

Peekskill City School District  
1031 Elm Street  
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

Board of Education

Mrs. Branwen MacDonald, President  
Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., Vice President  
Mrs. Pamela Hallman-Johnson  
Mr. Eric Rekeda  
Mr. Michael Simpkins  
Ms. Amy Vele  
Mrs. Jillian Villon

Central Office

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent  
Mr. Eudes Budhai Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education  
Mrs. Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education  
Ms. Debra McLeod, District Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President MacDonald. at 6:03 p.m. in the George Birdas Room.

A. Recording of Attendance

Pamela Hallman-Johnson and Allen Jenkins, Jr. arrived late.

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: Teaching Assistant; Special Education Teacher; Permanent Substitute Teacher; Custodial Worker; Theater Manager; 2:1 Shared Teacher Aide; School Monitor (Lunch); and Classroom/Lunch Teacher 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: Jillian Villon

Yes: Branwen MacDonald

Eric Rekeda

Michael Simpkins

Amy Vele

Second: Michael Simpkins

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

Abstained:\_\_\_\_\_

Jillian Villon

C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:26 p.m.  
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Michael Simpkins  
Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson  
Allen Jenkins, Jr.  
Branwen MacDonald.  
Eric Reveda  
Michael Simpkins  
Amy Vele  
Jillian Villon

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

3. Resume Public Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

4. Report of President/Superintendent

A. Superintendent's Report

- [Peekskill Pride](#)

5. Hearing of Citizens

A. Public Participation at Board Meetings

Elena Walker asked about the investigation into a student. Was the District Wide Safety plan adopted and translated into Spanish? The DASA pages are still not operating correctly on the website. She found no formal contract with SRO's in the elementary schools. Ms. Walker hopes the teachers get what they are asking for.

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:	Maria Garcia
Position:	Speech/Language Teacher
Action:	Resignation front he Peekskill City School District
Effective:	September 8, 2023 (Last day worked: 9/8/2023)

II. Retirement:

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

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:	Nicole Cugliandro
Position:	Teaching Assistant
Action:	December 4, 2023 - February 1, 2024

Effective:

Non paid leave of absence

IV. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Luisa Zuin \*\*  
Position: Teaching Assistant  
Certification: Teaching Assistant, Level I  
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant  
Probationary Start Date: August 30, 2023  
Probationary End Date: August 29, 2027  
Length of Probation: Four (4) Years  
Salary: \$33,340
2. Name: Jessica Walton \*\*\*  
Position: Special Education Teacher  
Certification: Students with Disabilities - Grades 7-12 - Generalist, Professional  
Tenure Area: Special Education  
Probationary Start Date: September 5, 2023  
Probationary End Date: August 29, 2026  
Length of Probation: Three (3) Years  
Salary: \$101,621 (MA, Step 12) (Prorated)
3. Name: Tara Pile  
Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher  
Certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Initial  
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School  
Effective Start Date: September 5, 2023  
Effective End Date: June 26, 2024  
Salary: \$155 per day as worked, without benefits (Not to exceed four (4) days per week or twenty-eight (28) hours per week)

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: Betsy Saavedra  
Position: Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking)

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Location:  | Oakside Elementary School                           |
| Action:    | Resignation from the Peekskill City School District |
| Effective: | September 15, 2023 (Last day worked: 9/15/2023)     |
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|------------|---|
| 2. Name:   | Gary-Paul Commentucci                               |
| Position:  | Classroom/Lunch Teacher Aide                        |
| Location:  | Hillcrest Elementary School                         |
| Action:    | Resignation from the Peekskill City School District |
| Effective: | August 30, 2023 (Last day worked: 8/30/2023)        |
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- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 3. Name:   | Gladys Fajardo Guapisaca                            |
| Position:  | 1:1 Teacher Aide                                    |
| Location:  | Peekskill Middle School                             |
| Action:    | Resignation from the Peekskill City School District |
| Effective: | August 31, 2023 (Last day worked: 6/24/2022)        |
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- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 4. Name:   | James Carney  |
| Position:  | 1:1 Teacher Aide                                    |
| Location:  | Peekskill Middle School                             |
| Action:    | Resignation from the Peekskill City School District |
| Effective: | July 23, 2023 (Last day worked: 6/23/2023)          |
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- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 5. Name:   | Suellen Davis                                       |
| Position:  | 1:1 Teacher Aide                                    |
| Location:  | Hillcrest Elementary School                         |
| Action:    | Resignation from the Peekskill City School District |
| Effective: | July 23, 2023 (Last day worked: 6/23/2023)          |

