

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 21, 2024

Board of Education

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

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 MacDonald at 8:10 p.m. in the Ford Auditorium
 - A. Recording of Attendance
Amy Vele was absent.
2. Public Meeting
 - Pledge of Allegiance
4. Report of President/Superintendent
 - A. Superintendent's Report
 - [Peekskill Pride](#)
5. Hearing of Citizens
Mr. Culberson wanted to know why the track program is in shambles. He's been asking the District for help for years but hasn't received any.
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Policy Readings
9. Accepting of Minutes
 - A. Business Meeting April 16, 2024
 - B. Business Meeting/Work Session May 7, 2024
 - C. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the following minutes:
Business Meeting April 16, 2024
Business Meeting/Work Session May 7, 2024

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

Second: Michael Simpkins
No: _____ Abstained: _____

10. 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:	Kayla Weir
Position:	Permanent Substitute Teacher
Location:	Oakside Elementary School
Action:	Resignation from Peekskill City School District
Effective Date:	May 16, 2024 (Anticipated)
Last Date Worked:	May 16, 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:

1. Name:	Sonia Veloz
Position:	Spanish Teacher
Location:	Peekskill High School
Action:	Retirement from Peekskill City School District
Effective Date:	July 1, 20234 (Anticipated)
Last Date Worked:	June 30, 2024 (Anticipated)

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:	Michelle Hernandez
Position:	Literacy Coach

Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Action: Non Paid Leave of Absence (for the purpose of accepting another temporary position in the District)
Effective Date: August 28, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Teresa Ferreira
Position: Math Coach
Certification: Pre-K, K, Grades 1-6, Permanent
Location: Oakside Elementary School
Effective Start Date: August 28, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$147,343 (MA+45, Step 15)

2. Name: Katherine Orejuela***
Position: Bilingual AIS Resource Specialist
Certification: ESOL, Initial
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Tenure Area: ENL
Probationary Start Date: August 30, 2022
Probationary End Date: August 29, 2025
Length of Probation: Three (3) Years
Effective Dates: August 28, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$100,052 (MA+30, Step 7)

3. Name: Milagros Guzman
Position: Bilingual AIS Resource Specialist
Certification: ESOL, Permanent
Location: Peekskill Middle School
Effective Dates: August 28, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$144,843 (MA+45, Step 15)

4. Name: Nancy Castro
Position: Literacy Coach
Certification: Nursery - 6th Grade, Permanent
Bilingual Extension, Permanent
ESOL, Permanent
Location: Oakside Elementary School
Effective Dates: August 28, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$147,343 (MA+45, Step 15)

5. Name: Gabrielle Curry

Position: Math Coach
 Certification: Pre-K, K, Grades 1 -6
 Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
 Effective Dates: August 28, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$147,343 (MA+45, Step 15)

6. Name: Elena Lambru-Babu**^
 Position: Elementary Dual Language Teacher
 Certification: Childhood Education Grades 1-6, Initial
 Location: Oakeside Elementary School
 Tenure Area: Elementary
 Probationary Start Date: August 28, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Probationary End Date: August 27, 2028 (Anticipated)
 Length of Probation: Four (4) Years
 Salary: \$74,433 (MA, Step 2)

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Stipend:
7.	Wood-Chang, Therese	ENL Building Leader - Woodside	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract.
8.	Castro, Nancy	ENL Building Leader - Oakeside	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract.
9.	Hernandez, Michelle	ENL Building Leader - Hillcrest	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract.
10.	Silva, Alex	Winter Intramurals - Oakeside	2023-24 School Year	\$1,439

11.	Martinez, Ashley	PKMS Summer School - Teacher	2023 - 2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) Contract
12.	Ortiz, Raul	Hillcrest Intramurals Wrestling Program Site Director	2023 - 2024 School Year	\$3,250
13.	Lee, Andre	Hillcrest Wrestling Intramurals Coach	2023 - 2024 School Year	\$2,550
14.	Thompson, William	Hillcrest Wrestling Intramurals Coach	2023 - 2024 School Year	\$2,550

