as a section for public comments via our BoardDocs website.

Pamela Hallman-Johnson participated virtually, location at 677 Catherine Street, Peekskill, NY 10566

Branwen MacDonald arrived late and left at 8:16 p.m.

2. Proposed Executive Session

A. Open Meeting

- (Note: The Board will enter into Executive Session for the of discussing matters regarding the appointment of a particular contractor(s) and employment history of particular person(s) for the following positions: Custodial Worker; Science Teacher; Teacher Aide Substitute; and Teacher Leaders. 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: Jillian Villon

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Samuel North

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Second: Samuel North

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Jillian Villon

C. Adjourn Executive Session
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Michael Simpkins
Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson
Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Branwen MacDonald
Samuel North
Maria Pereira
Michael Simpkins
Jillian Villon

Second: Jillian Villon
No: _____ Abstained: _____

3. Resume Public Meeting

The meeting was reconvened in the Peekskill High School Auditorium Room at 7:30 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Superintendent/Board President Report

A. [Peekskill Pride](#)

Branwen MacDonald thanked the community members who pooled together for our kids. Maria Pereira commented on the summer graduates. These students had hurdles to overcome, and Mr. Arthur spoke of them overcoming their hurdles. They set goals and accomplished them. The love and encouragement they received helped them make it to the finish line. Congratulations to the summer graduates.

President Jenkins, Jr. asked will the wifi hub areas be cleaned as well as the District? Dr. Mauricio responded yes. Dr. Mauricio also thanked the PTO for the mifi donations.

Maria Pereira thanked the Youth Bureau, led by Tuesday McDonald for the backpacks.

5. Hearing of Citizens – In Person Attendance Will Not Be Permitted

A. Public Participation at Board Meetings

Ann Narcisse: 315 Requa St. I would like to begin by thanking the leadership of the district for all their efforts to respond to the inordinate needs and challenges our community represents with regard to the school closures amid the lack of support and guidance from both our Federal government as well as our local state education department. To be called on to provide wifi, technology, meals and childcare without any additional funding is a monumental feat and sadly one that has been placed unfairly on schools. While the district is doing all it can to open safely, I would like to ask, what are we doing at the middle level to help prepare students for college and career. Given the economic outlook and current crisis facing college students, being crushed by student loans with little hope of finding viable jobs, how is the district considering the needs of middle level students to begin exploring vocations? Classes like culinary arts, computer networking, plumbing, medical fields and others? There are local opportunities that exist but would require planning and financial preparation. Please provide some feedback with regard to this issue. We know that students at the high school may have this opportunity but as evidenced by the districts actions in the past, many issues begin in middle school. Please advise. FYI- the link to the school board meeting is not working on the district's website since 7 pm. This is being submitted at 7:08 pm. Thanks again.

Dan Callahan: The middle school has a strong elective program with classes in stem, technology, and music technology. We have a career day at the middle school each year. We have started to broaden the groups who come in by talking with local trade

associations to join the career fair. Also, the guidance department uses the Naviance program to help students start the conversation about career interest.

Dr. Mauricio commented Hillcrest received the MBK Grant. They are expanding their horizons. Technology levels the playing field. The middle school secured the Empire Grant. These are important opportunities.

Sam North stated he felt bad for those seniors that graduated last spring. They didn't have the typical end of year. Now they are facing to go to college in a virtual environment. What other options are there besides going to college? Dan Callahan commented students can look at gap year programs, the service, travel, and other educational opportunities while waiting for colleges to open.

Luis Arpi, 1218 Lincoln Terrace: Thank you.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the Month of July 2020

That the Board of Education approves the Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the month of July 2020.

