

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

FEBRUARY 10, 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, David Fenlong, Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush, Dr. William Cartwright.

Also Present: Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools; Dale R. Munn Jr., Business Manager; Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum; Cory Wood, Executive Director of Operations and Personnel; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk; Tony Fiacco, Student Board Representative.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Communications

1. School Board Candidate Petition Packets are available from District Clerk

2. BOCES Annual Meeting and Vote

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties, will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at which time the proposed administrative, capital, and program budgets of the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties BOCES for the 2025-2026 school year will be available for inspection by the Boards of Education.

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, each component board will conduct a public meeting for the purpose of electing members of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, and adopting a public resolution concerning the approval or disapproval of the BOCES tentative administrative budget.

B. Wildcat News

The District recognized National School Counseling Week 2025, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), from Feb. 3-7. The week was designed to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within United States school systems and how students are positively impacted as a result of what school counselors do. Superintendent Kelly took the opportunity to recognize and thank all of the mental health professionals in the district: Jamie DeRusso, Marcy Tyler, Monica Scott, Hunter Hitchman, Grace Mashaw, Mackenzie Reynolds, Christie Warren, Kayley Learn, Kaitlin Ford, and Jackie Scott-Hardy, adding that it is very important for our school community to understand the unique role school counselors, social workers, and assistants play. A round of applause was shared in appreciation.

C. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly announced the calendar events taking place in the next few weeks, reminding those present that Friday, February 14 students will be dismissed early; with staff professional development taking place in the afternoon, and mid-winter break is February 17-21, with no school for students.

D. Student Board Representative – Tony Fiacco

Mr. Fiacco reported that the High School Drama production held in December was a huge hit, with approximately 250 people attending the three performances. The mid-winter Ball was held last weekend, again with a good turnout. He concluded the report with the winter sports wrap up; sectionals are underway in all sports, and to date we have four members of the boys' swim team advancing to states, and two state qualifiers from the girls' indoor track and field. President Fenlong thanked him, and expressed admiration and good luck from the Board to all of our competing student athletes.

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IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report – January, 2025

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn highlighted items pertaining to revenues and expenses to date. On the revenue side, declining enrollment since the start of the year has resulted in decreased foundation aid this year and will impact future years as well. He is continuing to watch the information coming from the federal Project 2025 that may affect the Community Eligibility Provision for school lunches. Trustee Ormasen suggested that board members and the community write to our representatives to support continuing the CEP and free school meals. Regarding expenses to date, Mr. Munn said the original budget is made for worst-case scenarios, and now that we are halfway through the year he has started to decrease some of those projected expenditures to bring them closer to actual spending.

B. 2025-2026 Budget1. List of Priorities

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn shared the priorities that were established from meetings held with the administrative teams from each building and the department heads (Athletics, Buildings and Grounds, Health, IT, and Special Education). Mr. Munn stated the goal was to continue to align budgetary decisions with our mission statement, and then proceeded to review the 3 component (Administrative, Capital, and Program) budget requests. The Administrative component includes the addition of another SRO position. This would put an SRO in each school building full-time. It was clarified that a third SRO would cost the same as the other two and have the same expectations. During discussion on the Capital component items, Mr. Munn clarified that if we are successful on the reimbursement grant for two electric buses, the budget will include funds to purchase those buses. If we do not get the funding, we will not purchase the buses. Director of Operations Cory Wood spoke to the need for an additional cleaner, saying the number of cleaners has decreased over the last ten years but the building usage has increased. Superintendent Kelly added that adding a cleaner to the High School would bring the building to the same staffing as the Elementary and Middle Schools, a benefit for cleanliness and safety reasons. Regarding the copier replacement, Mr. Munn explained that we currently lease our copier and it is getting to the end of its useful life; the recommendation is to buy one outright from BOCES with a maintenance contract. Discussion on the Program Component included building positions into the budget that were originally created using ARP or grant funds (Social Workers, Behavior Consultant services, and Instructional Support Specialist). When questioned about TCIS Support, Superintendent Kelly explained that stands for Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Schools, a program that helps students deescalate when they are in crisis. Further discussion took place on current programs and the use of instructional coaches. Mr. Munn stated he would share the first budget draft at the next meeting.

