

Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
7:00 p.m.

*Walk-Through Tour  
Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School @ 6:15 p.m.*

*Mrs. Greany, Mr. Redmond, Mrs. LaRocco and  
Ms. Salisbury provided an overview of their  
2026-2027 School Improvement Plans*

1. Public Comment – Agenda #1

At 7:13 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- *A parent addressed the Board and Superintendent White to introduce himself as someone who has been a District resident for 13 years with three children currently attending Leptondale Elementary School. He retired in 2024 after serving 35 years in multiple positions as an educator but is still connected to public education by working and supporting other school districts. He has four other adult children, two of which are in the legal field and a law firm, one in healthcare and one a musician. He basically wanted to share that he is available to be a thought partner and a support to the District, if needed.*
  - *Mr. Frisbie commented that it was very nice to meet him.*

2. Call to Order – Agenda #2

At 7:16 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Thomas Frisbie in the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary All-Purpose Room.

Members Present

Mrs. Anderson  
Mr. Bartolone  
Mrs. Crowley  
Mr. Frisbie  
Mr. Hecht  
Mrs. McCartney  
Mr. Nafey  
Ms. Lea Martini [Student Board Member]

Members Absent

Mr. Olson  
Mr. Palen

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

3. Approve Minutes – [2/18/26 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #3

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

4. Board Committee Reports 2025-2026 – Agenda #4

***Audit:***

*Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit committee has not met since the last meeting, but the internal auditors were in District last week to complete the audit of the agreed upon testing areas.*

**Budget:**

Mr. Devincenzi reported that since the last meeting the District has received the final health insurance rates as well as BOCES costs, which allowed us to lower the working budget. The last piece we are waiting for is our final State Aid numbers which if the State budget is on time we should have our final State Aid numbers by the end of the month. If the State budget is delayed, the District will work from the Governor's budget, which would be a worst-case scenario. The District will be mindful of the taxpayers by being at or below the tax cap.

- Mr. White thanked the Board for making themselves available for a Special Board Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in order to discuss the budget in more detail.

**Buildings & Grounds:**

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last meeting. The committee did a building walk through this evening. Mr. Frisbie thanked Mrs. Hoyt and Stephen Rossi and his staff for making the building look great. Additionally, there are bids on the agenda this evening for approval for Capital Work to be completed this summer.

- Mr. White thanked Mr. Devincenzi for doing a great job for the days it took facilitating the whole process from the opening to the vetting of the bids along with the contractors.

**CDEP:**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the CDEP committee met on February 26, 2026, to review progress on the 2025–2026 Comprehensive District Education Plan and to begin planning for 2026–2027. The meeting opened with a grounding activity aligned to the New York State Portrait of a Graduate and the New York Inspires framework. Building and department level teams shared updates on School Improvement Team work, highlighting progress in PLCs, MTSS implementation, instructional supports, and family engagement, as well as celebrations including increased student participation in extracurriculars and Unified Sports. The committee reviewed data related to attendance, discipline, assessments, and NYSED accountability, identifying strengths and priority areas connected to student experience and outcomes. Members also examined Portrait of a Graduate survey results and student engagement artifacts. The meeting concluded with preliminary discussions to guide planning for the 2026–2027 school year, focusing on new school improvement plans shaped by NYSED's Portrait of a Graduate learning traits and data-driven needs. Key areas of emphasis include cultivating a sense of belonging, prioritizing authentic learning experiences, increasing collaboration and communication both within buildings and with community partners, ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence, aligned professional learning, and ongoing efforts related to NYS-STEPS and teacher evaluation alignment. This was the last committee meeting for the 2025–2026 school year and will meet again next school year, in November.

