

Peekskill City School District
1031 Elm Street
Peekskill, New York

BOE RETREAT/SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 21, 2017

Board of Education

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

Central Office

Dr. David Fine, Superintendent

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Aspinall-Kellawon at 10:55 a.m. in the George Birdas Room.

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.)

B. Adjourn to Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn Meeting in order to enter to Executive Session

Motion: Colin Smith

Second: Maria Pereira

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: Doug Glickert

Second: Michael Simpkins

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Doug Glickert

Maria Pereira

Michael Simpkins

Colin Smith

3. Resume Public Meeting

The meeting was reconvened in the George Birdas Room at 12:45 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Hearing of Citizens

A. Public Participation at Board Meetings

There were no citizens wishing to be heard

5. Consent Agenda

A. Opposing the Confirmation of Betsy DeVos, as United States Secretary of Education

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District opposes the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as United States Secretary of Education for the following reasons:

- Devos has been a staunch supporter of school vouchers, which divert taxpayer dollars away from public education and directs that public money to private and corporate charter schools. This undermines the American system of funding public education and the ability of public schools to provide a sound education for all students regardless of socio-economic status. It requires all taxpayers to financially support private and for-profit institutions and, in many cases violates the American value of separation of church and state when taxpayer funds are used to support religion-specific institutions.
- Whereas, the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District has been elected by the residents of the Peekskill City School District to determine policy and approve programming for the students of the district, within the confines of both federal and state statutes governing education, and
- Whereas, the Board of Education is committed to the provision of quality education, focused on cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth, for all students, and
- Whereas, the Board of Education wants all of our students to feel confident and secure that they will receive this education regardless of socioeconomic status, ability, background, race, or gender, and
- Whereas, Ms. DeVos has been at the forefront of the establishment of several voucher and charter school initiatives in Michigan which have enriched the coffers of private companies and diverted scarce economic resources from the public education of students, particularly in urban areas;
- The Devos Foundation has spent millions of dollars successfully promoting its agenda in Michigan. The success of the Foundation in recent years corresponds to a time of overall decreases in student performance across the State. There is no reason to believe that this agenda has changed, or that the results will be different if put into effect nationwide.
- The so-called "school choice" programs Devos promotes are of deep concern for diverse communities as they tend to increase racial and socioeconomic segregation. School vouchers rarely cover full tuition in private schools, shutting out lower-income students from any choice other than public schools that are forced to operate on budgets reduced by the cost of vouchers for more advantaged populations.
- Devos has no meaningful experience in education other than her work on behalf of corporate charters and the voucher movement. She has no degree of any kind in education, has never worked in a school or a District office, has never attended a public school herself and has never sent her children to public schools.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Item 4.A.

Motion: Michael Simpkins

Second: Doug Glickert

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

No: _____

Abstained: _____

B. Foundation Aid

WHEREAS, New York State has not lived up to its constitutional obligation and legal support for public schools as articulated via the establishment of the Foundation Aid formula. Adequate and appropriate State funding to ensure every child has access to a quality public school district is long overdue.

WHEREAS, The Formula does not address the high cost of living in this area. Our regional costs are very high in comparison to other parts of the state.

WHEREAS, The Formula uses a simplistic average called the Combined Wealth Ratio to determine need. As one expensive parcel of land, waterfront or vacation property or a lottery winner can throw off the average, the formula needs to incorporate the use of the median or a selected ratio in order to establish the Combined Wealth Ratio.

WHEREAS, The Formula uses 16-year-old data to measure poverty and does not reflect the underreporting of poverty in our area as recently detailed in the United Way's ALICE Project.

WHEREAS, The Formula has not adjusted for the supports and new requirements to address the needs of our recent and vulnerable immigrants. Success for these students is critical to our communities and our state, therefore the weightings in the formula assigned to our English Language Learners must be increased.

WHEREAS, The Formula has not adjusted for the ongoing commitments we have made to our students with disabilities. The State and the Federal governments must make good on their promise to our children with special needs by increasing the Foundation Formula weightings for our Students with Disabilities.

WHEREAS, The Foundation Aid Formula's Adjusted Foundation Amount (AFA) must be based upon real, current student costs.

WHEREAS, The Foundation Aid Formula needs to include save-harmless provisions as all public schools have increasing expenditures based upon cost drivers beyond local control. No public school child should be hurt, regardless of community, under the reform of Foundation Aid.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT in order to provide adequate, equitable, sustainable and stable funding for our schools, it is critical that the current school financing structure be reformed. The major district cost drivers/expenditures are not controlled by local Boards of Education. They are unfunded or underfunded mandates, and are not addressed via the state's basic Foundation Aid formula or compatible with the near zero Tax Levy Cap.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Item 4.B.

Motion: Colin Smith

Second: Doug Glickert

Yes: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon

No: _____

Abstained: _____

Doug Glickert
Maria Pereira
Michael Simpkins
Colin Smith
Jillian Villon

C. Approval of Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Items 4.A. - 4.B.

6. Executive Session (1:01 p.m.)

A. Executive Session

(Note: The Board will enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a particular contractual and personnel item.)

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

Second: Jillian Villon
No: _____ Abstained: _____

B. Adjourn Executive Session (1:10) p.m.

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

Second: Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon
No: _____ Abstained: _____

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Aspinall-Kellawon asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Second: Colin Smith
No: _____ Abstained: _____

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.
Minutes taken by Superintendent Fine

Debra McLeod
District Clerk