

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

**BUSINESS MEETING/WORK SESSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 12, 2016**

Board of Education

Mr. Colin Smith, President
Mrs. Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon, Vice President
Mr. Douglas Glickert
Mrs. Maria Pereira
Mr. Michael Simpkins
Mrs. Jillian Villon

Central Office

Dr. David Fine, Superintendent
Ms. Robin Zimmerman, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Daniel Callahan, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Mrs. Mary Foster, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Ms. Debra McLeod, District Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 6:05 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office. (This meeting was moved from Oakside Elementary School to the Administration Building)

A. Recording of Attendance
Richard Sullivan was absent

2. Proposed Executive Session

A. Open Meeting

- (Note: The Board will enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a particular contractual and personnel item. The public part of the meeting will open at approximately 7:00PM)

B. Adjourn to Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn Meeting in order to enter to Executive Session

Motion: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

Second: Doug Glickert

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Doug Glickert

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Colin Smith

Jillian Villon

C. Adjourn Executive Session
Motion to Re-Open Meeting

Motion: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon
Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon
Doug Glickert
Maria Pereira
Michael Simpkins
Colin Smith
Jillian Villon

Second: Doug Glickert

No: _____

Abstained: _____

3. Resume Public Meeting
A. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was reconvened in the George Birdas room at 7:10 p.m.

4. Hearing of Citizens

A. Public Participation at Board Meetings

Jim Robinson of 523 Kissam Road wanted to inform the Board his son didn't receive playing time for basketball during his junior year and subsequently quit the team for his senior year as a result of it. His son did everything correct academically and athletically. Mr. Robinson wants to make sure everyone playing sports receive playing time and not be overlooked.

5. Superintendent/Board President Report

A. Superintendent's Report

- Oakside Student Performance - Postponed
- Recognition - Peekskill Girls Swim Team/NYS Team Scholar Athletes - Postponed
- Student Learning Team (SLT): Oakside
- Staci Woodley and her team presented to the Board their Student Learning Team (SLT) for Oakside

6. Consent Agenda

A. NYS Underfunding of Public School Districts

Whereas,

New York State, despite its promises, is underfunding our public school districts.

Whereas,

Highly publicized increases in state aid to education over the past two years have not made up for draconian cuts in State aid due to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) and the Foundation Aid freeze. This year, 20% of the school districts in Westchester and Putnam Counties still receive less State education funding than they did in 2008, and another 28% have been increased by only 7% or less.

Over the past six years, the State raided \$430 million in funds due Westchester and Putnam districts, and withheld \$9 billion GEA dollars statewide. This year alone, the Peekskill City School District School District lost \$41,251 due to the GEA, for a total GEA state aid loss of \$16,355,107 since 2010. It is ironic that 72% of the districts in our region are still being shortchanged by over one-third of the GEA money due them while NY

State runs a surplus.

Whereas,

The multi-year freeze in Foundation Aid funding has deprived districts in our two-county region of \$186 million dollars in 2015-16 alone, most of which is being taken from the highest need districts. To point, this year the State is shortchanging our district's Foundation Aid dollars by \$22,471,950, Yonkers by \$40 million, Port Chester by \$16 million, and Mount Vernon by \$22 million. The formula must be reinstated to reflect current need and enrollment changes.

Whereas,

These cuts and freezes have been put in place despite a 2007 court order REQUIRING the State to increase its funding of high need school districts over several years.

Whereas,

School districts have been eliminating programs, teachers, support personnel, administrative staff, course offerings including art, music and other non-mandated courses, as well as student extra-curricular offerings such as team sports. They have also had to increase class size and student to adult ratios in key areas such as guidance counselors.

Whereas,

Since 2009, NYS has postured that it doesn't have the revenue to pay its share for public education; this simply is not the case. Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli stated in his October 2015 State Cash Report, "State tax collections through October totaled \$42.3 billion and were just under \$4 billion or 10.3 percent higher than the same period last year. Year-to-date tax collections were \$5.4 million over the latest projections (released Nov. 5) and nearly \$1.7 billion over initial projections from the Enacted Budget."

Whereas,

The State promise that reductions in costly state-mandated expenditures would be paired with the Tax Levy Limit (aka, the tax cap) has NOT been kept. State action is needed to reduce key expenditure mandates and provide local flexibility and local accountability; the era of one-size-fits-all initiatives must end. School districts have been saddled with new unfunded/underfunded expenditures despite the static revenue flow. Race to the Top (RTTT), Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) and Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) requirements are the largest underfunded mandates in recent history. While school districts continue to find ways to share services and reduce expenditures, significant State mandate relief is long overdue.

Whereas,

Given a 2016-17 tax levy limit based on a projected 0% CPI, and given the current State aid parameters, public school districts will continue to move towards educational and fiscal insolvency, and will continue to erode the programs and resources needed to provide a sound, basic education to every student. Some will reach a critical level sooner than others, but every district is traveling down that same path. Districts that have provided exemplary examples of quality education will have to level down their services, while they should be setting the bar for others.

Whereas,

School Board members believe that: public education is a New York State constitutional right; every child has the right to a sound, basic education; and New York State has an unconditional obligation to adequately fund our public school

districts.

Therefore, be it resolved that,

Public Education must be a top priority item in New York State, not one that is adjusted to make ends meet or satisfy political expediency. The GEA must be relegated to history and the Foundation Aid formula must be reinstated. Adequate and appropriate State funding to ensure every child has access to a quality public school districts is long overdue. School districts are relying on elected officials to take action to put students ahead of politics and make public education whole.

B. Medical Examination

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Education Law §913, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the employee discussed in executive session is directed to report for a medical examination in order to determine the mental/physical capacity of such person to perform his/her duties as an employee of the Peekskill City School District. Said medical examination shall be before Dr. Andrew Levin, at his office located at 141 N. Central Avenue Hartsdale, New York on January 22, 2016 and/or any subsequent days Dr. Levin may require to complete said exam; and IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the employee is directed to produce at said medical examination any and all medical records related to the present state of his/her health for the past three (3) years.

C. MOA Agreements

That the Board of Education approves the MOA Agreements with Staff.

D. Appointment - Director of Early Childhood; Interim

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following appointments to the Board of Education for approval:

1. Name: John Wells

Position: Director of Early Childhood; Interim

Certification Status: SDA; Permanent

Tenure Area: N/A

Effective Date: January 20, 2016

Start Date: January 20, 2016

End Date: June 30, 2016

Salary: \$500/day

E. Approval of Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Items 6.A.-6.D.

Motion: Michael Simpkins

Second: Doug Glickert

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Doug Glickert

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Colin Smith

Jillian Villon

7. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Councilman Rainey commented he is happy people are putting in an effort. He also saw the children at Oakside Elementary School.

8. Executive Session - 8:35 p.m.

A. Executive Session

Motion to Move to Executive Session

Motion: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

Second: Doug Glickert

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Doug Glickert

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Colin Smith

Jillian Villon

B. Adjourn Executive Session – 8:41 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Executive Session

Motion: Doug Glickert

Second: Maria Pereira

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Doug Glickert

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Colin Smith

Jillian Villon

9. Adjournment in Memory of Mrs. Natlie Allen

A. Adjournment in Memory of Mrs. Natlie Allen

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Smith asked for a motion to adjourn in Memory of Mrs. Natlie Allen. Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon read the resolution.

Motion: Michael Simpkins

Second: Doug Glickert

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Doug Glickert

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Colin Smith

Jillian Villon

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Debra McLeod
District Clerk