**Curriculum/TAG:**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Curriculum/TAG Committee met on March 10, 2026, to review District updates related to curriculum, instruction, student programming, and professional learning. The meeting included updates on the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program, proposed instructional and extracurricular offerings, and progress connected to the Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP). Committee members reviewed plans for Spring 2026 elementary TAG presentations, which will highlight student learning through LEGO League robotics and independent inquiry projects, as well as options for showcasing student work during the spring. The committee also discussed the continued development of new, student-centered electives rooted in authentic learning experiences, including Sports Journalism, Music as Poetry, and Intro to Agriculture, which demonstrated strong student interest at the Annual Elective Expo. In addition, updates were shared regarding approved and potential dual-enrollment opportunities with higher education partners. The committee also received a summary of recent CDEP work, including themes emerging from District data review and school improvement planning. These discussions emphasized belonging, authentic learning experiences, and communication and collaboration as grounding priorities for 2026–2027. Members reviewed proposed school improvement goals across buildings, with a focus on inclusive practices, student engagement, academic growth, and expanded opportunities for student voice and authentic demonstration of learning. Updates were also provided on curriculum and instruction priorities for the upcoming year, including strengthening math instruction, expanding ready-to-use ELA instructional resources, advancing project-based learning, and developing a District-wide vision for ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence. The meeting concluded with a professional development update, highlighting planning for the May 8, 2026 Superintendent's Conference Day and educator-identified areas of interest to support District goals. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room #102.

**Health & Safety:**

Mr. Nafey reported that the Health and Safety Committee met on March 5, 2026; they discussed and reviewed a draft of the 2026-2027 District-Wide Safety Plan. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2026, in high school room #104.

**Legislative:**

Mr. Hecht reported that the State Senate and Assembly put forth the budget bills and the deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are waiting and are optimistic to receive greater than 2% in Foundation Aide. Mr. White shared that he attended a NYSCOSS conference for Superintendents at the beginning of March which included a Lobby Day with receptive legislators who were hearing the same advocacy issues that our District has been advocating for with our local legislators except for health insurance reserves, which is not a global concern. He indicated that they are aware of the 2027 electric bus mandate and the funding of UPK which is reliant on community-based organizations (CBOs). With that said, Mr. White went on to share that our CBO, Most Precious Blood, just informed us on Monday that they will be closing at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. However, they haven't clarified if the UPK program will still be offered for the 2026-2027 school year. In the meantime, the District is looking into alternative plans to support UPK slots for the 2026-2027 school year and will share that information at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Mr. Masopust stated that the UPK application will be available on Friday, March 20, 2026, and a letter was sent home to parents/guardians this evening as a reminder. A flyer was also mailed to the District with the timeline. Additionally, information is available on the website.

**Policy:**

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Policy Committee met on March 17, 2026, and reviewed several policies. The recommended revised policies will be on the agenda for approval at the next board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the high school library.

**Technology:**

Mr. Bartolone reported that the Technology Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in high school room #102.

**Wellness:**

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Wellness Committee has not met since the last meeting, but a meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., in high school room #102.

**Student Rep:**

Ms. Martini reported:

- The top ten students of the class of 2026 will be celebrated with lunch in the Library Media Center on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. These students will be formally recognized at the April Board of Education meeting.
- The Annual March Madness Chess Tournament is currently underway. Students have been entered into a bracketed tournament and have begun to compete during their free periods.
- This year, Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief, is the selected performance for our drama production. This is being shown at select times from April 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in the High School Auditorium.

**Clubs:**

- SGA Class of 2026 held a Ball committee meeting on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss themes and decorations for this year's celebration.
- The Spanish Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-three talented students pledged to continue their journey learning the Spanish language.
- The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.
- Students from NHS, SHS, and Leo Club volunteered at Plattekill Elementary School's STEAM night on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Athletes Helping Athletes visited all three elementary schools last week to speak with sixth-grade students about the importance of sportsmanship and good decision making.

**Athletics:**

- The winter season has come to an end with both Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball having advanced to the Section IX Playoffs. The Boys advanced to the Section IX Quarterfinals and the Girls advanced to the Section IX Semifinals.
- Our Wallkill gymnasts and ski teams had great experiences at their respective State tournaments.

