

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

OCTOBER 21, 2024

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., EDT 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, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: Nickolas Ormasen.

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 Personnel and Operations; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk; Tony Fiacco, Student Board Representative.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

Jerrilyn Patton, co-president of the GEA, spoke on behalf of the teachers' union to thank the Board in recognition of School Board Appreciation Week, and presented the members with a token of appreciation.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentations

1. School Board Appreciation Week, October 14-18, 2024

Superintendent Kelly also recognized the important work performed by our Board members, saying they make difficult decisions in the best interest of our 1,444 students, faculty and staff, and the entire community. They spend countless hours studying education issues and regulations in order to provide accountability to our community stakeholders, as well as giving the citizens of Gouverneur a voice in decision-making. She encouraged everyone to visit the Wildcat Facebook page to see a tribute that was created by our students and staff. President Fenlong thanked the superintendent, Ms. Plaisted and those involved in making the touching video, and Ms. Patton and the GEA for the gift certificate, saying it is all greatly appreciated.

2. Crowley & Halloran, CPAs, P.C. – Audit Report

Michael W. Crowley, CPA, and Pamela J. Halloran, CPA, of Crowley & Halloran, CPAs, P.C., shared the results of their audit for the year ending June 30, 2024. The District received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion allowed. There was one compliance finding related to NYS Real Property Tax Law 1318, which restricts unassigned fund balance to an amount not greater than 4% of the District's budget for the upcoming year. The District's unassigned fund balance was above 4%, and Mr. Crowley explained that was due in large part to the transfer of \$9.3 million from reserves to the capital project, causing an increase in the unassigned fund balance percentage. He suggested the District consider working with our fiscal advisors and our architect to address the long-term capital needs of the district and continue to utilize reserve planning. For FY ending 6/30/24, a separate audit was done on Extraclassroom Activities, which had no findings.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly provided an update on the use of locally sourced food in our cafeterias that has included apples, salsa ingredients, butternut squash, corn on the cob, green beans, potatoes, beef, and pork. She also shared information about the SLL BOCES Annual Manufacturing Day, where students toured manufacturing facilities across the region, including Kinney Drugs, Cives Steel, Riverside Iron, and the Five Mile Farm in Lisbon. Lastly, she updated the Board on the 2023-2025 RECOVS grant we received. The money is helping us continue previous ARP-funded positions through 2025, and will also be used to work with Gouverneur Behavioral Health to expand student access to school-based mental health professionals in our schools.

C. Upcoming Events

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

D. Student Board Representative report – Tony Fiacco

Mr. Fiacco reported that participation was high for Spirit Week among students and staff, culminating in a great turnout for Homecoming. A brief update was given on Fall sports standings, the DEI Club Halloween party, and the renovated *Paw Print* online high school student news site.

October 21, 2024

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. September, 2024

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn shared highlights from the Financial Report for September 30, 2024. Solar revenues will continue for the next 15 years thanks to an agreement among the 30 municipalities in the north country that develop solar fields in the tri-county area. All monies available from the expiring ESSR grants have been fully utilized. Revenues are above the projected amount for the month by \$161,619, while expenses came in at budget.

B. External Public Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

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 accept the External Public Auditor's Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, as presented by Crowley & Halloran, CPAs, P.C.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. EXTERNAL PUBLIC AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR FYE 6/30/24, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. Accept Corrective Action Plan

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education accept the 2023-24 GCSO External Audit Corrective Action Plan, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN, ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

D. Student Activities Financial Report for Third Quarter, 2024

(See Sheet #4, 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 accept the Student Activities Financial Report for Third Quarter, 2024, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. STUDENT ACTIVITIES FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER, 2024, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

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 member asked that any items be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, seconded by Trustee Spicer, 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 September 23, 2024, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for 09/24/24 – 10/18/24, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

C. CSE Business (Cont.)

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

5102036	5101491	5100796	5103563	5104568	5103136	5104346
5102482	5105003	5103253	5103246	5105023	5105052	5100362
5105059	5105021	5103953	5102080	5103281	5103030	5101810
5103525	5102783	5103498	5104169	5103989	5104869	5104964
5104147	5103583	5103056	5104930	5104187	5102773	5103591

D. CPSE Business

(See Sheet #7, 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:

5104894 5105032

E. Treasurer's Report – August 2024

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

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

F. Treasurer's Report – September 2024

(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 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 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. Trustee Spicer asked to remove Item E.3(b) - *2024-25 Winter Coaches*, for separate consideration and discussion.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Personnel items, A - D, E.1, E.2, E.3(a), E.4, F, and G

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Bush, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-D, E.1, E.2, E.3(a), E.4, F, and G, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Tenure Recommendations

- a) Bobbie Holmes, Science Teacher, who holds Initial certification in *Biology 7-12* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the tenure area of *Science Academic Tenure Grades 7-12*, effective 11/18/2024, conditioned upon compliance with APPR requirements or waiver as determined by the State of New York.
- b) Jean C. Johnson, English Teacher, who holds Professional certification in *English Language Arts 7-12* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the tenure area of *English Academic Tenure Grades 7-12*, effective 11/24/2024, conditioned upon compliance with APPR requirements or waiver as determined by the State of New York.

