

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Leptondale Elementary School
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
7:00 p.m.

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

*Mr. Masopust, Mr. Redmond, Mr. Hall,
Mr. Albert and Mrs. Parete provided an overview of
their 2023-2024 School Improvement Plans*

1. Commendations – Agenda #1

The Board recognized various individuals for their outstanding achievements who were awarded tenure during the course of the 2022-2023 school year and the Wallkill Senior High School Top Ten Students, including Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2023.

- *Mr. Castle commented on how proud he is of the accomplishments of the faculty and students who were recognized by the Board of Education.*

2. Public Comment – Agenda #2

At 7:35 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- *A parent addressed the Board of Education regarding Student-Athletes attending school functions and being penalized by the coach.*
 - *Mr. Castle commented that there will be a policy for the 2023-2024 school year indicating that if students attend a Board approved field trip they cannot be penalized by the coach/advisor.*

3. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – Agenda #3

At 7:39 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Vice President Thomas Frisbie in the Leptondale Elementary All-Purpose Room.

Members Present

Mrs. Anderson
Mr. Bartolone
Mr. Frisbie
Mrs. McCartney
Mr. Nafey
Mr. Palen
Mr. Petrocelli
Mr. Marco Martini [Student Board Member]

Members Absent

Mrs. Crowley
Mr. LoCicero

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

4. Approve Minutes – [3/15/23 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #4

Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the March 15, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

5. Approve Minutes – [3/22/23 Special Board Meeting] – Agenda #5

Mr. Nafey moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the March 22, 2023 Special Board of Education Meeting.

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

6. Board Committee Reports – Agenda #6

Audit:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Committee has not met since the last meeting, but a meeting will be set once the internal auditors complete their draft report of the tested areas.

Budget:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the Board met on March 22, 2023, to review the proposed spending plan. The State has not yet approved a budget but the budget we are proposing for approval is based on what was discussed on March 22, 2023. The District is proposing a tax levy of 1.99% which is \$395,480 below the tax levy limit. The proposed budget increase is 4.59%. Presentations regarding the budget are as follows:

- May 2nd – Leptondale PTO presentation at 7:00 p.m.
- May 3rd – Ostrander PTO presentation at 7:00 p.m.
- May 4th – Public Budget Hearing at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library
- May 8th – Plattekill PTA presentation at 7:00 p.m.

The budget vote is on May 16, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with polling sites at the Leptondale Elementary School, Plattekill Elementary School, and the Senior High School.

Mr. Castle commented that this is the twelfth year in a row that the levy increase is at or below the tax cap. The District has been able to add programs as well as maintain programs. He also stated that 2023-2024 budget includes two (2) sections of an in-house Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) program with a maximum class size of eighteen (18) students per section. Enrollment for the program will be determined by a random lottery. There may also be additional slots with outside agencies through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. He indicated that Mr. White will be sending out a letter on April 19th with more information on the UPK program and there will be a dedicated website with a lottery application. Additionally, more information will be included in Learning at Wallkill that goes out on May 5th.

Mr. Castle mentioned that the 2023-2024 proposed budget also includes the addition of a District-Wide Elementary School Social Worker to address the mental health needs of our students and a full-time Athletic Trainer (currently part-time) to address the medical needs of our student-athletes during practice and home games. The District is also excited about the addition of Unified Sports, which joins students with and without disabilities on the same basketball team. Lastly, the Board of Education made it a priority to maintain low class sizes, academic programs, extracurricular activities, student support services, and police officers in all school buildings. He is appreciative of the Board and the support they provided for the proposed budget. The District is in a good position financially, which will help the taxpayers and the students.

Mrs. McCartney asked about the District nurses' contract and Mr. Castle indicated that they are currently covered under CSEA, which is a different contract than the Athletic Trainer position.

Buildings & Grounds:

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on March 21st to review the capital project bids as well as discuss the work that will be completed in the Summer of 2023. Contracts were awarded at a Special Board meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, and there are additional contract awards on the April 18th Board agenda. Construction at the high school has begun on the new parking lot behind the tennis courts with anticipated completion in early May. Once that work is completed construction will begin on the front parking lot. The additional work scheduled for Phase 1 at all buildings is scheduled to begin this summer.

CDEP:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the middle school, high school, and special education administrators shared their school improvement plan goals with the board on April 18th. The CDEP committee is not scheduled to meet again until the 2023-2024 school year.

