

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Plattekill Elementary School
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – Agenda #1

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

Members Present

Mrs. Anderson

Mr. Bartolone

Mrs. Crowley

Mr. Frisbie

Mr. Hecht

Mr. LoCicero

Mrs. McCartney

Mr. Nafey

Mr. Palen

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

Members Absent

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

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

2. Executive Session – Agenda #2

At 6:01 p.m. Mr. Nafey moved the Board enter Executive Session to interview prospective candidates for the position of Senior High School Assistant Principal.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 9 – 0.

The Board reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

3. Regular Session Recalled to Order

At 7:13 p.m. the meeting was recalled to order by President Joseph LoCicero.

4. Public Comment – Agenda #3

At 7:13 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

➤ No public comments.

5. Approve Minutes – [12/20/23 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #4

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the December 20, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 9 – 0.

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

Audit:

Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit Committee has not met since the last meeting. The District anticipates receiving the draft internal audit in the coming weeks and will schedule a meeting to review the draft internal audit.

Budget:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that this evening the Board received a copy of the roll-over budget as well as a budget carry over summary sheet. Additionally, the District received notification that the CPI used in the 2024-2025 tax cap formula will be 2% (this does not include exemptions). There are still areas that need to be explored such as BOCES costs, teacher retirements, health insurance, special education inclusion class sizes, elementary class sizes and State Aid. The District anticipates being within the tax cap (like it has been the past eleven years) and will utilize fund balance and reserves to assist in balancing the budget.

Buildings & Grounds:

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The committee will be scheduling a meeting soon.

CDEP:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the CDEP committee has not met since the 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 has not met since the last Board meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet on February 6, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

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 7, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in high school room 104.

Legislative:

Mr. Hecht reported that he and Mr. Castle met with Senator Rolison on January 11, 2024. The Senator was receptive as Mr. Castle presented on topics such as advocating for a minimum of 3% in Foundation Aid, supporting and maintaining Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs, the 2027 mandate on electric busses which needs to be researched more by the State, laws allowing districts flexibility with establishing reserve accounts, reforming the Property Tax Cap, and reforms to Education Law §3012-d which dictates how schools should evaluate teachers and principals. Mr. Hecht thanked the Senator for his support of our district and taxpayers.

Mr. Castle indicated that the Governor has provided her State Aid proposal, and it is not favorable to many districts in New York State. It is in part due to Foundation Aid projections being half the amount under current law. In addition, under current law, districts in New York State would not see a decrease in Foundation Aid due to Save Harmless. In fact, under current law the Wallkill CSD was projected to receive an increase of \$287,000. Under the Governor's proposal, the District's Foundation Aid would remain flat. Ulster County is projected to lose \$4.6 million in Foundation Aid under the Governor's proposal. Mr. Castle has spoken to his colleagues indicating that we need to collectively advocate to our legislators. He is hopeful that there is room for negotiations between the Governor and legislators. This issue will be discussed during future meetings that have been scheduled with our legislators.

Mr. LoCicero asked where the numbers are coming from with regards to the loss in aid that certain districts are experiencing. Mr. Castle responded that the itemized information hasn't been produced yet. However, district enrollment plays a big part in the formula that was established in 2007. The population in Ulster County schools has declined since then so that may be a factor. Once that information is provided it will be shared with the Board.

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. Bartolone reported that the Technology Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

Wellness:

Mr. Nafey reported that the Wellness Committee met on January 10, 2024. At this meeting the committee discussed that the elementary schools will be organizing a jump rope event in February. In addition, Taste Test Tuesdays started at all the elementary schools with the goal to expose students to new healthy food options. Each building will have some unique events they are working on or have scheduled and those will be posted on the District Wellness Calendar. At the middle school, the focus is on healthy eating habits as well as stress reduction tips. The middle school will also continue with "Healthy Habits" announcements. The high school has a blood drive scheduled for February 21, 2024. A Health Fair is being organized and is scheduled for April 23, 2024 in the high school gymnasium. District-Wide, Marilyn, Whitsons Food Service Director, began meeting with a group of students in some of the schools to discuss how to develop a meal. She will complete her meetings with the remaining schools in the coming weeks. After the meetings are completed, Marilyn will work with the students on creating a menu option to be featured on each school's menu. Finally, the District has seen an increase in meal counts at all buildings and will continue to do promotions throughout the remainder of the school year. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024, at 3:45 p.m. in high school room 102.

Student Rep:

Ms. Alyssa Vega reported:

Clubs:

- SGA hosted the Annual Alumni Day in the library where over 30 alumni attended. They visited classrooms each period sharing their experiences throughout their college career and professional careers. All alumni that attended are enrolled in college, taking on a trade, enlisted in the military, or immediately entered the workforce after high school.
- SGA's annual coat drive was a success, being able to donate so many coats to Saint Charles Church for children of all ages.
- The NHS has 11 volunteers for the Big Brothers and Sisters' program for elementary aged students throughout all three elementary schools. They visit students who have social and emotional needs and interact positively with them and their classmates.
- The Drama club has been rehearsing in preparation for the Spring musical "Something Rotten."