B. Addendum to Memorandum of Agreement #5 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union

(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the addendum to MOA#5 to the contract between the District and GSRPU to provide additional compensation to teacher aides who substitute teach when no substitutes or other appropriate means are available to extend through the 2024-25 school year, as presented.

C. Memorandum of Agreement #1 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association

(See Sheet #11, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#1 to the contract between the District and GEA to amend Appendix A to recognize DEI Club (Class E), as presented.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

D. Resignations

- a) Accept the request for resignation from Erika J. Woodrow, from her position as Individual Aide, effective at the end of the day, September 13, 2024.
- b) Accept the request for resignation from Elizabeth Rathbun, from her position as 2.75-hour Food Service Helper, effective at the end of the day, October 2, 2024.
- c) Accept the request for resignation from Michelle Fiacco, from her position as 2.75-hour Food Service Helper, effective at the end of the day, October 8, 2024.

E. Appointments

1. Extra Duty

- a) Gouverneur Elementary Afterschool Tutoring - Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2024-2025 school year: Ashley Barr, Lindsey McCormick.
- b) Middle School Afterschool Tutoring – Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2024-2025 school year: Pam Stevens.

2. Substitutes and Tutors

Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes in instructional and/or support positions, pending completion of all requirements: Carlton M. Bresett, Mallorie Fuller, Rachel Laso, Morgan Prashaw, Jennifer Stiles, Gabrielle Platt.

3. Extra Curricular

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

SELECT STRINGS	JANEEN L. STREETER	CLASS C	Step 1
FFA ASSISTANT	TAYLOR A. ROLLINS	CLASS F	Step 1
FFA – SUMMER (2024)	KYLIE TORRES	CLASS B	Step 2

4. Students

Approve the appointment of Kristen Burns (Lifeguard, Fitness Room attendant) and Cayleigh Flynn (Fitness Room attendant) for 2024-25, pending completion of all requirements

F. Modification to Appointment

Revise the appointment of Grace Mashaw, School Counselor, approved at the May 13, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting pending certification, to a probationary period effective September 24, 2024 through September 23, 2028.

G. Leave Replacement

Appoint Madison L. Hurlbut to the non-probationary position of long-term substitute to replace Employee 00709, effective September 17, 2024 to approximately December 13, 2024 (or when the employee returns from leave), at the established rate of Sub Teacher - 25 days.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items A, B, C, D, E.1, E.2, E.3(a), E.4, F, and G

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

E. Appointments

3. Extra Curricular

- b) 2024-25 Winter Coaches. Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, that the Board of Education approve the appointments of the 2024-2025 Winter Coaches, to be compensated in accordance with the Coaching Salary Schedule of the GTA contract, as presented:

WRESTLING VARSITY	GEORGE J. BAER	CLASS 1	Step 15
BASKETBALL GIRLS 8TH GRADE	EVELYN G. BARTON	CLASS 4	Step 17
BASKETBALL BOYS 7TH GRADE	JARRETT W. BULLOCK	CLASS 4	Step 2
BASKETBALL BOYS 8TH GRADE	JARRETT W. BULLOCK	CLASS 4	Step 1

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

E.3(b) Appointments – Extra Curricular – 2024-25 Winter Coaches (Cont.)

WRESTLING JV	SHAWN P. CUMMINGS	CLASS 2	Step 28
WRESTLING 7TH & 8TH GRADE	DAVID M. DAILEY	CLASS 4	Step 24
BASKETBALL GIRLS VARSITY	SEAN T. DEVLIN	CLASS 1	Step 19
CHEERLEADING WINTER	ERICA DOWLING	CLASS 1	Step 2
BASKETBALL GIRLS VOLUNTEER	CHELSEI PECK	N/A	Uncompensated
WRESTLING - GIRLS	DYLAN J. MORRISON	CLASS 2	Step 1
INDOOR TRACK MODIFIED	JULIE K. NEISS	CLASS 4	Step 1
BASKETBALL GIRLS 7TH GRADE	KORRINE PATTERSON	CLASS 4	Step 2
BASKETBALL BOYS VARSITY	MICHAEL A. SHATTUCK	CLASS 1	Step 8
BASKETBALL GIRLS JV	RICK L. VROOMAN	CLASS 2	Step 13
INDOOR TRACK	KURTIS P. WELLS	CLASS 2	Step 18
SWIM BOYS VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT	SADDIE R. WHITAKER	N/A	Uncompensated
SWIM BOYS	BRETT M. WORDEN	CLASS 1	Step 2

