

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

MARCH 30, 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 Elementary School Cafeteria, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush.

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 – None.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Communications

The audience was reminded that School Board Candidate Petition Packets, as well as Absentee and Early Voting Ballot Applications, are available from the District Clerk.

B. Capital Project Update

Cory Wood, Executive Director of Operations and Personnel, shared some pictures and reported on the progress being made on both Phase 1 (Middle School interior work and exterior parking lots and new field and track areas) and Phase 2 (High School and bus garage). Work on the middle school playground should start soon and is projected to be done by early summer. The athletic stadium is projected to be completed in the late summer, and the wells for the geothermal heating and cooling system should be drilled by late spring and the parking lots paved by early to mid-summer. The pool is now closed and those renovations have also started. Upon request from Trustee French regarding the unheated outdoor buildings, it was explained that the cost is 30% higher to include temperature control heating. Most districts in the north country do not heat those buildings as they are not used in the winter, and they meet all SED requirements.

C. Upcoming Events

The District will be on spring break from April 3-10, and the next Board of Education meeting is April 20 in the HS auditorium. President Fenlong gave a shout out to director Mrs. Bason, set designer Mr. Decker, and the entire cast and crew of the High School Musical performance of *Once Upon A Mattress*.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report - February

*(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Business Manager Munn reported that for the month of February, revenues will outpace expenses by just under \$100,000. He said the legislative budget recommends a 2% increase in Foundation Aid, and the Governor's recommendation came in at 1.4% for us. He explained that with the CPI decreasing from 2.8 to 2.7%, and an overall enrollment decrease of 0.4% from the November to February data, he predicts our final foundation aid increase will be 1.4%. Under expenditures, he predicted an increase of 6% for health insurance. We participate in a consortium of school districts for health insurance, and the official approval will happen at the next health insurance meeting in April. Speaking about the fund balance, Mr. Munn projected an unassigned fund balance of 11%, consistent where it is now, and added that moving forward, it may be appropriate to consider another capital reserve following the next building condition survey; we utilized our last capital reserve for the down payment on the current project.

B. 2026-2027 Budget

1. BOCES Final Request for Services

*(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)*

A short discussion took place regarding BOCES services and how they are paid.

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IV. FINANCIAL REPORT (CONT.)

B. 2026-2027 Budget (Continued)

2. Budget Draft Document #2

*(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Mr. Munn shared that since the last draft, the admin team worked to find additional savings that brought total expenditures down to \$50,475,228, or 5.51% over the current year, and revenues up to \$58,371,701, a 5.67% increase over the current year. He went over some of the changes to expenditures, both increases and reductions, and answered questions from board members. Superintendent Kelly relayed that discussions with the administrative team focused on maintaining the integrity of the academic program, especially Reading and Math instruction, and providing services on campus to students who currently need to go to off-campus placements. The administrators in turn met with their teachers for additional input on the after-school programs, driver’s education, and athletics. The top priority across the board was to maintain academics. Other grant sources are being looked at; one is for an after-school program run by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Mr. Munn clarified that we will not qualify for the Title V grant so the current expenditures paid from that grant were moved to the general fund. The free breakfast and lunch program will not be affected. Altogether, the unassigned fund balance allocated to next year’s budget is \$1,850,728, which Mr. Munn said he feels more comfortable with when considering that expenditures continue to increase faster than revenues. He said they will still accept feedback and have the final proposed budget ready for the next board meeting, even though the state budget numbers aren’t expected to be final yet.

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 Vice-President Todd Bates, seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-E, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

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

B. Claims Auditor’s Reports

*(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Approve the Claims Auditor’s Reports for the period 3/12/26 – 3/27/26, 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:

5102482	5103084	5102511	5103122	5102832	5104855	5102769
5103035	5103989	5103338	5103281	5103505	5105330	5105329
5105328	5104767	5104250	5104143	5103322	5104722	5105021
5103007	5104661	5104426	5103018	5101626	5103889	5102218

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:

5105339	5104777
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E. Treasurer’s Report – February 2026

*(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Accept the Treasurer’s Report for the month of February 2026, 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 Laurie Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items as a Consent Agenda:

A. Appointments

1. Instructional

- a) High School Social Studies Teacher. Appoint Rachael Mulvana, holding NYS Initial certification in Social Studies 7-12, to the position of Social Studies Teacher in the Social Studies academic tenure area, effective 7/1/26 for professional development purposes. Ms. Mulvana will have a four-year probationary period commencing on August 31, 2026, and anticipated to end on August 30, 2030, at an annual salary set at Step 1, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2026-2027. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term.
- b) Special Education Teacher. Appoint Rebecca Taylor, holding NYS Professional certifications in Students With Disabilities Grades 7-12 Generalist, Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6), and Students With Disabilities (Birth-Grade 2), to the position of Special Education Teacher in the General Special Education tenure area, effective 7/1/26 for professional development purposes. Ms. Taylor will have a three-year\* probationary period commencing on August 31, 2026, and anticipated to end on August 30, 2029, at an annual salary set at Step 10, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2026-2027. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term. \*Ms. Taylor was previously tenured in another district.
- c) Special Education Teacher. Appoint Cailey Roberts, holding NYS Initial certification in Students With Disabilities (All Grades), to the position of Special Education Teacher in the General Special Education tenure area, effective 7/1/26 for professional development purposes. Ms. Roberts will have a four-year probationary period commencing on August 31, 2026, and anticipated to end on August 30, 2030, at an annual salary set at Step 5, B45M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2026-2027. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term.
- d) Special Education Teacher. Appoint Joshua Forgione, pending NYS applicable certification, to the position of Special Education Teacher in the General Special Education tenure area, effective 7/1/26 for professional development purposes. Mr. Forgione will have a four-year probationary period commencing on August 31, 2026, and anticipated to end on August 30, 2030, at an annual salary set at Step 5, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2026-2027. This appointment is contingent upon his successful completion of the probationary term.

2. Extra Duty

Gouverneur Middle School Afterschool Tutoring - Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors for the 2025-2026 school year: Trenton Sullivan.

3. Extra-Curricular – 2025-26 Spring Coaches

Approve the following coaching recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding certification requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2025-26 Coaching Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

BASEBALL – VOLUNTEER ASS'T

TIM KNOWLTON

UNCOMPENSATED

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONT.)

A. Appointments (Continued)4. Substitutes

Approve the appointment of the following personnel to work as per diem substitutes for Instructional and Support positions, pending completion of all hiring requirements: Elyssa Bice, Jaymie McIntyre, Baylee Deleon Perez, Rachel Durham, Jenna Sixberry, Chelsea Johnson, Jenika Richards, Reese Cox, Jordyn Girard, Andrea Gray.

5. 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: Madison Harper.

**Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items**

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

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

**President Fenlong, on behalf of the Board, welcomed the new hires and thanked them for choosing Gouverneur, encouraging them to succeed and thrive!**

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum of Agreement for Election Services between St. Lawrence County Board of Elections and Gouverneur Central School District Board of Education

*(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee French, that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Election Services between St. Lawrence County Board of Elections and Gouverneur Central School District Board of Education, applicable to the GCSD Election being held May 19, 2026, and any subsequent revote(s) related thereto, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MOA WITH SLC BOARD OF ELECTIONS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

B. Compensation Rate for Election Inspectors

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee French, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve to compensate Election Inspectors at the rate of \$175/day on School District voting days during the 2025-26 school year.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. COMPENSATION RATE FOR ELECTION INSPECTORS, APPROVED.**

C. Appointment of Inspectors and Officers for the Annual Meeting and Vote

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District, St. Lawrence County, New York, has called an Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote of the qualified voters of said School District to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026, and WHEREAS, it is now desired to provide for the appointment of inspectors and officers for said Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that 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 appointment of the Chairperson, certified inspectors, acting clerk, and assistant clerk as follows:

1. **Lisa Sheen**, a duly qualified voter of said School District, is hereby appointed as the Chairperson of the Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote on May 19, 2026, and the Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026.
2. The following named qualified voters of said School District are hereby appointed to act as Inspectors of Election of the Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote, so that there shall be at least two Inspectors for each voting machine to be used thereat: **Diane Kelley**, Chief Election Inspector; **Lucy Hart**, Election Inspector.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONT.)

C. Appointment of Inspectors and Officers for the Annual Meeting and Vote (Continued)

3. **Lisa Sheen**, a duly qualified voter of said School District, is designated as Acting Clerk in the absence or inability to act of the District Clerk, for purposes of said Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote.
4. **Kim Shampine** is designated as Assistant Clerk of said Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote.
5. Be it further resolved, the Board authorizes the Clerk to make any changes to the appointments as deemed necessary, per the county list of approved inspectors, or appoint at least two inspectors for each voting machine from the list of certified inspectors.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTE, APPROVED.**

D. Indian River Field Band Merger Request

*(See Sheet #9, 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 Dr. William Cartwright, that the Board of Education approve the Combined Services Agreement between Indian River CSD and Gouverneur CSD to combine their respective Field Band programs with respect to participation in the New York State Field Band Conference for 2026-2027, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. INDIAN RIVER FIELD BAND MERGER, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

E. Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing Resolution

*(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)*

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 Annual Meeting/Budget Hearing Resolution, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING RESOLUTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

## IX. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

## X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Laura Spicer, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education move into 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 6:32 PM.**

## RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**Open session resumed at 8:25 PM.**

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Tina French, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present.    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:25 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file  
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file  
David Fenlong, President