Athletics:

- The Varsity Wrestling Team won in a major upset defeating Monroe Woodbury 39-26 in the Section IX Dual Meet. Wallkill takes on Minisink January 17th in the final four of the dual meets.
- Panther basketball standout, Zoe Mesuch is now the all-time leading scorer in school history, as she surpassed previous record holder Mat Shea, scoring her 1242nd point up at Red Hook on Friday, January 12th. The Panthers take on rival Cornwall January 17th.
- Wallkill's indoor track, competition cheer, gymnastics, Nordic ski, and boys' basketball teams continue to compete and represent our school well against Section IX opponents.

Music:

- S.O.M.E. will be sponsoring the Annual Variety Show on February 1st (snow date February 8th) at 6:30 p.m. This event is a fundraiser for senior scholarships. Admission is \$5 and there will also be raffles and a bake sale.
- The school year is halfway over, as the Second Quarter ends next week. Students have been preparing for local and college mid-terms and finals and those who are not taking Regents exams next week will be home Tuesday-Friday, gearing up for a great start to the Third Quarter.

7. **Consent Agenda**

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

Motion seconded by Mr. Bartolone and carried 9 – 0.

Accept Resignations – Non-Instructional – Agenda #6.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Ivelisse De La Cruz** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Typist [Spanish Speaking], effective February 23, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Joseph Velez** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Night Custodial Worker, effective January 17, 2024, pending his appointment to the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Head Custodian.

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Erica Mills** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide position, effective February 5, 2024, at a salary of \$16.32 per hour (Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 5.8 hours per day).

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Gabrielle O'Donnell** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide position, effective January 18, 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 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Veronica Padilla** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide position, effective January 18, 2024, at a salary of \$15.00 per hour (Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 5.8 hours per day).

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the provisional appointment of **Joseph Velez** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Head Custodian position, effective January 18, 2024, at a salary of \$68,422 pro-rated [Grade 17, Step 20 of the CSEA Contract, 8.0 hours per day (salary includes longevity and a health insurance stipends)].

Approve Appointment – Instructional – 2023-2024 Grades K-6 After-School Academic Intervention Program – Agenda #6.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Instructional appointment of the following individual for the Grades K-6 After School Academic Intervention Program:

Ostrander Elementary School

Colleen Kellner \$55.10 per hour [Effective February 1, 2024]

Approve Appointments – Coaching – Agenda #6.D.

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

HIGH SCHOOL:

T.D. Mills	Varsity Baseball Coach	\$4,730
Jon Avila	Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach	Unpaid
Joseph Pillitteri	Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach	Unpaid
John Zinko*	Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach	Unpaid
Sean Murphy	Varsity Softball Coach	\$4,580
Kevin Keesler*	Assistant Varsity Softball Coach	\$3,587
Chelsea Murphy	Assistant Varsity Softball Coach	Unpaid
Jason Diehl	Varsity Boys Tennis Coach	\$3,387
Mike Strano	Assistant Varsity Boys Tennis Coach	Unpaid
Jordan Taylor	Varsity Boys Lacrosse Coach	\$4,430
Gabriel Carbone	Assistant Varsity Boys Lacrosse Coach	\$3,387
Frank Croce	Varsity Girls Lacrosse Coach	\$4,330
Rich Daubel	Assistant Varsity Girls Lacrosse Coach	\$3,337
Alyson Callahan	Assistant Varsity Girls Lacrosse Coach	Unpaid
Gabrielle Mancuso	Varsity Boys Track & Field Coach	\$4,130
Carlos Mercado	Assistant Varsity Boys Track & Field Coach	\$3,387
Jennifer Gravelle	Varsity Girls Track & Field Coach	\$4,730
Richard Samuels	Assistant Varsity Girls Track & Field Coach	\$3,337
David Melick	Assistant Varsity Girls Track & Field Coach	Unpaid

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Frank Alfonso	Modified Baseball Coach	\$2,245
Michael Pritts	Assistant Modified Baseball Coach	Unpaid
Michelle Arteta	Modified Softball Coach	\$2,245
Leo Sladewski	Modified Boys Track & Field Coach	\$2,805
Kevin Falk	Modified Girls Track and Field Coach	\$2,285
Valeria Ramos-Avila	Modified Boys Lacrosse Coach	\$2,205

**Pending Issuance of License*

Approve Substitutes Lists – Agenda #6.E.

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.F.

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

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #6.G.

