

S.O.M.E. presented on Music In Our Schools Month

*Mr. Masopust, Mr. Redmond, and
Mrs. Parete provided an overview of their
2024-2025 School Improvement Plans*

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – Agenda #1

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Joseph LoCicero in the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary All-Purpose Room.

Members Present

Mrs. Anderson

Mr. Bartolone (*Arrived at 6:34 p.m.*)

Mrs. Crowley

Mr. Frisbie

Mr. Hecht

Mr. LoCicero

Mr. Nafey

Mr. Palen

Ms. Alyssa Vega [Student Board Member] (*Arrived at 7:00 p.m.*)

Members Absent

Mrs. McCartney

Also present were Superintendent Castle and Assistant Superintendents Devincenzi, Rounds and White.

Administrators Albanese, Albert, Brown, Greany, Hasbrouck, Masopust, Napoli, Parete, and Redmond arrived at 7:00 p.m.

2. Proposed Executive Session – Agenda #2

At 6:03 p.m. Mr. Frisbie moved the Board enter Executive Session to interview a prospective candidate for the position of Coordinator of Special Education, matters that may lead to the appointment of a particular person and to discuss litigation.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 7 – 0.

The Board reconvened at 6:59 p.m.

3. Regular Session Recalled to Order

At 7:00 p.m. the meeting was recalled to order by President Joseph LoCicero.

4. Add Agenda Item #6.N. to the Agenda

Mr. Nafey moved item, Approve Appointment – Administrator be added to the agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 8 – 0.

5. Add Agenda Item #6.O. to Agenda

Mr. Nafey moved item, Approve Appointment of Personnel, be added to the agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Frisbie and carried 8 – 0.

6. Public Comment – Agenda #3

At 7:32 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- No public comments.

7. Approve Minutes – [2/21/24 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #4

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the February 21, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 8 – 0.

8. Board Committee Reports 2023-2024 – Agenda #5

Audit:

Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit Committee has not met since the last meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow, March 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at District Office to review the internal auditors draft audit report.

Budget:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that since the last meeting, the District received the final health insurance rates as well as BOCES costs which allowed us to lower the working budget. We are waiting for final State Aid numbers, which if the State budget is on time, we should have our final State Aid numbers by the end of the month.

Buildings & Grounds:

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last meeting. The District opened bids on March 7, 2024, for Phase 2 of the Capital Project. Recommendations to approve change orders, award bids and approve a contract for the Capital Improvement Project are on the Board agenda.

CDEP:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the CDEP committee met on February 28, 2024, and discussed the following:

- District happenings: such as writing instruction, MTSS tier I interventions, new course offerings at the high school and the District's reading program and how it relates to the science of reading.
- The School Improvement Teams (S.I.T.) met and discussed the progress towards their 2023-2024 goals and developed goals for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Each team reported out to the whole committee on the goals that were developed for the 2024-2025 school year.
- The middle school, high school and special education teams presented their school improvement goals tonight.
- The elementary schools will present their school improvement goals at the April BOE meeting.

The committee will resume meetings in the 2024-2025 school year.

Curriculum/TAG:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Curriculum/TAG Committee met on March 11, 2024. Mrs. Werlau provided updates on the Odyssey of the Mind competition, Authors Day events, the half day SNAP workshops and the TAG and SNAP recommendation process for the 2024-2025 school year. At the Odyssey of the Mind competition the John G. Borden Middle School Team came in 5th place. Mr. Masopust shared updates on course offerings for the high school during the 2024-2025 school year. New courses being offered are American Sign Language 3, Financial Literacy and Spanish 6. Some existing elective courses will now be offered for college credit, such as public speaking and Journalism. Mr. Masopust also shared that since the College of St. Rose is closing that the District was able to secure a relationship with Mount Saint Mary College to offer college courses that The College of St. Rose previously offered in addition to some other course offerings. Lastly, Ms. Rounds provided an update on the MTSS committee and future work that the committee will be completing during the Summer and throughout the 2024-2025 school year. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

Health & Safety:

Mr. Palen reported that the Health and Safety Committee met on March 6, 2024. The committee discussed and reviewed a draft of the 2024-2025 District-Wide Safety Plan. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in high school room 104.

