

GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 BOARD OF EDUCATION
 GOUVERNEUR NEW YORK 13642
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

APRIL 9, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by President David Fenlong, at 5:30 P.M., in the High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, Brooke Bush, Dr. William Cartwright, David Fenlong, Lisa McGregor, Laurie M. Roberts.

Trustees Absent: Mark Hendrick, Nickolas Ormasen, Laura Spicer.

Also Present: Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools; Dale R. Munn Jr., Business Manager; Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk; Abigail Bowman, Student Board Representative

II. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were offered.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Communications

1. BOCES Administrative Budget and Board Candidate information
2. Southwest Career & Technical Center Open House – April 18

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly shared additional names of Middle School students who will have artwork displayed at the North Country Art Teachers Association PreK – Grade 8 Art Show, and announced fifth-grader Avery McCaleb's artwork also won for Best Use of Color and Line at the regional level. On March 26, Ms. Patton's PreK students met with Mrs. Reddick's third graders to share their counting books that they published. Our Math Coach, Mrs. Cappellino, said, "It was very heartwarming to see how brave they were to share with the "big kids" and how kind the third graders were with the "little kids." It was great to see our students working and learning together!" Mrs. Kelly stated the Math Coach position was created using federal funding that ends this year but that position has been maintained for the 2024–25 budget. Jordyn Johnson, an 8th grade student in Ms. Whitaker's science class, won a contest sponsored by the NYS Department of Conservation to create a watershed superhero. The 14 winners' pictures will be featured in a calendar.

C. Upcoming Events

1. April 11 – BOCES Annual Meeting
2. April 18 – SWT Open House, 5-7 PM
3. April 19 – Purple Up for Military Kids – all students and teachers to wear purple
4. April 22 – Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 PM, HS Auditorium

D. Student Board Representative Report – Abigail Bowman

Ms. Bowman's report provided updates on the upcoming Prom and the college preparations underway with the senior class. Responding to Trustee Roberts, Ms. Bowman shared that the *Wildcat Closet* is open, where students can acquire a donated dress.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. 2024-2025 Budget Draft Document #3

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn stated that this draft brings the total budget expenditures to \$44,165,000, incorporating minor changes from Draft #2 including ARP-funded initiatives and updated BOCES commitment numbers. There was no change on the revenue side. He added that negotiations are continuing at the state level but for this budget he doesn't anticipate any significant decrease in funding. This budget, at \$44,165,000, is 3.459% increase over last year, with an increase in the tax levy of 2.03%, both lower than the CPI. President Fenlong thanked him for putting the budget together and tying it in to our mission statement and goals.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

April 9, 2024

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

President David Fenlong asked if any member on the Board wished to have any item on the Consent Agenda removed for special consideration and discussion. No member asked for any item to be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, seconded by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-D, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024 Regular Meeting, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 03/12/24 – 03/22/24, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the services, including additions, modifications and deletions, for the following classified students (indicated by CSE Student ID#), as reflected in the attached CSE Meeting Minutes report:

5103636	5104919	5104920	5102389	5103952	5102829
5104052	5103954	5104249	5103955	5100704	5101669
5102363	5102769	5104686	5104711	5100422	5103282
5101163	5102739	5103265	5103005	5103182	5104823
5102406	5104399	5102202	5104888	5103002	5104927
5104392	5102431	5103035	5101221	5103855	5104722

D. CPSE Business

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the services, including additions, modifications and deletions, for the following classified students (indicated by CPSE Student ID#), as reflected in the attached CSE Meeting Minutes report:

5104691

Vote on Consent Agenda:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

President David Fenlong asked if any member on the Board wished to have any item on the Consent Agenda – Personnel removed for special consideration and discussion. No member asked for any item to be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Personnel:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items A-D as a Consent Agenda:

A. Tenure Recommendations

RESOLVED, that Kirsten L. Sargent, Reading Teacher, who holds Initial certification in *Literacy (Birth-Grade 6)* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the area of REMEDIAL READING effective 08/31/2024, conditioned upon compliance with APPR requirements or waiver as determined by the State of New York.

RESOLVED, that Kimberly A. Reed, Mathematics Teacher, who holds Permanent certification in *Mathematics 7-12* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the area of MATHEMATICS ACADEMIC TENURE, GRADES 7-12 effective 09/01/2024, conditioned upon compliance with APPR requirements or waiver as determined by the State of New York.

RESOLVED, that Alicia A. Cornell, Grade 1 Teacher, who holds Professional certification in *Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade2)* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the area of ELEMENTARY PRE-K- 6 effective 09/21/2024, conditioned upon compliance with APPR requirements or waiver as determined by the State of New York.