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

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #7.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Don Andrews Practice Field [for Practices] and Multi-Purpose Field [for Games] by **Wallkill Youth Lacrosse** as indicated below:

Mondays – Fridays	March 1, 2024 – June 14, 2024	5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays	March 2, 2024 – June 15, 2024	9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Accept Treasurer’s Report – Agenda #7.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education has reviewed and accepts the Treasurer's Reports as of December 31, 2023 and Revenues as of December 31, 2023.

Approve Resolutions –Tax Roll Corrections – Agenda #7.C.

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

WHEREAS, Annette M. Lee-Tom and Danielle Cameron (“Owners”) own taxable real property in the Town of Newburgh identified on the Town of Newburgh tax map as: SBL # 125-1-32; and

WHEREAS, the Owners submitted an Application for Correction of Property Tax Assessment for 2023 (“Tax Roll Correction Application”) pursuant to RPTL §739 on or about July 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Director of Real Property Tax Service approved the Stipulation of Settlement on or about November 29, 2023 and has recommended the correction of the tax roll and the issuance of a new tax bill for the reasons set forth in a letter bearing that date and the attached documentation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District (“District”), pursuant to its authority set forth in RPTL §739, hereby authorizes and confirms the following actions:

1. Determines that a clerical error by the Town Assessor exists for the reasons set forth in the letter dated November 29, 2023 from the Orange County Director of Real Property Tax Service;
2. Approves the Tax Roll Correction Application;

3. Orders a correction of the 2023-24 Tax Roll of the Wallkill Central School District so that the tax levied on real property identified on the Town of Newburgh tax map as SBL # 125-1-32 be reduced from \$137,295.00 to \$103,512.00; and
4. Directs the District's School Tax Collector to issue a corrected tax bill in the sum of \$2,746.42 to the Owners, together with a notice indicating that the Tax Roll Correction Application has been approved.

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

WHEREAS, Joshua Kane and Dyanna L. Kane ("Owners") own taxable real property in the Town of Newburgh identified on the Town of Newburgh tax map as: SBL # 125-1-33; and

WHEREAS, the Owners submitted an Application for Correction of Property Tax Assessment for 2023 ("Tax Roll Correction Application") pursuant to RPTL §739 on or about July 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Director of Real Property Tax Service approved the Stipulation of Settlement on or about November 29, 2023 and has recommended the correction of the tax roll and the issuance of a new tax bill for the reasons set forth in a letter bearing that date and the attached documentation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District ("District"), pursuant to its authority set forth in RPTL §739, hereby authorizes and confirms the following actions:

1. Determines that a clerical error by the Town Assessor exists for the reasons set forth in the letter dated November 29, 2023 from the Orange County Director of Real Property Tax Service;
2. Approves the Tax Roll Correction Application;
3. Orders a correction of the 2023-24 Tax Roll of the Wallkill Central School District so that the tax levied on real property identified on the Town of Newburgh tax map as SBL # 125-1-33 be reduced from \$169,372.00 to \$118,040.00; and
4. Directs the District's School Tax Collector to issue a corrected tax bill in the sum of \$4,173.08 to the Owners, together with a notice indicating that the Tax Roll Correction Application has been approved.

Approve Foster Children 2022-2023 Tuition Rates – Agenda #7.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 2022-2023 tuition rates for foster children attending the Wallkill Central School District as follows:

Grades K-6	\$15,230
Grades 7-12	\$14,199
Handicapped K-6	\$35,318
Handicapped 7-12	\$34,287

8. Accept Donation – Agenda #7.E.

Mrs. Anderson moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the donation of \$4,089 from Mr. Anthony Kamucki (AK Farms) to assist with the payment of outstanding lunch account balances in the Wallkill Central School District.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 9 – 0. [With Thanks].

9. Executive Session – Agenda #8

At 7:33 p.m. Mr. Frisbie moved the Board enter Executive Session to discuss matters regarding the appointment of a particular person.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 9 – 0.

The Board reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

10. Add Item to Agenda

Mr. Nafey moved item, Approve Appointment – Administrative be added to the Agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bartolone and carried 9 – 0.

11. Approve Appointment – Administrative

Mr. Frisbie moved the Board approve the appointment of **Joseph Napoli**, certified in School Building Leader, to a 4-Year Probationary period in the Assistant Principal tenure area, commencing February 20, 2024, and ending February 19, 2028. Effective February 20, 2024, Mr. Napoli's annual salary will be \$108,000, which shall be pro-rated for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bartolone and carried 9 – 0.

12. Add Item to Agenda

Mr. Frisbie moved item, Appointment of Personnel, be added to the Agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bartolone and carried 9 – 0.

13. Appointment of Personnel

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board approve the appointment of the following personnel for the 2023-2024 school year, effective February 20, 2024:

Dignity Act Coordinator Mr. Joseph Napoli, Wallkill Senior High School

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 9 – 0.

14. Close Meeting – Agenda #9

At 7:52 p.m. Mr. Frisbie moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 9 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran
District Clerk