

Regular Meeting Board of Education

Plattekill Elementary School

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

7:00 p.m.

1. Public Comment – Agenda #1

At 7:00 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- *No public comments.*

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

At 7:01 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

Mr. LoCicero

Mr. Nafey

Mr. Palen

Ms. Alyssa Vega [Student Board Member]

Members Absent

Mrs. Crowley

Mr. Frisbie

Mrs. McCartney

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

3. Approve Minutes – [10/18/23 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #3

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 5 – 0.

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

Audit:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Audit Committee has not met since the last meeting. The Internal auditors were in the District the week of October 23rd to perform the risk assessment. The next committee meeting will be scheduled once the District receives notification from the internal auditors that the draft risk assessment is complete.

Budget:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Board was provided a draft budget calendar this evening for the upcoming budget process. In December, building allocations will be sent to administrators. In January, the roll-over budget will be reviewed and at the end of January we should get preliminary State Aid numbers from the Governor. We anticipate receiving final State Aid projections at the end of March if there is an on-time State Budget. Additionally, on this evening's agenda, there is a recommendation to approve the tax warrant. A summary sheet of the taxes collected has been provided to the Board. Finally, the CPI that will be used in the tax cap calculation will be 2%. Budget updates will be provided over the next couple of months.

Buildings & Grounds:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last meeting. A meeting will be scheduled when Phase II of the Capital Project is approved by NYSED. In addition, the contractor is continuing to work on the JV baseball field with the sod being installed this week. Finally, tile was installed at Leptondale in main lobby area and HVAC work is to be done in the greeter offices and the main lobbies.

CDEP:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the first CDEP committee met on October 25, 2023, in the high school auditorium. The committee did a data analysis of the New York State Assessment results and Graduation rates for the 2023 school year. Mr. White led the

committee in a data walk to compare the 2022 results to the 2023 results with the New York State Assessments for grades 3-8. In addition to the data walk the committee received updates from Mr. Masopust on instructional committees at the high school, such as the Freshman Experience Committee, Seal of Biliteracy Committee, Seal of Civic Readiness Committee, and the Program of Study Review Committee. Mr. White also provided curriculum and instructional updates for the District. In the afternoon, the School Improvement Teams (SIT) reviewed their 2023-2024 school improvement plans. They highlighted the progress towards each of their goals. To conclude the day, each SIT team presented their information to the entire CDEP committee. The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the high school auditorium.

- Mr. Castle commented that he is pleased with the administrators and their SIT committees who created a balanced approach of academics and positive youth development. He is very appreciative of the principals and Mr. White having consistency in addressing the mental health of our students and having programs in place to create a positive school environment. Two areas that have shown improvement from last year are ELA and Math State Assessment results. The District exceeds the county average in these areas. Mr. Castle indicated that we are fortunate to have administrators, faculty and staff that ensure these plans become actionable.

Curriculum/TAG:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Curriculum/TAG Committee met on October 24, 2023. The committee received an update on the TAG program for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Werlau shared information about enrollment. She also reviewed the activities scheduled for the current school year. Mr. Albanese reviewed the credit recovery data for the 2022-2023 school year. In addition to the credit recovery data Mr. Albanese presented data on the 2023 grade 7-12 summer program. Mrs. Harjes presented data on the 2023 elementary summer school program for grades K-6 as well as the summer reading program. Mr. White shared updates on course offerings at the high school. He also shared the progress the high school is making on exploring the possibility of adding elective classes at the high school, including college bearing courses. The initial course offerings would be at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. White also updated the committee on the curriculum review for the Freshman Experience class. The revised curriculum would be implemented for the 2024-2025 school year. Lastly, Mr. White provided an update on the K-8 writing committee. The next Curriculum committee is scheduled for December 5, 2023, 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 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in high school room #104.

Legislative:

Mr. Castle commented that he met with Assemblyman Maher on November 15th. He indicated that Assemblyman Maher is very supportive of our District, and we are fortunate to have him represent us. They spoke about State Aid and pros and cons of some bills currently being proposed. The District plans on meeting with our other legislators in January and February to advocate for our students and community.

Policy:

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy Committee met on November 6, 2023 and reviewed two (2) policies that are on the November 15th agenda for first reading. The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in District Office.

Technology:

Mr. Bartolone reported that the Technology Committee met on November 6, 2023. Mr. Hein presented updates on the following: Technology Infrastructure – new phone system in place; Cyber Security – on November 22, 2023, Antoinette King will be speaking to staff about Best Practices and Cyber Security Trends in K-12; reviewed CIS controls, specifically, District account management procedures, password policy and user account controls such as MFA (Multi-factor authentication). The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room #102.

- Mr. Castle commented that cyber security is critical and acknowledged Tom Hein and his crew for the work they do in keeping our systems safe.

