

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

MARCH 9, 2026

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

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

Trustees Absent: None.

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. COMMENT PERIOD

Frank Bush addressed the Board to ask that an additional entrance be unlocked for handicapped patrons, closer to where they park behind the school for events. He believes this has caused more vehicles to double-park in front of the school, causing a potential problem should emergency vehicles need to get through.

Carolee Premo had questions on the District's sports merger programs and recognition considerations. She also had concerns regarding fair treatment for students with disabilities. Superintendent Kelly said she would follow up with her.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentation – Staff Recognition Award

President Fenlong congratulated Alicia Porter, keyboard specialist for the Gouverneur Middle School guidance office. The District Shared Decision-Making Committee determined Mrs. Porter's worthiness of this recognition because, in part, "She embodies the spirit of compassion, positivity, and service that makes our school such a welcoming and supportive place for students and staff alike. Her positivity and upbeat attitude create a safe and friendly environment where students feel comfortable seeking help, advice, or simply a listening ear. She has a special way of making every student feel seen and valued."

B. Communications

President Fenlong passed around a card from an Ogdensburg family thanking the Board for allowing their students to merge with the Gouverneur Girls' Wrestling program. He also reminded Board members of the upcoming BOCES Annual Meeting in Canton on April 1. School Board Candidate Petition Packets are available from the District Clerk.

C. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly highlighted the music department, sharing that 24 students participated in the SLCMEA Festival A in January with the Elementary Chorus, Junior-High Band, Junior-High Orchestra and Senior-High Chorus. Seventeen additional musicians participated in the SLCMEA All-County Festival B in February, with the Elementary Band, Junior-High Chorus, Senior-High Band, and the Senior-High Vocal Select. To be selected, instrumentalists must complete a NYSSMA solo the previous school year, with the highest scores from the county being selected as members, while Vocal Select must audition in October. The Festivals took place at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music's premier concert venue, Hosmer Hall. The students had nothing but positive comments on their experience. Mrs. Kelly also announced that our "Airborne Anarchy" Drone Soccer Team placed third at the US Drone Soccer Regional Qualifier at SUNY Canton on March 1. They advanced to the Region 2 championship at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica on March 8, where they tied for seventh place in a 16-team double-elimination tournament against top teams from across New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and even Europe.

D. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly reminded everyone that March 13 is a full-day professional development day for staff, with no school for students, and encouraged everyone to attend the high school musical production, *Once Upon A Mattress* on March 27 and 28. March 30 is another professional development half-day with early dismissal for students, and the next Board meeting will be held at the Elementary School on March 30.

March 9, 2026

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. 2026-2027 Budget1. Budget Draft Document #1

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn shared the first draft of the 2026-2027 budget, totaling \$50,613,427, an increase of 5.8% over the current year. Most of the priorities discussed at the last meeting are integrated into this budget, with the exception of the Middle School 8:1:1 Special Education program, which has been reinstated in this draft. The biggest increase in this budget is our debt service, nearly \$4 million on the BAN principal and interest. Other significant increases are for electricity, the transportation contract, out-of-district student placements to special schools, a psychologist intern and social worker that will no longer be grant-funded, and instructional media that is provided by BOCES. Significant reductions include the unfilled attendance clerk and art teacher positions, the online psychologist, legal costs adjusted to actual, and two electric buses. He explained that the last budget included two grant-funded electric buses; however, we did not get that grant and there is not another round open for grant-funded electric buses, so they were removed. Also, this budget does not include another \$1,000,000 transfer to the Repair Reserve; it is fully funded at this time to be used in the future should major repairs be needed. Additionally, this budget does not include a large transfer to the Capital Fund that took place last year from the interest earned in the debt service fund. Mr. Munn estimated total revenues will be around \$48,316,000, an increase of about 5% from last year. Our revenue sources come from state aid, various miscellaneous areas, a tax levy increase of 2%, which will bring our tax levy to \$7,352,940, as well as appropriating some Reserves. Consistent with our current Reserve Plan, we will utilize three Reserves to help fund the budget: \$35,000 from the Accrued Benefit Reserve to help pay for retirement benefits; \$109,949 from the Workers' Compensation Reserve to help pay for workers' compensation needs, and \$133,602 from the ERS Reserve. This budget also includes the utilization of \$2,018,279 of unassigned fund balance. Mr. Munn stated that is higher than the 2025-26 budget, when we utilized \$1.8 million, and said his preference is to reduce that number to \$1.5-1.8 million, noting his concern about needing to apply more from our unassigned fund balance each year because our expenditures are outpacing our revenues, and that is not sustainable. He promised the administrative team would continue meeting to discuss trimming areas that do not impact the district's mission statement.

