

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

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by Vice-President Todd Bates, at 5:30 P.M., in the High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, Brooke Bush, Tina French, Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: David Fenlong, Dr. William Cartwright.

Also Present: Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools; Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent; Dale R. Munn Jr., Business Manager; Cory Wood, Executive Director of Operations and Personnel; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

II. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Laurie Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss pending litigation, collective negotiations, and the employment history of particular persons.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:32 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education return to open session.

Open session resumed at 5:51 PM.

III. COMMENT PERIOD – None.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Presentations

1. FFA update on National Convention

FFA members Briahna McGill (grade 12), Rose Cox (grade 11), and Hannah White (grade 10) shared highlights from their National FFA Convention experience that took place from October 26 – November 1, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ms. White also had the distinction to participate in the National FFA Band that played at the Expo Opening. Briahna and Rose talked about en route stops that included Oakfield Corner (Batavia, NY); Ghostly Manor Thrill Center (Sandusky, OH); Jaws and Paws (Lynnwood Kennels) (Fremont, OH); Hobart Institute of Welding (Troy, OH); Jungle Jim's (Fairfield, OH); The Yards (Lexington, KY); Hartfield & Co. and Claiborne Farm (Paris, KY); and a tour of the University of Kentucky-Lexington.

2. Capital Project update – Cory Wood, Executive Director of Operations & Personnel

Phase 1 at the middle school paused outdoor work on the track and field in November and will continue when the temperatures allow, while indoor work continues in building A. Phase 2, the high school and bus garage, is currently focused on completing the 2nd and 3rd floors plus the band and chorus rooms in the Dolan wing. The Project is still on track, with ductwork, wiring, fire system, and new grid work on the 3rd floor. At the bus garage, the diesel gas tank is started, and the inside renovations are on schedule.

B. Communications

School Board Candidate Petition Packets are available from District Clerk

C. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly shared a mid-season update on our winter sports teams.

D. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly reminded those present that school will be closed February 16-20 for Mid-Winter Break, and the next Board meeting on March 9 will be held at the Middle School Cafeteria.

February 9, 2026

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. 2026-2027 Budget:

1. Property Tax Cap Calculation

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn related that maintaining the tax cap at 2% as in previous years will support the 2026-2027 budget priorities. Responding to Trustee Ormasen, Mr. Munn estimated that there would be around a \$10 increase to the average household, depending on other factors. All board members present agreed to proceed at 2% and directed Mr. Munn to submit that number to the state.

2. 2026-27 Budget Priorities

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn shared the priorities that were established from meetings held with the administrative teams from each building and the department heads (Athletics, Buildings and Grounds, Health, IT, and Special Education). Mr. Munn stated the primary goals were to continue to align budgetary decisions with our mission statement, and to maintain the services currently provided. He reviewed the three (Administrative, Capital, and Program) budget components. During discussion on Capital component items, Mr. Munn shared data collected in the recent bus survey on single- and double-tripping as it is directly related to the goal of maintaining services currently provided. He stated information was gathered from all constituents. Twenty-four of our bus drivers responded, with one-third saying double-tripping would force them to look for employment elsewhere. Teachers and staff who responded were largely in favor of single-tripping, and the district appreciates the convenience this would provide for our employees. For parents who currently utilize transportation, it was evenly split between those in favor of double-tripping and those against; however, many in favor of double-tripping would discontinue using the transportation if we went to single-tripping, especially those with Elementary students. Therefore, in terms of aligning budgetary decisions and maintaining our services, the district will keep the current double-trip model for transportation. Responding to questions about the bus survey, Mr. Munn said drivers who indicated they would leave employment would do so for financial reasons; most routes would change from 6-hour to 4-hour bids. That's significant to the district maintaining services, as single-tripping requires new routes and additional drivers. Drivers were also concerned about student behavior and had concerns about mixing student age groups and fear of something going wrong. He confirmed that not all buses currently have a monitor. The Capital component also references additional equipment and supplies needed to maintain the new fields and concession stand, wrestling mats, and snow and ice removal equipment. Mr. Munn also explained an increase in debt service and the corresponding BAN interest and principal payments related to the Project. Program component recommendations were focused on maintaining the district services currently provided and continuing all the social emotional initiatives we've done over the last few years. A new recommendation was introduced for increased athletic supervision to provide support, particularly during "Friday Night Lights" games as well as other events. At the building levels, there is discussion about possibly discontinuing the 8:1:2 CPSE program at the Elementary School due to declining enrollment; and moving the 8:1:1 Special Education program in the Middle School to the High School to reflect the needs of current students. Regarding the Special Education classrooms, Superintendent Kelly clarified they are continuing to do projections but currently students in the Middle School in 2026-27 will have aged out or mainstreamed. The CPSE 8:1:2 at the Elementary School is a county program with two students slated to return next year, and neither of them are Gouverneur students. Mrs. Kelly added that we also must think about our teachers; program intensity has been linked to higher burnout rates, and we want to do what's best for our teachers too. Continuing with the Programming component, Mr. Munn said the High School regional summer school remains a priority, as well as funding the new College Access COSER. If the Board supports it, it will enable the district to pay for students' college coursework and receive corresponding BOCES aid. Comments from the Board included Trustee French requesting the budget to continue support of the summer sports programs. With no further discussion, Mr. Munn stated he would share the first budget draft at the next meeting.

