

*Public Hearing – District-Wide School Safety Plan  
Senior High School Auditorium @ 6:30 p.m.*

*Mr. White presented on the proposed Special Education K-6 Inclusion Model at  
Leptondale and Ostrander Elementary Schools*

**Discussion:**

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. LoCicero thanked Mr. White and his team for developing the new ICT program for the 2021-2022 school year, which was one of the Board's goals.

1. **Public Comment – Agenda #1**

At 7:15 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- A parent addressed the Board of Education regarding the four (4) day in-person instructional model, remote instruction on Fridays, and when we can expect to have students return back to school five (5) days a week.
  - Mr. LoCicero stated that the District has advocated strongly for the recent changes to the county guidelines and the Board of Education will continue to work hard doing everything it can to get students back to school.
  - Mr. Castle commented that the District will need to monitor the implementation of the four (4) day in-person instructional model with full remote learning on Fridays during April and May and in June will reassess the possibility of a five (5) day instructional model. He commented that the District is required to provide a remote only option to students. Based on the survey results, it is projected that 25% will remain on remote instruction. To reiterate what Mr. LoCicero said, the District has been advocating for a change in the county guidelines from the beginning and this is the first step to getting students back full-time. The goal of the District is to have students back five (5) days a week by September. To help students, the District has created an After-School Credit Recovery Program at the High School and will also be working on a virtual K-8 Summer program. COVID cases still exist and the District needs to be mindful of the health and safety of all students, faculty, and staff.
- A middle school parent addressed the Board of Education regarding remote online instruction.
  - Mr. Castle commented that teachers currently have the option to either record or livestream their lessons for remote students. The middle school will begin the new model on April 19, 2021, at which point, remote students will begin livestreaming with classroom teachers on a daily basis. Mr. Castle suggested that the parent contact her child's teachers and/or building principal for further assistance. He also indicated that the parent could call him directly with any other questions.

2. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – Agenda #2**

At 7:26 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Joseph LoCicero in the Senior High School Auditorium.

**Members Present**

Mrs. Anderson  
Mr. Bartolone  
Mrs. Crowley  
Mr. Frisbie  
Mr. LoCicero  
Mr. Palen  
Mr. Petrocelli  
Mr. Conor Warren [Student Board Member]

**Members Absent**

Mr. Spencer

Also present were Superintendent Castle, Assistant Superintendents Devincenzi and Herrington and administrator White.

3. Approve Minutes - [2/17/21 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #3

Mr. Petrocelli moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

4. Board Committee Reports – Agenda #5

**Audit:**

*Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit Committee met on March 15, 2021, with the internal auditors to review the draft audit report, a copy of which was provided to the Board. There were no findings. The internal auditors will be in District beginning on April 12<sup>th</sup> to perform a Risk Assessment as required by law.*

**Budget:**

*Mr. Devincenzi reported the District received the final health insurance rates, which came in low. This will assist the District to balance the budget. Assuming that the State budget is on time we should have our final State Aid numbers by the end of the month which will have to be analyzed and to see the impact of the recently approved Federal Stimulus bill. A special budget meeting has been scheduled for April 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium to review a proposed spending plan for the 2021-2022 school year.*

*Mr. Castle commented that Mr. Devincenzi is doing a great job with preparing the 2021-2022 budget. The tax levy is approximately 1.8% as the District continues to balance the needs of the taxpayers and the needs of the students. Class size averages will be about 20 at the elementary level and 20-23 at the secondary level. The District learned that we will be allocated \$3.5 million in federal monies, but we do not know how long it will be available to be used for or how it can be used. Based on the Governor's projections, the District is optimistic with the development of our 2021-2022 budget. Legislators will continue to advocate for monies for our school district, which will help with the K-8 Summer Program and the continuation of the After-School Credit Recovery Program at the high school. In addition, the District currently runs an after-school program at the elementary level Monday through Thursday. Mr. Castle recognized Mr. White and his team for doing a great job creating the ICT program at Leptondale and Ostrander Elementary Schools, with less of a financial impact on the 2021-2022 budget than anticipated.*

