

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Leptondale Elementary School
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
7:00 p.m.

*Mrs. Bouck and Mrs. Stey presented on
the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program*

1. Public Comment – Agenda #1

At 7:08 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- No public comments.

2. Call to Order – Agenda #2

At 7:09 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Vice President Thomas Frisbie in the Leptondale Elementary All-Purpose Room.

Members Present

Mrs. Anderson
Mr. Bartolone (*arrived 7:38 p.m.*)
Mrs. Crowley
Mr. Frisbie
Mr. Hecht
Mr. Nafey
Mr. Palen
Ms. Alyssa Vega [Student Board Member]

Members Absent

Mr. LoCicero
Mrs. McCartney

Also present were Superintendent Castle and Assistant Superintendents Devincenzi, Rounds and White and administrators Albanese, Albert, Brown, Greany, Hasbrouck, Masopust, Napoli, and Redmond.

3. Approve Minutes – [1/17/24 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #3

Mr. Palen moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 6 – 0.

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

Audit:

Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit Committee has not met since the last meeting. A meeting will be scheduled in early March to review the draft internal audit report.

Budget:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that this evening the Board has been provided projected elementary class sizes. Since the last Board meeting, we have adjusted the roll-over budget to reflect four (4) retirements providing a savings of a little over \$277,000. Additionally, there are still areas that need to be explored such as health insurance and BOCES. Finally, the District will submit a Tax Levy to be within the cap to the State by March 1st.

Mr. Castle stated that our goal is to be below the cap and our hope is that the Governor's proposal will be rejected. If so, we will use any additional monies to reduce the levy even more and see if there is anything we can potentially add. Mr. Castle reiterated that we are waiting on health insurance and BOCES numbers for additional savings. Mr. Castle shared that there are four (4) teachers who will be retiring and that they are going to be missed. He is appreciative of the work they have done in the classroom for Wallkill and the students over the years.

Buildings & Grounds:

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on January 31, 2024, with Tetra Tech, the District's architects, and engineers. At the meeting, the committee discussed the Phase I work that has been completed as well as reviewed the remainder of the Phase I work to be completed. Additionally, the committee reviewed the Phase II work that will begin this Summer, reviewed the bidding timeline for Phase II as well as contracts that will be performed through cooperatives or State contracts. The District anticipates awarding contracts for Phase II work at the March Board of Education meeting. Mr. Frisbie mentioned that there are Capital Project Change Orders on the agenda for approval.

CDEP:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the CDEP committee has not met since our last Board meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet on February 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the high school auditorium.

Curriculum/TAG:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Curriculum/TAG Committee met on February 6, 2024. Mrs. Werlau provided an update on the 2024 District Spelling Bee. Sameer Zafar from John G. Borden Middle School came in first place with Katie Spanos, grade 6 Leptondale coming in 2nd and Gary Macentee, grade 6 from Ostrander placing 3rd. The First Lego League competition took place on Saturday, January 20th. The Ostrander team placed 1st in the area of Innovation. Mrs. Werlau also shared upcoming events that are happening such as, the Odyssey of the Mind competition and Authors Day. Mr. White reviewed the remote instruction plan for emergency conditions which can be found on the District website. He also provided an update on the UPK program. Information regarding UPK for the 2024-2025 school year is posted on the District website. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

Mr. Castle commented that he is proud of the Ostrander team that won 1st place for the interactive App they created that teaches you how to play an instrument. He was so impressed that he indicated they should meet with the high school's Project Lead the Way on exploring a patent. Mr. White commented that the App had the notes and letters on the staff and was able to follow along as someone who is non-musical.

Health & Safety:

Mr. Palen reported that the Health and Safety Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in high school room 104.

Legislative:

Mr. Hecht reported that he and Mr. Castle have met with Assemblyman Maher and Senator Hinchey since the last Board meeting. Both were very supportive of the talking points we presented to them. Such items discussed were continued support for Universal Pre-Kindergarten and concerns regarding the electric bus mandate. Mr. Castle indicated that the common message from both parties is that the Governor's budget proposal is unacceptable. He hopes for an on-time budget, so that we know what monies to expect in order to plan and present our budget to the Board in April. The Board will be updated as more information becomes available. Mr. Frisbie made a comment that he recently read an article regarding electric busses indicating there will be a pushback. Mr. Castle commented that more research is needed on the impact on districts. For example, our bus runs piggyback off each other, and busses would need to go back to the yard to re-charge, but this wouldn't be feasible in an emergency. Another issue could be the weight of the busses and weight limits on certain roads affecting bus routes. In addition, there are districts who own their own busses and districts like ours who contract out bus services. This could mean a significant increase in costs for contract services and infrastructure costs. Lastly, there will be a significant increase in transportation costs.

Policy:

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting will be held on March 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at District Office.