DISCUSSION: The coach selection process was discussed by request of Trustee Spicer. Superintendent Kelly said it is generally based on a combination of years in the position and the coach's evaluations. If multiple candidates apply for any position, the recommendation comes from a team consisting of the Athletic Coordinator, High School Principal, and a coach from that sport.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF 2024-25 WINTER COACHES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy Review – First Reading

(See Sheet #12, Board Minutes File Folder)

In response to the US DOE's amended Title IX regulations, the following policies were updated: required policy 3421 (**Title IX and Sex Discrimination**), 7554 (**Equal Educational Opportunities**) (formerly number 8130), and new policy 7555 (**Educational Services for Married/Pregnant Students**). Policies 5681 (**School Safety Plans**) and 5682 (**Evacuation, Lockdown, and Emergency Dismissal Drills**) (formerly known as #8212, Fire and Emergency Drills, Bomb Threats, and Bus Emergency Drills) were revised in response to amendments to the Commissioner's Regulations relating to school safety plan requirements. Policy 6550 (**Leaves of Absence**) was updated to reflect changes to Labor Law Section 206-c. Policy 7220 (**Graduation Requirements**) (formerly Graduation Requirements/Early Graduation/Accelerated Programs) was simplified and now has a web link to access current details on general education and diploma requirements. Two new policies, 7224 (**Virtual Instruction**), and 7470 (**Student Government**) were developed in response to amendments to Commissioner's Regulations and Education Law. A periodic review on the following policies was done: 7540 (**Student Directory Information**), had minor revisions for clarity; 4250 (**Evaluation of the Superintendent and Other Administrative Staff**) was recommended for deletion as the information is included in contracts and APPR law; and 5240 (**School Tax Assessment and Collection/Property Tax Exemptions**) was recommended for deletion as it reflects outdated and incomplete information. Policies 3231 (**Complaints and Grievances by Employees**), and 3232 (**Complaints and Grievances by Students**) were recommended for deletion as the material in these policies is duplicated and/or has been replaced by more current information in other policies. Mr. Fenlong thanked the superintendent and policy committee members for their diligence in reviewing the policies. A second reading and anticipated adoption will take place at the next meeting.

B. Overnight Trip Requests – Varsity Wrestling

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 request for the Varsity Wrestling team to attend and compete in the following tournaments and the associated fees for registration and transportation, as presented:

December 27-28, 2024: Windsor Holiday Tournament, Windsor HS, Windsor NY

January 4, 2025: Peru Invitational, Peru High School, Peru, NY

January 5, 2025 – Dame of Thrones, Impact Athletic Center, Halfmoon, NY

January 25-26, 2025: King and Queen Bison Invitational, Shaker HS, Latham NY

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. WRESTLING OVERNIGHT TRIPS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. Overnight Trip Requests – Varsity Girls’ Basketball

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Bush, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the request for the Varsity Girls Basketball team to attend and compete in the following tournaments and the associated fees for registration and transportation, as presented:

December 27-28, 2024: WS Holiday Basketball Tournament, WS High School, Verona NY

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. GIRLS’ BASKETBALL OVERNIGHT TRIP, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

D. Overnight Trip Request – National FFA Convention

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Bush, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the request for one member of the local chapter of the FFA to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, from October 20 – October 26, 2024. The student will be traveling with Assistant FFA Advisor Taylor Rollins and the Lowville chapter and will cover her own expenses.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly shared that the student was selected to attend lunch with the NYS Commissioner of Agriculture on Friday.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION ATTENDANCE, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

E. Overnight Trip Request - Senior Class Trip

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the request from the Class of 2025 for an overnight trip to Boston, MA in May, 2025.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SENIOR CLASS TRIP TO BOSTON, MA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

F. Authorization to Dispose of Items Declared as Surplus

(See Sheet #13, 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 Roberts, 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.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF ITEMS DECLARED AS SURPLUS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

G. Appointment of Teacher Ambassadors

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following teachers as Teacher Ambassadors to the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES for the 2024-25 school year, at a stipend of \$500 each: Alissa McEathron, Julie Neiss, Stephanie Plaisted.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF TEACHER AMBASSADORS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Trustee Roberts commented on the previous coaching discussion, commending those coaches who put their heart and soul in addition to time year-round to benefit our students.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons; including the annual informal evaluation of Superintendent Kelly; and to discuss proposed, current, or pending litigation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:50 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:50 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President

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