

GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 BOARD OF EDUCATION
 GOUVERNEUR NEW YORK 13642
 ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING AND VOTE

MAY 13, 2024
 MAY 21, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING of the qualified voters of the Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by Chairperson David Fenlong on May 13, 2024 at 5:32 p.m., in the High School Cafeteria, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, Dr. William Cartwright, David Fenlong, Mark Hendrick, Lisa McGregor, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush, Nickolas Ormasen.

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

Chairperson Fenlong announced that polls will be open in the High School Auditorium from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on May 21, 2024 for in-person voting. He proceeded to read the ballot items; one side is for the Election of Board Members with the names of the five candidates who submitted petitions as well as spaces for up to four write in votes. The other side has the propositions to be voted on this year; Proposition #1, the General School Budget; and Proposition #2, Student School Board Representative.

II. DESIGNATION OF INSPECTORS AND OFFICERS OF ELECTION

The following Inspectors and Officers were appointed by the Board of Education at their meeting on March 4, 2024: Chief Inspector Diane Kelley, and Inspector of Election Judith Poticher. The Assistant Clerk of the Annual District Budget Vote and Election is Kim Shampine.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

Superintendent Kelly explained the three components comprising the 2024-25 proposed budget of \$44,165,000. The Administrative Component includes expenses for the Board of Education, Chief School Administrator, business administration, auditing, treasurer, tax collector, purchasing, legal services, personnel services, records management, public information services, curriculum development and supervision, central data processing, central printing and mailing, central storeroom, judgments and claims and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in this component. For 2024-25 this represents 11.48% of the total budget, or \$5,070,630, an increase of \$368,089 from the previous year. Mrs. Kelly explained the increase is vastly due to shifting the central data processing software expenses to this component. The Program Component is the largest expense at 71.8% of the total budget, or \$31,710,087, an increase of \$2,401,349 from the previous year. The increase is a direct result of grant funding scheduled to end in the summer of 2024 for positions that were paid through the American Rescue Plan for the past three years. The Program Component includes salaries and benefits of teachers, guidance, health services, psychological and social work services, pupil personnel services, co-curricular activities, interscholastic athletics, district transportation services (excluding bus purchases), contract transportation, recreation, youth programs, civic activities, employee benefits attributable to salaries included in this component, transfers to school lunch and special aid funds, and legal services relating to the program component. For 2024-25 this also includes the cost of \$2,498,200 for the third year of a three-year transportation contract. Finally, the Capital Component covers the operation and maintenance of buildings, school bus purchases, debt service, transfers to capital and debt service funds, tax certiorari, judgments and claims, and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in this component. The total Capital Component comes to \$7,384,283, or 16.72% of the total budget, a decrease of \$1,239,898 over the previous year. Mrs. Kelly referenced the \$1.2 million cash project at the high school that was included in last year's Capital Component that is not applicable this year. The tax levy for 2024-25 is \$7,066,189, an increase of \$140,638 which is a 2.03% increase. Examples were given for the financial impact on property owners with homes valued at \$60,000 and \$100,000. The net tax increase with Basic STAR is \$8.12 and \$17.21, respectively; and with Enhanced STAR the increase is \$0 and \$7.27, respectively.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET (CONTINUED)

The budget also supports the long-term goals of the district. First, to bring consistency to curriculum decisions across grade levels and provide appropriate professional development to support those curriculum decisions, with emphasis on developing the foundational skills necessary for students to effectively read and write. Second, to provide social emotional support and academic opportunities necessary for all students to be engaged in school and find success. Finally, to provide a continuum of Special Education services district-wide to support the needs of all our students. Superintendent Kelly recapped that the proposed budget focuses on preserving the strong educational programming, safe and secure environments, and extracurricular activities that our community has supported over the years. This budget also provides for additional academic and social-emotional support for all students. This is a fiscally responsible and educationally sound spending plan that focuses on aligning our budgetary decisions with our mission statement to educate all individuals, in a safe environment, to be passionate learners and responsible citizens in a global society. This budget also incorporates many of the staffing positions that were created using federal funding to support our students both academically and socially after the COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendent Kelly outlined that the proposed budget includes the addition of a School Psychology intern, additional Behavioral support, continuing the afterschool and summer remedial and enrichment programming previously paid through ARP, additional technology education support, continuing the Orchestra program, and continuing the use of virtual Psychologists. Also, at the Elementary and Middle schools, positions previously funded through the ARP will be continued, including the Math AIS teachers, instructional Math Coach, Counseling Teaching Assistants, and additional classroom aides, primarily for Kindergarten. At the High School, a Reading AIS position will be added, and alternative education programming through the BOCES will be explored to address additional needs. The proposed 2024-25 budget also includes the purchase of five new diesel-powered buses and one new gasoline powered Suburban. The District is also acquiring two electric powered vehicles that are fully grant-funded. This is all ahead of the upcoming mandated shift to the use of electric vehicles and will assist in determining the feasibility of using electric vehicles in a district of our size and terrain. In addition to the budget, residents will be asked to elect four members to the Board of Education. Superintendent Kelly encouraged everyone to find out more about the proposed budget and candidates on our website.