B. Financial Report – January 2026

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Under Revenues, the state executive budget projections showed a 2.42% increase in foundation aid for Gouverneur. However, some of these revenues will be offset by a reduction in funding due to a decrease in our average daily attendance since last year. There is also an expected increase in UPK funding, but this also comes with conditions that will offset some of the gains. In terms of Expenditures, electric costs have increased significantly over the last month, including a one-time cost of \$133,000 from the Capital project at the High School to service all the electrical changes in that building. Regarding the Fund Balance, the solar consortium capital fund is now established to set money aside for future re-powering needs. Follow-up discussion topics included geothermal heating and electric buses. It was noted that both of our electric buses are currently off the road due to temperatures and heater issues.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second Reading and Adoption of New and Revised Policies

(See Sheet #4, 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 Tina French, that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Board Policy Manual, effective immediately, as presented:

3280 – Use of School Facilities, Materials and Equipment

5850 – Data Networks and Security Access

5851 – Cybersecurity Incident Response

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

B. Second Reading and Approval to Delete Policies

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the deletion of the following policies from the Board Policy Manual, effective immediately, as presented:

3283 – Use of Facilities by the Boy Scouts of America and Patriotic Youth Groups

7421 – Objectives of the Athletic Program

8350 – Use of Copyrighted Materials

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. POLICES DELETED AS PRESENTED.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-President Todd Bates 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 Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly, motion made by Trustee Spicer, seconded by Trustee French, 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 January 12, 2026, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for 1/15/26 – 2/6/26, as presented.

C. CSE 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 CSE Meeting Minutes report:

5102890	5104065	5104621	5103917	5105329	5103000	5102952
5104697	5105109	5103954	5103955	5103952	5104581	5104170
5102739	5102309	5103091	5104473	5105337	5103658	5104686
5104749	5102298	5103140	5103099	5104530	5104932	5105328
5105330	5104218	5103299	5103614	5102299	5104823	5103321
5104830	5104892	5103292	5105334	5105333	5102531	5104930
5102888	5102389	5102982	5103282	5100422	5103871	5102813
5105182	5102502	5102682	5103081	5102291	5103177	5103657
5104446						

D. CPSE Business

(See Sheet #8, 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:

5105153

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

E. Student Activities Report – 4th Quarter, 2025

(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the SA Report for the 4th Quarter of 2025, as presented.

F. Treasurer’s Report – December 2025

(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer’s Report for the month of December 2025, as presented.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

Vice-President Bates 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 Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items A-G as a Consent Agenda:

A. Memorandum of Agreement between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association

(See Sheet #11, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement dated January 26, 2026, to the contract between the District and the Gouverneur Education Association that addresses the use of outside service providers to deliver interim student instruction when in-person instructors are not available, including the present vacancy for a Speech Pathologist, as presented.

B. Memorandum of Agreement between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union

(See Sheet #12, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement #1 dated February 9, 2026, to the contract between the District and the GSRPU that adds the position title “Building Electrical Maintenance Worker”, as presented.

C. Positions

- a) Approve the recommendation to create one (1) position for a 2.75-hour Food Service Helper, effective immediately, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract.
- b) Approve the recommendation to replace one Building Maintenance Worker position with one Building Electrical Maintenance Worker position, in the non-competitive class of the Civil Service, effective immediately, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract.

D. Retirements

- a) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Karleen Bognaski, from her position as Teacher of the Visually Impaired / Special Education teacher, effective June 30, 2026.
- b) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Nola Farns, from her position as Special Education teacher, effective June 30, 2026.

