BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JANUARY 9, 2024

Board of Education  
Mrs. Branwen MacDonald, President  
Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., Vice President  
Mr. Eric Rekeda  
Ms. Amy Vele  
Mrs. Jillian Villon

Central Office  
Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent  
Ms. Cynthia Hawthorne, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Mr. Eudes Budhai Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education  
Mrs. Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education  
Ms. Debra McLeod, District Clerk  
Mrs. Carmery Mendez-Battle, Deputy District Clerk

1. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by President MacDonald at 6:01 p.m. George Birdas Room.  
A. Recording of Attendance  
Amy Vele (6:02 p.m.) arrived late. Pamela Hallman-Johnson and Michael Simpkins were absent.

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: Reading Leave Replacement Teacher; Special Education Teacher; Stipend Positions; Classroom Teacher Aide; Classroom/Lunch Teacher Aide; Sr. Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking); Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking); Maintenance Mechanic (Buildings); and Partner 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: Allen Jenkins, Jr.  
Second: Jillian Villon
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.  
No: _____  
Abstained:_____  
Branwen MacDonald
C. Adjourn Executive Session – 7:18 p.m.
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Jillian Villon Second: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr. No: _____ Abstained:_____
Branwen MacDonald
Eric Rekeda
Amy Vele
Jillian Villon

3. Resume Public Meeting – 7:19 p.m.
The meeting reconvened in the George Birdas Room.
• Pledge of Allegiance

President MacDonald asked for a motion to add the following to the consent agenda:
Litigation resolution
Resignation of Clerical Substitute (Per Diem), Carmery Mendez-Battle
Resignation of Deputy District Clerk, Carmery Mendez-Battle
Resignation of District Clerk, Debra McLeod
Appointment of District Clerk, Carmery Mendez-Battle
Appointment of Deputy District Clerk, Debra McLeod

Motion: Allen Jenkins, Jr. Second: Amy Vele
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr. No: _____ Abstained:_____
Branwen MacDonald
Eric Rekeda
Amy Vele
Jillian Villon

4. 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: N/A

   II. Retirement:
      A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following retirement resignation(s) to the Board of Education for approval:
         1. Name: Lewis Di Marco
            Position: Special Education Teacher
            Location: Woodside Elementary School
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: Melissa Perlowitz
   Position: Elementary Teacher
   Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
   Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence
   Effective Date/s: August 30, 2023 through June 30, 2024

IV. Appointment:
A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following faculty appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval:
1. Name: Lena Dabsheh
   Position: Reading Leave Replacement Teacher
   Location: Oakside Elementary School
   Certification: Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2)
   Effective Start Date: January 4, 2024
   Effective End Date: June 30, 2024 (Anticipated)
   Salary: $72,974* (MA, Step 2)

2. Name: Carina Cortes
   Position: Special Education Teacher
   Location: Oakside Elementary School
   Certification: Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), Professional Certificate; Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Professional Certificate
   Tenure Area: Special Education (Grades 1-6)
   Probationary Start Date: January 4, 2024
   Probationary End Date: January 3, 2028 (Anticipated)
   Length of Probation: Four (4) Years
   Salary: $96,042* (MA, Step 10)

