

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

DECEMBER 9, 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., in the Elementary 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; Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Supt. for Curriculum; Cory Wood, Executive Director of Operations and Personnel; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly shared many of the exciting events taking place at the Elementary School. The *Drop Everything and Read* event was very well-attended with families and special guests coming in to read with the students. Thanksgiving festivities included the “disguise a turkey” project students completed with their families, decorating the hallways with turkeys disguised as popcorn, superheroes, French fries, and more. The Turkey Chase also returned, with teachers, students, and PTO volunteers all taking part as “chefs” and “turkeys”. As a tie-in to the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, each student created their own balloon for the school-wide video, “Balloons over Broadway.” November also included Parent-Teacher conferences, and Mrs. Kelly said the school-family partnership is a huge component of our students’ successes and she was pleased to report a high turnout. December showcased the annual Holiday Concerts for all students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 4, and Mrs. Kelly commended music teacher Mrs. Hall who put together three exceptional concerts featuring over 400 students. Students also were given ornaments to take home and decorate with their families, and bring them in to be displayed on the large Christmas tree in the lobby. Mrs. Kelly said that without the consideration of our faculty and staff, the families of our students, and the PTO, most of this would not be possible, and thanked all for their continued support.

B. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly announced the calendar events taking place in the next few weeks, including the rescheduled Middle School concert to December 11 so students could attend *Disney’s The Lion King* in Syracuse on December 10, postponed from a previous date due to inclement weather.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Financial Report – November 2024

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

In the absence of Business Manager Munn, Superintendent Kelly provided a brief overview of the November report. Discussion took place on the recently released report on Foundation Aid from the Rockefeller Institute, and the potential positive and negative impacts the district could see depending on what the governor and Legislature choose to implement from the study. Mrs. Kelly also noted that midyear New York State revenues suggest the budget gap won’t be as large as originally projected, and it is unlikely that in moving to the next budget year we will have midyear cuts to budgets. Mr. Munn is working on a grant for two more electric buses now that the EPA Round 4 electric bus funding is available. On the expense side, we are working to minimize the impact of delays in construction design in the building project. Following a meeting with the construction manager and architect, the district is looking at piggybacking on municipal purchases that would remove some items out of the bids.

B. 2025-2026 Budget Calendar

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Informational only; no discussion took place.

December 9, 2024

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 McGregor, seconded by Trustee Spicer, 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 November 18, 2024, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor’s Reports

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor’s Reports for 11/21/24 – 12/6/24, as presented.

C. 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:

5104589	5103924	5102998	5103658	5104052	5104570	5104249
5102890	5104337	5102267	5102739	5104061	5100745	5104675
5104386	5103897	5102310	5102844	5101821	5103619	5102203
5100766	5102163	5102491	5102987	5102952	5104968	5102138
5103426	5102976	5104875	5104287	5101956	5103162	

D. 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	5104967	5104862
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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 Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items as a Consent Agenda:

A. Appointments

1. 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 GEA contract, as presented:

MILITARY KIDS CLUB ELEM (.5)	NICOLE CUDHEA	CLASS E	Step 1
MILITARY KIDS CLUB ELEM (.5)	KATRINA COOK	CLASS E	Step 1

b) 2024-25 Winter Coaches. Approve the appointment of the following coaches, pending completion of all coaching requirements.

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT – COMPETITION CHEER	HAILEY COOK	Uncompensated
VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT – INDOOR TRACK	CORRYN CANELL	Uncompensated

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sports – Assistant Coach discussion

This topic was previously brought up by Trustee Spicer in regard to our indoor track program, and Mrs. Kelly had additional information to impart. Currently, there are 26 varsity indoor track athletes, coached by Mr. Wells, and 17 modified, coached by Mrs. Neiss. The varsity track team has the highest number of student athletes among any of our varsity winter sports. A dialogue conveyed how track is different from other sports due to the multiple events taking place at one time in different areas, with Mrs. Kelly stating that Mr. Wells has always done a great job overseeing the team and events. Trustee Ormasen asked how the number of coaches for a given sport has been determined in the past, with Superintendent Kelly responding it usually goes by the number of students, adding that spring outdoor track does have a paid assistant position. Director of Operations Cory Wood added that the availability of coaches is sporadic; some years, including this year, a coach has volunteered to assist, and volunteers must still meet all of the certified coaching requirements. Trustee McGregor emphasized that regardless of numbers, for safety and security she would like to see a second adult added to share responsibilities. President Fenlong stated he has seen other teams at the meets and it appears they have multiple coaches in attendance. Trustee Spicer said she would like to see coaches who can assist more students with the individual events in both track and field, while Trustee Roberts felt the number of students should be the prevailing factor. President Fenlong thanked everyone for their input and said this topic would continue to be researched.

B. Pay Rate Adjustment – student maintenance workers

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Spicer, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to establish the hourly pay rate for student maintenance workers to be consistent with the current New York State local minimum wage, effective immediately.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly stated our Student Maintenance Workers are the only group of employees that will be paid less than minimum wage when it increases to \$15.50 on January 1, 2025. Adopting this resolution automatically increase their wage every time the minimum wage increases.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. STUDENT MAINTENANCE WORKERS TO BE COMPENSATED AT CURRENT NYS LOCAL MINIMUM WAGE.

C. Early Dismissal Drill 12/20/24

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 an early dismissal on December 20, 2024, as one of the eight evacuation drills required by Education Law Section 807:

December 20, 2024 – Early Dismissal Drill. The Gouverneur Central School District will dismiss early on December 20, 2024 as follows: Gouverneur High School, 2:00 PM; Gouverneur Middle School, 1:40 PM; Gouverneur Elementary School, 3:30 PM; St. James School, 3:20 PM.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Dr. Cartwright opined that the drill should dismiss earlier so parents are more involved in managing a mid-day disruption; Superintendent Kelly responded that the district does have three half-day dismissals on the calendar already, and this drill won't take away from the instructional hours required by SED.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. EARLY DISMISSAL DRILL ON 12/20/2024, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

D. 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 McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the request for the Varsity Wrestling team to attend and compete in the following tournaments:

- a) Saratoga Invitational in Saratoga Springs, NY. The team will depart on January 3, 2025 and return on January 4, 2025. The cost to the district is \$350 (registration fees) plus transportation. *Note: The Peru Invitational previously approved (Oct 21, 2024 Regular BOE Meeting) for this date has been cancelled.*
- b) Lady Legacy in Homer, NY. The team will depart on January 31, 2025 and return on February 1, 2025. The cost to the district is \$425 (registration fees) plus transportation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. VARSITY WRESTLING OVERNIGHT TRIPS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Trustee Roberts praised the decorations displayed throughout the Elementary School, saying it is very inviting, particularly the gingerbread houses in the entry.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss pending litigation and contract negotiations.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:17 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 6:33 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 6:33 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:33 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President