VI. Correction:

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

1. Name: Timothy Murphy
 Position: Winter Intramurals Coach
 Location: Oakside Elementary School
 Effective Start Date: Winter 2023 - 2024
 Action: Rescind Appointment
 Stipend: \$1,439

2. Name: Raul Ortiz
 Position: Physical Education Teacher (2 Class Periods, 7th Assignment)
 Certification: Physical Education Professional Certificate
 Location: Peekskill High School
 Effective Start Date: April 15, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Effective End Date: June 26, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Action: Covering 2 Physical Education Class Periods
 Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract

3. Name: Jennifer Feliz
 Position: Math Coach
 Location: Oakside Elementary School

Effective Date: 2024 -2025 School Year
Action: Rescind Appointment
Salary: Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association's (PFA) contract

Classified:

I. Resignation:

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

1. Name: Kyron Chandler
Position: Custodial Worker
Action: Resignation for the purpose of accepting another position with Peekskill City School District

Date Effective: May 22, 2024 (Anticipated)

Last Date Worked: May 21, 2024 (Anticipated)

2. Name: James Council III
Position: Laborer
Action: Resignation for the purpose of accepting another position with Peekskill City School District

Date Effective: May 22, 2024 (Anticipated)

Last Date Worked: May 21, 2024 (Anticipated)

3. Name: Renita Cato
Position: School Monitor (Lunch)
Location: Woodside Elementary School
Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District

Date Effective: May 20, 2024 (Anticipated)

Last Date Worked: May 21, 2024 (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: Maria Rivera
Position: School Monitor (Lunch)
Location: Oakside Elementary School
Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence
Effective Date/s: May 28, 2024 through June 11, 2024
(Anticipated)

V. Appointment:

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

1. Name: Kyron Chandler
Position: Laborer
Status: Probationary
Probationary Start Date: May 22, 2024 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: May 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$60,169 (Prorated)
2. Name: James Council III
Position: Maintenance Mechanic (Buildings) I
Status: Probationary
Probationary Start Date: January 11, 2024
Probationary End Date: January 10, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$63,135 (Prorated)
3. Name: Lucas Khuns
Position: Cleaner
Location: Peekskill High School
Status: Probationary
Probationary Start Date: May 22, 2024 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: May 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$40,312 (Prorated)
4. Name: Sunni Patterson
Position: Cleaner
Location: Peekskill High School
Status: Probationary
Probationary Start Date: May 22, 2024 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: May 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
Salary: \$40,312 (Prorated)
5. Name: Phillip Peluso
Position: Cleaner

Location: Peekskill Middle School
 Status: Probationary
 Probationary Start Date: May 22, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Probationary End Date: May 21, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$40,312 (Prorated)

6. Name: Jordan Wilson
 Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide
 Location: Woodside Elementary School
 Status: Probationary
 Probationary Start Date: May 23, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Probationary End Date: May 22, 2025 (Anticipated)
 Salary: \$20,299.11 (Prorated)

#	Employee:	Position / Program:	Effective Date/s:	Stipend:
7.	Holliday, Michael	Modified Softball Head Coach	2023-2024 School Year	\$3,442
8.	Travis, Lisa	RTI Direct Leader	2023-2024 School Year	\$2,000 (Grant Funded)
9.	Peralta Malena, Yoralis	Afterschool Clerical Support - Woodside Elementary School	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Association of Educational Secretaries (PAES) contract.
10.	Wells, Jan	Afterschool Clerical Support - Oakside Elementary School	2023-2024 School Year	Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Association of Educational Secretaries (PAES) contract.

