

*Performances by the elementary, middle school  
and high school strings ensemble*

1. Public Comment – Agenda #1

At 7:11p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- No public comments.

2. Call to Order – Agenda #2

At 7:12 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Vice President Thomas Frisbie in the Leptondale Elementary All-Purpose Room.

Members Present

Mrs. Anderson  
Mrs. Crowley  
Mr. Frisbie  
Mr. Hecht  
Mrs. McCartney  
Mr. Nafey  
Mr. Palen  
Mr. Liam McCarthy [Student Board Member]

Members Absent

Mr. Bartolone  
Mr. LoCicero

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

3. Approve Minutes – [1/15/25 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #3

Mr. Nafey moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Motion seconded by Mrs. McCartney and carried 7 – 0.

4. Board Committee Reports 2024-2025 – Agenda #4

***Audit:***

*Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit Committee met on January 30, 2025. At the meeting the committee reviewed the draft internal audit report which has been provided to the Board this evening. There were no findings in the report. Additionally, the committee chose the testing area for the internal auditors to review when they return to the District. Lastly the committee discussed the establishment of a Capital Reserve which will assist the District with future building projects.*

***Budget:***

*Mr. Devincenzi reported that since the last board meeting, we have adjusted the roll-over budget to reflect four (4) retirements providing a savings of a \$240,000. Additionally, there are still areas that need to be explored such as final health insurance costs and final BOCES costs. Finally, the District will submit a tax levy at the cap to the State by March 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*Mr. Castle stated that the District will submit at the cap, but the goal is to bring the levy in below the tax cap. Our goal is to be at a 1.99% tax levy. Each year we have been maintaining and enhancing programs while at the same time taking into consideration our taxpayers. We are planning on doing the same for next year. We expect the final numbers from the Governor by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The following three goals were created by the Board and are included in the budget - the creation of a full-time Athletic Director position, the creation of a Modified Girls Lacrosse team and the creation of a Unified Bocce Ball team.*

**Buildings & Grounds:**

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on February 12, 2025 with Tetra Tech, the District's architects and engineers. At the meeting the committee discussed the Phase II work that has been completed as well as review the remainder of the Phase II work to be completed as well as identify additional work that can be completed this summer and next summer. Mr. Frisbie acknowledged Mr. Devincenzi, and everyone involved for managing costs which saved us money and allowed for additional work to be done. Finally, the committee discussed the establishment of a Capital Reserve to assist with future capital projects. A building walk-through schedule was provided to the Board to go through the buildings.

Mr. Castle pointed out the importance of the establishment of the Capital Reserve which is about planning for the future which will be a significant savings for the taxpayers. We need to ensure that our buildings are in good shape now and in the future for our students. For example, one of the major areas that needs to be looked at is expanding the air conditioning units to classrooms since the Governor just passed a bill regarding the maximum room temperature of 88 degrees in classrooms. There is a resolution on the agenda tonight to approve the Capital Reserve which will go to a public vote in May. Then the voters will have to approve the use of that money in the future.

**CDEP:**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the CDEP committee has not met since our last board 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 February 11, 2025. Mrs. Werlau provided an update on the 2024 District Spelling Bee. Sameer Zafar from John G. Borden Middle School came in first place for the third straight year; he has advanced to the Regional Spelling Bee. Mrs. Werlau also shared upcoming events that are happening such as, the Odyssey of the Mind competition and Authors Day. Mrs. Curiale provided an update on the District's ongoing work with vocabulary and morphology, outlining the current progress, key strategies and future goals. She also shared an example of a lesson to illustrate the approach being implemented. Mr. White provided an update on this year's UPK program and shared details about the UPK program for the 2025-2026 school year, which can be found on the District website. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2025, 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 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in high school room 104.

**Legislative:**

Mr. Hecht introduced Ulster BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Jonah Schenker who is currently serving in his second year. He commented that his role is to understand the needs of our District by asking more questions to create programs that support our vision. Dr. Schenker stated that synergy amongst the Ulster County District Superintendents is outstanding, and he wanted to publicly thank Superintendent Castle for his leadership, mentorship, friendship and support, not only to him but to the other Ulster County Superintendents. Dr. Schenker also provided a brief update on the iPark facility stating that there was a shift in the footprint of the layout of the building to improve upon safety and that it's on track for a September opening. He thanked the Board of Education and administrative team for their support.

Mr. Castle commented that Dr. Schenker has great vision and ideas for Ulster County students. We have a great partnership with Ulster BOCES.

Mr. Hecht reported that on January 23, 2025, the Ulster County School Boards Association held a meeting with Senator Hinchey, Assemblyman Jacobson and Assemblyman Maher. On January 30, 2025, Mr. Castle, Mr. Hecht and Mr. White attended separate meetings with Senator Oberacker and Assemblyman Jacobson, who were both in support of the District and our requests. On February 20, 2025, a meeting will be held with Senator Rolison following a question and answer session with our AP Government class and on February 21, 2025, a meeting will take place with Assemblyman Maher.

