

Regular Meeting Board of Education
Wallkill Senior High School Auditorium
Wednesday, September 18, 2024
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 #2

At 7:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Vice President Thomas Frisbie in the Wallkill Senior High School Auditorium.

Members Present

Mrs. Anderson

Mr. Bartolone

Mr. Frisbie

Mr. Hecht

Mrs. McCartney

Mr. Palen

Mr. Liam McCarthy [Student Board Member]

Members Absent

Mrs. Crowley

Mr. LoCicero

Mr. Nafey

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

Comment:

- *Mr. Masopust shared a few words to describe his recommendation for Ex-Officio Student Board Member, Liam McCarthy such as integrity, honor, discipline, intelligence, leadership and service. He has a 97% average, is in the top 7% of his Senior Class and by the time he graduates he will have over 30 college credits. He is an excellent student-athlete in wrestling (in his sophomore and junior seasons he placed 6th overall in Section IX Championships in his weight class), is the secretary of the National Honor Society, treasurer of the Spanish Honor Society, as well as a member of the Yearbook and Leo Clubs. Liam also serves and volunteers his time in evening community events. Along with one of his peers, Liam created a company to provide free books to students who can't afford them. Mr. Masopust stated that Liam actually came to him first indicating that he wanted to do more for his school and community before he was even being considered for the position. The values he exhibits every day makes him the perfect candidate for the position of Student Board Member.*
- *Mr. Castle stated that Liam has a great resume and will be great addition and we are fortunate to have him on the Board.*
- *Mr. Frisbie welcomed Liam to the Board and looks forward to his detailed reports every month.*

3. Approve Ex-Officio Student Board Member – Agenda #3

Mr. Palen moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Liam McCarthy** to the position of Ex-Officio Student Board Member for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

4. Administer Oath of Allegiance [Student Board Member] – Agenda #4

Ms. Kelli Corcoran, District Clerk, will administer the Oath of Allegiance to **Liam McCarthy**, Ex-Officio Student Board Member.

5. Approve Minutes – [8/20/24 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #5

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the August 20, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

Comment:

Mr. Castle thanked the Administrative team for their work in preparing for the opening of school and Mr. Devincenzi for his work with the contractors to ensure the buildings were ready. Mr. Castle commented that we have the best student population. He acknowledged the excitement he has seen of the students when visiting the buildings and the positive interaction with him. They are polite, well behaved and attentive with their established routine in the classrooms. He attributed this positive behavior to the parents. He gave thanks and appreciation for their kindness and compliments received at Open Houses; we have a great community. Mr. Castle also shared his appreciation for the Board for making our District a premier school district. It is due to their decision making and support of programs that has allowed opportunities for our students to grow. He thanked them for making our jobs satisfying and rewarding.

6. Board Committee Reports/Assignments 2024-2025 – Agenda #6

Audit:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Audit committee is scheduled to meet on October 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office to review the draft external audit and meet with the internal auditors to review the state required internal audit for the 2024-2025 school year.

Budget:

No Report.

Buildings & Grounds:

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds committee is scheduled to meet on October 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office. The committee will review the work that was completed this summer as well as receive an update on the planned work to be completed in Summer 2025. The work planned for Summer 2024 has been completed with a few items remaining that will be addressed and coordinated by our construction manager.

CDEP:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the first CDEP committee meeting for the 2024-2025 school year is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on October 23, 2024, in the high school auditorium.

Curriculum/TAG:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the first Curriculum/TAG Committee meeting for the 2024-2025 school year is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on October 22, 2024, in high school room 102.

Health & Safety:

Mr. Palen reported that the Health and Safety Committee has not met since the last Board meeting but is scheduled to meet on October 2, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in high school room 104.

Legislative:

Mr. Hecht indicated that the Rockefeller Institute held public hearings over the summer and Assemblyman Jacobson hosted a hearing with legislators on August 28, 2024, where feedback was collected from the public and education stakeholders regarding the Foundation Aid formula. The District recommended the following changes/revisions to the formula:

- Guarantee at least a 3% increase each year.
- Do not link State Aid and school district reserve levels. School districts who have been effectively managing their finances would be punished and those who have not been would be rewarded.
- There needs to be predictability in the aid calculation to allow districts to better forecast future budgets.
- Consider making adjustments that will provide more funding to address the rising costs of educating Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners.
- Adjust how Free and Reduced lunch costs impact the formula since many schools are now offering free lunch to all students which may result in less applications being submitted. This will result in less students being identified.
- Adjustments to the Regional Cost Index should include more regions and updated data to calculate the index values.