IV. CANDIDATES FOR OPEN BOARD SEATS

Current Board Members are David Fenlong, President; Todd Bates, Vice President; Brooke Bush, Dr. William Cartwright, Mark Hendrick, Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie Roberts, and Laura Spicer. Board members whose terms are expiring on June 30, 2024 are Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie Roberts, and Laura Spicer. A fourth seat, held by Lisa McGregor, will expire May 21, 2024. Four vacancies will be voted upon; the top three vote-getters will receive the three 3-year terms expiring on June 30, 2024, and the fourth will complete the term commencing May 22, 2024 to expire on June 30, 2025. Petitions have been filed by five individuals. A drawing was done on April 23 for ballot placement. The candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot: Laurie M. Roberts – Incumbent; Laura Spicer – Incumbent; Roland Roderick; Nickolas Ormasen – Incumbent; and Lisa McGregor – Incumbent.

V. COMMENT PERIOD

Chairperson Fenlong asked if there were any questions or comments. No comments were expressed.

VI. RECESS UNTIL POLLS OPEN ON MAY 21, 2024

There being no further business or discussion, Chairperson David Fenlong recessed the meeting at 5:44 p.m., until the polls open on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the Auditorium beginning at 12:00 p.m.

BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

VII. OPENING OF THE POLLS

On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. local time, Chairperson David Fenlong reconvened the annual meeting and declared the polls open for voting. The following Election Inspectors were present: Diane Kelley, Chief Inspector; Judith Poticher, Election Inspector; Tatia Z. Kennedy, Clerk; and Kim Shampine, Assistant Clerk.

VIII. CLOSING OF THE POLLS

After Chairperson David Fenlong had ascertained that all who were in the polling place at 8:00 p.m., local time, who wanted to vote had done so, he declared the polls closed.

IX. VOTING AND ELECTION RESULTS

After the votes were tallied, Chairperson David Fenlong announced the Voting Results as follows:

A. PROPOSITION ONE: GENERAL SCHOOL BUDGET.

Authorize the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District to expend for General Fund Appropriations a sum of \$44,165,000.00 and to levy the necessary taxes thereof.

PASSED YES - 210 NO - 59

B. PROPOSITION TWO: STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE.

Allow a high school student to continue to serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Gouverneur Central School District Board of Education subject to the requirements of the Education Law.

PASSED YES - 243 NO - 26

C. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:

The top 3 vote-getters are elected for three (3) vacancies with terms of three (3) years (7/1/24 – 6/30/27) to succeed Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts, and Laura Spicer:

- #1 – Laurie M. Roberts
- #2 – Nickolas Ormasen
- #3 – Laura Spicer

The fourth highest vote-getter is elected for one (1) vacant term commencing 5/22/24, and expiring on 6/30/25, to succeed Lisa McGregor:

- #4 – Lisa McGregor

Number of votes received:

Laurie M. Roberts	224
Laura Spicer	184
Roland Roderick	106
Nickolas Ormasen	195
Lisa McGregor	168
Write-in:	0

D. VOTERS:

Number of Voters Registered	<u>271</u>
Number of Voters Voted	<u>271</u>
Number of Spoiled Ballots	<u>9</u>
Number of Blank or Void Votes	<u>0</u>

Attachments:

Sample Ballot

Oath of Inspectors

Certificate of Inspectors of Election with Absentee/Early Voter Ballot Return and Write-in Candidate Tally

Machine Tapes: open poll; ballots cast; close poll

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, I declare the Annual Budget Vote and Election of the Residents of the Gouverneur Central School District to be adjourned at 8:37 p.m., local time.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk