

*Walk-Through Tour  
Leptondale Elementary School @ 6:15 p.m.*

1. Commendations – Agenda #1

*The Board recognized various individuals for their outstanding achievements who were awarded tenure during the course of the 2024-2025 school year and the Wallkill Senior High School Top Ten Students, including Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2025.*

2. Public Comment – Agenda #2

At 7:16 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- *A parent addressed the Board regarding an alleged incident at the Plattekill Elementary School. She wanted to know if the parents were made aware of what happened; was Ed Law 23-B followed and are all staff trained annually? She commented that she believed the policy on child abuse within the school was dated. Finally, she asked for transparency once the investigation was completed.*
  - *Mr. Castle responded that all policies and procedures were followed, and the proper communication was made. The policy will be reviewed.*
- *A grandparent addressed the Board who wanted to learn more about strategies, policies, protocols and training the District has in place for non-verbal and/or semi-verbal special education students dealing with regulatory issues. She asked for guidance on where she may find this information in specific policies. She also asked if there would be any consideration of placing cameras in the classrooms as a means to ensure that policies are adhered to.*
  - *Mr. Castle commented that he can assure that our students are safe. Training is provided, and policies and procedures are followed. Our Wallkill learning community cares for our students, and we have a proven track record. He suggested she call him so he can help direct her to the specific policies to address her concerns.*

3. Call to Order – Agenda #3

At 7:28 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Joseph LoCicero in the Leptondale Elementary All-Purpose Room.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

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

4. Approve Minutes – [3/19/25 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #4

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the March 19, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

5. Approve Minutes – [4/2/25 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #5

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the April 2, 2025, Special Board of Education Meeting.

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

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

**Audit:**

Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit Committee has not met but will be scheduling a meeting once we receive the draft report on the agreed upon testing areas by the internal auditors.

**Budget:**

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the State has not yet approved the State budget. On the agenda this evening is the approval of the proposed 2025-2026 budget as well as the property tax report card and school budget notice. The District has been able to maintain all programs. The District was able to bring in a tax levy of 1.99%, which is below the tax cap for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year. Presentations regarding the budget are as follows:

- May 5<sup>th</sup> – Ostrander PTO presentation at 7:00 p.m.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Leptondale PTO presentation at 7:00 p.m.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Public Budget Hearing will be at 6:00 p.m. in the High School library
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Plattekill PTA presentation at 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Budget Vote and Election is on May 20, 2025, from noon to 9:00 p.m. with polling sites at Leptondale Elementary School, Plattekill Elementary School, and the Senior High School.

Mr. Castle indicated that the District built the budget based on the Governor's numbers that had come out in January. By law, the budget should have been approved by March 31<sup>st</sup>, but they are still negotiating in Albany. The tax levy will be 1.99%, which is below the cap to help the taxpayers. Everything is being maintained from this year to the next. We are also able to replace our part-time Athletic Director with a full-time Athletic Director, due to savings from the retirement of a physical education teacher. In addition, we are able to add a Modified Girls Lacrosse team, add a JV Competitive Cheer team and add Unified Bocce Ball for our students with disabilities. Budget information will be posted soon on the website. Mr. Castle expressed his appreciation to the Board of Education, Administration and the CDEP Committee for their input.

**Buildings & Grounds:**

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last meeting. On the agenda this evening for approval are Change Orders, some of which are credit deducts. The committee did a building walk through this evening at Leptondale Elementary School. Mr. Frisbie thanked the building principal, Mr. Scott Brown and head custodian, Mr. Jeff Collins.

**CDEP:**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the CDEP committee has not met since our last board meeting. The committee is not scheduled to meet for the remainder of the school year.

**Curriculum/TAG:**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Curriculum/TAG Committee has not met since our last board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

**Health & Safety:**

Mr. Palen reported that the Health and Safety District Committee met on April 3, 2025, and reviewed and discussed a draft of the 2025-2026 District Safety Plan. The committee will have its final meeting on May 1, 2025, at 4:00 pm in high school room 104.