Legislative:

Mr. Hecht reported that he attended the Ulster County School Boards Association meeting on March 14th with Mr. Devincenzi and Mr. White. New York State Department of Education guest speakers, Dr. Jeff Matteson, Senior Deputy Commissioner, David M. Frank, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Education Policy and Chief of Staff to the Commissioner of Education, and Dr. Laura Glass, Chief of Staff for the Office of Education Policy presented on topics such as graduation measures, teacher certification reform, APPR, science and reading curriculum, zero emission busses and the Governor's proposed budget. Mr. Castle indicated that both houses, the Assembly, and the Senate have similar proposals. They are both rejecting the Governor's proposal to get rid of "Save Harmless" which protects districts from losing money if Foundation Aid decreased; it would remain zero. They are also rejecting the Governor's proposal to change the current Foundation Aid formula. They are both in favor of a minimum 3% increase, which our District has been advocating for years. They are also in favor of universal school meals. Mr. Castle is optimistic on receiving State Aid and having an on-time budget from the State which will allow us to have final budget numbers to present our budget at the April 16th Board meeting. Mr. Castle is pleased with our legislators in that they are proposing items that our District has been advocating for and that they recognized the need for additional school funding. He thanked the legislators that represent us.

Policy:

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled to meet May 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at District Office unless a meeting is required sooner.

Technology:

Mr. Bartolone reported that the Technology Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

Wellness:

Mr. Nafey reported that the Wellness Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

Student Rep:

Ms. Alyssa Vega reported:

- This past month, the Top Ten of the Class of 2024 were celebrated with a luncheon and the Walkkill community is extremely proud to highlight these ten outstanding students. The top ten students will be formally recognized at the April Board of Education Meeting.
- Sophomore Catherine Badu created a beautiful mural titled "Panthers Lift You Up" in our art hallway as part of a legacy art project. If you get a chance, swing by the high school to check it out.
- At the end of February Mr. White and Mr. Hecht hosted a workshop in the library for all the student teachers in the District. They shared their experiences as teachers, coaches and administration fielded various questions from student teachers about things like job searches, resume crafting and the interview process.
- Throughout the month of March, we are celebrating Women's History Month in the library with displays that focus on female authors, poets, and biographies of notable women.
- Our high school chess tournament is underway; 30 students have entered the tournament with our third round starting this week. This is the third year of the tournament. Salutatorian Trevor Strano has won the previous two tournaments and is participating again this year.
- Upcoming in April we will welcome local author Alyssa Wishingrad and she will conduct a writing workshop for students and will discuss writing related careers.
- With the upcoming nice weather students and classes that visit the library have begun using the new outdoor classroom in the courtyard.

Clubs:

- The Panther Mentoring Program has been going extremely well as about 10 NHS students are helping the program and volunteering their time to be a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" to elementary students on a weekly basis. On March 14th several students attended many events like STEAM night at Plattekill and Jump for Health at Ostrander.
- On March 13th the Spanish Honor Society inducted 41 new members into the program. The Select Chamber Orchestra consisting of 12 freshman and sophomore chamber orchestra students played during the student procession.

- Two students attended the Jump for Health event at Ostrander Elementary, in support of Spanish speaking families on March 14th as well as ten (10) students attending the STEAM Night at Plattekill elementary. SHS students helped create a Spanish cognate game that encouraged the use of technology through bee-bots, a robot all while learning Spanish.
- The Drama Club is rehearsing daily in preparation for their production of “Something Rotten” from April 19-21, 2024.

Athletics:

- Our State qualified student-athletes performed very well at States, and we are very proud of their accomplishments.
- We are working through the top student-athletes to come up with the MHAL scholar athlete award.
- We are very excited about the unified basketball team that is upcoming. March 21st is the first open gym after school followed by a parent meeting, Mr. Andrews and Mrs. LaRocco are coaching this group.

Music:

- March is Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM). Music education is part of a well-rounded education for every student as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act. The purpose of this celebration is to raise awareness of the lasting positive impact of music education on the academic, personal, and professional growth of our students. The high school held its MIOSM performance on March 6th in front of a crowded auditorium. The performances were amazing.
 - All-County Orchestra & the Young Elementary Musicians Symposium was held at Miller Middle School in Kingston on March 2nd.
 - The All-County Band was held March 9th at New Paltz High School.
- Alyssa stated that as we approach Spring Break, the Panthers are ready for warmer weather and the upcoming fun Spring events.
- Mr. Castle commented on the involvement of our student club members who come together and participate at evening school events. They are the definition of “Panther Pride” and “Walkkill Family” as they assist our parents and students at these various events throughout the school year. Mr. LoCicero acknowledged these students for doing a great job.

9. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Frisbie moved items 6A through 6O and 7A through 7G be taken as consent agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bartolone and carried 8 – 0.

Accept Resignation – Administrator – Agenda #6.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **David Albert** from the position of Coordinator of Special Education and State and Federal Reporting Coordinator, effective April 1, 2024.

Approve Agreement – Interim Administrator – Agenda #6.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the agreement with **Dawn Condello** to be the Interim Coordinator of Special Education effective March 21, 2024 through June 26, 2024.

Accept Resignations/Retirement – Non-Instructional – Agenda #6.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Susan Benken** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Library Instructional Assistant, effective June 27, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Brittany Bruno** from the position of Part-Time [0.92 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide, effective March 20, 2024, pending her appointment to a Full-Time [1.0] Special Education Teacher Aide.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Meredith Matthews** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Main Office Clerk, effective June 27, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Gabrielle O'Donnell** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide, effective March 6, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Samuel Ortiz** from the position of Part-Time [0.50 FTE] Custodial Worker, effective March 8, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Lori Pini** from the position of Part-Time [0.92 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide, effective March 11, 2024.

Approve Appointments – Non-Instructional – Agenda #6.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Benjamin Bachand** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Night Custodial Worker position, effective March 21, 2024, at a salary of \$33,246 pro-rated (Grade 11, Step 3, night differential based on the CSEA Contract).

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 90 Day Probationary appointment of **Brittany Bruno** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide position, effective March 21, 2024, at a salary of \$20,367.36 pro-rated [Step 3 of the CSEA contract, \$16.32 per hour (6.5 hours per day)].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the provisional appointment of **Larissa Guevara** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Typist (Spanish Speaking) position, effective March 21, 2024, at a salary of \$30,831 pro-rated (Grade 10, Step 3 of the CSEA Contract).

Approve Child Rearing Leave Teacher – Agenda #6.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Sara Cerabino**, to a Child Rearing Leave Elementary Education Teacher position, assigned to the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School, at a salary of \$57,850 pro-rated (1NMA + 7 credits), effective April 1, 2024 through June 26, 2024.

Approve Appointments – 2023-2024 Regent’s Review – Instructional – Agenda #6.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of the following individuals as Regent’s Review Teachers for the 2023-2024 school year, at a rate of \$55.10 per hour, contingent upon student enrollment to support these positions.

Algebra I:	Valerie Andryshak Nicholas Thompson	Colleen Keesler Melissa Tierney	
Algebra II:	Kimberly Earl		
Chemistry:	Valeria Ramos Avila		
Earth Science:	Jordan Taylor		
English 11:	Jeanne Chun	Yaddo Hagar	
Geometry:	Keri Donahue	Gary Tuttle	
Global 10:	Michael Farruggio		
Living Environment:	Jennifer Burkhart Ryan Haver	Sharon Ellis Nicholas Malgieri	Kyle Ferraiolo
Physics	Samrat Pathania		
US History:	Michael LaPolla		

Award Tenure – Non-Instructional – Agenda #6.G.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Tammy Wood** in the area of Teaching Assistant, effective September 8, 2024.