**Buildings & Grounds:**

*Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on February 24, 2021, with the District's architect and engineering firm, Tetra Tech to discuss an overview of the Building Condition Survey and potential future capital project work. The committee agreed that they would look at long range planning for future capital project votes but nothing in the near term.*

*Mr. Castle commented that as debt comes off the books, the District often looks to initiate a capital project vote, so the debt level remains the same. Instead of doing a capital project vote this past December, the District decided to wait. The District felt it was not appropriate to do a project vote during the pandemic. Instead, the District will look at doing small projects (e.g. roof replacement, parking lots) over a period of time to avoid any significant impact to the taxpayers. The District can do this because of the past work done to keep our facilities in good shape.*

**CDEP:**

*Mrs. Anderson reported that the CDEP committee has not meet since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled at 3:00 p.m. on April 14, 2021, via Zoom.*

**Curriculum/TAG:**

*Mrs. Anderson reported that the Curriculum/TAG Committee met on March 2, 2021. Mrs. Werlau provided a TAG update and shared that all testing for students that have been referred for the TAG program for the 2021-2022 school year have been completed remotely via Zoom. Principals and building liaisons are scheduling George Steele workshops for the Spring.*

Mrs. Herrington shared with the committee information regarding State Assessments. The State is still working with the United States Department of Education to seek a waiver from administering State assessments in grades 3-8 and the State Regents Exams. The District is working with building principals to plan for the administration of the assessments if they are not cancelled.

Mrs. Herrington also presented the K-8 Student ELA and Math STAR assessment data. The District will continue to monitor student progress in grades K-8 using STAR and District benchmarks that are being administered in March. K-8 Principals will be meeting with teams of teachers to review the data and discuss interventions and AIS programs that will be implemented to assist students. Also, curriculum mappers will use the data to assist them in identifying essential skills that need to be stressed in our maps.

Mr. Salamone shared with the committee an overview of students' progress to date at the high school. An After-School Credit Recovery Program is being implemented to assist students beginning in March 2021 through June 2021. Additional supports will be provided to students, if necessary.

Mrs. Herrington updated the committee on the ELA work being completed at the High School. Teachers will be provided with additional professional development so that they can add key elements to the unit they developed with Dr. Hunter. The updated unit will include instructional strategies to allow for student choice, strategies teachers can use to lead difficult conversations and the Next Generation Learning Standards that will be taught within the unit of study. As a result, the unit will be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year, not this Spring as was initially planned.

Additional information that was shared:

- Reading teachers have been completing the Orton-Gillingham Practicum and are on track to receive the Classroom Educator Certification from the Academy of Orton-Gillingham
- K-2 Wilson Foundations Reading Professional development has taken place and the program is being implemented
- Grade level mappers have been working on completing monthly curriculum maps
- K-8 ELA and Math District benchmarks are being administered this month to help us monitor student progress and address student needs

The next committee meeting is scheduled at 3:30 p.m. on April 27, 2021, at the High School.

### **Health & Safety:**

Mr. Palen reported that the Health & Safety Committee met on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup>. The committee reviewed the updated health and safety protocols based on guidance "for considerations for the safe return to full-time in-person learning" from the Ulster County Department of Health. The committee also discussed the District purchase of desk barriers and a tentative timeline for their installation in the school buildings. The next committee meeting is scheduled at 4:00 p.m. on April 14, 2021.

Mr. Castle commented that the District will be doing a livestream presentation on March 24, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to review the health and safety plan and the Four (4) Day Instructional Model. A link to watch the presentation will be posted on our website.

Mr. Devincenzi indicated that we were notified today that a partial shipment of approximately 650 partitions were going to be shipped today or tomorrow morning with another shipment going out on Friday, followed by another shipment next week. He is in constant communication with the company who are working hard to get us all our partitions.