Wellness:

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

Student Rep:

Ms. Vega reported:

- Parent engagement night was held November 7th in the library, where Mrs. Heeren and members of the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council of Orange County (ADAC) met with parents to discuss the dangers of substance abuse.
- Instant Admissions for seniors applying to college was held on November 13-15th where students were scheduled by appointment to discuss great news of their applications and scholarship opportunities. Thirty-two colleges attended this event, 120 students were signed up, 104 acceptances were given, and multiple scholarships were offered.
- Financial Aid Night was held Tuesday night at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium by the counseling office, it was well attended, and parents had an opportunity to learn about the nuances of financial aid.
- The counseling office is holding college application workshops after school.
- Several classes have invited in guest speakers such as SRO McCartney in criminal justice, a virtual event with guest speaker D.B. Cooper in pop culture and several speakers in Senior Capstone.
- Grade 10 Advanced English and Social Studies classes "Project My Day" will be held on November 20th as a full day research and presentation event in the library.
- Native American Heritage/Indigenous People Month is this month, the library will be celebrating indigenous authors with book displays and author spotlights on the display screens.
- Parent teacher conferences are happening on Tuesday, November 21st leading into the holiday break.

Clubs:

- NHS is preparing Thanksgiving meal donations to the Loaves and Fishes Pantry at the Wallkill Reformed Church. Our goal is to donate 25 full Thanksgiving meals to the pantry to help families in need that are in our community by Friday, November 17th.
- Members of the NHS will be starting the Panther Cub Mentoring Program, this is when high school students go over to the elementary schools to help their panther cub with homework, activities, and emotional support.
- Spanish Honor Society has partnered up with Project My Day, for children in foster care. The goal of our society is to fundraise certain gift boxes that include wrapping paper, tape, balloons, banners etc. There will be a gift-wrapping event on November 20th where members will be wrapping gifts for foster children.
- Athletes-Helping-Athletes will be visiting the elementary schools on Thursday, November 16th to mentor on sportsmanship.
- The Homecoming Pep Rally and dance were a huge success. The Junior Class won the spirit week traveling trophy and over 600 students attended the dance.
- SGA will begin our annual coat drive from November 16th to December 16th where there will be coat drive designed boxes in each school lobby of the District. Students are encouraged to donate old coats of any size. We check into these schools every few days to see when they are filled to be brought to St. Charles Church.

Athletics:

- The Girls Varsity Volleyball team defeated New Paltz to win the section IX Volleyball Championship. This was the team's first sectional championship! They then lost a tough match in the regional semifinal game to Byram Hills.
- The Wallkill High School hosted both the sectional and regional soccer and volleyball games this year. A lot of compliments were given about our facilities and staff.
- Winter sports started November 13th and tryouts have begun, modified sports start next week.
- Caitlyn Murphy won the MHAL sectional championship by over 30 seconds, came in second in sectionals, which qualified her to run in the State Cross Country Championships, where she performed well. She also qualified for the Federation Championship this weekend.

Music:

- 400 students from Orange, Ulster, Greene, Sullivan, and Rockland Counties will be participating in the Area All-State Music Festival on Saturday, November 17th. Wallkill has 16 students participating.
- The two students participating in the All-State Music Conference in Rochester are Jono McLaughlin for Mixed Chorus and Durward Entekin for Orchestra.
- Some small ensembles will be participating in the Holidays in the Hamlet event on December 2nd and at the Town of Plattekill Tree Lighting.

- *Winter concerts are also coming up in December.*
- *In conclusion, Alyssa stated that the high school is excited to see all the school spirit brought together by holiday events this upcoming season.*
- *Mr. Castle commented on instant admissions stating that our guidance counselors shared with him that several colleges mentioned that this is the most colleges they have seen at one event throughout the State. He stated that our music program is incredible and that the instrumental and chorus POPs concerts were great, and we have very talented student musicians. He is excited to see the Area All-State concerts, which includes 40 different school districts from Zone 9 who are participating. Mr. Castle also stated that he is very proud of our Volleyball team. It was great to see their Panther Pride expressed in their attitude, teamwork, sportsmanship, and grit. These are the skills that are needed to be successful outside of school. Mr. Castle is looking forward to the Winter concerts and Winter sports. We have a lot of students that participate in extra-curricular activities, and he is thankful for the support from the Board to have these activities for students.*

5. Consent Agenda

Mr. Nafey moved items 5A through 5L and 6A through 6F be taken as consent agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bartolone and carried 5 – 0.

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Danielle Finneran** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide position, effective November 16, 2023, at a salary of \$14.82 per hour (Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 5.8 hours per day).

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Stephanie Fox** to a Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide position, assigned to the Leptondale Elementary School, for the 2023-2024 school year at a salary of \$14.82 per hour [6.5 hours daily], effective November 16, 2023.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Claudia Wiegmann** to a Part-Time [0.75 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide position, effective November 16, 2023, at a salary of \$14.82 per hour (Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 4.5 hours per day).

