

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**Leptondale Elementary School**  
**Wednesday, December 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 – Agenda #2

At 7:01 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Joseph LoCicero in the Leptondale Elementary All-Purpose Room.

Members Present

Mrs. Anderson

Mrs. Crowley

Mr. Frisbie

Mr. Hecht

Mr. LoCicero

Mr. Palen

Mr. Liam McCarthy [Student Board Member]

Members Absent

Mr. Bartolone

Mrs. McCartney

Mr. Nafey

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

3. Approve Minutes – [11/20/24 Special Goals Board Meeting] – Agenda #3

Mr. Frisbie moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024, Special Goals Board of Education Meeting.

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

4. Approve Minutes – [11/20/24 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #4

Mr. Frisbie the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

5. Board Committee Reports 2024-2025 – Agenda #5

***Audit:***

*Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit Committee has not met since the last meeting.*

***Budget:***

*Mr. Devincenzi reported that the 2025-2026 budget process has begun, and the rollover budget will be presented to the Board in January as well as a review of elementary class sizes. Lastly, on December 19, 2024, building allocations of per pupil expenditures will be provided to all departments and building administrators with the per pupil expenditure rate remaining the same.*

***Buildings & Grounds:***

*Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last meeting.*

**CDEP:**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the CDEP committee has not met since our last board of education meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet on February 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the high school auditorium.

**Curriculum/TAG:**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Curriculum/TAG Committee met on December 10, 2024. Mrs. Werlau provided the committee an update on TAG activities for the 2024-2025 school year, which included this year's author, Daryl Cobb, who will be at the schools at the end of April and beginning of May; the Lego League competition is on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>; the Odyssey of the Mind competition will be Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and the Spelling Bee will be Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> (snow date January 16<sup>th</sup>). Mr. Masopust shared information on the dual enrollment courses along with the total number of college credits students have access to at the high school. Mr. White provided an update on computer-based testing for the 3-8 state assessments. The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

- Mr. Castle commented that the elementary winter concerts are completed, the high school concert is tomorrow, and the middle school concert had to be postponed to January due to snow. He stated that our students are very talented. The song selections got everyone in the holiday spirit. The students and the teachers did a great job. He is very pleased with the music program.

**Health & Safety:**

Mr. Palen reported that the Health and Safety Committee met on December 12, 2024, and discussed safety drills that were completed for the first semester as well as the new work order system for facilities. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in high school room 104.

**Legislative:**

Mr. Hecht reported that the Rockefeller Institute Study released their 314-page report on December 2, 2024, regarding Foundation Aid. The committee recommends that the State Legislature should update the way it calculates and distributes aid. He indicated that NYSCOSS outlined steps to update or improve every aspect of the formula. One recommendation is to replace poverty data by using a multi-year average to try to improve predictability. It's not possible to determine the impact of these recommendations on any one district. We will need to wait to learn what our aid numbers will look like in the future. Mr. Hecht also shared that Assemblyman Maher will be holding a swearing in ceremony at the high school on January 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. with our AP Government classes. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session. Mr. Hecht mentioned that he is looking forward to meeting with our legislators in the new year with Mr. Castle.

**Policy:**

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting will be held on January 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at District Office.

**Technology:**

Mr. White reported that the Technology Committee met on December 9, 2024. Mr. Hein provided updates about Critical Security Control (CIS Control) number 12. He also shared information that the teachers received during the November Superintendent's Conference Day to staff from Mr. Hein. The next committee meeting is scheduled on February 10, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

**Wellness:**

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Wellness Committee has not met since the last board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2025, at 3:45 p.m. in high school room 102.

**Student Rep:**

Mr. Liam McCarthy reported:

- Students Justis Williams and Ava Marrero were highlighted by the PBIS Student Recognition Program for exemplifying Panther values daily. Additionally, Mr. Kyle Ferraiolo (science teacher) and Mrs. Beatriz Pupiales (special education teacher's aide) were recognized as well.
- The 2025 Alumni Day is being held on January 10, 2025. This year we are running an expo-style event where alumni from previous decades can come and share their stories and career experiences.

- Spanish 6 Classes created Spanish lessons on topics such as food, animals, and the body. With their lessons they interactively taught our third graders at Plattekill Elementary School some introductory Spanish skills.
- The library continues to provide opportunities for students to collaborate; for example, this week they invited students to come down and create ornaments during free periods.

#### Clubs:

- SGA is currently hosting their Winter Spirit Week. So far, we are seeing a lot of participation and students are happy with the new themes such as Grinch vs Santa.
- Spanish Honor Society recently took a trip to Christmas Wishes Ulster County in Kingston where they assisted in preparing gifts which will be later be donated to families in need. The turnout for this event was very successful with around 20 members participating.
- National Honor Society successfully met their goal of donating 40 full Thanksgiving meals to the Loaves and Fishes Pantry for families in need.
- The Be-You-tiful Club is hosting their annual Gingerbread House Event with 40 students participating including alumni Kyle DeGroat. They are also excited to collaborate with the Varsity Gymnastics team for the first time ever when we return from break.