**Legislative:**

Mr. Hecht reported that negotiations are ongoing between the Governor and the legislators on policy items. He believes it's not likely that we will see a State budget until May. As we get more information, he will pass it along.

**Policy:**

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy Committee has not met but is scheduled to meet on May 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in high school room 102.

**Technology:**

Mr. Bartolone reported that the Technology Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. 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 met on April 8, 2025. At the meeting the following was discussed:

- The District continues to see increased participation in the food service program at all buildings.
- At the elementary schools they had a "Funky Chicken Sandwich Special" that was part of a disco theme. The food service department decorated with a disco theme and worked with the buildings and had music and dancing at all the lunches. They are going to look to create another theme day again as it was well received.
- The student committees in all buildings created a lunch menu option which was featured on building menus, all of which were highly successful, and this is something that will be continued each year.
- At the high school, the Health Fair is scheduled for April 28, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Currently there are 29 vendors confirmed to attend.
- At the middle school, fitness testing is happening in PE and the nurse is creating a wall of healthy habits for students that will also include pamphlets.
- At the elementary schools, February focused on Heart Healthy month, March they created fun activity days with a focus on movement and wellness in all the buildings (for example unplug days). At Ostrander they had a Jump for Health day and about 130 students participated. Field Days will be coming up in June in all the buildings.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., in high school room 102.

**Student Rep:**

Mr. Liam McCarthy reported:

- American Olympic Gold Medalist fencer Jackie Dubrovich visited our school and met with physical education classes to share her experiences at the Olympic games in Paris, as well as personal challenges she faced along the way on her road to becoming a professional athlete.
- Our Spanish 6 Classes visited El Repetario Espanol in the city to watch *La Breve y Maravillosa Vida de Oscar Wao*.
- The Panther Players production of the Addams Family was a huge success with an excellent audience present. Every student did a wonderful job on their part in running the play.
- Regents Review Sessions are underway as students begin to prepare for end of year exams.
- The high school will host its Annual Health Fair on April 28, 2025.
- The Annual College and Career Fair is scheduled for April 29, 2025 from 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. 2-year colleges, 4-year colleges, military representatives, tech and trade schools, union apprenticeships, as well as other local career opportunities will be represented.

**Clubs:**

- The National Honor Society (NHS) elections were held at their last meeting. Caitlin Murphy and Angelica Marino were elected President and Vice President, Cody Zavodsky elected Treasurer, and Kasey Garzione elected Historian.
- On April 19<sup>th</sup> members of the NHS volunteered to help the DeGroodt family farm's annual Easter Egg Hunt on Christmas Tree Lane.

- On April 30, 2025, NHS will host their Annual Induction Ceremony.
- Spanish Honor Society will be hosting officer elections during their next meeting.
- SGA hosted Spring Spirit Week prior to the break. Monday was Floral Day, Tuesday was Tie-Dye Day, Wednesday was Pastels Day, Thursday was dress like a Tourist/"Vacay" Day. They are currently preparing for the Junior Prom, which is scheduled for May 16, 2025 at the Villa Borghese.
- Be-YOU-tiful Day will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May. Student athletes chosen by their coaches will help run the event.

#### Athletics:

- The Varsity Softball team has had an outstanding season so far posting an undefeated record of 6-0.
- Varsity Baseball recently traveled to Myrtle Beach to compete in a series of exhibition games as well as a league matchup against FDR. They successfully beat FDR with a score of 7-0.
- The Varsity Boy's Tennis team defeated Rondout Valley right before the break to pick up their first team win of the season.
- The Varsity Track team hosted their first home meet of the season today.
- Both our Varsity Girls and Boys Lacrosse teams are back in action at home later this week.

