

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

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by President David Fenlong, at 5:30 PM, 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, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: None.

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD

Student Gender Identity. Two individuals addressed the board to question the District's stance on student gender identity. Superintendent Kelly responded that the District is required to and does comply with state and federal laws, including the Dignity for All Students Act, to support and protect all of our students, adding that if a student ever feels unsafe, they should report to an administrator.

Policy 5685. Gouverneur Education Association (GEA) co-president Jerrilyn Patton referenced the policy that appears on tonight's agenda for adoption, stating on behalf of the teachers' union that the GEA objects to the adoption of the policy due to the inclusion of the word "gymnasiums" as a public or common area, when the policy also states that "recordings or footage from District surveillance cameras may be used in student or employee disciplinary proceedings, as appropriate." She stated the objection is because the gym also serves as an instructional area, and therefore the use of surveillance is a mandatory subject of negotiation. She said the GEA feels that PERB charges are warranted if the policy is adopted with the current language.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Welcome to new Student Board Representative: Tony Fiacco

Mr. Fiacco, the GHS Student Senate President, introduced himself and said he was proud to serve in this role to share information with the Board from the student perspective. He reported that students are already active in various clubs and sports, highlighting some of the sports team standings, the *Whiz Quiz* team's first competition on October 9, and the Fall play production, with Mr. Fiacco saying it is the most ambitious one yet. Spirit Week gets underway next week and the students are excited for all of the planned events that go along with homecoming week. President Fenlong, on behalf of the board, thanked him for serving with them this year, and said the board values the student representative and their comments very much.

B. Wildcat News

1. Positivity Project video

Board members joined the audience for a brief update and video from Middle School Principal Michael Hammond about the Positivity Project National Conference attended by 13 employees in Savannah, Georgia during the summer. The conference reinforced the idea that when we focus on building strong, positive relationships, we create environments where everyone can thrive.

2. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Kelly shared a public update regarding the recent threats against our schools: "As the community is aware, we have had two alleged threats against our schools since the school year began. The first was on Friday, September 13, 2024. When this threat was reported to school officials, it was immediately turned over to law enforcement. In this case, the threat did not target any specific district or person(s). We quickly learned that the message was circulating around New York State. It was believed that the threat originated a number of days prior in a southern state. In this case, thanks to quick action by our School Resource Officers (SROs) and local law enforcement, I was very quickly able to share with families that this was not a credible threat and our students, faculty, and staff were safe. On Saturday, September 14th, I received notification that there had been a social media threat made against the Gouverneur High School. The Gouverneur Police Department and the New York State Police were immediately notified and began the process of investigating the reports. This threat initially appeared to directly target the Gouverneur High School. Our SROs, in collaboration with Police, worked throughout the weekend to address this alleged threat. On Sunday morning, I received confirmation that the message was believed to

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## III. DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

B.2 Wildcat News – Superintendent Update (Cont.)

have originated once again from an out-of-state address. The FBI is now involved in the investigation because this threat spans across state lines. The police shared that this was a non-credible hoax, due to the fact that other districts in the region received similar threats. I know this information can be unsettling to families, but I assure you it is my top priority to keep our students and staff members safe. We have two highly trained, armed SROs in the district to help protect your children and our faculty and staff. As a community, I encourage families to remain aware of postings such as these and to report circumstances you think may be unsafe to authorities. I would also like to take a moment to ask families to speak to your children about the importance of staying safe on social media. It is not helpful for the school or law enforcement to have these threats reposted and shared over and over. I would also like to ask you to have conversations with your children and discuss the serious nature of making comments with regard to weapons and inflicting harm on others. The world has changed, and when a student makes what he or she thinks is a harmless statement, because they are frustrated for one reason or another, that can turn into a full-scale investigation with serious consequences for our students. We are all in this together and we need to work together to combat this new wave of threats. I am thankful both matters were reported immediately, and I'm very grateful to our local law enforcement agencies for their quick action in investigating these threats. The District had an additional level of police presence at our schools this week. We will also continue to have officers from all agencies, periodically, stopping into our buildings, visiting with our students and conducting informal walkthroughs. I would like to thank the Gouverneur Police Department, the New York State Police, and the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Department for supporting our schools throughout these recent threats. It is in collaboration with these agencies and our own SROs that we can provide a safe environment for your children to attend school."

C. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly announced the calendar events taking place in the next few weeks.

## IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

None.

## V. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Bush, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations with the teachers' union.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

## RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Ormasen, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, to return to open session.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. OPEN SESSION RESUMED AT 6:36 PM.**

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policy

*(See Sheet #1, 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 Spicer, that the Board of Education adopt revised Policy #5685, Use of Surveillance Cameras, effective immediately, as presented.

**DISCUSSION:** Trustee Roberts clarified that this policy is clearly to ensure the health and safety of our students and our staff. Superintendent Kelly affirmed that is the intent.

YEAS: Bates, Cartwright, Fenlong, McGregor, Ormasen, Roberts, Spicer

NAYS: Bush

**MOTION CARRIED. REVISED POLICY 5685, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.**

B. Board Meeting Structure (discussion)

President Fenlong led the discussion regarding the board seat that is currently vacant. He reviewed the options that included board appointment of a selected individual, a special election, or leaving the seat vacant until the election in May 2025. All board members present expressed they were satisfied continuing as an 8-member board until May and letting the voters decide. Trustee Roberts voiced that interested candidates would benefit from attending the board meetings until then. Comments from Trustees McGregor and Dr. Cartwright indicated they would be willing to consider appointing someone sooner as long as they could complete the training process. President Fenlong recapped the discussion, stating at this time they will remain an 8-member board, and thanked everyone for their input.

## VII. 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 any item to be removed.

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda:**

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

A. Ratification of GEA (Gouverneur Education Association) Contract

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

Ratify the Contract between the District and the Gouverneur Education Association, covering the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028, and authorize the funding of those monies necessary to implement the provisions of the 7/1/2024-6/30/2028 collectively negotiated agreement, as presented.

B. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2024, as presented.

C. Claims Auditor's Reports

*(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 9/04/24 – 9/20/24 as presented.

D. 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:

5103177	5104250	5104093	5104471	5103998	5104722
5102890	5103299				

E. 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:

5104803

**Vote on Consent Agenda:**

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

## VIII. 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 Spicer, and seconded by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-C, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Amendment to School Resource Officer (SRO) contracts

*(See Sheets #6 and #7, Board Minutes File Folder)*

1. Approve the Amendment to the contract between the District and Robert Klimowicz (SRO) to provide a salary increase, as presented.
2. Approve the Amendment to the contract between the District and Michael Tyler (SRO) to provide a salary increase, as presented.

B. Resignations

1. Accept the request for resignation from Kimberly Flood, from her position as 6-hour Food Service Helper, effective September 20, 2024.
2. Accept the request for resignation from Brooke Bishop, from her position as Cleaner, effective September 24, 2024.

## VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

C. Appointments

1. Instructional

Music (Orchestra) Teacher. Appoint Janeen L. Streeter, holding NYS Permanent certification in Music, to the position of Music (Orchestra) Teacher in the Music tenure Area, effective September 16, 2024. Ms. Streeter will have a three-year probationary period\* commencing on September 16, 2024, and anticipated to end on September 15, 2027, at an annual salary set at Step 25, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2024-2025, prorated to September 15, 2024. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term. \*Ms. Streeter has been previously tenured in another district.

2. Non-Instructional

6-hour Food Service Helper. Appoint Krystal Cardinell, to the position of 6-hour Food Service Helper, in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on September 24, 2024, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, FSH6 (Level 1), from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to September 24, 2024.

3. Substitutes

Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes, pending completion of all requirements: For Teacher/Teaching Assistant/Aide: Rebecca Cole, Richelle Larsen, Diane Easton.

4. Extra-Curricular

2024-25 Advisors. Approve the appointments of the 2024-2025 Advisors, to be compensated in accordance with the Club Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

E-Sports	PENNY P. SIMONS	CLASS B	Step 1
ROBOTICS	PENNY P. SIMONS	CLASS D	Step 1
HISTORY CLUB	LISA M. STOWELL	CLASS D	Step 4
BUILDERS CLUB	BRITTANY L. BUCKMASTER	CLASS D	Step 2
MILITARY KIDS CLUB HS/MS (.5)	SARAH E. STEDMAN	CLASS E	Step 3
MILITARY KIDS CLUB HS/MS (.5)	KELLY L. WILSON	CLASS E	Step 3

5. Other

Approve the appointment of Cory Young as Webmaster for the 2024-25 school year, at a stipend of \$4,990.

**Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel:**

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

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

President Fenlong reiterated the positive contributions from our SRO’s, saying it is one of the best decisions made to have them on the staff. He went on to congratulate the new appointees and thanked those who were leaving for their service to the district.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Approval for Use of School Bus

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the request from the North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council (NCPPC) for the one-time use of a school bus in accordance with board policy 5740, *Use of Buses by Community Groups*.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. REQUEST FROM NCPPC FOR USE OF SCHOOL BUS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

B. Request for Approval to Attend Out-of-State Conference

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, seconded by Trustee Bush, that the Board of Education approve the request for two teachers to attend the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) 2024 Annual Meeting & Exposition Conference in Chicago, IL, September 25-28, 2024.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. REQUEST TO ATTEND OUT-OF-STATE CONFERENCE, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. Appointment of Department Chairpersons  
(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, that the Board of Education appoint the Department Chairpersons for the 2024-25 school year, at a \$1,000 stipend, as listed on the attached sheet.  
YEAS: Bush, Cartwright, Fenlong, McGregor, Roberts, Spicer NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS – Bates, Ormasen

**MOTION CARRIED. 2024-2025 DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

**D. Creation of one (1) Girls' Wrestling Coach position for 2024-25**

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Spicer, and seconded by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, that the Board of Education approve the creation of one (1) Girls' Wrestling Coach position for the current school year 2024-25 only, established as Classification 2 under the GCSD Sports Classifications in the GEA contract.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. GIRLS' WRESTLING COACH POSITION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

**E. Tax Roll Corrections**

*(See Sheets #9 and #10, Board Minutes File Folder)*

1. Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the application for tax roll correction for the Town of Rossie parcel 185.004-1-4 to correct a clerical error (home was torn down but value of improvement was not removed from assessment). Tax adjustment from \$927.08 to \$330.92.

**DISCUSSION:** Business Manager Munn confirmed that the tax adjustment will reduce our tax revenue this year.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. TAX ROLL CORRECTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

2. 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 approve the application for tax roll correction for the Town of Gouverneur parcel 159.004-3-25.11/1 to correct a clerical error (solar exemption not updated). Tax adjustment from \$2,905.98 to \$0.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. TAX ROLL CORRECTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

**F. Resolution Regarding State Environmental Quality Review Type II Action**

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution regarding State Environmental Quality Review Type II Action:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District (the "Board") has considered the effect upon the environment of proposed capital work, including, but not limited to the following:

Bus E.V. charging stations at the Elementary School with transformer, pad, connection and supporting improvements.

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the scope of the project and has further received and considered the advice of its architects with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c), now therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education as follows:

1. The Proposed Action does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617, State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA).
2. The Board hereby determines the Proposed Action as a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.
3. No further review of the Proposed Action is required under SEQRA.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. RESOLUTION REGARDING SEQRA TYPE II ACTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

**G. Resolution for Project Approval**

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 following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Gouverneur Central School District (the "School District") has applied for grants for electrical vehicle charging stations at the Elementary School with transformer, pad, connection and supporting improvements (the "Project"), which Project expenditures were also approved through the 2024-25 school budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District has submitted a Letter of Intent with the New York State Education Department ("SED") for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education previously reviewed the Environmental Impact of the Project and has determined that it constitutes a Type II Action under the applicable criteria of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and will not require further review;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

1. The Board of Education hereby authorizes the expenditure of up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) through grant funding and/or moneys authorized through the 2024-25 school budget to fund the Project.
2. This Resolution is contingent on SED approval of the plans and specifications for the Project. The Superintendent of Schools and all officers and employees of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps reasonably necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable NYS Education Department regulations, grant funding guidelines, complete the Project, and carry out the intent of this Resolution.
3. Upon adoption by the Board of Education, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**DISCUSSION:** Responding to a question from Trustee Roberts, Business Manager Munn said he anticipates that most if not all of the \$100,000 will be paid by grant funding and voucher awards.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. RESOLUTION FOR PROJECT APPROVAL, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

X. COMMENT PERIOD

Student Gender Identity. One additional comment was made with the contributor expressing her own dissatisfaction with New York State laws.

XI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons including tenure recommendations.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:05 PM.**

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**Open session resumed at 7:40 PM.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present.    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file  
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file  
David Fenlong, President