**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, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at District Office.

**Technology:**

Mr. White reported that the Technology Committee met on February 10, 2025. Mr. Hein provided updates about the Critical Security Control (CIS Control) number 13, which pertains to Network/Devices – Network Monitoring, which addresses operating processes to establish and maintain a comprehensive network monitoring and defense against security threats. He also shared that the Buildings and Grounds ticket system is live and being used successfully. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2025, 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 8, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

**Student Rep:**

Mr. Liam McCarthy reported:

- Our conservation classes recently took a trip to Cornwall to interactively learn about the process of creating maple syrup.
- Family ID for Varsity and JV officially opened yesterday. Students will use the platform to register for their spring sports season.
- State Senator Rob Rolison will be visiting our 8<sup>th</sup> period AP Government Class on February 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss his role as a senator and the functions of government, he'll also be engaging the class and student government reps in a question and answer session.
- Our elective expo was held today where students in grades 9-11 had an opportunity to learn about our elective and college course offerings.

**Clubs:**

- The LEO Club has continued to provide a huge deal of support to our community, and they were recently given the opportunity to design a float for the Wallkill St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- The Science Club is currently hosting another school-wide ping pong tournament to promote our science electives. They have already seen a large increase in the number of players from last time.
- Spanish Honor Society held a successful collection drive for Christmas Wishes Ulster County donating 40+ items of gift-wrapping supplies for their next holiday season. Additionally, the annual induction ceremony is scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Athletics:**

- Wrestler Marco Futia took first place in the sectional tournament and will head to Albany to compete at the State Tournament. Thomas Caufaglione, Vincent Bongiovanni, and Julian Aviles were among others who placed.
- While celebrating her Senior Night, Varsity Girls basketball player Zoe Mesuch reached a historic milestone recording her 2000<sup>th</sup> career point. Additionally, the Varsity Girls Basketball team competed against Onteora last night, winning in large fashion. They will be continuing their season in the playoffs. Lastly, the team honored long time coach, Mr. Higby, with a pregame ceremony as this will be his final season. Coach Higby has coached for 39 years, recording over 400 wins.
- On February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Nordic Ski team competed at the Sectional Tournament and left with three section medalists and two State qualifiers. Tamara and Isabella Brand took 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> for the girls and Graham Driskill took 3<sup>rd</sup> for the boys. Skiers Graham Driskill and Felix Moya both qualified to compete at the State Tournament.
- On February 2<sup>nd</sup> Track and Field athletes Nate Diemoz, Mario Verruto, and Mayah Simon all set school records in their respective events.
- Last night, the Varsity Boys Basketball team completed their last match of the season against Onteora, taking time to acknowledge their seniors who have shown continued dedication to the program.

**Music:**

- The annual S.O.M.E. variety show was held last week at the high school. Creative acts and various performances were showcased to an excited audience. Additionally, the High School Music in our Schools Month Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the high school.
- The second semester is off to a great start and students are looking forward to the great events that are hosted at the high school each spring.

5. Consent Agenda

Mrs. McCartney moved items 5A through 5I and 6A through 6F be taken as consent agenda.

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

Accept Resignation – Non-Instructional – Agenda #5.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Melissa Key** from the position of Part-Time [.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide [Greeter], effective close of business on February 19, 2025, pending her appointment to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Remedial Lab Teacher Aide.

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Melissa Key** to a 90-Day Probationary Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Remedial Lab Teacher Aide position, effective February 20, 2025, at a salary of \$20,304.96 pro-rated [Step 8 of the CSEA Contract, \$16.27 per hour (6.5 hours per day)].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Aidan McCartney** to a 26-Week Probationary Part-Time [0.50 FTE] Custodial Worker position, effective February 20, 2025, at a salary of \$16,503 [4.0 hours daily, (Grade 11, Step 3, of the CSEA Contract)].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Altagracia Mota** to a 26-Week Probationary Part-Time [0.50 FTE] Custodial Worker position, effective February 20, 2025, at a salary of \$16,503 [4.0 hours daily, (Grade 11, Step 3, of the CSEA Contract)].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Joseph Tripoli** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Night Custodial Worker position, effective March 10, 2025, at a salary of \$34,243 pro-rated (Grade 11, Step 3, night differential based on the CSEA Contract).

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Jeannine Wagner** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide [Greeter] position, effective February 20, 2025, at a salary of \$15.50 per hour (Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 5.8 hours per day).