- *Competitive cheer put together a fantastic performance at the Section IX Championships.*
- *Indoor track athletes competed at States. A male student-athlete won gold in his second State Championship in the Intersectional Medley Relay and placed 4<sup>th</sup> with a bronze medal in the 1000M. This relay set a State meet record, and he is now Wallkill's most decorated athlete with five state medals and Wallkill's only multi-state champ.*
- *A student-athlete won Wallkill Wrestling's first State Championship in school history.*
- *All 9 of Wallkill's Winter Varsity teams were selected as Scholar-Athlete teams with 75% of their rosters having a 90.00 GPA or greater. All 16 Varsity teams from Wallkill have qualified up to this point in the school year.*
- *The Athletic Office is looking forward to a great Spring Season which is now officially underway.*

**Music:**

- *March is Music in Our Schools Month. This year's theme is "United Through Music." In celebration, the high school music program held their Music in our Schools Month Concert on March 4<sup>th</sup>. It was an outstanding performance by our talented students. In addition to the concert, several musicians were recognized for their participation in Honors Ensembles.*

**Comment:**

- *Mr. White shared a Wallkill achievement regarding an article on the topic of how districts grow their own. It was written by Mr. Masopust and published in Vanguard magazine which is shared throughout New York State. This article was provided to the Board of Education to highlight how their support over the years has cultivated leaders to return and grow with the District. Mr. Frisbie commented on a job well done and how he has encouraged promoting from within.*

5. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Bartolone moved items 5A through 5N and 6A through 6H be taken as consent agenda.

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

**Accept Resignation/Retirement – Non-Instructional – Agenda #5.A.**

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Andrew DeGroot** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Night Custodial Worker, effective close of business on March 18, 2026, pending his appointment to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Groundskeeper.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Marlene Magnanini** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Teaching Assistant, effective close of business on June 26, 2026.

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Timothy Connor** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Night Custodial Worker position, effective March 19, 2026, at a salary of \$35,270 pro-rated (Grade 11, Step 3, night differential based on the CSEA Contract).

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 90-Day Probationary appointment of **Andrew DeGroot** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Groundskeeper position effective March 19, 2026, at a salary of \$48,090 pro-rated (Grade 12, Step 12 of the CSEA Contract).

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Nicole Hoppenstedt** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide position, effective March 19, 2026, at a salary of \$17.22 per hour [Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, (5.8 hours per day)].

**Approve Appointment – Instructional – Agenda #5.C.**

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Kayleigh Nafey** to a Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teacher position, assigned to the Leptondale Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$155 per day, effective March 19, 2026.

Approve Child Rearing Leave – Agenda #5.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Child Rearing Leave as requested by **Michelle Gambuti**, effective April 24, 2026 through June 26, 2026.

Approve Substitute Leave Replacement – Agenda #5.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Tineisha Slater** certified in Social Work to a Substitute Leave Social Worker, assigned District-Wide for the 2025-2026 school year, at a salary of \$58,538 pro-rated (1NMA + 2 credits), effective April 24, 2026 through June 26, 2026, replacing Michelle Gambuti who is on a Child Rearing Leave.

Approve Appointments – 2025-2026 Regent’s Review – Instructional – Agenda #5.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of the following individuals as Regent’s Review Teachers, effective April 7, 2026, at a rate of \$56.49 per hour, contingent upon student enrollment to support these positions.

Algebra I:	<b>Nicholas Culhane</b>	<b>Colleen Keesler</b>	
	<b>Nicholas Thompson</b>	<b>Melissa Tierney</b>	
Algebra II:	<b>Ashley Dama</b>	<b>Kara DeCarlo</b>	
Chemistry:	<b>Valeria Ramos Avila</b>		
Earth Science:	<b>Jordan Taylor</b>		
English 11:	<b>Jeanne Chun</b>	<b>Karen DeKoskie</b>	<b>Yaddo Hagar</b>
Geometry:	<b>Kara DeCarlo</b>	<b>Keri Donahue</b>	<b>Gary Tuttle</b>
Global 10:	<b>Zachary DeCarlo</b>	<b>Michael Farruggio</b>	<b>Brian Vegliando</b>
Living Environment:	<b>Alison Andolino</b>	<b>Sharon Ellis</b>	<b>Ryan Haver</b>
US History:	<b>Gabrielle Lewis</b>		

Award Tenure – Instructional – Agenda #5.G.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Frank Alfonso** in the area of Mathematics, effective September 1, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Brenna Berger** in the area of Special Education, effective September 22, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Zachary DeCarlo** in the area of Special Education, effective September 1, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Jonni Dispensa** in the area of Elementary Education, effective September 1, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Nicole Pagliaro** in the area of Elementary Education, effective September 1, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Taylor Palen** in the area of Elementary Education, effective September 1, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Valeria Ramos Avila** in the area of Science, effective September 1, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Bridgette Sroka** in the area of Music, effective September 1, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **MaryKate Taliaferro** in the area of Reading, effective September 1, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Sarah Venza** in the area of Speech, effective September 1, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Jennifer Walsh** in the area of Elementary Education, effective September 1, 2026.