Technology:

Mr. White reported that the Technology Committee met on February 12, 2024. Mr. Hein provided an update on infrastructure, specifically the deployment of Chromebooks to the 11th and 12th graders. He also provided information regarding SchoolTool, our student management system, which will be moving their services from the Mid-Hudson Regional Information Center (MHRIC) to a cloud-based server. All schools and the MHRIC will have to migrate by the end of 2024. Walkkill along with other local

districts are migrating this Spring. Lastly, Mr. Hein shared the tentative timeline for updating the District's website. 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 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:

- Two students from high school, Kyle DeGroat and myself, have been nominated and selected as student of the week for the Times Herald Record for two consecutive weeks thanks to the Wallkill family for voting both students to victory!
- Last week Mr. Ferraiolo's conservation class visited the Museum of The Hudson Highlands. The class learned a lot while on a hike about the methods of the Native Americans who first discovered syrup in this area, methods of the 19th century and the modern methods used today.

Clubs:

- The Spanish Honor Society (SHS) will have two members attending the Ostrander Family Game night on February 28th to assist any Spanish speaking families. SHS will also be providing signs in Spanish to help direct parents to the ELA/Math games that evening.
- The Science Club is working on organizing a bird/butterfly photography competition starting March 1st. It will be posted on iNaturalist and will be open to the larger community. Members of the Science Club are hoping that this project ignites interest in the competition.

Athletics:

- Cross country ski (Andie Psilopoulos/ Graham Driskill) and track (Caitlyn Murphy) both qualified for states, as well as the 4 by 2 team for track.
- The girls' basketball team has made sectionals for next week.
- Marlee McCullough is going to States for gymnastics.
- Family ID is now open for registration for all levels of Spring sports.
- All sports had their senior nights that were well attended.
- Wrestling: Viktor Banda, Marco Futia and Anthony Annacone qualified for the Wrestling State Tournament.

Music:

- The High School Chorus will be hosting the choirs from Pine Bush High School and James I. O'Neill High School on Tuesday, February 27th for the Hudson Valley Treble Choir Festival, and the Wallkill HS Choir Festival. These groups will perform for each other and work with clinician Dr. David Fryling, who is the Director of Choral Activities at Hofstra University and past President of the Eastern Division of the American Choral Directors Association.
- Music in our Schools Month Concerts are coming up in March!
 - Alyssa stated that as we head into Spring, students at the high school are already starting to think about courses for next year as they attended the Annual Elective Expo yesterday. Students had an opportunity to speak with teachers, BOCES instructors, and peers about the various programs and electives that our school has to offer. Students will meet with counselors in the coming months to discuss scheduling for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - Mr. Castle congratulated Alyssa and Kyle for being the Times Herald Record Students of the Week. He also stated that he is impressed by the number of student-athletes who made it to States.

5. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Nafey moved items 5A through 5K and 6A through 6E be taken as consent agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 6 – 0.

Approve Appointment – Non-Instructional – Agenda #5.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Samuel Ortiz** to a Part-Time [0.50 FTE] Custodial Worker position, effective February 22, 2024, at a salary of \$16,022 pro-rated [4.0 hours daily, (Grade 11, Step 3, of the CSEA Contract)].

Approve Appointment – Instructional – Agenda #5.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Maggie Kievit** to a Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teacher position, assigned to the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School at a rate of \$140 per day, effective February 22, 2024.

Accept Resignations/Retirements – Instructional – Agenda #5.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Glenn LaPolt** from the Wallkill Central School District [Social Studies Teacher], effective June 30, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Anne Mildner** from the Wallkill Central School District [Science Teacher], effective June 30, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Deborah Reese** from the Wallkill Central School District [Elementary Education Teacher], effective June 30, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Kristina Rubin** from the Wallkill Central School District [Special Education Teacher], effective June 30, 2024.

Approve Child Rearing Leave – Agenda #5.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Child Rearing Leave as requested by **Melanie Calabro**, effective April 1, 2024 through June 26, 2024.

Approve Appointments – Instructional – 2023-2024 Grades K-6 After-School Academic Intervention Program – Agenda #5.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Instructional appointments of the following individuals for the Grades K-6 After School Academic Intervention Program, effective February 22, 2024:

Leptondale Elementary School

Samantha Jones \$55.10 per hour

Ostrander Elementary School

Danielle McGrath \$55.10 per hour

Plattekill Elementary School

Megan Figurski \$55.10 per hour

Approve Resolution – Certification of LEAD Teacher Evaluator – Agenda #5.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and certify the following personnel as a Lead Teacher Evaluator for the 2023-2024 school year after having successfully completed the training requirements prescribed in 8NYCRR §30-3.10. This certification is being issued in accordance with the process for certifying Lead Teacher Evaluators described in the District’s annual professional performance review plan.