*Salaries indicated are subject to approval of the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) collective bargaining unit Memorandum of Agreement, which is being considered for approval at this evening’s Board of Education meeting.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Employment Dates</th>
<th>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract (LEAP Grant Funded).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chavarria, Denise</td>
<td>LEAP/ARP After School Program Educational Liaison</td>
<td>January 2, 2024 - March 28, 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Esposito, Josie</td>
<td>LEAP/ARP After School Program Teacher</td>
<td>January 2, 2024 - March 28, 2024</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nassisi, Jane</td>
<td>LEAP/ARP After School Program Teacher</td>
<td>December 27, 2023 - March 28, 2024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Newby, Jessica</td>
<td>Oakside Elementary School - STEAM Standards Alignment Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Molle, Melissa</td>
<td>Uriah Hill Elementary School - STEAM Standards Alignment Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Rossi, Jamie</td>
<td>Hillcrest Elementary School - STEAM Standards Alignment Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Wetmore, Melanie</td>
<td>Woodside Elementary School - STEAM Standards Alignment Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Badurski, Jennifer</td>
<td>Hillcrest Elementary School Science Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Esposito, Emily</td>
<td>Hillcrest Elementary School Science Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Feliz, Jennifer</td>
<td>Oakside Elementary School Science Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Lopez, Nina</td>
<td>Woodside Elementary School Science Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Quijada, Axa</td>
<td>Oakside Elementary School Science Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with the Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA) contract.</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Wetmore, Melanie</td>
<td>Woodside Elementary School Science Curriculum Work</td>
<td>2023-2024 School Year</td>
<td>Terms of employment are in accordance with</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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: Stacy Whetsel  
   Position: 1:1 Teacher Aide  
   Location: Hillcrest Elementary School  
   Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District  
   Effective Date: December 9, 2023  
   Last Date Worked: December 8, 2023

2. Name: Nefertiti Hall  
   Position: School Monitor (Lunch)  
   Location: Oakside Elementary School  
   Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District  
   Effective Date: December 16, 2023  
   Last Date Worked: December 15, 2023

3. Name: Destiny Mosley  
   Position: 1:1/Floater Teacher Aide  
   Location: Hillcrest Elementary School  
   Action: Resignation from the Peekskill City School District  
   Effective Date: January 4, 2024  
   Last Date Worked: January 3, 2024

4. Name: Carmery Mendez-Battle  
   Position: Clerical Substitute (Per Diem)  
   Status: Part-Time Availability (PTA)  
   Action: Resignation for the Purpose of Accepting a Promotion with Peekskill City School District  
   Date Effective: January 9, 2024  
   Last Date Worked: January 9, 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 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:
      1. Name: Kristen Ruggiero
         Position: Custodial Worker
         Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
         Action: Non-Paid Leave of Absence
         Effective Date/s: January 2, 2024 through January 16, 2024 (Anticipated)

V. Appointment:
   A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following staff appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval:
      1. Name: Gabriela Riera Rodriguez
         Position: Classroom Teacher Aide
         Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
         Probationary Start Date: January 10, 2024 (Anticipated)
         Probationary End Date: January 9, 2025 (Anticipated)
         Salary: $18,737.64 (Prorated)
      2. Name: Jailah Kingsley
         Position: Classroom/Lunch Teacher Aide
         Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
         Probationary Start Date: January 10, 2024 (Anticipated)
         Probationary End Date: January 9, 2025 (Anticipated)
         Salary: $18,737.64 (Prorated)
      3. Name: Ayleen Mendez
         Position: Sr. Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking)
         Location: Uriah Hill Elementary School
         Probationary Start Date: January 10, 2023 (Anticipated)
         Probationary End Date: January 9, 2024 (Anticipated)
         Salary: $60,204 (Prorated)
      4. Name: Laura Velardo-Cruz
         Position: Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking)
Location: Hillcrest Elementary School
Probationary Start Date: January 16, 2023 (Anticipated)
Probationary End Date: January 15, 2024 (Anticipated)
Salary: $49,350 (Prorated)

5. Name: Michael Aponte
   Position: Maintenance Mechanic (Buildings)
   Probationary Start Date: January 10, 2024 (Anticipated)
   Probationary End Date: January 9, 2025 (Anticipated)
   Salary: $65,101 (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: Mahogany Smith
   Position: Personnel Assistant
   Location: Administration Building - Office for Administrative Services
   Status: Provisional
   Start Date Effective: January 16, 2024 (Anticipated)
   Salary: $75,000.00 (Prorated)
   Action: Update anticipated start date

Student Teachers, Volunteers, Interns:
I. Appointment:
A. The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following appointment(s) to the Board of Education for approval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Partner Agency Worker</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organization/Program</th>
<th>Effective Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molly Gibson</td>
<td>Hillcrest Elementary School with Elizabeth Ojeda</td>
<td>State University of New York at Fredonia</td>
<td>January 10, 11, and 12, 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Contract - Catapult Learning, LLC
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Catapult Learning, LLC, commencing September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. Not to exceed $12,275.

