

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

AUGUST 18, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by President David Fenlong, at 5:31 PM, in the High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, David Fenlong, Tina French, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts.

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush, Dr. William Cartwright, Lisa McGregor, Laura Spicer.

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were offered from those present.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Communications

President Fenlong reminded board members to RSVP for the upcoming Area 6 Dinner Meeting and the NYSSBA convention.

B. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly shared the schedule of open houses and orientations at the district buildings.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Financial Report – July 2025

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn reviewed the data for the first month of the fiscal year. He shared that recent updates suggest there will be no decreases or delays in Federal revenues related to education, including grants for special education and remedial programs; however, at the state level, projected decreases in Federal Medicaid and SNAP benefits may affect the state budget and that in turn could impact our budget. Discussing expenses, Mr. Munn highlighted the efforts of senior account clerk Kim Shampine in reducing our unemployment claims by approximately 90% through careful analysis of each claim. Regarding the capital project, the budget appears to be on target to address all the items. Next, he informed the Board that the district received a new claim in a tax certiorari proceeding asking for a \$75,000 decrease in an assessment. Those funds can be set aside from the unassigned fund balance at the end of the year for the Tax Certiorari Reserve. Mr. Munn also noted that the monthly reports will show the original and projected revenues and expenditures aren't the same, the projected change in fund balance on the report shows negative \$1.8 million; if we spend what we plan it will decrease our fund balance by that amount.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of School Safety Plan 2025-26

(See Sheet #2, 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 Laurie Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the School Safety Plan 2025-26, to be submitted to SED and distributed to specified agencies, as presented.

DISCUSSION: A public hearing was held on July 21, 2025. No additional comments have been received. Superintendent Kelly stated that per notification from the state the previous Friday, an addendum must be added to include a cardiac emergency plan. The district is already in compliance but will follow the procedures to formalize and submit the addendum to this Plan.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN 2025-26, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

August 18, 2025

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. Trustee Ormasen asked that Item B, Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 7/15/25 – 8/08/25, be removed for special consideration.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda: A,C,D,E

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Todd Bates, seconded by Trustee Laurie Roberts, 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 July 21, 2025, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the services, including additions, modifications and deletions, for the following classified CSE students, as reflected in the attached CSE Meeting Minutes report:

5102998

D. CSE Business

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the services, including additions, modifications and deletions, for the following classified CPSE students, as reflected in the attached CPSE Meeting Minutes report:

5105141

5105155

E. Treasurer's Report - July 2025

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2025 as presented.

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

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A, C, D, AND E, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Todd Bates, seconded by Trustee Laurie Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 7/15/25 – 8/08/25, as presented.

YEAS: Bates, Fenlong, French, Roberts

NAYS: None

ABSTENTION – Trustee Nickolas Ormasen

MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM. CLAIMS AUDITOR'S REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD 7/15/25 – 8/08/25 WILL BE RECONSIDERED AT NEXT MEETING ON 9/8/25.

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 for any item to be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Personnel Items A-B

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Tina French, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items A-B as a Consent Agenda:

A. Resignations

- a) Accept the request for resignation from Jean Johnson, from her position as secondary English Teacher, effective August 7, 2025.
- b) Accept the request for resignation from Autumn Kirker, from her position as secondary English Teacher, effective August 8, 2025.
- c) Accept the request for resignation from Kateena Smith, from her position as Individual Aide, effective August 14, 2025.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

