

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

NOVEMBER 18, 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 Middle School Cafeteria, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, Brooke Bush, Dr. William Cartwright, David Fenlong, Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: Laurie M. Roberts.

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. Presentations

1. Staff Recognition Award – Shelley Burnham

President Fenlong, on behalf of the District Shared Decision-Making Committee, honored Grade 2 Teacher Deann “Shelley” Burnham with the Staff Recognition Award for the month of November. He read the award generated by the words of her colleagues, many of whom were present to honor her.

2. New York State Test Results

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, reported on the 2023-2024 NYS ELA and Math assessments and the NYS Regents results, with data comparing our district to New York State and the S.L.L. BOCES. Among the highlights, she shared that in most cases our students exceeded or met proficiency rates in both ELA and Math from prior to the pandemic. She discussed additional endeavors being utilized to close existing gaps in instruction, and said that teams will be given time at the February staff development day to work on those goals. Discussion followed regarding the testing done at grades 3-8, with opinions shared among board members as to reasons for opting out and proficiency rankings.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly shared some special events relative to the Middle School, the location of tonight’s meeting. November 7 was the annual Veteran’s Day Celebration, which featured the Clarkson University ROTC Color Guard, and Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush as the guest speaker, who shared insights on the importance of service and dedication to our nation. That afternoon, Team RWB—a sister program of the Positivity Project—led the students and staff in a school-wide Old Glory walk/run around the building followed by games and activities. On November 13, the students attended a girls’ hockey game at St. Lawrence University against Clarkson. On December 10 and 11 the GMS will welcome the *Sweethearts & Heroes* for presentations and circle activities around empathy and connection. Mrs. Kelly announced that beginning December 2, the Elementary and Middle schools will be open for hall walking at designated times. She congratulated the Wildcat football team on advancing and wished them luck at the upcoming NYSPHSAA Class C Regional Football Game against the Schuylerville Horses. President Fenlong also commended the Middle School drama club for their recent amazing production of *Willy Wonka*.

C. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly announced the calendar events taking place in the next few weeks and wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

D. Student Board Representative – Tony Fiacco

Mr. Fiacco shared the final fall athletic standings, with many of our teams and athletes advancing to sectionals and finals, and noted that winter sports started today. The Halloween dress up day was successful with about 40% of students taking part, and the Middle School production was a big hit and had a great turnout.

November 18, 2024

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. External Audit Corrective Action Plan – Updated

(See Sheet #2, 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 approve the updated External Audit Corrective Action Plan, originally approved at the October 21, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting, to add the statement, “This will be completed by June 30, 2025.”

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. NEW AND REVISED POLICIES, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

B. Financial Report – October 2024

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

On the revenue side, Business Manager Munn said interest earnings are projected to be about \$160,000 over the original budget. Based on recent data, enrollments are up less than 1%, and he reminded the board that foundation aid is related to enrollment. He then added that the Rockefeller Center will release their foundation aid study next month, which may impact the governor’s recommendations for next year’s budget. On the expense side, the NYSEERDA-funded electrification study is underway and will delay any grants we’ve applied for until it is completed. Design work continues on the stadium, and we are working with the construction manager to get cost estimates that are within the budget approved by the public. In regard to the fund balance, Mr. Munn said in following the auditors’ recommendation to work with our fiscal advisors about a transfer to the Capital fund, they recommended the district include it in the May 2025 annual vote.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

President Fenlong asked if any member on the Board wished to have any item on the Consent Agenda removed for special consideration and discussion. Vice-President Bates asked that Item B, Claims Auditor’s Reports, be pulled for special consideration and discussion.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A, C, D, and E

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

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 4, 2024, as presented.

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:

5104170	5102545	5101877	5102693	5102802	5103222
5104387	5103947	5102187	5102511	5104803	5100805
5100806	5100807	5104647	5102591	5102202	5102024
5102837	5101148	5104706			

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:

5105033	5105081
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E. Treasurer’s Report – October 2024

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer’s Report for October 2024, as presented.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items A, C, D, and E

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports
(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for 11/6/24 – 11/15/24, as presented.