Award Tenure – Instructional – Agenda #6.H.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Meghan Doyle** in the area of Reading, effective September 1, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Noah Hershfield** in the area of Physical Education, effective September 1, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Carlos Mercado** in the area of Foreign Language, effective September 2, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Samrat Pathania** in the area of Physics, effective September 1, 2024.

Approve Appointment – Coaching – Agenda #6.I.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following appointment for the 2023-2024 school year Spring season:

High School:

Matthew Medina

Assistant Varsity Lacrosse Coach

Unpaid

Approve Substitutes Lists – Agenda #6.J.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the lists for individuals for teaching and non-teaching substitute positions.

Approve Pre-School Special Education Placements – Agenda #6.K.

The Board approve the placement of Pre-School Special Education students as recommended by the Committee on Special Education in its February minutes.

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #6.L.

The Board approve the placement of Special Education students as recommended by the Committee on Special Education in its February minutes.

Approve Resolution – Unused Emergency/Snow Days – Agenda #6.M.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District authorizes all 11-Month and 12-month employees paid leave days on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, Friday, May 24, 2024, Tuesday, May 28, 2024, and Wednesday, May 29, 2024, based upon the fact that the District has four remaining unused emergency/snow days for the 2023-2024 school year.

Approve Appointment – Administrator – Agenda #6.N.

The Board approve the appointment of **Julie Salisbury** certified in School District Leader and School Building Leader, to a 4-Year Probationary period in the Coordinator of Special Education tenure area commencing April 22, 2024 and ending April 21, 2028. Effective April 22, 2024, Ms. Salisbury's annual salary will be \$110,000, which shall be pro-rated for the 2023-2024 school year.

Approve Appointment of Personnel – Agenda #6.O.

The Board approve the appointment of **Julie Salisbury** as the State and Federal Reporting Coordinator for the 2023-2024 school year, effective April 22, 2024, at a stipend of \$13,000 [pro-rated].

Accept Treasurer's Report – Agenda #7.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education has reviewed and accepts the Treasurer's Reports as of February 29, 2024 and Revenues as of February 29, 2024.

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #7.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Plattekill Elementary School Gymnasium by **Girls on the Run** [for a Youth Development Program] as indicated below:

Mondays & Wednesdays April 3, 2024 – May 29, 2024* 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Excluding May 22 & 27, 2024*

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Senior High School Multi-Purpose Field by **Wallkill Varsity Football** [for a Football Youth Camp] as indicated below:

Monday and Tuesday June 10 & 11, 2024 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Wallkill Senior High School Track by **Wallkill Varsity Track and Field** [for Track and Field Clinics] as indicated below:

Monday – Friday June 10, 2024 – June 14, 2024 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Approve Legal Fees [2024-2025 School Year] – Agenda #7.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the hourly rate for legal fees to be \$240 per hour [for attorneys] effective July 1, 2024, and to be \$125 per hour [for paralegal services] effective July 1, 2024, for Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow and Mayle, LLP.

Approve Change Orders – Capital Improvement Project – Agenda #7.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following Change Orders:

Whispering Pines Development Corp.:	SC-1-09	\$2,416.91
	SC-1-10	\$3,249.05
	SC-1-11	\$5,378.00

Award Bids – State and Cooperative Vendor Contracts – Capital Improvement Project – Agenda #7.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award the following State and cooperative vendor contracts for the Capital Improvement Project as indicated below to:

Roofing Contract #1 RC-4:

Smith Site Development, LLC
1249 Front Street, Suite 110
Binghamton, NY 13905

Awarded in conjunction with the TIPS Contract #230104.

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: \$1,230,015.92

Roofing Contract #2 RC-5:

Smith Site Development, LLC
1249 Front Street, Suite 110
Binghamton, NY 13905

Awarded in conjunction with the TIPS Contract #230104.