RESOLVED, that Danielle J. Peake, English Teacher, who holds Supplemental certification in *English Language Arts 7-12* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the area of ENGLISH ACADEMIC TENURE, GRADE 7-12 effective 10/07/2024, conditioned upon compliance with APPR requirements or waiver as determined by the State of New York.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

B. Approval of Amendment to Superintendent’s Contract

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Resolved, that the Board approves of an amendment, in the form included in the minutes for this meeting, to the July 1, 2021 contract of employment between the Board and the Superintendent.

C. Abolishment of Positions

Approve the recommendation to eliminate ten (10) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper positions, under the GSRPU contract, effective immediately. These positions are currently vacant.

D. Appointments1. Administrative

- a) Executive Director of Operations and Personnel. Appoint Cory E. Wood, holding Professional certification in *School District Leader*, to the probationary position of Executive Director of Operations and Personnel, in the administrative tenure area of *School District Leader*, effective June 29, 2024, at his present salary, under the terms and conditions of the Managerial/Confidential employee group. The probationary period is effective June 29, 2024 and anticipated to end June 28, 2027.

2. Instructional

- a) Social Studies Teacher. Appoint Emma E. York, pending issuance of NYS certification in Social Studies 7-12, to the position of Social Studies Teacher in the Social Studies academic tenure area, for a four-year probationary period commencing on September 3, 2024, and anticipated to end on September 2, 2028, at an annual salary set at Step 1, B30M in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2024-2025. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term and having received annual composite or overall APPR ratings of Highly Effective or Effective in at least three of the four preceding years and a rating higher than “Ineffective” in the final year of the probationary period. For anticipated professional development purposes only, her appointment date is effective July 1, 2024.
- b) Teaching Assistant. Appoint Bobbi Jo O’Donnell Thompson, holding NYS certification in Teaching Assistant Level 3, to the position of Teaching Assistant in the Teaching Assistant tenure area, for a four-year probationary period commencing on April 10, 2024, and anticipated to end on April 9, 2028, at an annual salary set at Teaching Assistant Step 1, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2023-2024.
- c) Teaching Assistant. Appoint Tracy J. Whitton, holding NYS certification in Teaching Assistant Level 1, to the position of Teaching Assistant in the Teaching Assistant tenure area, for a four-year probationary period commencing on September 3, 2024, and anticipated to end on September 2, 2028, at an annual salary set at Teaching Assistant Step 1, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2024-2025. For anticipated professional development purposes only, her appointment date is effective July 1, 2024. Ms. Whitton’s position as an Individual Aide under the GSRPU contract will effectively end June 30, 2024.

3. Extra-Curricular

- a) 2023-2024 Spring Coach. Appoint Ryan Besaw as Modified Baseball – Volunteer (uncompensated), pending completion of any outstanding certification requirements.
- b) Lifeguard. Approve Lindsey Carvel as a certified Lifeguard for the 2023-24 school year and add her to the Pool Safety Plan.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

President Fenlong extended congratulations and thanks to the tenure recipients and all appointees.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Proposed 2024-2025 Budget

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, that the Board of Education adopt the proposed general fund budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$44,165,000, with an anticipated tax levy increase of 2.03%, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2024-2025 BUDGET, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

B. Approval of Property Tax Report Card for 2024-2025*(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education approve and authorize submission of the Property Tax Report Card for 2024-25 to the State Education Department, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD FOR 2024-25, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. Resolution to Apply for Unclaimed Funds from New York State

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New York State Comptroller is required to accept and hold dormant accounts as outlined pursuant to New York State Abandoned Property Law; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Comptroller becomes the custodian of these funds and holds the funds under its Unclaimed Funds Program until they are able to be returned to their rightful owners; and

WHEREAS, the Gouverneur Central School District has a number of accounts being held under the program, and bears a primary mailing address of 133 East Barney St., Gouverneur, NY 13642; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gouverneur Central School District is ordered and directed to apply for any and all unclaimed funds held by the NYS Comptroller and owing and belonging to the Gouverneur Central School District, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Official is directed to accept these unclaimed funds and any other unclaimed funds deemed belonging to the Gouverneur Central School District by the NYS Comptroller: *Outstanding checks issued* reported by Taylor Promotional Products; *Miscellaneous Property* reported by PayPal.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR UNCLAIMED FUNDS FROM NYS, APPROVED.

D. Cafeteria Staffing - discussion

The cafeterias are shifting to using fresh meat, potatoes, and produce from local farms, which is more labor intensive than utilizing prepared foods. Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Munn asked the Board to consider adding one 5-hour food service helper position. The position can be funded with excess cafeteria funds and will also aid in getting that fund to appropriate limits. Mr. Munn noted that the longer shifts have already resulted in improved attendance and efficiency over the 2.75-hour shifts. Board members were in favor of adding the position, with Trustee Roberts saying she was pleased to see us locally sourcing the food. The position will be created at the next board meeting.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons and pending litigation matters.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:06 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:12 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file

David Fenlong, President