Curriculum/TAG:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Curriculum/TAG Committee met on March 28, 2023. At the meeting Mrs. Werlau provided an update on the Odyssey of the Mind competition. She shared that the John G. Borden Middle School team came in third (3rd) place. Mrs. Werlau also shared that Daniel Jude Miller is this year's author for authors day. Mr. White provided insight into the New York State 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments. He highlighted an informational event held by the elementary and middle school principals for parents on March 7th, 2023, regarding the assessments. Furthermore, Mr. White reported on the efforts made by the physical education teachers to align the physical education curriculum maps with the updated physical education standards. The revised maps will be implemented in the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. The next curriculum committee meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

Health & Safety:

Mr. Palen reported that the District Committee met on April 13, 2023. At the meeting the committee discussed and reviewed the draft of the 2023-2024 District-Wide Emergency Plan. The next committee meeting will be scheduled shortly.

Legislative:

Mr. Castle indicated that at this time there is no State budget. However, the State Aid numbers received in January will most likely be included in the final State budget. Therefore, we used the Governor's projections to balance the proposed 2023-2024 school budget.

Policy:

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled on May 4, 2023, at 5:30 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 24, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

Wellness:

Mr. Nafey reported that the Wellness Committee met on April 18, 2023. At the meeting the following was discussed:

- The District continues to see increased participation in all buildings.
- A student committee in all buildings created a lunch menu option which was featured on each building's menu in February. Marilyn, Food Service Director will be setting up meetings again with building committees to look at potential menu options for the future.
- The high school had a successful blood drive on March 29th. A health fair will be held on April 26th in the high school between 9:00 am.-1:30 p.m. with currently 30 vendors scheduled to attend.
- The middle school is holding fitness testing in gym class and will continue to use announcements to discuss wellness.
- At the elementary schools in February, they focused on Heart Healthy month and in March they created fun activity days with a focus on movement and wellness in all the building (i.e. unplugged days). Field Days will take place in June in all the buildings. Taste Test Tuesday took place which exposed students to different types of food.
- Finally, the District will be going out to bid for Food Services. The bid specs were discussed with the committee, including how fresh fruit and vegetables must be included in the daily meals, different promotions throughout the school year and taste testing at least twice a year. The bid submission is scheduled for May 16, 2023, with an anticipated bid award at the June Board of Education meeting.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled on June 6, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.
- Mr. Frisbie asked how long the current food service contract was in place and Mr. Devincenzi indicated it was five years.

Student Rep:

Mr. Marco Martino reported the following:

➤ **Clubs/Etc:**

- The Spanish Honor Society welcomed new Inductees this past month which was organized with the help of Mrs. Sanchez and the language department.
- SGA and NHS have started their applications for students to run for various positions such as president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
- Congratulations to all the Top Ten!
- Congratulations to another Senior Panther standout, Mia Ferrante, acceptance and commitment to Cornell University's school of Arts and Sciences. The 2023 Senior Class set their goals high and paved the way for future aspiring Panthers looking to punch their ticket to these highly selective schools. This year included Cornell, West Point Military Academy, University of Chicago and Johns Hopkins University. The class of 2023 has proved themselves academically, musically, and athletically. He is proud of these students, and they will be missed by the Wallkill family.
- This weekend will be the Senior Trip to Florida including Universal Studios, Disney, and Sea World.

➤ **Athletics:**

- With the dawn of the Spring Season, Wallkill is off to a strong start with all its various sports teams.
- Baseball, led by Coach Mills, is currently undefeated with a record of 5-0. Junior Kyle Degroat had a complete game shutout against New Paltz to secure their fifth win of the season on April 17th.
- Softball, led by Mr. Murphy, is currently 4-3 with a big win against Saugerties who haven't been beaten by the Panthers since 2017.
- Boys Lacrosse, now led by Mr. Taylor, has four resounding wins and zero losses. Congratulations to Colin McCartney for his 100th goal against Kingston on April 17th.
- Girls Lacrosse is currently 4-2.
- A special congratulations to Senior Richie Martinez on signing his letter of intent to play both football and lacrosse at D1 Hampton University!

➤ **Performing Arts/Music:**

- All three music ensembles will be performing next weekend in Boston for their annual school trip from April 21st through April 23rd.
- This past weekend, Wallkill's Panther Drama Club performed a spectacular rendition of Mamma Mia on April 14th, April 15th and April 16th. Playing the leads of the play was Isabella Polchinski playing as Donna Sheridan, Makalya Winn as Sophie, Jonothan McLaughlin as Sam, Eric Sheer as Harry, and Aaron Baker as Bill. There was also a cameo by Mr. Masopust. The play was well attended and supported by the Wallkill Community.

Comments:

- Mr. Frisbie provided congratulations to Marco for being in the Top 10 and for his service as Student Board Representative.
- Mr. Castle mentioned that our students are extremely talented and how the Mamma Mia ensemble of actors, set decorators, stage crew and musicians professionally worked together under the passionate direction of Liz Bailey who has been dedicated to the students for the past 20 years. He also thanked the Board of Education, parents, and the community for their support of all District programs.

7. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Anderson moved items 7A through 7I and 8A through 8G be taken as consent agenda.

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

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Gabriella Naballes Ortega** from the position of Part-Time [.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide, effective March 24, 2023.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Michele Passantino** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide, effective June 22, 2023.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Barbara Raymond** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Computer Teacher Aide, effective May 31, 2023.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Erin Ross** from the position of Part-Time [.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide, effective April 18, 2023, pending her appointment to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Tax Collector and Deputy Treasurer.

Approve Appointments – Non-Instructional – Agenda #7.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Chaz Atkins** to a 26-Week Probationary Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Night Custodial Worker position, effective April 19, 2023, at a salary of \$32,434 pro-rated [Grade 11, Step 3, night differential based on the CSEA Contract, 8.0 hours daily].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **Erin Ross** to a 26-Week Probationary Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Tax Collector position, effective April 19, 2023, according to the Terms and Conditions for Tax Collector (attached to the minutes and placed on file with the District Clerk), at a salary of \$30,079 pro-rated (Grade 10, Step 3).

Approve Appointment of District Officer – Agenda #7.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and appoint the following District Officer for the 2022-2023 school year:

Deputy Treasurer	Mrs. Erin Ross	\$ 914 (pro-rated)
------------------	-----------------------	--------------------

Approve 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 budget in the amount of **\$85,467,681**, the District Budget Notice as required by law and the Property Tax Report Card for 2023-2024.

Approve 2023-2024 District Calendar – Agenda #7.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the proposed District Calendar for the **2023-2024** school year.

Approve Resolution – Appointment of Chairman and Inspectors of Election – 2023 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 2023 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 Certified Machine Inspectors, 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:

Carol Graham
Linda Schoonmaker

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3:

Sheryl Affuso
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:

Sherry Palen
Catherine Siano
Gail Thompson
April Zoutis

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2:

Paula Cook
Linda Palkovic

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3:

Jamie Hoyt
Carmela O'Donnell
Linda Sullivan

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 in its March minutes.

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #7.I.

The Board approve the placement of Special Education students as recommended by the Committee on Special Education in its March minutes.

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, 2023 and Revenues as of March 31, 2023.

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

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

RESOLVED, that the Ellenville [three-year term] board seat be filled by nominee, **Marla Kaplan**.

RESOLVED, that the Saugerties [three-year term] board seat be filled by nominee, **Krista Barringer**.

RESOLVED, that the "At-Large" [three-year term] board seat be filled by nominee, **Christopher Farrell** [Kingston].

RESOLVED, that the "At-Large" [three-year term] board seat be filled by nominee, **Donald Greene** [Wallkill].

Approve Ulster BOCES 2023-2024 Administrative Proposed Budget – Agenda #8.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the proposed 2023-2024 Ulster County Board of Cooperative Administrative Budget in the amount of **\$6,718,295.**

Approve Resolution – Purchase Agreement – Agenda #8.D.

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 (“Board” or “District”) authorizes Ulster County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“Ulster County BOCES”) to enter into an Installment Purchase Agreement on the District’s behalf for the acquisition and installation of technology equipment for a period not to exceed forty-eight (48) months for a cost not to exceed \$180,907.20, to commence upon the satisfactory receipt of all equipment on a properly authorized District Purchase Order issued for this purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President is authorized to execute an Agreement with Ulster County BOCES in the attached form, and any other documents in furtherance of this resolution.

Approve Resolution – Provider Reimbursement Agreement – Agenda #8.E.

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 **Liberty Resources**, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The Board authorizes the Board President to sign the approved agreement.

Approve Proposal – Special Testing Service – Agenda #8.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the proposal from **Tectonic Engineering Constraints, Geologists & Land Surveyors, D.P.C.** for special testing service as part of the Capital Improvement Project.

Award Bids – Capital Improvement Project – Agenda #8.G.

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

General Work GC-1:

Profex, Inc.

264 N. Plank Road

Newburgh, NY 12550

Base Bid Amount: **\$1,350,000**

Alternate No. GC-1-1: Security Vestibules and Surrounding Work: **\$1,300,000**

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: **\$2,650,000**

Site Work SC-3:

Profex, Inc.

264 N. Plank Road

Newburgh, NY 12550

Base Bid Amount: **\$470,000**

SUGGESTED CONTRACT AWARD: **\$470,000**

8. Executive Session – Agenda #9

At 8:01 p.m. Mrs. Anderson moved the Board enter Executive Session to discuss litigation.

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

The Board reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

9. Close Meeting – Agenda #10

At 8:51 p.m. Mr. Palen moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran
District Clerk