Accept Retirements – Instructional – Agenda #5.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Fritz Meier** from the Wallkill Central School District [Physical Therapist], effective close of business on June 30, 2025.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Lorraine Rawlins** from the Wallkill Central School District [Elementary Education Teacher], effective close of business on June 30, 2025.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Shannon Worth** from the Wallkill Central School District [Speech/Language Pathologist], effective close of business on June 30, 2025.

Approve Appointment – 2024-2025 Grades K-6 After-School Academic Intervention Program – Agenda #5.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Instructional appointment of the following individual for the 2024-2025 Grades K-6 After-School Academic Intervention Program:

Plattekill Elementary School

Christine Barritt

\$55.79 per hour

Approve Appointments – 2024-2025 High School Grades 9-12 After-School Homework Assistance Lab – Agenda #5.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Instructional appointments of the following individuals for the 2024-2025 High School Grades 9-12 After-School Homework Assistance Lab:

<b>Nicholas Culhane</b>	Mathematics	\$65.84 per session
<b>Dale Rubino</b>	Social Studies	\$65.84 per session

Approve Appointment – Coaching – Agenda #5.F.

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

<b>Dale Rubino</b>	Modified Boys Lacrosse Coach	\$2,233
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Approve Substitute Lists – Agenda #5.G.

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.H.

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

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #5.I.

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

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #6.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Senior High School Multi-Purpose Field by **Wallkill Varsity Football** [for a Football Youth Clinic] as indicated below:

Sundays	March 2, 2025 – June 1, 2025*	3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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*\*Excluding April 13 & 20, 2025*

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 4, 2025 – June 17, 2025	7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
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The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Plattekill Elementary School by **Wallkill Area Youth Soccer/SUFC** [for Practice] as indicated below:

Wednesdays	March 5, 12, & 19, 2025	5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
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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:

Saturday	March 8, 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 Plattekill Elementary School Gymnasium by the **Special Olympics New York-Hudson Valley Region** [for practice] as indicated below:

Thursdays	March 20, 2025 and April 10 & 24, 2025	6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays	March 25, 2025 and April 1, 8 & 22, 2025	6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Monday	March 31, 2025	6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	April 23, 2025	6:00 p.m. to 7:30 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:

Wednesdays	April 2, 2025 – June 18, 2025*	5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
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*\*Excluding April 16, 2025*

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 10, 2025 – June 13, 2025	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays	April 5, 2025 – June 14, 2025	8:30 a.m. to 1:00 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:

Tuesday-Thursday	April 22, 2025 – April 24, 2025	6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
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The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Wallkill Senior High School Auditorium and Cafeteria by **NYS AHPERD Catskill Zone** [for a physical education award ceremony] as indicated below:

Saturday	May 3, 2025	7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
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The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Senior High School Multi-Purpose Field by **Wallkill Varsity Football** [for a Football Camp] as indicated below:

Thursday	June 12, 2025	2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday	June 13, 2025	2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	June 15, 2025	2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Monday	June 16, 2025	2:30 p.m. to 7:00 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 January 31, 2025 and Revenues as of January 31, 2025.

Approve Employment Contract – School District Computer Technician – Agenda #6.C.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the employment contract between the Wallkill Central School District and Thomas Hein, School District Computer Technician, covering the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029, is hereby approved and is to be placed 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, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The Board authorizes the Board President to sign the approved agreement.

Partnership for Education

Approve Resolution – Facilities Capital Reserve Fund – Agenda #6.E.

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District (“Board”) desires to establish a capital reserve fund, pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law, for the specific purpose of appropriating sufficient funds necessary to construct renovations to, reconstruction of, and/or additions to their facilities as identified from time-to-time including but not limited to those recommended in its five-year capital facilities plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby submits the following proposition to be included on the ballot at the Annual Meeting and Election, to be held on May 20, 2025:

Shall the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund to be named the “2025 Facilities Capital Reserve Fund” for the purpose of appropriating sufficient funds necessary to construct renovations to, reconstruction of, and/or additions to their facilities as identified from time-to-time, including but not limited to those recommended in its five-year capital facilities plan, installation of air conditioning in all classrooms and including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, the ultimate amount not to exceed \$20,000,000 over a probable term of fifteen (15) years; and that such amount shall be raised from the unexpended and unencumbered funds of the Wallkill Central School District, and such other available funds permitted by law.

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

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

<b>Clean Air Quality, Inc:</b>	HVAC-1-01	(\$5,901.16)
	HVAC-1-02	(\$ 855.24)
<b>Smith Site Development, LLC:</b>	RC-4-01	(\$52,520.00)
	RC-5-02	(\$25,929.84)

6. Proposed Executive Session – Agenda #7

At 7:37 p.m. Mr. Nafey moved the Board enter Executive Session to discuss an impartial hearing.

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

The Board reconvened at 8:08 p.m.

7. Close Meeting – Agenda #8

At 8:09 p.m. Mrs. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran  
District Clerk