B. Personnel Agenda

Certificated

I. Resignation:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following teacher resignation to the Board of Education for approval:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1. Name: | Kristen Aviles |
| Position: | Permanent Substitute Teacher (Per Diem) |
| Location: | Woodside Elementary School |
| Action: | Resignation from the Peekskill City School District |
| Effective: | August 31, 2020 (Resigned Prior to First Day Worked) |

II. Leave of Absence:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following non-paid leave of absence to the Board of Education for approval:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1. Name: | Solia Alvarado-Vidal |
| Position: | Teaching Assistant |
| Action: | Non-Paid Leave of Absence |
| Effective: | August 31, 2020 through January 31, 2021 |
| 2. Name: | Marisa Nessier |
| Position: | Speech Therapist |
| Action: | Non-Paid Leave of Absence |
| Effective: | August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021 |
| 3. Name: | Melissa Perlowitz |
| Position: | Elementary Teacher |
| Action: | Non-Paid Leave of Absence |
| Effective: | August 31, 2020 through January 31, 2021 |

III. Retirement:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following retirement resignations to the Board of Education for approval: N/A

IV. Appointment:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following appointments to the Board of Education for approval:

| | Employee: | Position/Program: | Effective Dates: | Stipend: |
|-----|--------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Timothy Murphy | K-12 Physical Education Leader | 2020-21 | \$2,000 Grant Funded |
| 2. | Timothy Murphy | Athletic Department Leader (.5) | 2020-21 | \$2,000 (.5 of \$4,000) |
| 3. | Anthony Di Cuio | Athletic Department Leader (.5) | 2020-21 | \$2,000 (.5 of \$4,000) |
| 4. | Emily Di Cuio | Literacy Teacher Leader | 2020-21 | \$2,000 Grant Funded |
| 5. | Michelle Luongo | Literacy Teacher Leader | 2020-21 | \$2,000 Grant Funded |
| 6. | Anthony Scala | STEM Teacher Leader | 2020-21 | \$2,000 Grant Funded |
| 7. | Eileen Alvarez | Framework Coach | 2020-21 | \$2,000 Grant Funded |
| 8. | Pat Salvatorelli | Framework Coach | 2020-21 | \$2,000 Grant Funded |
| 9. | Michael Tanzi | Framework Coach | 2020-21 | \$2,000 Grant Funded |
| 10. | Michelle Luongo | Middle School ELA Department Leader | 2020-21 | \$2,000 |
| 11. | Daniel Robinson | Middle School Math Department Leader | 2020-21 | \$2,000 |
| 12. | Nora Sachs | Middle School Special Education Department Leader | 2020-21 | \$2,000 |
| 13. | Pasquale Salvatore | Middle School Social Studies Department Leader | 2020-21 | \$2,000 |
| 14. | Pat Salvatorelli | Middle School Science Department Leader | 2020-21 | \$2,000 |

15. Name: Danielle Christ**
 Position: Science Teacher
 Certification: Chemistry 7-12 – Initial & Biology 7-12 - Initial
 Tenure Area: Science
 Probationary Start Date: September 28, 2020
 Probationary End Date: September 27, 2024
 Length of Probation: Four (4) years
 Salary: \$69,616 – MA, Step 2

16. Name: Jaycee DeGroat
 Position: Elementary Leave Replacement Teacher
 Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) –Initial
 Effective Start Date: August 31, 2020

Effective End Date: December 2, 2020 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$308.00/Day; As Worked, without Benefits

17. Name: Michele Cruz
Position: Elementary Leave Replacement Teacher
Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) –Initial; Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) –Initial
Effective Start Date: September 8, 2020 (Anticipated)
Effective End Date: October 9, 2020(Anticipated)
Salary: \$308.00/Day; As Worked, without Benefits

V. Correction:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following corrections of appointments to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Heather Ausiello
Position: Physical Education Teacher (0.8 FTE)
Certification Status: Physical Education –Professional
Effective Date: August 31, 2020
Effective End Date: June 25, 2021
Salary: \$69,616 – MA, Step 2 (Prorated 0.8 FTE)
2. Name: Haughton Brown
Position: ENL/Spanish Teacher
Certification Status: English to Speakers of Other Languages – Professional Spanish 7-12 - Professional
Effective Date: August 31, 2020
Effective End Date: June 25, 2021
Salary: \$88,976 – MA+45, Step 3
3. Name: Jacqueline Pierce
Position: School Counselor; Guidance (0.4 FTE)
Certification Status: School Counselor –Provisional
Start Date: August 31, 2020
End Date: June 25, 2021
Salary: \$73,423 – MA, Step 4 (Prorated 0.4 FTE)
Action: Rescind Appointment