C. Contract - Antonia Arts (Saturday Academy)
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Antonia Arts (Saturday Academy), commencing September 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. Not to exceed $300.00 plus $50.00 for supplies to facilitate four (4) instances of Saturday Academy classroom workshops/event.

D. Contract - Einstein Program
That the Board of Education approve the contract with The Einstein Program, tentatively commencing January 1, 2024 - June 28, 2024. Not to exceed $32,500.

E. Contract - Student Assistance Services
That the Board of Education approve the contract with Student Assistance Services, commencing January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024. Not to exceed $85,000.

F. MOA - Peekskill Faculty Association (PFA)
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District hereby ratifies, effective January 9, 2024, the agreement between the Board and Peekskill Faculty Association, dated July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to incorporate said memorandum of agreement into a
more formal written agreement and further authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute said formal written agreement.

G. Treasurer's Report - November 2023
That the Board of Education accept the General Fund Treasurer’s Report for month of November 2023.

H. Field Trip Over 100 Miles - The Albany Academies/Albany NY
That the Board of Education approve the field trip over 100 miles for 15 students from the Robotics Team who will be competing in a robotics tournament at The Albany Academies, Albany NY on January 13, 2024.

I. Overnight Field Trip - Mohawk Valley Community College/Utica, NY
That the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip for 10 students from the Robotics Team who will be competing in a robotics tournament at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY from January 20, 2024 - January 21, 2024.

J. Resolution - Litigation
RESOLVED the Board of Education hereby authorizes the law firms of Frantz Law Group, APLC and Ingerman Smith, LLP to commence legal action against the parties identified on Confidential Schedule “A” with respect to the litigation discussed in executive session.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board President is authorized to sign the attached retainer agreement with Frantz Law Group, APLC and Ingerman Smith, LLP and take all steps necessary to effectuate the litigation.

K. Resignation - Deputy District Clerk
That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education herewith accepts the resignation of Ms. Carmery Mendez-Battle, Deputy District Clerk, effective January 9, 2024.

L. Resignation - District Clerk
That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education herewith accepts the resignation of Ms. Debra McLeod, District Clerk, effective January 9, 2024.

M. Appointment - District Clerk
That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education herewith appoints Ms. Carmery Mendez-Battle as District Clerk for the remainder of the 2023/2024 school year, effective January 10, 2024; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said appointment as District Clerk shall be compensated at the annual rate of $68,000.00; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves an Individual Agreement, dated January 9, 2024, between the District and Ms. Mendez-Battle to govern her terms and conditions of employment as District Clerk effective January 10, 2024 as presented to the Board at this meeting. A copy of said Agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

N. Appointment - Deputy District Clerk
WHEREAS, the District Clerk will need additional support and assistance throughout the 2023/2024 school year; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education herewith appoints Ms. Debra McLeod to serve as Deputy District Clerk to assist the District Clerk for the remainder
of the 2023/2024 school year, effective January 10, 2024; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said appointment as Deputy District Clerk shall be compensated at the annual rate of $12,590.00; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves an Individual Agreement, dated January 9, 2024, between the District and Ms. McLeod to govern her terms and conditions of employment as Deputy District Clerk effective January 10, 2024 as presented to the Board at this meeting. A copy of said Agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

O. Approving Consent Agenda
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda items 4.A. - 4.N.

Motion: Eric Rekeda
Second: Amy Vele
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
No: _____
Abstained:_____

Branwen MacDonald
Eric Rekeda
Amy Vele
Jillian Villon

President MacDonald administered the Oath of Office of District Clerk to Carmery Melendez-Battle.

5. 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: Jillian Villon
Yes: Allen Jenkins, Jr.
No: _____
Abstained:_____

Branwen MacDonald
Eric Rekeda
Amy Vele
Jillian Villon

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Debra McLeod
District Clerk