2. Property Tax Cap Calculation

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn related that maintaining the tax cap around 2% as in previous years will support the priorities. All board members present agreed that the current calculation of 2.02% was acceptable and directed Mr. Munn to submit that number to the state.

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 Laura Spicer, seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-E, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 27, 2025, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 1/25/25 – 2/07/25, as presented.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

C. CSE 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 CSE Meeting Minutes report:

5101808	5103917	5103000	5104869	5102739	5103383
5104473	5104365	5104902	5104903	5102773	5103140
5102298	5104661	5102138	5104114	5103045	5104530
5104219	5102299	5102876	5103321	5101566	5104895
5102531	5101651	5104544	5103282	5100422	5103406
5102813	5104690	5102502	5102682	5102291	5102829

D. CPSE Business

(See Sheet #6, 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:

5104912 5104727

E. Treasurer's Report – January, 2025

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of January, 2025, 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 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 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 Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items as a Consent Agenda:

A. Appointments1. Instructional

- a) Teaching Assistant – Counselor. Appoint Melissa Matice, pending issuance of Teaching Assistant Level I certification, to the position of Teaching Assistant – Counselor in the Teaching Assistant tenure area for a four-year probationary period commencing on February 24, 2025 and anticipated to end on February 23, 2029, at an annual salary set at Teaching Assistant Step 6 in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for year 2024-2025, prorated to February 24, 2025.
- b) School Psychologist. Appoint Shea-Marie M. Mussaw, pending issuance of School Psychologist certification, to the position of School Psychologist in the School Psychologist tenure area, for a four-year probationary period commencing on July 1, 2025 and anticipated to end on June 30, 2029, at an annual salary set at Step 3, B60M in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for year 2025-2026.

2. Non-Instructional

- a) Individual Aide. Appoint Cathy Schiszler to the position of Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the Civil Service, effective February 11, 2025, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU collective bargaining agreement, to be compensated at Level 1 Aide 7.5-hr, prorated to 2/11/25.
- b) Individual Aide. Appoint Megan Peddle to the position of Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the Civil Service, effective February 11, 2025, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU collective bargaining agreement, to be compensated at Level 1 Aide 7.5-hr, prorated to 2/11/25.
- c) Individual Aide. Appoint Shannon Bishop to the position of Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the Civil Service, effective February 11, 2025, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU collective bargaining agreement, to be compensated at Level 1 Aide 7.5-hr, prorated to 2/11/25.

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VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

A. Appointments (Cont.)3. Substitutes and Tutors

- a) Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitute(s), pending completion of all requirements: Tiffany Hart.
- b) Approve the appointment of the following current staff to work as instructional tutors for the 2024-25 school year: Melissa Sweeney

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

President Fenlong recognized the new appointees and thanked them for the opportunities they will provide.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025-2026 School Calendar

Board members discussed the draft of the 2025 – 2026 school calendar. The calendar has 185 school days, and includes 5 emergency closure days, 3 half days for Parent-Teacher Conferences at the elementary and middle schools, and 3 half days district-wide for professional development. Trustee Roberts opined that the 3 half days for conferences is disruptive to attendance and she supports evening conferences. Superintendent Kelly explained that the schedules allow for variations to accommodate all parents. Regarding snow days, Trustee McGregor asked how remote days work if personal devices are not being taken home. Superintendent Kelly said there is a Remote Plan in place that is shared out early in the year and again if it gets closer to having to use. The Plan is dependent on grade levels.

B. Adoption of calendar

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education adopt the 2025-2026 school calendar, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education move into executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons, and the employment history of a particular corporation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:22 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:04 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 7:04 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file

David Fenlong, President

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