Award Tenure – Non-Instructional – Agenda #5.H.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Michelle Arteta** in the area of Teaching Assistant, effective September 6, 2026.

Approve Appointment – Coaching – Agenda #5.I.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following appointment for the Spring 2025-2026 school year season:

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**Liam Nafey**

Assistant Varsity Lacrosse Coach

Unpaid

Nominate Ulster BOCES Board Representative – Agenda #5.J.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and nominate **Donald Greene** to a three-year term representing the Wallkill Central School District on the Ulster County BOCES Board of Education.

Approve Substitutes Lists – Agenda #5.K.

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.L.

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.M.

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

Approve Resolution – Unused Emergency/Snow Day – Agenda #5.N.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District authorizes all 11-Month and 12-month employees a paid leave day on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, based upon the fact that the District has one remaining unused emergency/snow day for the 2025-2026 school year.

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #6.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Senior High School Cafeteria and Auditorium by **Spanish Honor Society** [for a Fundraiser] as indicated below:

Thursday	March 19, 2026 and March 25, 2026*	2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	April 15, 2026	2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*\*Snow Date only if needed*



Award Bids – State and Cooperative Vendor Contracts – Capital Improvement Project – Agenda #6.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award the following State and cooperative vendor contracts for the Capital Improvement Project as indicated below to:

**Athletic Flooring System – Wallkill Senior High School**

**Endurance Flooring**  
**35 Colby Avenue, Suite 1**  
**Manasquan, NJ 08736**

*Awarded in conjunction with Sourcewell Contract #031022-RBI*

**SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:** **\$533,014.00**

**Replacement of Bleachers – John G. Borden Middle School**

**Young Equipment**  
**325 Rabro Drive**  
**Hauppauge, NY 11788**

*Awarded in conjunction with the Ed Data Contract #12894.*

**SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:** **\$122,676.00**

**Playground System – Leptondale Elementary School:**

**Young Equipment**  
**325 Rabro Drive**  
**Hauppauge, NY 11788**

*Awarded in conjunction with the Ed Data Contract #13391*

**SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:** **\$161,740.00**

Award Bids – Capital Improvement Project – Agenda #6.G.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award the following bids for the Capital Improvement Project as indicated below to:

**Electrical Work EC-1:**

**Whispering Pines Development Corp.**  
**PO Box 716**  
**50 Mertes Lane**  
**Vails Gate, NY 12584**

*Base Bid Amount:* \$450,000

**SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:** **\$450,000**

**General Work GC-1:**

**Profex, Inc.**  
**264 N. Plank Rd.**  
**Newburgh, NY 12550**

*Base Bid Amount:* \$748,313

*Alternate No. OES-04: Pavement and Catch Basin:* \$(35,000)

*Alternate No. PES-04: Exterior Door Replacement:* \$ 12,500

*Alternate No. LES-04: Interior Door Replacement:* \$ (6,000)

**SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:** **\$719,813**

Plumbing Work PC-1:

*Whispering Pines Development Corp.*

*PO Box 716*

*50 Mertes Lane*

*Vails Gate, NY 12584*

*Base Bid Amount:            \$122,000*

**SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:**

***\$122,000***

Site Work SC-1:

*Whispering Pines Development Corp.*

*PO Box 716*

*50 Mertes Lane*

*Vails Gate, NY 12584*

*Base Bid Amount:            \$1,895,000*

**SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD:**

***\$1,895,000***

Approve Resolution – Stipulation of Agreement – Agenda #6.H.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Stipulation of Agreement, dated February 24, 2026, by and between the Wallkill Central School District and Employee 03182026.

6. Executive Session – Agenda #7

At 7:36 p.m. Mr. Bartolone moved the Board enter Executive Session to discuss employment history of a particular person.

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

The Board reconvened at 8:09 p.m.

7. Close Meeting – Agenda #8

At 8:10 p.m. Mr. Bartolone moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran

District Clerk