Accept Resignation – Instructional – Agenda #5.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Maggie Kievit** from the position of Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teacher position assigned to the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School, effective December 16, 2023, pending her appointment to a Child Rearing Leave Elementary Education Teacher.

Approve Child Rearing Leave Teacher – Agenda #5.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Maggie Kievit**, to a Child Rearing Leave Elementary Education Teacher position, assigned to the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School, at a salary of \$58,148 pro-rated (1NMA + 9 credits), effective December 17, 2023 through January 26, 2024.

Approve Appointments – 2023-2024 High School Grades 9-12 After-School Homework Assistance Lab – Agenda #5.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Instructional appointments of the following individuals for the 2023-2024 High School Grades 9-12 After-School Homework Assistance Lab:

Jordan Taylor	Science	\$65.00 per session
Glenn LaPolt	Social Studies	\$65.00 per session
Brian Vegliando	Social Studies	\$65.00 per session

Approve Appointments – Mentor – Agenda #5.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of the following individuals as Mentors for the 2023-2024 school year:

Hunter Andrews	Mentor	\$1,500 [pro-rated]
Brian Vegliando	Mentor	\$1,500 [pro-rated]

Approve First Readings – Policy – Agenda #5.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the first reading of the following policies:

1. Policy #1621 – Student Voter Registration and Pre-Registration
2. Policy #6195 – Workplace Violence Prevention Program

Approve Resolution – Recertification of LEAD Teacher Evaluator – Agenda #5.G.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following personnel as Lead Teacher Evaluator for the 2023-2024 school year after having received appropriate training in accordance with the regulations of the Commissioner of Education §30-3.10 and such individual is hereby re-certified as qualified Lead Teacher Evaluator for the purpose of conducting and completing evaluations.

Yvonne Herrington

Approve Appointments – Coaching – Agenda #5.H.

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

High School:

Jonathan Avila	Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach	\$3,337
David Moore	Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach	Unpaid*

* Will be paid the chaperone rate on an as needed basis as determined by the Athletic Director

Approve Proposed 2024 High School Music Trip – Agenda #5.I.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Wallkill Senior High School Music Trip [Spring Competition] to New Jersey/New York City from Friday, April 12, 2024 through Sunday, April 14, 2024.

Approve Substitutes Lists – Agenda #5.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 #5.K.

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

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #5.L.

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

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #6.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Plattekill Elementary School Gymnasium by the **Rotary of Southern Ulster** [for a Basketball & Volleyball Program] as indicated below:

Boys and Girls Basketball:

 Mondays November 27, 2023 – March 11, 2024* 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Girls Volleyball:

 Tuesdays November 28, 2023 – March 12, 2024* 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Excluding December 25 & 26, 2023; January 1 & 15, 2024 and February 19, 2024*

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Wallkill Senior High School Auditorium, Band Room and Light Booth, by the **Footworks Dance Center** [for a Dance Recital] as indicated below:

Friday June 14, 2024 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday June 15, 2024 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sunday June 16, 2024 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Approve Resolution – Cooperative Bidding – Agenda #6.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Cooperative Bidding Resolution with NY/Island Cooperative Bid (Purchasing Group) for the 2024-2025 school year. This Resolution shall be attached to the minutes and on file with the District Clerk.

Approve Resolution – Provider Reimbursement Agreement – Agenda #6.D.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Provider Reimbursement Agreement with the following school stated below, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The Board authorizes the Board President to sign the approved agreement.

Green Chimney’s

Approve Resolution – Special Education Service Contract – Agenda #6.E.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves contracts for the provision of special education services to District students with the following school stated below. The Board authorizes the Board President to sign the approved contract.

Green Chimney’s

Approve School Tax Report – 2023-2024 – Agenda #6.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the School Tax Report for the 2023-2024 school year.

6. Executive Session – Agenda #7

At 7:22 p.m. Mr. Bartolone moved the Board enter Executive Session regarding the employment history of a particular person and to interview a prospective candidate for the position on the Board of Education vacated by Vincent Petroccelli.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 5 – 0.

The Board reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

7. Add Item to Agenda

Mr. Bartolone moved item, Approve Resolution - Separation Agreement and Release be added to the Agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 5 – 0.

8. Approve Resolution – Separation Agreement and Release

Mrs. Anderson moved the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approve the Separation Agreement and Release, dated November 14, 2023 , by and between the Wallkill Central School District and Employee #11152023.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bartolone and carried 5 – 0.

9. Add Item to Agenda

Mr. Bartolone moved item, Fill Vacancy/Appoint Board of Education Member be added to the Agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 5 – 0.

10. Fill Vacancy/Appoint Board of Education Member

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the appointment of **William Hecht** as a member of the Board of Education to fill the vacancy that was created when Mr. Petroccelli resigned his seat. The appointment will be until the Annual Election held on May 21, 2024.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 5 – 0.

11. Close Meeting – Agenda #9

At 8:04 p.m. Mr. Nafey moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran
District Clerk