Policy:

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting but is scheduled to meet at 6:00 p.m. on October 1, 2024 at District Office.

Technology:

Mr. Bartolone reported that the first Technology Committee meeting for the 2024-2025 school year is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on October 7, 2024, high school room 102.

Wellness:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Wellness Committee has not met since the last meeting but is scheduled to meet on October 1, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

Student Rep:

Mr. McCarthy reported:

- *It's great to be back, and our students seem to have a great attitude and approach to the new school year. Many of us were talking about all of the upgrades that we saw the first week, including the new security vestibules, the main lobby bathrooms, the new gym floor, the new locker rooms both in the gym and the team room, and the new lighting that we noticed in the classrooms and the library. These upgrades really help boost school morale as we start what's sure to be a great school year.*
- *Teachers and students are excited about some of the new course offerings for this year, specifically Spanish 6, and our new Financial Literacy course.*
- *Homework Lab is scheduled to resume this month as students begin to get into their classes' core.*
- *The library has reopened after summer construction and has already had a number of classes visiting to begin research projects, including the new Spanish 6 class. We have several Spanish-language databases and students in that class will be using them to conduct their research entirely in Spanish.*
- *Freshman library orientation classes are starting this week. All freshmen will visit during their English classes to learn about library resources and services.*
- *Spanish Honor Society is collaborating with the library to highlight Hispanic Heritage Month, which will run through October 15th.*
- *Looking ahead to October, the library will focus on "TeenTober," a new, nationwide celebration hosted by libraries that aims to celebrate teens, promote year-round teen services and innovative ways to help teens learn new skills, and fuel their passions in and outside the library.*
- *The PSAT will be offered on October 12th at the high school beginning at 7:00 a.m. and SAT Prep (Math and English) will begin on September 30th.*

Clubs:

- *Many of our clubs are up and running and have already conducted meetings.*
- *NHS has so far been involved in Open House and Freshmen Orientation where they had an amazing turnout assisting parents and students throughout the school. NHS also assisted in selling mums during Open House and they had their first meeting yesterday to discuss the Panther Cub Mentoring Program and future service opportunities.*
- *SHS had a great impact during Open House and Freshmen Orientation, giving Spanish speaking families tours around the school, and they are still giving tours at the elementary schools. SHS's first bake sale was held on September 16th, and they have started to honor Hispanic Heritage Month with posters around the school as well as a daily fun fact about Spanish culture on the morning announcements.*
- *SGA conducted their first meeting to discuss Spirit Week, fundraisers, and upcoming events. Spirit Week is scheduled to begin on Friday, September 27th, and runs through our Homecoming Dance, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th.*
- *Everyone is looking forward to the week's events including the Powder Puff game on October 2nd, the Homecoming parade, pep rally and game on October 4th.*
- *The Science Club met on September 10th to conduct their first meeting, discussing new fundraisers and projects to advance the club. They were recently selected to receive a NASA moon tree that they are developing a plan for this fall.*

Athletics:

- Varsity Football is 2-0 after wins over Poughkeepsie and Monticello.
- Varsity Boys' Soccer is off to a 3-2 start after a win today against Saugerties.
- Varsity Girls' Soccer is 1-1-1 with a tie to a tough Pine Bush team.
- The Golf team has a match today and is looking forward to competing.
- Volleyball is 1-2 to start the season on a quest to defend their Section 9 Championship.
- Swimming and Girls Tennis each opened their seasons with victories over Rhinebeck and Saugerties respectively.
- Cross Country was gearing up for their first race today; an update will be provided next month.

Music:

- Our annual Pops Concert is scheduled for October 21, 2024, for the band, and October 24, 2024, for the strings and choir.
- The following students were selected to compete at the state level in the annual NYSSMA competition: Jon McLaughlin, Naomi Groth, Ryan Campbell, and Zamirah Gottfried.