#### Athletics:

- Winter sports have begun, and our Panthers are happy to be back competing.
- Wrestler Marco Futia gained his 100<sup>th</sup> win at the Bethlehem Round Robin Tournament where wrestlers Devin Strother, Thomas Caufaglione, and Marco Futia finished in first place. Our wrestlers next match is against Goshen where they look to come out on top.
- Varsity Boys Basketball opened their season with an impressive win over Minisink in overtime. Since then, they have competed tough and are 2-1 on the season.
- Varsity Girls Basketball fought hard during their season opener against FDR but unfortunately lost and are looking to bounce back against Saugerties.

#### Music:

- 17 of our talented Panther musicians were selected from hundreds of applications coming from Ulster, Sullivan, Orange, and Rockland counties to compete at the Area All-State Music Festival.
- In addition to that, Zamirah Gottfried and Jono McLaughlin were selected from over 2000 applicants for the All-Eastern Mixed Choir competing out of Hartford, Connecticut April 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.
- Lastly, the High School Winter concert is at 7:00 p.m. on December 19, 2024, in the auditorium.

#### 6. Consent Agenda

Mr. Frisbie moved items 6A through 6H and 7A through 7C be taken as consent agenda.

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

#### Rescind Appointment – Non-Instructional – Agenda #6.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and rescind the appointment (11/20/24 Board of Education Meeting) of **Taisha Sharpe**, from the position of Part-Time (0.97 FTE, 5.8 Hours) Special Education Teacher Aide.

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Jamie Dailey** from the position of Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide, assigned to the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School, effective close of business on December 18, 2024, pending her appointment to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Cynthia McKenzie** from the position of Part-Time [.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide [Greeter], effective close of business on December 18, 2024, pending her appointment to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Main Office Clerk position.

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Jamie Dailey** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide position, effective December 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 provisional appointment of **Cynthia McKenzie** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Main Office Clerk position, effective December 19, 2024, at a salary of \$23,371.20 pro-rated, [\$16.23 per hour (Step 6 of the CSEA Contract, 7.5 hours per day)].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Natalie Parada** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Typist (Spanish Speaking) position, effective January 6, 2025, at a salary of \$31,756 pro-rated (Grade 10, Step 3 of the CSEA Contract).

Approve Appointment – Mentor – Agenda #6.D.

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

<b>Debra Becker</b>	Mentor	\$1,500 pro-rated
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Approve Appointments – Co-Curricular – Agenda #6.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointments of the following individuals to the Co-Curricular positions for the 2024-2025 school year.

HIGH SCHOOL:

<b>Kenneth Hall</b>	Odyssey of the Mind Advisor	\$ 759 [shared]
<b>Jacqueline Petrie</b>	Odyssey of the Mind Advisor	\$ 759 [shared]

Approve Substitutes Lists6.F.

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.G.

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

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #6.H.

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

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #7.A.

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

Mondays	January 6 & 13, 2025	6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	January 21, 2025	6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the High School Cafeteria [for a Needle Felting Class] by the **Senior Celebration Committee** as indicated below:

Thursday	January 16, 2025	5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
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The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary Gymnasium by **Wallkill Varsity Gymnastics** [for a Clinic] as indicated below:

Tuesday & Wednesday	January 21 & 22, 2025	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday & Friday	February 13 & 14, 2025	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the High School Gymnasium [for Defensive Tactics Training] by the **Town of Shawangunk Police Department** as indicated below:

Saturdays	February 22, 2025 and March 1, 2025	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
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The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the High School Track by **Wallkill Varsity Track and Field** [for Track and Field Clinics] as indicated below:

Monday – Friday	June 9, 2025 – June 13, 2025	5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
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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 November 30, 2024 and Revenues as of November 30, 2024.

Approve Appropriation – 2025 Senior Celebration – Agenda #7.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve an appropriation of \$1,500 in support of the **2025 Senior Celebration**.

7. Accept Donation – Agenda #7.D.

Mr. Frisbie moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the donation of a Bison Basketball Backboard (at a value of \$4,348) from Orange County Pools and Spas to be used at the Senior High School.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 6 – 0. [With Big Thanks!]

8. Executive Session – Agenda #8

At 7:17 p.m. Mrs. Anderson moved the Board enter Executive Session to discuss current litigation.

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

The Board reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

9. Close Meeting – Agenda #9

At 7:50 p.m. Mr. Frisbie moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran  
District Clerk