2. BOCES Preliminary Request for Services

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Board members reviewed the initial data regarding the services provided through BOCES.

B. Approval of Budget Transfers

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Todd Bates, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following budget transfers:

\$130,700 from A9060-863 (Health Insurance)

\$320,000 from A9950-900 (Capital Fund)

\$450,700 to A1621-420 (Maintenance Contractual Expense)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Munn explained that \$320,000 was budgeted for the playground at the Middle School; however, the low bid was \$450,700. We have the \$320,000 already set aside in the Capital Fund and would like to transfer an additional \$130,700 from the Health Insurance fund. The reason money is available in that Fund is due to fewer new employees signing up for family health insurance than budgeted this year.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. BUDGET TRANSFERS, 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 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 Laura Spicer, seconded by Trustee Tina French, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-F, as a consent agenda:

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2026, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 2/12/26 – 3/6/26, 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:

5104322	5103265	5105274	5105023	5103591	5104347	5101221
5103383	5103112	5103620	5102999	5101846	5103799	5101872
5103886	5103790	5103150	5103845	5103211	5103002	5103182
5103328	5104759	5104604	5102363	5103005	5104099	5103929
5102431	5105052	5102448	5105273	5105322	5103890	5104008
5104438	5104293	5103045	5103665	5104715	5104813	5103914
5104691	5104178	5104551	5104963	5102036	5104254	5103920

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:

5105158	5105141	5104894	5105165	5104726	5104680	5105118
5105326						

E. Treasurer's Report – January 2026

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2026, as presented.

F. Change Order

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Change Order for Contract No. 8 – Bleachers & Press Box Construction (Number 8-01), 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. 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 Dr. William Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Laurie Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-E, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Tenure Recommendations

1. RESOLVED, that Kathleen E. Beese, Mathematics Teacher, who holds Permanent certification in Mathematics 7-12 issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in *Mathematics Academic Tenure, Grades 7-12* effective 02/14/2026.
2. RESOLVED, that Brandon A. Griffin, Social Studies Teacher, who holds Initial certification in Social Studies 7-12 issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in *Social Studies Academic Tenure, Grades 7-12* effective 04/23/2026
3. RESOLVED, that Jill M. Davis, Special Education Teacher, who holds Professional certification in Students With Disabilities (All Grades) issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in *General Special Education* effective 05/01/2026.
4. RESOLVED, that Keegan Robillard, Special Education Teacher, who holds Professional certification in Students With Disabilities (Grade 1-6) issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in *General Special Education* effective 05/01/2026.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

B. Memorandum of Agreement between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association*(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement dated March 1, 2026, to the contract between the District and the Gouverneur Education Association that allows a staff start date of August 31, 2026 to gain an additional snow day on the 2026-27 school calendar, as presented.

C. Memorandum of Agreement between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union*(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement #2 dated March 9, 2026, to the contract between the District and the GSRPU that allows a 10-month staff start date of August 31, 2026 to gain an additional snow day on the 2026-27 school calendar, as presented.

D. Resignations

- a) Accept the request for resignation from Alisha DeVito, from her position as Individual Aide, effective at the close of business on February 24, 2026.
- b) Accept the request for resignation from Megan Peddle, from her position as Individual Aide, effective at the close of business on April 24, 2026.