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: N/A

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Shannon David  
Position: Custodial Worker  
Location: Peekskill High School  
Start Date Effective: September 5, 2023  
Probationary End Date: August 29, 2024 (Anticipated)  
Salary: \$51,948.00 (Prorated)
2. Name: Laura Belfiore  
Position: Theater Manager  
Location/s: Peekskill Middle School & Peekskill High School  
Dates Effective: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024  
Stipend: \$12,000.00
3. Name: Hilda Cabrera Tello  
Position: 2:1 Shared Teacher Aide  
Location: Woodside Elementary School  
Probationary Start Date: August 30, 2023  
Probationary End Date: August 29, 2024 (Anticipated)  
Salary: \$20,299.11 (Prorated)
4. Name: Maria Rivera  
Position: School Monitor (Lunch)  
Location: Oakside Elementary School  
Probationary Start Date: September 5, 2023  
Probationary End Date: September 4, 2024 (Anticipated)  
Salary: \$16.00/hour, as worked without benefits. Not to exceed 17.50 hours per week.
5. Name: Kristin Pedroso  
Position: Classroom/Lunch Teacher Aide  
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School  
Probationary Start Date: September 6, 2023  
Probationary End Date: September 5, 2024 (Anticipated)  
Salary: \$18,737.64 (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: Basy Esteves  
Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide  
Location: Oakside Elementary School  
Probationary Start Date: August 31, 2023  
Probationary End Date: August 30, 2024 (Anticipated)

- |         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Reason: | Correct start and end dates |
| Salary: | \$20,299.11 (Prorated)      |
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2. Name: Cristal Martinez  
 Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide  
 Location: Hillcrest Elementary School  
 Probationary Start Date: August 31, 2023  
 Probationary End Date: August 30, 2024 (Anticipated)  
 Reason: Current start and end dates  
 Salary: \$20,299.11 (Prorated)
  
  3. Name: Isabella Escobar Tobin  
 Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide  
 Location: Peekskill High School  
 Probationary Start Date: September 5, 2023  
 Probationary End Date: September 4, 2024 (Anticipated)  
 Reason: Correct start and end dates  
 Salary: \$20,299.11 (Prorated)

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. Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the Month of July 2023  
That the Board of Education approves the Internal Claims Auditor's Report for the month of July 2023.
- C. Contracts - Hendrick Hudson Central School District/Extended School Year  
That the Board of Education approve the seven (7) contracts with Hendrick Hudson Central School District Extended School Year, commencing July 3, 2023 - August 11, 2023.
- D. Contract - Kelly Kadin  
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Kelly Kadin commencing September 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. Not to exceed \$27,900 (Daily rate \$450).
- E. Contract - Go No Sen Karate  
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Go No Sen Karate commencing October 2, 2023 - June 25, 2024. Not to exceed \$17,400 (\$300 Hourly).
- F. Contract - Just The Place, Inc.  
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Just The Place, Inc. commencing September 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. Not to exceed \$27,840.
- G. Scholarship - William (Bill) Johnson  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent for Business that donations received by donors be held in William (Bill) Johnson Scholarship in accordance with Education Law 1718(2),  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the equivalent amount of \$500 be appropriated into the William (Bill) Johnson scholarship TG.
- H. Approving Consent Agenda  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 6.A. - 6.G.

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.  
Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson  
Allen Jenkins, Jr.  
Branwen MacDonald.  
Eric Reveda  
Michael Simpkins  
Amy Vele  
Jillian Villon

Second: Michael Simpkins  
No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained:\_\_\_\_\_

7. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

A. Guidelines to Speak to the Board of Education

No citizens were wishing to be heard.

8. Executive Session

9. 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: Eric Rekeda

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

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

Abstained:\_\_\_\_\_

Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Rekeda

Michael Simpkins

Amy Vele

Jillian Villon

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Debra McLeod