Joseph Napoli

Approve Appointments – Coaching – Agenda #5.G.

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

HIGH SCHOOL:

Noah Hershfield	Assistant Varsity Boys Baseball Coach	\$3,487
Hunter Andrews	Varsity Unified Basketball Coach	\$1,103
Shannon LaRocco	Varsity Unified Basketball Coach	\$1,103

Nominate Ulster BOCES Board Representative – Agenda #5.H.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and nominate **William Hecht** to a three-year term representing the Wallkill Central School District on the Ulster County BOCES Board of Education.

Approve Substitute Lists – Agenda #5.I.

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 #5.J.

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

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #5.K.

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

Accept Treasurer’s Report – Agenda #6.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education has reviewed and accepts the Treasurer's Reports as of January 31, 2024 and Revenues as of January 31, 2024.

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #6.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Plattekill Elementary School and Leptondale Elementary School Gymnasiums by **North Point Athletics** [for basketball practice] as indicated below:

Plattekill Elementary School:

Wednesdays February 28, 2024 – June 5, 2024* 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Excluding March 27, 2024, April 24, 2024, and May 22, 2024*

Leptondale Elementary School:

Mondays April 8, 2024 – June 3, 2024* 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Excluding April 22, 2024, and May 20 & 27, 2024*

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School Gymnasium by **UC Takeoff** [for Basketball Practice] as indicated below:

Tuesdays and Fridays March 1, 2024 – June 21, 2024 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Plattekill Elementary School Gymnasium by the **Special Olympics New York-Hudson Valley Region** [for practice] as indicated below:

Thursdays March 14 & 21, 2024 and April 4 & 18, 2024 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays March 19, 2024 and April 2, 9 & 16, 2024 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday April 10, 2024 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Monday April 15, 2024 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Leptondale Elementary School and Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School Gymnasiums by **Girls on the Run** [for a Youth Development Program] as indicated below:

Leptondale Elementary School:

Mondays & Thursdays March 18, 2024 – May 30, 2024* 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Excluding March 25 & 28, 2024, April 1, 2024, and May 27, 2024*

Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School:

Wednesdays & Fridays March 20, 2024 – May 31, 2024* 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Excluding March 27 & 29, 2024, and May 3, 2024*

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the John G. Borden Middle School fields by **Wallkill Area Youth Soccer/SUFC** [for Practice and Games] as indicated below:

Mondays-Fridays April 2, 2024 – June 14, 2024 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays April 6, 2024 – June 15, 2024 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Senior High School Gymnasium by **Wallkill Varsity Volleyball** [for a Volleyball Clinic] as indicated below:

Mondays April 8, 2024 – May 20, 2024 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Wallkill Senior High School track by the **Special Olympics New York-Hudson Valley Region** [for practice] as indicated below:

Thursdays April 11, 2024 and April 18, 2024 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Monday April 15, 2024 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday April 16, 2024 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Approve Resolution – Natural Gas Supply with Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. – Agenda #6.C.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the General Municipal Law §103, Subdivision 16, the Wallkill Board of Education approve the contract for Natural Gas Supply, with **Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.** which was bid and awarded by Genesee County on November 30, 2020.

Approve Resolution - Waiver of Potential Conflict of Interest – Agenda #6.D.

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

WHEREAS, the Wallkill Central School District (“Wallkill”) is seeking a Dual Enrollment Agreement with Mount Saint Mary College (“MSMC”); and

WHEREAS, Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle, LLP (“TDWPM”) presently represents both Wallkill and MSMC;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District waives any potential conflict of interest that might otherwise exist and authorizes TDWPM to review the Dual Enrollment Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute a waiver of conflict on the District's behalf.

Approve Change Orders – Capital Improvement Project – Agenda #6.E.

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

Smith Site Development, LLC:	RC-2-01	(\$42,289.76)
	RC-3-01	(\$46,408.66)
Whispering Pines Development Corp:	SC-1-01	\$ 18,441.00
	SC-1-02	\$ 28,959.00
	SC-1-03	\$131,473.79
	SC-1-04	\$ 2,083.50
	SC-1-05	\$ 5,235.00
	SC-1-06	(\$ 522.19)
	SC-1-07	\$ 51,480.00
	SC-1-08	\$ 3,187.00

6. Executive Session – Agenda #7

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Palen moved the Board enter Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and the employment history of a particular person.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 6 – 0.

The Board reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

7. Add Item to Agenda

Mr. Bartolone moved item, Approve Resolution – Stipulation of Agreement be added to the Agenda.

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

8. Approve Resolution – Stipulation of Agreement

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approve the Stipulation of Agreement, dated February 12, 2024, by and between the Wallkill Central School District and Employee #02212024.

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

9. Close Meeting – Agenda #8

At 8:52 p.m. Mrs. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran
District Clerk