E. Appointments1. Extra-Curricular – 2025-26 Spring Coaches

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:

CORRYN G. CANELL	TRACK - GIRLS ASSISTANT	CLASS 3	Step 2
LIA CANELL	SOFTBALL – VOLUNTEER ASS'T	UNCOMPENSATED	
CHLOE SMITH	SOFTBALL – VOLUNTEER ASS'T	UNCOMPENSATED	

2. Student Workers

Approve the appointment of the following students for the 2025-26 school year, pending completion of all requirements, to work for the Buildings & Grounds department: Matty Isereau, Peyton Jacques

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

President David Fenlong expressed congratulations to the newly tenured teachers on behalf of the Board.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorization to Participate in Oswego County BOCES' Cooperative Purchasing Program

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 the following resolution authorizing participation in Oswego County BOCES' Cooperative Purchasing Program:

WHEREAS, The Cooperative Purchasing Service is a plan of a number of public-school districts in the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services Area in New York (known as the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation [CiTi]), to bid jointly for water testing and sampling services, and

WHEREAS, Gouverneur Central School District (hereinafter the "Participant") is desirous of participating with Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi and other Boards of Cooperative Educational Services and public-school districts in the joint bidding of the services mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

WHEREAS, The participant wishes to appoint the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to advertise for bids, accept bids, tabulate bids and award bids on their behalf; therefore

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

A. Authorization to Participate in Oswego County BOCES' Cooperative Purchasing Program (Cont.)

BE IT RESOLVED, The participant hereby appoints Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi designated newspaper(s) as the legal publication(s) for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The participant authorizes the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above-mentioned services, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The participant agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of the Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts; (3) abide by the Award of the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi; (4) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PARTICIPATION IN OSWEGO COUNTY BOCES' COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM, AUTHORIZED AS PRESENTED.

B. Adoption of 2026-2027 School Calendar

(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)

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 adopt the 2026-2027 school calendar, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Tina French asked if the last week of school in June would be full days; Superintendent Kelly responded that they are full days unless we don't use all six snow days, and then they may be considered for give-backs or early dismissal days.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

C. Approval of Professional Learning Plan

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

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 re-adopt the Professional Learning Plan for 2026-2027, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Responding to Trustee Roberts' request for a synopsis of the Plan, Assistant Superintendent Jessica Sullivan summarized how the Plan contents support the district's goals and support professional development toward the implementation of the curriculum, adding that the plan was reviewed by a group of stakeholders including administrators, teachers, parents, and specialists.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLAN FOR 2026-2027, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

D. Approval of AIS/RTI Plan

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

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 re-adopt the AIS/RTI Intervention Plan K-12 for 2026-2028, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Assistant Superintendent Jessica Sullivan stated this plan meets the NYSED requirements regarding ensuring services for students failing to meet, or at risk of not meeting, state learning standards.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. AIS/RTI INTERVENTION PLAN K-12 FOR 2026-2028, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

E. Proposed Contract Award – Middle School Playground Project
(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

WHEREAS, Sealed bid proposals for the Middle School Playground Project were opened on March 3, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder on the contract is T.J. Fiacco Construction, LLC; and

WHEREAS, BCA Architects and Engineers recommend accepting the Base Bid together with Bid Item No. 101 and awarding the General Construction Contract to T. J. Fiacco Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$450,700; and

WHEREAS, BCA Architects and Engineers supports the District awarding the Contract contingent upon receipt, review, and acceptance of all post-bid documents, including bonds and insurances.

THEREFORE: Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education award the contract for the Middle School Playground Project (Project No. 2026-004) to T.J. Fiacco Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$450,700.

Be it further resolved that the school district administration, architect, and legal counsel are directed to draft and execute necessary documents to commence construction on the Project(s).

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONTRACT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND PROJECT, AWARDED TO T.J. FIACCO CONSTRUCTION, LLC, AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Rachel Hunter, News Editor of the *Gouverneur Tribune Press*, requested that when sports mergers are filed, publicity permission is also granted for any students involved so those students can be recognized in the newspaper.

Brandon Griffin, Social Studies teacher, thanked the Board for granting tenure to all of the teachers this evening, adding he is proud to be a Wildcat and loves what he does.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee French, that the Board of Education move into executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons, to include the annual evaluation of the superintendent.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:45 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 8:00 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President