- Liam concluded by stating the school year has started off excellently. Students and teachers are happy to be back, events and clubs are running smoothly, athletics are off to a great start, and Wallkill is preparing to have a fulfilling year.
- Mr. Frisbie thanked Liam for an awesome first report; well done.

7. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Palen moved items 7A through 7Q and 8A through 8F be taken as consent agenda.

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

Rescind Appointment – Non-Instructional – Agenda #7.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and rescind the appointment (8/20/24 Board of Education Meeting) of **Keller Mickle**, from the position of Full-Time (1.0 FTE, 7.5 Hours) Main Office Clerk.

Approve Resolution – Terminate Provisional Non-Instructional Appointment – Agenda #7.B.

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

Resolved that the provisional appointment of **Larissa Guevara** as Typist [Spanish Speaking] is hereby terminated effective close of business on September 18, 2024.

Accept Resignations/Retirement – Non-Instructional – Agenda #7.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Brea Bartolone** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Special Education Teaching Assistant, effective close of business on September 1, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Tennille Gillespie** from the position of Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide, effective close of business on September 18, 2024, pending her appointment to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Attendance Office Clerk.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Keller Mickle** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE, 6.5 Hours] Attendance Office Clerk, effective close of business on August 28, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Lisa Sipperly** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Senior Account Clerk, effective close of business on January 1, 2025.

Approve Appointments – Non-Instructional – Agenda #7.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Sabrina Bifolco** to a Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide position, assigned to the Senior High School, for the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$15.26 per hour, effective September 19, 2024.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Anne Campbell** certified as a Teaching Assistant, to a 4-Year Probationary Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Special Education Teaching Assistant position, in the Teaching Assistant tenure area, commencing September 19, 2024 and ending September 18, 2028, at a salary of \$24,154 pro-rated (Grade 3, Step 3 of the CSEA Contract).

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 90-Day Probationary appointment of **Tennille Gillespie** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Attendance Office Clerk position, effective September 19, 2024, at a salary of \$19,805.76 pro-rated [Step 4 of the CSEA Contract, \$15.87 per hour, (6.5 hours per day)].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Nicole Marmolejos** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide position, effective September 19, 2024, at a salary of \$16.76 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 **Chelsea VanDeMark** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide position, effective September 19, 2024, at a salary of \$16.76 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 **Kristina VanHouten** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide position, effective September 19, 2024, at a salary of \$15.26 per hour (Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 5.8 hours per day).

Accept Resignation – Instructional – Agenda #7.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Gabriel Carbone** from the Wallkill Central School District [Full-Time (1.0 FTE) Science Teacher], effective close of business on September 26, 2024.

Approve Appointment – Instructional – Agenda #7.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Alison Andolino**, certified in General Science 7-12, Earth Science 7-12, and Biology 7-12, to a three-year probationary period in the tenure area of Science commencing September 27, 2024 and ending September 26, 2027. Effective September 27, 2024, Ms. Andolino’s salary will be \$69,217 pro-rated (1 NMA + 78 credits).

Award Tenure – Instructional – Agenda #7.G.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Melanie Calabro** in the area of Elementary Education, effective December 16, 2024.

Approve Appointments – Mentor/Peer Coach – Agenda #7.H.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of the following individuals as a mentor/peer coach for the 2024-2025 school year:

Ashley Sanchez	Mentor	\$1,500
Jennifer Ippolito	Peer Coach	\$ 650

Approve Appointments – Coaching – Agenda #7.I.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following appointments for the Fall 2024-2025 school year season:

High School:

Karen Psilopoulos	Assistant Varsity Swim Coach	Unpaid
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Middle School:

Jonathan Avila	Modified Assistant Football Coach	\$2,233
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Approve Proposed 2025 Varsity & Junior Varsity Baseball Athletic Trip – Agenda #7.J.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the proposed Varsity & Junior Varsity Baseball Athletic Trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, from April 13, 2025 through April 19, 2025.

Approve Resolution – Recertification of LEAD Teacher Evaluators – Agenda #7.K.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following personnel as Lead Teacher Evaluators for the 2024-2025 school year after having received appropriate training in accordance with the regulations of the Commissioner of Education §30-3.10 and such individuals are hereby re-certified as qualified Lead Teacher Evaluators for the purpose of conducting and completing evaluations.