#### Music:

- The Festivals of Music Trip to Washington DC was April 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. Wallkill ensembles performed greatly and received both Superior and Excellent ratings in all the evaluation categories. The mixed choir received the Esprit de Corps Award, given to the ensemble who exemplifies professionalism throughout the competition. Additionally, Jono McLaughlin and Natalia Reyes received outstanding soloist accolades at the event.
- The All-Eastern Music Festival is April 24-27, 2025.
- NYSSMA Solos will be held April 25-26, 2025.
- The Senior Trip begins on Friday with students leaving at 1:00 a.m. and returning on Monday.

### 7. Consent Agenda

Mr. Bartolone moved items 7A through 7I, 8A, and 8C through 8F be taken as consent agenda.

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

#### Approve Agreement – Interim Administrator – Agenda #7.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the agreement with **Dawn Condello** to be the Interim Coordinator of Special Education effective April 23, 2025 through June 18, 2025.

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Gabrielle Leavitt** from the position of Part-Time [.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide, effective close of business on April 8, 2025.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Lynea McKnight** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Night Custodial Worker, effective close of business on April 7, 2025.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Carol Santiago** from the position of Part-Time [.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide, effective close of business on April 10, 2025.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Lori Todd** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Field Service Technician, effective close of business on June 30, 2025.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Jeannine Wagner** from the position of Part-Time [.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide [Greeter], effective close of business on April 10, 2025.

#### Approve Appointment – 2024-2025 Regent's Review – Instructional – Agenda #7.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of the following individual as Regent's Review Teacher, effective April 1, 2025, at a rate of \$55.79 per hour, contingent upon student enrollment to support this position.

Approve 2025-2026 Proposed Budget, District Budget Notice and Property Tax Report Card – Agenda #7.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the proposed 2025-2026 budget in the amount of **\$93,271,595** the District Budget Notice as required by law and the Property Tax Report Card for 2025-2026.

Approve 2025-2026 District Calendar – Agenda #7.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the proposed District Calendar for the **2025-2026** school year.

Approve Resolution – Appointment of Chairman and Inspectors of Election – 2025 Annual Budget Vote and Election – Agenda #7.F.

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District, Orange and Ulster Counties, New York, has called the 2025 annual meeting of the qualified voters of said School District; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to provide for the appointment of a permanent chairman and inspectors of election for said annual district meeting; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District, Orange and Ulster Counties, New York, as follows:

Section 1. The following duly qualified voter of said School District is hereby appointed as the permanent chairman of the annual district meeting referred to in the preambles hereof:

**Joseph LoCicero**

Section 2. The following named are hereby appointed to act as inspectors of election at said annual district meeting as Key Masters, of said annual district meeting, to serve in each Election District as follows:

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1:

**Gillian Batchasingh**

**John Doyle**

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2:

**Paula Cook**

**Carol Graham**

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3:

**Tammy Henry**

**Charlotte Magliato**

Section 3. The following named are hereby appointed to act as inspectors of election at said annual district meeting as Ballot Masters, of said annual district meeting, to serve in each Election District as follows:

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1:

**Audrey Jean Connor**

**Sherry Palen**

**Catherine Siano**

**April Zoutis**

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2:

**Linda Palkovic**

**Gail Thompson**

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3:

**Jamie Hoyt**

**Elizabeth Patsey**

**Joan Post**

Section 4. Each inspector of election appointed for said annual district meeting, as herein provided, shall be entitled to compensation at the rate of \$150 for each day actually and necessarily spent on the duties of his/her office. The Clerk of said School District is hereby authorized and directed to give written notice of appointment to the persons herein respectively appointed as permanent chairman and inspectors of election for said annual district meeting.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approve Substitutes Lists – Agenda #7.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 #7.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 #7.I.

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

Accept Treasurer's Report – Agenda #8.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education has reviewed and accepts the Treasurer's Reports as of March 31, 2025 and Revenues as of March 31, 2025.