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: \$696,866.16

Athletic Flooring System – Wallkill Senior High School:

Endurance Flooring
35 Colby Ave, Suite 1
Manasquan, NJ 08736

Awarded in conjunction with the Sourcewell Contract #031022-RBI.

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: \$615,631.25

HVAC Equipment #1 – Wallkill Senior High School:

Trane U.S. Inc.
301 Old Niskayuna Road, Suite 1
Latham, NY 12110

Awarded in conjunction with the Omnia Racine Contract #3341.

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: \$426,055.00

HVAC Equipment #2 – John G. Borden Middle School:

Trane U.S. Inc.
301 Old Niskayuna Road, Suite 1
Latham, NY 12110

Awarded in conjunction with the Omnia Racine Contract #3341.

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: \$369,320.00

Award Bids – Capital Improvement Project – Agenda #7.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award the following bids for the Capital Improvement Project as indicated below to:

General Work GC-1:

UniMak, LLC
82 Midland Ave Suite D
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

Base Bid Amount: \$2,917,000

Alternate No. HS-1: SHS Replacement of Corridor Drop Ceilings and Lights: \$ 29,000

Alternate No. HS-2: SHS Replacement of Corridor Drop Ceilings and Lights: \$ 51,000

Alternate No. HS-3: SHS Replacement of Corridor Drop Ceilings and Lights: \$ 68,000

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: \$3,065,000

General Work GC-2:

Renu Contracting & Restoration, Inc.
1215 Sunrise Highway
Copiague, NY 11726

Base Bid Amount: \$1,497,000

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: \$1,497,000

General Work GC-3:

Renu Contracting & Restoration, Inc.
1215 Sunrise Highway
Copiague, NY 11726

Base Bid Amount: \$897,000

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: \$897,000

Electrical Work EC-1:

Sausto Contracting, Inc.
2 Cove Rd
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

	<i>Base Bid Amount:</i>	\$832,500
<i>Alternate No. HS-1: SHS Replacement of Corridor Drop Ceilings and Lights:</i>		\$ 15,200
<i>Alternate No. HS-2: SHS Replacement of Corridor Drop Ceilings and Lights:</i>		\$ 16,900
<i>Alternate No. HS-3: SHS Replacement of Corridor Drop Ceilings and Lights:</i>		\$ 20,600
SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:		\$885,200

Electrical Work EC-2:

Sausto Contracting, Inc.
2 Cove Road
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

	<i>Base Bid Amount:</i>	<u>\$318,500</u>
SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:		\$318,500

Mechanical Work HVAC-1:

Clean Air Quality Service, Inc.
161 Brady Ave
Hawthorne, NY 10532

	<i>Base Bid Amount:</i>	\$2,849,032
<i>Alternate No. HS-1: SHS Replacement of Corridor Drop Ceilings and Lights:</i>		\$ 3,500
<i>Alternate No. HS-2: SHS Replacement of Corridor Drop Ceilings and Lights:</i>		\$ 6,500
<i>Alternate No. HS-3: SHS Replacement of Corridor Drop Ceilings and Lights:</i>		\$ 1,800
SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:		\$2,860,832

Plumbing Work PC-1:

Integrity Mechanical, Inc.
15 Commercial Ave
Highland, NY 12528

	<i>Base Bid Amount:</i>	<u>\$479,317</u>
SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:		\$479,317

Award Contract – Capital Improvement Project – Agenda #7.G.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award the following contract for the Capital Improvement Project as indicated below to:

Air Monitoring Services:

Quality Environmental Solutions & Technologies, Inc. (QuES&T)
1376 Route 9
Wappingers Falls, NY 12560

Base Proposal Amount: \$40,000.00

10. **Accept Donation – Agenda #7.H.**

Mrs. Anderson moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the anonymous donation of \$400 to be used towards the elementary music trip to Six Flags in May 2024.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bartolone and carried 8 – 0. [With Thanks].

11. **Close Meeting – Agenda #9**

At 7:51 p.m. Mr. Frisbie moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 8 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran
District Clerk