Classified

I. Appointment:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following appointments to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Frances Herling
Position: Teacher Aide; Substitute (Per Diem)
Effective Date: September 2, 2020 through June 25, 2021
Salary: \$14.00/hour. As worked, no benefits. Not to exceed four (4) days per week.
2. Name: Moses Pabon
Position: Custodial Worker

Probationary Start Date: September 8, 2020
Probationary End Date: September 7, 2021
Salary: \$49,801.00 (Pro-Rated)

3. Name: Sophia Skolnick
Position: Leave Replacement Occupational Therapist (1.0 FTE)
Probationary Start Date: August 31, 2020
Probationary End Date: February 1, 2021 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$69,616.00 (Pro-Rated)
4. Name: Andrew Weisman
Position: Director of Food Services
Program: Saturday Academy Program
Effective: 2020-2021 School Year
Stipend: \$5,000
5. Name: Laura Belfiore
Position: 2020-2021 District Web Master
Stipend: \$10,000

II. Leave of Absence:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following non-paid leave of absence to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Margarethe Dasig
Position: Teacher Aide
Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence
Effective: August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021
2. Name: Divya Gupta
Position: Teacher Aide
Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence
Effective: August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021
3. Name: Anny Hernandez
Position: Teacher Aide
Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence
Effective: August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021

III. Resignation:

A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following resignations to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Frances Herling
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
Reason: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: August 24, 2020 (Last Day Worked 6/26/2020)
2. Name: Reyna (Feliciano) Soto
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide

Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
Reason: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: August 24, 2020 (Last Day Worked 6/26/2020)

3. Name: Jennifer Burns
Position: Sr. Office Assistant (Automated Systems)
Location: Peekskill High School
Reason: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: September 18, 2020 (Last Day Worked/Paid Effective 9/18/2020)

4. Name: Emely Fernandez
Position: Teacher Aide
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Reason: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: August 31, 2020 (Last Day Worked/Paid Effective 6/26/2020)

5. Name: Shawn Norton
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Reason: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: August 31, 2020 (Last Day Worked/Paid Effective 6/26/2020)

6. Name: Betty Johnson
Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
Reason: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District
Effective Date: August 31, 2020 (Last Day Worked/Paid Effective 6/26/2020)

IV. Student Teachers, Volunteers, Interns:

1. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following candidates for student teaching and internship to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: Heather Ausiello
Request: Intern
Location: Athletic Department
Assigned to: Austin Goldberg, Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics
College: LUI Hudson Long Island University
Effective Dates: Fall 2020

2. Name: Rachel Johnson
Position: Intern – PNW BOCES Intern
Location: Hillcrest
Effective Start Date: August 31, 2020
End Date: June 25, 2021
Salary: \$100/per day as worked, not to exceed four (4) days/week, (28 hrs/week, no benefits)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 3. Name: | Airy Ferraras |
| Position: | Intern – PNW BOCES Intern |
| Location: | Oakside |
| Effective Start Date: | August 31, 2020 |
| End Date: | June 25, 2021 |
| Salary: | \$100/per day as worked, not to exceed four (4) days/week, (28 hrs/week, no benefits) |

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.

C. Approving Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda item 6.A. - 6.B.

Motion: Samuel North

Second: Branwen MacDonald

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

No: _____ Abstained:_____

Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Samuel North

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

7. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – In Person Attendance Will Not Be Permitted

C. Guidelines to Speak to the Board of Education

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

Branwen MacDonald virtually attended WPBSA Advocacy meeting. We need to ask the State and the Governor for federal funds for COVID and applying for a waiver for mandatory testing.

President Jenkins, Jr. thanked Dr. Mauricio for meeting the new teachers. He saw the diversity policy come into play. It takes a village to raise our child. We are a caring diverse community. Welcome teachers to the community and to the District.

8. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

B. Adjourn Executive Session

9. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

Motion: Michael Simpkins

Second: Maria Pereira

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Samuel North

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Debra McLeod

District Clerk