Approve Ulster BOCES 2025-2026 Administrative Proposed Budget – Agenda #8.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the proposed 2025-2026 Ulster County Board of Cooperative Administrative Budget in the amount of **\$7,283,083**.

Approve Resolution – Cooperative Bidding – Agenda #8.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following Blanket Resolution for Cooperative Bidding from Ulster County BOCES:

WHEREAS it is the desire of the participating school districts of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Ulster County, adopting this resolution to jointly request bids for certain commodities to be determined by the Superintendent of this school district from time to time for the 2025-2026 school year,

NOW, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the Wallkill Central School District hereby agrees to participate with other school districts of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Ulster County, New York, in the joint bidding of commodities to be requested by the school district Purchasing Agent and approved by the Superintendent; and be it further

RESOLVED that the specifications as prepared by the Steering Committee of participating school districts and presented to this Board of Education will be used and that this Board, if it desires to purchase these commodities agrees to purchase said commodities at the lowest bid price recommended by the Steering Committee of the joint school districts; provided, however, that each participating Board of Education in exercising its legal responsibilities, has the right to reject and/or modify the recommendation of the Steering Committee in the awarding of the bid; and be it further

RESOLVED that the invitation to bid will be advertised by BOCES in the *Kingston Daily Freeman*, the *Middletown Times Herald Record* and the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in accordance with the provisions of Section 103 of the General Municipal Law.

Approve Agreement – Professional Development – Agenda #8.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Agreement between the Wallkill Central School District and **Varsity Brands, Inc. dba/BSN Sports**, to provide professional development services to teachers and staff members for the Superintendent's Conference Day on May 9, 2025.

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

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

<b>Clean Air Quality:</b>	HVAC-1-03	\$ 1,580.00
	HVAC-1-04	\$ 17,677.80
<b>Renu Contracting &amp; Restoration, Inc:</b>	GC-2-07	(\$ 5,000.00)
<b>Unimak, LLC:</b>	GC-1-03	(\$39,457.00)
	GC-1-04	(\$ 1,340.00)

8. Elect Ulster BOCES Board Members – Agenda #8.B.

Mr. Hecht moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Seat #1 – New Paltz [3-year term – July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028] be filled by:

**Barbara Carroll**, New Paltz, NY 12561

RESOLVED, that Seat #2 – Rondout Valley [3-year term – July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028] be filled by:

**Lucy VanSickle**, Kingston, NY 12401

RESOLVED, that Seat #3 & Seat #4 – “At-Large” [1-year unexpired term – April 22, 2025-June 30, 2026] and “At-Large” [3-year term – July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028] be filled by **voting for up to two** of the following:

➤ <b>Willie Bruce, Jr.</b> , [Ellenville], Ellenville, NY 12428	VOTING:	YES
➤ <b>Suzanne Jordan</b> [Kingston], Kingston, NY 12401	VOTING:	YES
➤ <b>David Thompon</b> [New Paltz], New Paltz, NY 12561	VOTING:	NO
➤ <b>Allison Dodd</b> [Onteora], Woodstock, NY 12498	VOTING:	NO

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

9. Executive Session – Agenda #9

At 7:52 p.m. Mr. Bartolone moved the Board enter Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular persons.

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

The Board reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

10. Add Item to Agenda

Mr. Nafey moved item, Approve Resolution be added to the Agenda.

Motion seconded by Mrs. Anderson and carried 9 – 0.

11. Approve Resolution

Mr. Nafey moved the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Employee #4-22-25A shall be placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation.

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

12. Add Items to Agenda

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

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

13. Approve Resolutions – Separation Agreement and Release

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Separation Agreement and General Release, dated April 10, 2025, by and between the Wallkill Central School District and Employee #4-22-25B.

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

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Separation Agreement and General Release, dated April 16 2025, by and between the Wallkill Central School District and Employee #4-22-25C.

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

14. Close Meeting – Agenda #10

At 8:58 p.m. Mr. Bartolone moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran  
District Clerk