E. Resignations

Accept the request for resignation from Jamie DeRusso, from her position as School Counselor, effective at the close of business on February 27, 2026.

F. Appointments1. Non-Instructional

- a) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper. Appoint Nicole Rose to the position of 2.75-hour Food Service Helper, in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on February 2, 2026, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, 2.75-hr FSH (Level 1), from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to 2/2/26.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

F.1 Appointments – Non-Instructional (Cont.)

- b) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper. Appoint Angellee Jenkins to the position of 2.75-hour Food Service Helper, in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on February 10, 2026, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, 2.75-hr FSH (Level 1), from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to 2/10/26.
- c) Building Electrical Maintenance Worker. Appoint Curtis Hall to the position of Building Electrical Maintenance Worker, in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on February 18, 2026 at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Electrical Maintenance-12 Month (Level 1), from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to 2/18/26.
- d) Building Maintenance Worker. Appoint Terry Scott to the position of Building Maintenance Worker, in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on February 18, 2026 at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Maintenance-12 Month (Level 1), from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to 2/18/26.

2. Extra-Curricular

- a) Marching Band – Summer 2026. Approve the following Marching Band recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2026-27 extra-curricular Club salary schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

DIRECTOR	OLIVIA DEARBECK	CLASS A	Step 2
ASSISTANT 1	RYAN BURT	CLASS E	Step 4
ASSISTANT 2	JENNECA COOK	CLASS E	Step 2
COLOR GUARD	HAILEY COOK	CLASS E	Step 4
VOLUNTEER	LYNN KURDZIEL	UNCOMPENSATED	
VOLUNTEER	GIANNA MONTAGNO	UNCOMPENSATED	

- b) Coaching Appointments – Spring 2026. Approve the following Coaching recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2026-27 Sports salary schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

GOLF	MICHAEL J. BASON	CLASS 2	Step 5
SOFTBALL VARSITY	MICHELLE M. BENDA	CLASS 1	Step 20
BASEBALL MODIFIED	ANTHONY BESAW	CLASS 4	Step 3
TRACK BOYS' ASSISTANT	SHAWN P. CUMMINGS	CLASS 3	Step 5
TRACK BOYS' VARSITY	SEAN T. DEVLIN	CLASS 1	Step 28
SOFTBALL MODIFIED - VOLUNTEER	CHELSEI PECK	UNCOMPENSATED	
BASEBALL VARSITY	AARON M. MCEATHRON	CLASS 1	Step 7
TRACK MODIFIED	JULIE K. NEISS	CLASS 4	Step 3
SOFTBALL ASST VOLUNTEER	KORRINE PATTERSON	UNCOMPENSATED	
SOFTBALL MODIFIED	SARAH RIUTTA	CLASS 4	Step 1
SOFTBALL JV	SHAWN J. TYPHAIR	CLASS 3	Step 9
TRACK GIRLS	KURTIS P. WELLS	CLASS 1	Step 22
SOFTBALL ASST VOLUNTEER	SADDIE R. WHITAKER	UNCOMPENSATED	

3. Substitutes

Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes, pending completion of all requirements: Jordyn Girard, Allysa Byrd, Harlee Derr, Anne Degroat-Laisdell, Sarita Hall.

G. Probation Adjustments

- a) Extend the probationary period end date of Employee 00551 by 146 days, from 9/27/25 to 5/20/26, due to approved unpaid leave days and expired certification interval during the original probationary period.
- b) Modify the probationary term of Employee 00987, appointed to a four-year probation beginning 1/5/26 pending certification, to the probationary term of 1/9/26 – 1/8/30. Certification was issued 1/9/26.
- c) Modify the probationary term of Employee 00940, appointed to a four-year probation beginning 9/2/25 pending certification, to the probationary term of 1/21/26 – 1/20/30. Certification was issued 1/21/26.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

February 9, 2026

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Review of Parental Complaint dated January 9, 2026

(See Sheet #13, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly, motion made by Trustee Spicer, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the following Response to the Parental Complaint dated January 9, 2026. *The Parental Complaint is attached to the Minutes as Sheet #13.*

WHEREAS, the District requires parents and residents to follow the District's chain-of-command when presenting concerns to the District; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 3230 authorizes Board review of a complaint or concern that has not been resolved after presentation under the chain-of-command; and

