

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

MARCH 3, 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 Middle School Cafeteria, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush.

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentation – Staff Recognition Award

President Fenlong and those present congratulated Nicole Cudhea, keyboard specialist at Gouverneur Elementary School, with a round of applause. The District Shared Decision-Making Committee determined Mrs. Cudhea's worthiness of this recognition because, "As a cornerstone of the school office, Nicole goes above and beyond to ensure every student feels welcomed and valued. Her ability to create a safe and calming space for students who need a break from the classroom is truly remarkable. Whether offering a listening ear, a comforting smile, a self-regulating fidget (she has a collection by her computer monitor for students to select from), or just a moment of peace, Nicole consistently provides the support our students need to thrive. Nicole's dedication to student well-being is evident in countless other ways as well, including her recent decision to invest her own resources to purchase toys and rewards for the "Caught You Being Good" prize bin. This thoughtful act not only reinforces positive behavior but also highlights Nicole's commitment to fostering a culture of encouragement and kindness within our school."

B. Communications

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

C. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly recapped the winter sports standings for the season, congratulating all of the teams and their coaches for their successful seasons. The Girls' Basketball team finished second in the central division and competed for the Section X championship for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The Boys' Varsity Swim won their third consecutive Section X boys' swim title and qualified one relay team and 2 individuals in three events for the NYSSBA state meet. The indoor track boys' and girls' teams finished with several award winners and multiple personal records, with two athletes traveling to compete in the NYSSBA indoor track and field championships. To cap off their 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive perfect league season, our wrestling team claimed the overall Section X team championship and crowned 6 individual champions who competed at the state level. The girls' wrestling program had a very successful inaugural season, with two moving on to compete in the NYSSBA NYS Girls Wrestling championships. Mrs. Kelly also referenced the power outage at the elementary school and bus garage, commending the staff for the outstanding job they did during the approximately 90 minutes without power. She thanked cook Shelly Blair and her staff for serving a hot lunch in the dark, the teachers and support staff who supervised the cafeteria and classrooms, and Mr. Trowbridge and Ms. Connelly for their leadership. When the power returned, everything was back to normal within minutes.

D. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly reminded everyone that the next Board meeting on March 17 would be held in the Elementary School cafeteria; March 21 is a staff development day with no school for students; and the high school musical performances are March 28-29.

## IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. 2025-2026 Budget1. Budget Draft Document #1

*(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Business Manager Munn highlighted some priorities from the previous meeting's discussion that have been integrated into Budget Draft #1. One increase over last year's budget includes the cost of a BOCES Policy Review; it is recommended that all Board policies have a full audit periodically to ensure compliance with current state and federal laws. The Pupil Transportation code was increased to accommodate bus purchases and pending contractual agreements. Mr. Munn also explained a recommended large interfund transfer from the Debt Service fund to the Capital fund, saying this will reduce what we borrow over the next fiscal year. The 10% decrease for Staff – BOCES services is due to our Flex Plan administration moving from BOCES to an outside organization, now paid from the same funds as health insurance. During discussion about pending items, regarding the BOCES commitment, he explained that we cross contract with other BOCES in addition to St. Lawrence-Lewis, and he hasn't received their pricing for next year yet. The Transportation Contract is still open for bids; that number will be available after the bid award. Mr. Munn will bring updated information to the next meeting with Draft Document #2.

## 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 Vice-President Todd E. Bates, seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-D, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2025, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

*(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 2/13/25 – 2/18/25, 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, as reflected in the attached CSE Meeting Minutes report:

5103636	5103377	5104927	5103245	5104065	5101555	5100729
11344	5104170	5104581	5102309	5104490	5104604	5104711
5104053	5104686	5101897	5104932	5104823	5103998	5101221
5104830	5104892	5103188	5101916	5103929	5103947	5104930
5102888	5102389	5102982	5103116	5100704	5103871	5103081
5103657	5104446					

D. CPSE 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 CPSE Meeting Minutes report:

5104813	5104894	5104912
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**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 Laura Spicer, and seconded by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-B, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Appointments

1. Extra-Curricular – 2024-25 Spring Coaches

Approve the following coaching recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding certification requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2024-25 Coaching Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

MICHAEL J. BASON	GOLF	CLASS 2	Step 4
MICHELLE M. BENDA	SOFTBALL VARSITY (.5)	CLASS 1	Step 19
ANTHONY BESAW	BASEBALL MODIFIED	CLASS 4	Step 2
CORRYN G. CANELL	TRACK GIRLS ASSISTANT	CLASS 3	Step 1
SHAWN P. CUMMINGS	TRACK BOYS ASSISTANT	CLASS 3	Step 4
SEAN T. DEVLIN	TRACK BOYS VARSITY	CLASS 1	Step 27
AARON M. MCEATHRON	BASEBALL VARSITY	CLASS 1	Step 6
JULIE K. NEISS	TRACK MODIFIED	CLASS 4	Step 2
NICHOLAS A. STERLING	GOLF – VOLUNTEER ASS'T	UNCOMPENSATED	
SHAWN J. TYPHAIR	SOFTBALL JV	CLASS 3	Step 8
KURTIS P. WELLS	TRACK GIRLS	CLASS 1	Step 21
SADDIE R. WHITAKER	SOFTBALL VARSITY (.5)	CLASS 1	Step 8

B. Resignations

Accept the request for resignation from Grace Holmes, from her position as Individual Aide, effective at the end of the day, March 14, 2025.

**Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items**

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Merger Request

*(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laura Spicer, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve a merger with Clifton Fine Central School District to allow their students to participate on the Gouverneur Girls’ Spring Track teams (all levels) during the 2024-25 school year, per the terms of the Section 10 Athletics Combined Teams Application, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MERGER REQUEST WITH CLIFTON FINE CSD, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

B. 2024-25 Calendar Change

*(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 Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following change to the 2024-25 school calendar:

**March 31, 2025** – Cancel PM Staff Professional Development In-Service day. This will now be a full instructional day with students and staff in attendance for the full day.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR REVISION, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.**

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Tina French addressed the Board, asking if funding will be available for summer sports again. Business Manager Munn responded that it isn't included in this draft budget as the federal dollars used to fund it last year are no longer available. Trustee Roberts asked Mr. Munn to provide an estimated cost in the next draft.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education move into executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons, to include the annual evaluation of the superintendent.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:01 PM.**

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**Open session resumed at 7:20 PM.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:20 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file  
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file  
David Fenlong, President