11.	Rivera-Martinez, Maria	Teacher Aide Stipend - Additional Health/Behavioral Needs	January 2024-June 2024	\$1,125 (Prorated - 6 months)
12.	Vermandois, Louise	Teacher Aide Stipend - Additional Health/Behavioral Needs	September 2023-June 2024	\$1,125 (Full - 10 months)

VI. Correction:

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

1. Name: Michael Aponte
 Position: Maintenance Mechanic (Buildings) II
 Status: Probationary
 Probationary Start Date: August 14, 2023
 Probationary End Date: August 13, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Action: Correct Probationary effective dates
 Salary: \$35,101 (Prorated)

2. Name: Nigel Hatch
 Position: Modified Softball Head Coach
 Location: Peekskill Middle School
 Effective Start Date: 2023 -2024 School Year
 Action: Rescind Appointment
 Salary: \$1,721

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.

10. Consent Agenda - Special Services

A. Special Services/Committee on Special Education

That the Board of Education approve the Recommendation of the District's Committee on Special Education 328 students for declassification, classification, review and/or placement.

B. Amended Contract - Amergis Healthcare Staffing, Inc. (formerly Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc.)

That the Board of Education approve the amended contract with Amergis Healthcare Staffing, Inc. (formerly Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc.) with the following rates. Not to exceed \$100,000.

\$120 per hour for Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

\$53 per hour for Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)

\$85 per hour for Special Education Teacher for Tutoring

(All rates as per Contractor)

C. Contract - EI US, LLC dba LearnWell

That the Board of Education approve the contract with EI US, LLC dba LearnWell, commencing July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. Compensation is as per schedule A.

D. Contract - Hendrick Hudson Central School District

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Hendrick Hudson Central School District to provide special education programs for listed non-resident students for the 2023-2024 school year.

11. Consent Agenda - Business/Finance

A. [Budget Appropriation Transfers - May 2024](#)

That the Board of Education approves the Budget Appropriation Transfers for the month of May 2024.

B. Extraclassroom Activities - March 2024

That the Board of Education, accept the March 2024 financial statements for the Peekskill High School and Middle School Extraclassroom Activity Accounts.

C. Contracts - Health and Welfare Services

That the Board of Education approve the contracts for health and welfare services provided to the children residing in Peekskill and attending non-public schools, for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Bedford CSD – 1 student, \$1,406.85 per student
- Katonah-Lewisboro UFSD – 2 students, \$1,759.00 per student

D. Contract - Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES/Facilities Use

That the Board of Education approve the agreement with Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES/Facilities Use, commencing July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. \$0 cost to the District.

E. Contract - Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS)/LEAP

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS)/LEAP, commencing on or about May 20, 2024 - June 29, 2024. Not to exceed \$2,000 (\$1,000 per session).

F. Change Orders

That upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Business, in accordance with the change in scope of work on capital construction projects policy number 7335, the following change order is presented to the Board of Education:

Vinco Builder LLC.

- Change Order GC-01 – repair damaged joist in the amount of \$9,288.00
- Change Order GC-02 – credit balance of allowance in the amount of \$2,187.00

S&L Plumbing and Heating Corp

- Change Order PC-01 – back charge to cover the cost of repair damaged joist performed by GC in the amount of \$9,288.00
- Change Order PC-02 – credit unused allowance in the amount of \$8,809.00

Foremost Electric Corporation

- Change Order EC-01 – provide new electrical (labor cost) in the amount of \$23,140.00
- Change Order EC-02 – remove, test, and troubleshoot two existing roof exhaust fans, install new data drop, relocate fire alarm pull station, install three new dedicated circuits for new freezers in the amount of \$9,836.00
- Change Order EC-03 – credit unused allowance (\$0.00)

12. Other Agenda Items

- A. Field Trip Over 100 Miles - Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson Township, New Jersey
That the Board of Education approve the PHS senior class trip field trip over 100 miles to Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson Township, New Jersey on June 7, 2024.
- B. Alternate Election Inspector
That the Board of Education approve the following, as Election Inspectors for the Annual Budget Vote and Election on May 21, 2024:
William Wallis, 1112 Constant Avenue
William Chisolm, 1020 Constant Avenue
- C. Agreements - Family Illness Days
That the Board of Education approve the Agreements with the following collective bargaining units concerning Family Illness Days:
Peekskill Teacher Aides Organization (PTAO) - Sunsets June 30, 2025
Peekskill Administrators Association (PAA) - Sunsets June 30, 2025
Peekskill Association of Educational Secretaries (PAES) - Sunsets June 30, 2026
Custodial and Maintenance Employees (CSEA) - Sunsets June 30, 2026
- D. Agreement - New Position and Title Change
That the Board of Education approve the Agreement with Dr. Margie Daniels and be appointed and titled to the new position of Director of Inclusive Practices and Access.

13. Approving Consent Agenda

- A. Approving Consent Agenda
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 9.A. - 12.D.

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Allen Michael Simpkins

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

No: _____ Abstained: _____

Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Reveda

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

14. Additional Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of the 2024/2025 Westchester Putnam School Boards Association Proposed Budget (WPSBA) and Slate of Officers and Board of Directors
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves WPSBA budget in the amount of \$298,808 for the 2024/2025 school year and the following candidates to serve as slate of officers and Board of Directors:
Officers for a one year term:
President – Marjorie Schiff (Katonah-Lewisboro UFSD)
Vice President – Sarah Carrier (Croton-Harmon UFSD)
Treasurer – Suzie Hahn (Scarsdale UFSD)
Secretary – Cayne Letizia (White Plains City SD)
As Continuing Directors with terms expiring in 2027:
Branwen MacDonald (Peekskill City SD)

Kelly Mulvoy Mangan (Harrison CSD)
As New Directors with terms expiring in 2027:

Jane Anderson (Rye City SD)

Ben DiLullo (Mahopac CSD)

Danny Fung (Blind Brook-Rye UFSD)

As Nominees for elected seats on the Nominating Committee:

Cayne Letizia (White Plains City SD)

Lisa Tane (Greenburgh Eleven UFSD)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board instructs the District Clerk to complete the ballot on its behalf.

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Jillian Villon

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

No: _____ Abstained: Branwen MacDonald

Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Eric Rekada

Michael Simpkins

Jillian Villon

B. Appointment - Classified/Teacher Aide Stipend

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

Name: Simpkins, Imani

Position/Program: Teacher Aide Stipend Additional Health/Behavioral Needs

Effective Date/s: September 2023-June 2024

Stipend:\$1,125 (Full - 10 months)

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Second: Eric Rekada

Yes: Pamela Hallman-Johnson

No: _____ Abstained: Michael Simpkins

Allen Jenkins, Jr.

Branwen MacDonald

Eric Rekada

Jillian Villon

C. Appointment - Classified/1:1 Teacher Aide

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

Name: Jordan Wilson

Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide

Location: Woodside Elementary School

Status: Probationary

Probationary Start Date: May 23, 2024 (Anticipated)

Probationary End Date: May 22, 2025 (Anticipated)

Salary: \$20,299.11 (Prorated)

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

Second: Eric Rekada
No: _____ Abstained: Allen Jenkins, Jr.

15. Committee Reports/Board Reflections

A. President MacDonald commented she attended the last Saturday Academy and it was fantastic. It was great to see the PTO out in force. They will be hosting a potluck picnic, on June 1 at Woodside. Dr. Mauricio stated there will also be a trike-a-thon at 10:30 a.m. before the potluck picnic at Woodside.

Michael Simpkins attended the fashion show for BOCES at the Paramount Theater where two (2) students were from PHS. The designs and fashions the kids created were phenomenal.

16. Executive Session – 8:40 p.m.

A. Executive Session

Motion to move to Executive Session

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

Second: Jillian Villon
No: _____ Abstained: _____

B. Adjourn Executive Session – 10:13 p.m.

Motion to move to Public Session

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

Second: Jillian Villon
No: _____ Abstained: _____

17. Superintendent's Report Continued

A. [Canvass of Votes](#)

President MacDonald thanked the residents of Peekskill for supporting our children. President MacDonald read into the minutes and asked for a motion to accept the Canvass of Votes of May 21, 2024.

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

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
No: _____ Abstained: _____

18. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

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

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

Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
No: _____ Abstained: _____

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Carmery Mendz-Battle
District Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra McLeod
Deputy District Clerk