WHEREAS, the District implements classroom temporary relocation procedures when a student is unable to remain regulated, such that classmates leave the classroom and relocate to a "buddy" classroom to continue with their instructional day until such time as they are able to relocate to their home classroom; and

WHEREAS, due to the privacy and confidentiality rights of students, information about temporary classroom relocations is not routinely provided to parents or guardians; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has conferred with the Office of Early Learning within the New York State Department of Education about its classroom temporary relocation procedures, and has been advised that its procedures (including not routinely making notifications to parents or guardians of the students who were temporarily relocated to a "buddy" classroom) are appropriate and consistent with applicable laws, rules and guidance; and

WHEREAS, parent Selena Bush has requested the District implement a notification process such that parents and guardians are advised when their child has been temporarily relocated to a "buddy" classroom; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bush has been advised by the administration, including the Superintendent of Schools public statement on October 20, 2025, that upon consultation with NYSED, and review of applicable laws, rules and regulations governing the privacy and confidentiality of students, the District will not notify parents or guardians when their child is temporarily removed to a "buddy" classroom, as doing so could serve to identify matters confidential to other students and their families; and

WHEREAS, in an email dated January 9, 2026, Ms. Bush requested the Board of Education review and respond to her request for classroom temporary relocation notifications; and

WHEREAS, as required by Board Policy, the Board wishes to acknowledge its receipt and response to Ms. Bush's request.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved, that Ms. Bush's January 9, 2026, request for notifications to parents and guardians when their child is temporarily relocated from a classroom, due to another student being unable to regulate and participate in the academic environment, is received. Due to the Superintendent's work with the Office of Early Learning at the New York State Department of Education in response to Ms. Bush's requests, as well as the existence of laws, rules and guidance governing the privacy and confidentiality of student-related matters, the District will not be modifying its current practices or protocols.

YEAS: Bates, French, McGregor, Ormasen, Roberts, Spicer

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Bush

MOTION CARRIED. BOARD RESPONSE TO PARENTAL COMPLAINT DATED JANUARY 9, 2026, APPROVED.

B. Authorization of Superintendent for Approval of Change Orders

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, the Board of Education hereby resolves to authorize the Superintendent of Schools (and in her absence, her designee) to execute and approve change orders up to a value of \$35,000 during the 2024 Capital Construction Project. This authority will allow work to proceed in between Board meetings, with the understanding that change orders will be presented and explained, as necessary, to the Board.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SUPERINTENDENT AUTHORIZED TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDERS UP TO \$35,000.

IX. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. Senior Class Trip

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee French, seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the request from the Senior Class of 2026 to travel to the Boston, Massachusetts area for 3 days/2 nights in May 2026.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SENIOR CLASS TRIP WITH OVERNIGHTS TO BOSTON, MA, APPROVED.

D. BOCES Annual Meeting and Vote - informational

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties, will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at which time the proposed administrative, capital, and program budgets of the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties BOCES for the 2026-2027 school year will be available for inspection by the Boards of Education.

On Monday, April 20, 2026, each component board will conduct a public meeting for the purpose of electing members of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services and adopting a public resolution concerning the approval or disapproval of the BOCES tentative administrative budget.

E. Nomination for BOCES Board

(See Sheet #14, Board Minutes File Folder)

There are currently 3 seats held by Todd Bates, Michael Miller, and Kevin Wells that will be vacated as of June 30, 2026. The effective appointment date for the BOCES board members elected to fill the vacancies shall be July 1, 2026, for a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2029. Nominations for BOCES board candidates must be made by resolution of the Board of Education of the component school district and transmitted to the clerk of the BOCES by close of business Friday, March 20, 2026.

Be it resolved, upon motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District hereby nominates Todd E. Bates of Gouverneur, NY, to fill a vacant seat on the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties BOCES Board.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. NOMINATION OF TODD E. BATES FOR THE ST. LAWRENCE-LEWIS COUNTIES BOCES BOARD, APPROVED.

F. Standard Work Day

(See Sheet #15, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, upon motion made by Trustee Spicer, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Gouverneur CSD, Location code 74003, hereby establishes the following as standard work days for its employees and will report days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these members to the clerk of this body:

Title	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)
Electrical Maintenance Worker	8.00

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. STANDARD WORK DAY FOR ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE WORKER, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

X. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

XI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education 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 6:58 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:50 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, 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
Todd Bates, Vice-President