YEAS: Bush, Cartwright, Fenlong, McGregor, Ormasen, Spicer
 NAYS: None.
 ABSTENTIONS: Bates

MOTION CARRIED. CLAIMS AUDITOR'S REPORTS, 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 Spicer, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-D, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Modification to Position

Approve the modification of two (2) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper positions (currently vacant) to one (1) 5-hour Food Service Helper position, effective immediately, under the terms and conditions of the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement.

B. Appointments

1. Non-Instructional

- a) Secretary I – 10-month. Appoint Amy Barr, to the position of Secretary I – 10-month, in the competitive class of the civil service, commencing on January 1, 2025, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Secretary I – 10-month (Level 2), from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to January 1, 2025.
- b) Cleaner. Appoint Brittany M. Davis to the position of Cleaner, in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on November 19, 2024, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Cleaner (Level 1), from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to November 19, 2024.
- c) Cleaner. Appoint Summer R. Nichols to the position of Cleaner, in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on November 19, 2024, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Cleaner (Level 1), from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to November 19, 2024.

2. Extra-Curricular

- d) 2024-25 Advisors. Approve the appointment of the 2024-2025 Advisor(s), to be compensated in accordance with the Club Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

MUSICAL DIRECTOR #2	OLIVIA MONTAGNO	CLASS B	Step 1
CHOREOGRAPHER	DANIELLE PEAKE	CLASS C	Step 1
WINTER COLOR GUARD	HAILEY COOK	CLASS E	Step 3

- b) 2024-25 Coaches. Approve the appointment of the 2024-2025 Winter Coach(es), to be compensated in accordance with the Coaching Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, pending completion of all requirements, as presented:

SWIM – BOYS' MODIFIED	LEESA M. ISEREAU	CLASS 4	Step 1
BOYS' BASKETBALL – VOLUNTEER	NICHOLAS A. STERLING	UNCOMPENSATED	
WRESTLING ASSISTANT – VOLUNTEER	SAMUEL E. SOCHIA	UNCOMPENSATED	

3. Long-Term Substitute

Approve the appointment of Kevin Capito to the non-probationary position of long-term substitute, for the High School Science position that is encumbered by a vacancy, effective December 16, 2024, to terminate upon the probationary appointment of a High School Science teacher, at the established rate of substitute teacher 25+ days.

4. 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: Brooke Cox, Heather Woodward.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

C. Leaves

- a) Acknowledge an unpaid LOA covered under the FMLA for the period 10/31/24 – 12/06/24, and an unpaid leave of absence not covered under the FMLA for the period 12/07/24 – 1/05/25, for probationary employee 00719. Time on this leave will not count toward tenure or seniority.
- b) Acknowledge an unpaid LOA covered under the FMLA for the period 11/8/24 – 1/7/25, for probationary employee 00766. Time on this leave will not count toward tenure or seniority.

D. Extension of Probationary Period

- a) Approve to extend the probationary period end date of Employee 00719 by 35 days, from 2/2/27 to 3/30/27, due to the same number of (approved) unpaid leave days incurred during the probationary period.
- b) Approve to extend the probationary period end date of Employee 00766 by 46 days, from 2/26/27 to 5/05/27, due to the same number of (approved) unpaid leave days incurred during the probationary period.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024 Tax Collector's Report and Return of Unpaid Taxes to St. Lawrence & Jefferson Counties
(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 Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the 2024 Tax Collector's Report, dated November 15, 2024 showing a tax levy of \$7,066,189.00 for the 2024-2025 school year, with \$837,577.67 of the levy remaining unpaid, and approve the 2024 Return of Unpaid Taxes in the amounts of \$828,387.58 and \$9,190.09 plus any penalty for collection to St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, respectively, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. A. 2024 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT AND RETURN OF UNPAID TAXES TO ST. LAWRENCE & JEFFERSON COUNTIES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Teacher Erin Gates commended the choice of Mrs. Burnham for the staff recognition award, saying she personifies the hard-working teachers, and all who work with her are inspired by her positivity and kindness. Teacher Stacey Devlin expressed thanks to Assistant Superintendent Sullivan for the curriculum support and opportunities such as the professional learning communities, and said she is hearing a lot of good things from fellow middle school teachers that are happy about what is going on with our kids and the middle school.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss matters leading to the employment of a particular person and to discuss pending litigation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:23 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 6:41 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 6:41 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President