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|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Robert Albanese | Monica Hasbrouck | Nicole Parete |
| Scott Brown | Brian Masopust | Michael Redmond |
| Alyssa Greany | Joseph Napoli | Julie Salisbury |

Approve Resolution – Recertification of INDEPENDENT Teacher Evaluators – Agenda #7.L.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following personnel as Independent Teacher Evaluators for the 2024-2025 school year after having received appropriate training in accordance with the regulations of the Commissioner of Education §30-3.10 and such individuals are hereby re-certified as qualified Independent Teacher Evaluators for the purpose of conducting and completing evaluations.

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| Robert Albanese | Monica Hasbrouck | Nicole Parete | Tara Rounds |
| Scott Brown | Brian Masopust | Michael Redmond | Anthony White |
| Alyssa Greany | Joseph Napoli | Julie Salisbury | |

Approve Resolution – Recertification of LEAD Principal Evaluator – Agenda #7.M.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following personnel as a Lead Principal Evaluator for the 2024-2025 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 a qualified Lead Principal Evaluator for the purpose of conducting and completing evaluations.

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| Kevin Castle | Tara Rounds | Anthony White |
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Approve Resolution – Recertification of INDEPENDENT Principal Evaluator – Agenda #7.N.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following personnel as an Independent Principal Evaluator for the 2024-2025 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 a qualified Independent Principal Evaluator for the purpose of conducting and completing evaluations.

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| Kevin Castle | Tara Rounds | Anthony White |
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Approve Substitutes Lists – Agenda #7.O.

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 #7.P.

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

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #7.Q.

The Board approve the placement of Special Education students as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #8.A.

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:

Wednesdays and Fridays September 25, 2024 – November 20, 2024 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Plattekill Elementary School Gymnasium by **Wallkill Area Youth Soccer/SUFC** [for Indoor Soccer Practice] as indicated below:

Tuesdays & Thursdays November 5, 2024 – November 21, 2024* 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays December 5, 2024 – March 27, 2025* 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Excluding November 19, 2024, December 12 & 26, 2024, February 6, 2025, and March 6 & 13, 2025*

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Wallkill Senior High School Auditorium and Music Rooms by **Take the Leap Dance Studio** [for Dance Recitals] as indicated below:

Friday June 6, 2025 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday June 7, 2025 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sunday June 8, 2025 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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 13, 2025 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday June 14, 2025 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Accept Treasurer’s Report – Agenda #8.B.

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

Approve Memorandum of Agreement – SUNY New Paltz – Agenda #8.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Wallkill Central School District and **SUNY New Paltz**, to establish a relationship aimed at serving their strategic interests through various potential collaborations, effective for the 2024-2025 school year and shall remain in place for five (5) years with an option to extend for an additional five (5) years.

Approve Resolution – Provider Reimbursement Agreement – Agenda #8.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, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The Board authorizes the Board President to sign the approved agreement.

The Westchester School

Approve Change Orders – Capital Improvement Project – Agenda #8.E.

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

Profex, Inc.:	GC-1-03	(\$590.07)
	GC-1-04	\$8,077.74
	GC-1-05	\$7,833.49
	GC-1-06	\$2,197.68

Renu Contracting & Restoration, Inc.:	GC-2-03	(\$6,884.00)
	GC-2-04	\$28,998.65
Smith Site Development, LLC.:	RC-5-01	(\$1,611.16)
S & O Construction Services, Inc.:	MC-01	\$67,642.00
Whispering Pines Development Corp.:	SC-1-18	(\$10,557.62)
	SC-1-19	\$35,000.00

Approve Resolution - Waiver of Potential Conflict of Interest – Agenda #8.F.

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

WHEREAS, the Wallkill Central School District (“Wallkill”) is seeking an Affiliation Agreement with Marist College (“Marist”); and

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

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 Affiliation 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.

8. Executive Session – Agenda #9

At 7:23 p.m. Mrs. Anderson moved the Board enter Executive Session to discuss current litigation.

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

The Board reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

9. Close Meeting – Agenda #10

At 7:50 p.m. Mrs. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Mrs. McCartney and carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran
District Clerk