

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

JANUARY 27, 2025

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, David Fenlong, Lisa McGregor, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: Dr. William Cartwright, Nickolas Ormasen.

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Communications

School Board Candidate petition packets are now available from the District Clerk.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly shared a brief update of activities taking place in each of the buildings. At the high school, eight students have signed up to participate in Clarkson University's Project Challenge. The 5-week courses include: Neuroscience- Brain Injuries, Understanding World War II through Tabletop Games, The Secret Life of Molecules- Exploring Chemistry in Action, and the Magical World of Chemistry. At the middle school, the Student Council will host a much-anticipated dance for students in grades 5 – 8 on February 28. The National Junior Honor Society is joining forces to provide concessions, creating a memorable evening for our students to connect and celebrate together. On February 5, the Gouverneur Elementary School will participate in a nation-wide Global School Play Day. The entire day will be devoted to creativity, collaboration, and developing social skills through the joy of play! The best part about Global School Play Day is the one simple rule: no electronics allowed!

C. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly announced the calendar events taking place in the next few weeks, including the select small groups concert, a circus, the FFA pancake breakfast, and the Winter Ball.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report – December, 2024

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn briefed the Board on what is known from the Governor's proposed budget. He predicted the district will see an increase in foundation aid due to the state using a new poverty formula recommended by the Rockefeller study. He also discussed the Governor's plan to address cellphone use in the schools, saying it appears that the executive budget will include funding for this initiative. Highlighted items on the expense side included no mention from the Governor regarding the retiree salary cap, and whether we will be affected with the retirees that currently work for us. Another expense recently realized was the Suburban we acquired this year for smaller routes is now being utilized. Lastly, he mentioned that the NYSED Capital Project Review now allows for the use of a third-party review. This has brought NYSED's review process down to about 4 months. Third-party review can cost around \$30,000 but is completed within 45 days; the cost may be more than offset by the savings of the faster turnaround.

B. 2025-2026 Budget

1. Property Tax Cap Calculation

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Mr. Munn shared his projections for the property tax cap, keeping the percentage increase in the tax levy around 2%. President Fenlong requested a final review at the next board meeting.

January 27, 2025

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None.

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 one asked for any item to be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items

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

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 6, 2025, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 1/3/2025 – 1/24/2025, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the services, including additions, modifications and deletions, for the following classified students, as reflected in the attached CSE Meeting Minutes report:

5102890	5104832	5102769	5103818	5103799	5101339	5103338
5102659	5103867	5103954	5103952	5103955	5104352	5103756
5104383	5101211	5103136	5103099	5103299	5104664	5103654
5104187	5102406	5105021	5104756	5103094	5103480	5104201
5103188	5101105	5103292	5104632	5101496	5102247	5102793
5102836	5104434	5103568	5103327	5104637	5103916	5103775
5104706	5104575					

D. CPSE Business

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the services, including additions, modifications and deletions, for the following classified students, as reflected in the attached CPSE Meeting Minutes report:

5105032 5104680

E. Student Activities Report – 4th Quarter, 2024

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the SA Report for the 4th Quarter of 2024, as presented.

F. Treasurer's Report – December, 2024

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 2024, as presented.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

President 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 that any items be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Personnel

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-G, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Memorandum of Agreement #8 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#8 to the contract between the District and GSRPU to address a leave of absence for a particular employee to fulfill student teaching responsibilities, as presented.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

B. Memorandum of Agreement #2 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association

(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#2 to the contract between the District and GEA to apply Article 12.2.1 regarding cumulative sick leave retroactively to unit members still employed, as presented.

C. Memorandum of Agreement #3 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association

(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#3 to the contract between the District and GEA under Article 8, Conditions of Employment, to address that the use of surveillance cameras (Board Policy 5685) shall not be used for routine evaluation of employees, as presented.

D. Memorandum of Agreement #4 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association

(See Sheet #11, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#4 to the contract between the District and GEA to amend Article 18.2.5 (under Article 18, In-Service Credit), to reflect a project stipend maximum based on the daily rate, as presented.

E. Retirements

- a) Accept the revised request for resignation for retirement purposes from April A. Patton, from her position as UPK teacher, effective June 30, 2025 (originally dated July 1, 2025 and accepted at the January 6, 2025 Board of Education regular meeting).
- b) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Terri L. Whitaker, from her position as secondary Mathematics teacher, effective June 30, 2025.
- c) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Arthur Knauf, from his position as Special Education teacher, effective June 30, 2025.
- d) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Gina M. Taylor, from her position as Elementary teacher, effective June 30, 2025.
- e) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Betty L. Hall, from her position as Music teacher, effective June 29, 2025.

F. Resignations

- a) Accept the request for resignation from Penny Simons, from her position as Middle School STEM Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

G. Appointments

1. Extra Duty

- a) Gouverneur Elementary TCIS (Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Schools) Coordinators. Appoint the following personnel as TCIS Coordinators for the 2024-2025 school year: Kaitlin Ford, Brittany Lewis.
- b) High School Afterschool Tutoring – Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2024-2025 school year: Bobbie Holmes.
- c) High School Detention Monitor. Appoint the following personnel as Detention Monitors for the 2024-2025 school year: Bobbie Holmes.

2. Substitutes and Tutors

- a) Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes, pending completion of all requirements: Austin Garrison (B&G), Alexis Hayes (B&G), Madison Ayen, Ashton Currier, Megan Peddle.
- b) Approve the appointment of the following current staff to work as instructional tutors: Kara Mashaw.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

President Fenlong recognized and thanked all of the retirees for their many contributions to the district and the students.

January 27, 2025

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Calendar Update – June 2025 Regents schedule

Superintendent Kelly informed board members that the tests originally scheduled on June 4 and June 10 will now be held on June 10 and June 11. On June 10, two tests will take place; therefore, students in grades 9-12 will not be required to be in session that day unless they are testing. On June 11 only one test will be given, so all students will be in attendance. She assured board members that parents will be notified.

B. Acceptance of Gift

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education formally accept the gift of the donation from the Gouverneur VFW Post 6338, in the amount of \$500.00, for the Gouverneur Cheerleading team, and increase the 2024-2025 budget for Supplies/Athletics (2855-450-00-000000) by the same.

DISCUSSION: President Fenlong thanked the VFW for their generosity and for thinking of our students.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. GIFT OF DONATION FROM THE GOUVERNEUR VFW POST 6338, ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

C. Authorization to Declare as Surplus and Dispose of Used Items

(See Sheet #12, Board Minutes File Folder)

Whereas, the School District owns certain items which are obsolete, no longer useful or necessary for school district purposes and of no value to the School District, as indicated on a list attached to and made a part of this resolution;

Therefore, be it resolved, that upon motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education hereby declares such items to be surplus property and of no value to the School District and authorizes the Business Administrator to dispose of such items in accordance with Board Policy and in the best interests of the School District.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly said numerous attempts have been made in-district to recycle the items.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ITEMS DECLARED SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZED FOR DISPOSAL, AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Jerrilyn Patton asked if the upcoming vote in May is still for three board seats on a 9-member board. Superintendent Kelly confirmed, saying this vote will be to fill 3 seats currently held by McGregor, Cartwright, and a current vacancy.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:00 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 6:30 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President