### **Legislative:**

Mr. Petrocelli stated that he would like to commend Mr. Castle for his hard work and doing a great job in communicating with our legislators regarding fair funding in providing for the educational needs of our students and explaining how our educational system works.

Mr. Castle commented that the legislators came out with a bill that advocates for the rejection of combining expense based aid into a service aid, a minimum 2% increase in foundation aid, full reimbursement of transportation expenses incurred over the last year and an increase in the percent of the unappropriated fund balance. We will know in a few weeks what will be accepted by the Governor when we get our State Aid numbers.

**Policy:**

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy Committee met on March 9, 2021, to review a new policy. There is one (1) policy on the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board agenda for first reading.

**Technology:**

Mrs. Herrington reported that the Technology Committee met on March 8, 2021. Mrs. Herrington and Mr. Hein provided the committee an overview of the Go Guardian Parent APP that will be launched next week. A letter will be sent home to parents explaining how to download the app and who to contact if they need assistance. The committee also reviewed a current software utilization report and District administration will use this data to help determine what software will continue to be used in the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Hein also shared with the committee the District's plan for updating devices in the Summer of 2021. The District will be purchasing Chromebooks for four (4) different grade levels (grades 1, 2, 11, 12) and will also be replacing some elementary desktops based on the age of the device. The next committee meeting is scheduled at 3:30 p.m. on April 19, 2021, in the high school.

Mr. LoCicero commented on the foresight of the Board of Education's goal regarding the purchase and implementation of Chromebooks. He thanked Mrs. Herrington and Tom Hein for the work they do on the Technology Committee.

**Wellness:**

Mr. Bartolone reported that the Wellness Committee has not meet since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled at 3:30 p.m. on April 13, 2021.

**Student Rep:**

Mr. Conor Warren reported the following:

➤ **In Sports:**

- The Winter Sports Season ended with success. The Boys Varsity Basketball Team finished the season with three wins and one loss, the Girls Varsity Basketball Team finished with four wins and one loss, and the Nordic Ski Team placed first at Sectional Championships.
- All winter basketball programs finished their seasons with a combined record of 16-2.
- The Fall 2 Sports Season kicked off earlier this month. As of last weekend:
  - The Varsity Swim Team and Varsity Volleyball Team have records of 0 – 1.
  - Cross Country, Boys Varsity Soccer, and Girls Varsity Soccer have records of 1 – 0.
  - The Varsity Football Team is 0-0, with its first game March 19<sup>th</sup> at Minisink.
- Unfortunately, the Varsity Volleyball Team has been quarantined.
- Conor commented that he is proud of all our athletes for persevering and triumphing against all the obstacles they have encountered and will encounter this season.

➤ The music department is still focusing on NYSSMA solos. Music for the senior song has been distributed, and the Madrigal Choir is working on the virtual concert that will likely be taking place later this school year.

➤ Wallkill's named its top ten academic students in the Class of 2021. An upcoming edition of Learning at Wallkill will highlight these students and their achievements.

- Mr. Castle commented that Conor is the Valedictorian for this year and that he is proud of him. The Board and Administrators congratulated Conor on his success.

5. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Petrocelli moved items 5A through 5G, 5I, 5K through 5M and 6A through 6F be taken as consent agenda.

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

**Accept Resignations/Retirements – Non-Instructional – Agenda # 5.A.**

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Ivelisse De La Cruz** from the position of Full-Time Typist [1.0 FTE], effective March 22, 2021, pending her appointment to a Full-Time Senior Typist.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Kyle Emigh** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Groundskeeper, effective March 19, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Kelly Martino** from the position of Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide, effective January 27, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Minnie Seitz** from a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide, effective June 29, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Barbara Sloboda** from a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Library Instructional Assistant, effective June 29, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Elaine Szekeres** from the position of Full-Time Main Office Clerk, effective February 22, 2021.

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the provisional appointment of **Ivelisse De La Cruz** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Senior Typist position, assigned to the Special Education Department at District Office, effective March 23, 2021, at a salary of \$35,849 pro-rated (Grade 12, Step 8 of the CSEA Contract) [7.5 hours daily]. Ms. De La Cruz replaces Lori Scarano, who was reassigned.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of **James Westerfield** to a 26-Week Probationary Part-Time [0.50 FTE] Custodial Worker position, effective March 18, 2021, at a salary of \$14,808 pro-rated [4.0 hours daily, (Grade 11, Step 3, of the CSEA Contract)]. Mr. Westerfield replaces Gisela Martinez Ortega, who resigned.

Approve Appointments – 2020-2021 SAT Prep Program – Agenda #5.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of the following individuals to positions in the 2020-2021 SAT Prep Program, contingent upon student enrollment to support these positions:

<b>Karen Kramer-Ley</b>	SAT English	\$53.09 per hour*
<b>A.J. Higby</b>	SAT Math	\$53.09 per hour*

*\*Not to exceed thirty (30) hours*

Approve Appointments – 2020-2021 After-School Credit Recovery Program – Agenda # 5.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of the following individuals to positions in the 2020-2021 After-School Credit Recovery Program, contingent upon student enrollment to support these positions:

<b>Robert Albanese</b>	Coordinator	\$3,874
<b>Jaime LaPolla</b>	English	\$2,760
<b>Gary Tuttle</b>	Math	\$2,760
<b>Lucas Mann</b>	Science	\$2,760
<b>David DerCola</b>	Social Studies	\$2,760

Award Tenure – Administration – Agenda # 5.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Joseph Salamone** in the area of Secondary Principal, effective August 28, 2021.

Award Tenure – Instructional – Agenda #5.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Annemarie Arsanious** in the area of English, effective September 1, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Alex Danon** in the area of School Counseling and Guidance effective September 1, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Chelsea Cozzolino** in the area of Elementary Education, effective September 1, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Elizabeth Groth** in the area of Music, effective September 1, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Jennifer Ippolito** in the area of English as a Second Language, effective September 1, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Megan Lesczynski** in the area of Elementary Education, effective September 1, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Amanda Manner** in the area of Speech, effective September 1, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Nicole Passaro** in the area of Elementary Education, effective September 1, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Meghan Sternemann** in the area of English, effective September 1, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Jordan Taylor** in the area of Science, effective September 1, 2021.

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

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Renee Aberasturi** in the area of Teaching Assistant, effective October 20, 2021.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and award tenure to **Janine Daly** in the area of Teaching Assistant, effective October 20, 2021.

Approve First Reading – Policy – Agenda #5.I.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the first reading of the following policy:

1. Policy #5631 – Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms

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 in its February minutes.

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #5.M.

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

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #6.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the District Athletic Fields [when available] by **Wallkill Area Little League\*** [for Baseball and Softball] as indicated below:

Weekdays:	March 18, 2021 – November 16, 2021	4:00 p.m. to Dusk
Weekends:	March 20, 2021 – November 14, 2021	6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*\* Reopening Plan is on file*

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the John G. Borden Middle School fields by **Wallkill Area Youth Soccer\*** [for Practice and Games] as indicated below:

Saturdays	March 27, 2021 – June 19, 2021	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Mondays-Fridays	March 29, 2021 – June 18, 2021	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

*\* Return to Play document is on file*

Accept Treasurer's Report – Agenda #6.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education has reviewed and accepts the Treasurer's Reports as of February 28, 2021 and Revenues as of February 28, 2021.

Approve Legal Fees [2021-2022 School Year] – Agenda #6.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the hourly rate for legal fees to be \$215 per hour [for attorneys] effective July 1, 2021 and to be \$100 per hour [for paralegal services] effective July 1, 2021.

Approve Memorandum of Agreement – Wallkill Teachers' Association – Agenda #6.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 hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Wallkill Central School District, and the Wallkill Teachers' Association, dated February 23, 2021, covering the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

Approve Memorandum of Agreement – Wallkill Teachers' Association – Agenda #6.E.

The Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Wallkill Central School District and the Wallkill Teachers' Association, dated March 12, 2021, regarding in-person learning, a copy of which shall be on file with the District Clerk.

Approve Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement – Agenda #6.F.

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

Be It Resolved that the retirement letter of Ms. Marjorie Anderson is hereby accepted in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement, dated March 12, 2021 with the WAA and Ms. Anderson.

6. Approve Appointments – Coaching – Agenda #5.H.

Mr. Frisbie moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following appointments for the 2020-2021 school year:

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

**Taylor Palen**

Assistant Varsity Cheer Coach

Unpaid

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

**Gary Benken**

Assistant Modified Track and Field Coach

Unpaid

Motion seconded by Mr. Bartolone and carried 6 – 0. [Mr. Palen abstained]

7. **Nominate Ulster BOCES Board Representative – Agenda #5.I.**

Mr. Palen moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and nominate **Vincent Petrocelli** to a three-year term representing the Wallkill Central School District on the Ulster County BOCES Board of Education.

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

**Discussion:**

*Mr. LoCicero thanked Mr. Petrocelli for his dedication and years he has spent serving on the Ulster County BOCES Board of Education. He is grateful to have Vinny represent the District once again on the Ulster County BOCES Board of Education.*

8. **Public Comment – Agenda #7**

At 7:52 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- *A parent addressed and thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to speak to them regarding the four (4) day in-person instructional model. He wanted to know why the District decided to implement a shift to in-person learning only four (4) days per week instead of five (5) days per week.*
  - *In addition to the comments previously stated to other parents, Mr. Castle commented that Fridays will continue to be used to do a thorough cleaning of the buildings. He stated that we need to gradually transition students back to school while at the same time continue to monitor COVID cases.*
- *A parent addressed the Board of Education regarding a Virginia school district that has students attending school five (5) days per week.*
  - *Mr. LoCicero stated that the goal of the Board is to return students back to school five (5) days per week. Mr. Castle indicated that every school district has their unique circumstances. The District followed Ulster County's guidelines in order to be able to bring more students back to school.*
- *A parent who already addressed the Board of Education sought further clarification on when we can bring remote students back to school.*
  - *Mr. Castle commented that we are guided by the State and we cannot require remote students to return to school at this time. The number of remote students can change on a weekly basis.*
- *A parent addressed the Board of Education regarding the District's decision to wait to return students back to school on April 12, 2021, and on the expectation of the delivery and installation of the barriers.*
  - *Mr. Castle indicated that the District would use Spring Break to install the barriers that we receive. We need to take a gradual approach to bringing students back to school. Mr. Castle reiterated information already shared by Mr. Devincenzi regarding the delivery of the barriers. Mr. LoCicero, Mr. Frisbie and Mr. Devincenzi also addressed the parents' questions regarding the return to in-person learning timeline and the installation of barriers. Mr. LoCicero asked that the parent call Mr. Castle directly to discuss her questions further.*

9. **Executive Session – Agenda #8**

At 8:11 p.m. Mr. Petrocelli moved the Board enter Executive Session to discuss litigation.

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

The Board reconvened at 9:14 p.m.

10. **Add Item to Agenda**

Mr. Frisbie moved item; Approve Stipulation of Agreement be added to the Agenda.

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



11. Approve Stipulation of Agreement

Mr. Palen moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Stipulation of Agreement between the Wallkill Central School District and the parent of a child with a disability, student no. 031721.

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

12. Close Meeting – Agenda #9

At 9:16 p.m. Mrs. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran  
District Clerk