B. Appointments1. Instructional

- a) High School English Teacher. Appoint Alexia Taylor, holding NYS Initial certification in English 7-12 and 5-6 Extension, to the position of English Teacher in the English academic tenure Area, effective August 11, 2025 for professional development purposes. Ms. Taylor will have a four-year probationary period commencing on September 2, 2025, and anticipated to end on September 1, 2029, at an annual salary set at Step 1, Bachelor's, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2025-2026. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term.
- b) English Teacher. Appoint Alexandria Michura, pending NYS certification in English, to the position of English Teacher in the English academic tenure Area, effective August 19, 2025 for professional development purposes. Ms. Michura will have a four-year probationary period commencing on September 2, 2025, pending certification, and anticipated to end on September 1, 2029, at an annual salary set at Step 5, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2025-2026. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term.
- c) Title I .30 FTE Teacher – St. James. Appoint Judith Tomford to the non-probationary position of .30 (tentative) FTE* Teacher, effective September 2, 2025, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement, at Step 6, B30M, for the 2025-26 school year, paid through Title I funds. Ms. Tomford holds Permanent certification in Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6. Ms. Tomford is assigned to St. James. *The actual FTE will be based on final Title I allocations and is subject to change.

2. Non-Instructional

- a) Teacher Aide. Approve the transfer of Alana Luther from her position as an Individual Aide to the position of Teacher Aide, in the noncompetitive class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, effective September 2, 2025 at a salary of Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1.
- b) Individual Aides. Appoint the following Individual Aides, in the noncompetitive class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, effective September 2, 2025 at a salary of Individual Aide 7.5, Level 1:
 - Zoey Cunningham
 - Jenneca Cook
 - Cassidy Simmons
 - Taija Douglas
 - Alisha DeVito – effective September 15, 2025
- c) Custodians. Approve the transfer of the following individuals from Cleaner to Custodian, in the competitive class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, effective August 19, 2025 at a salary of Custodian, Level 1:
 - Jessica Pickett
 - Spencer Ritchie
- d) School Nurse (LPN). Appoint Brittany L. White as a School Nurse (LPN), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, effective September 2, 2025 at a salary of LPN, Level 1, and approve up to five days at her daily rate August 19-29 for Beginnergarten and training, pending completion of new hire requirements.

3. Substitutes/Tutors

- a) Approve the appointment of returning substitutes for the 2025-26 school year; all requirements are complete:
 - Reigan Ayen, Amber Barr, Hailey Cook, Betty Hall (retired/certified), Ethan Matthews, Chloe Smith, Gina Taylor (retired/certified), Ling Wu, Kateena Smith, Forrest Fuller, Ashton Bowman
- b) Approve the appointment of instructional and non-instructional substitutes for the 2025-26 school year, pending completion of all new hire requirements:
 - June Dewhirst (certified PreK-6), Tiffany Forsythe, Jaelyn Goodale, Veronika Holmberg-Kicakova, Janet McIntosh, Emma Riley, Alan Countryman.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

B. Appointments (Cont.)4. Extra-Curricular

- a) 2025-26 Coaches – Fall. 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:

SWIM – MODIFIED GIRLS	JULIE K. NEISS	RESCIND	
FOOTBALL – JV ASSISTANT	DAVID M. DAILEY	RESCIND	
FOOTBALL – MODIFIED ASSISTANT	ALAN COUNTRYMAN	CLASS 4	STEP 1
FOOTBALL ASSISTANT – VOLUNTEER	DAVID. M. DAILEY	N/A	Uncompensated
VOLLEYBALL ASSISTANT – VOLUNTEER	LEAH CARD	N/A	Uncompensated

- b) 2025-26 Advisors. Approve the appointments of the 2025-26 Advisors, to be compensated in accordance with the 2025-26 Club Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

DEANONIAN	CORY V. YOUNG	CLASS A	Step 11
MUSICAL DIRECTOR # 1	EMILY M. BASON	CLASS A	Step 8
ART CLUB HS	ROBERT D. DECKER	CLASS B	Step 12
FFA	KYLIE A. TORRES	CLASS B	Step 4
FFA - Summer (retroactive - Summer 2025)	KYLIE A. TORRES	CLASS B	Step 3
MUSICAL DIRECTOR # 2	OLIVIA R. MONTAGNO	CLASS B	Step 2
SELECT CHOIR (CHAMBER SINGERS)	BRETT M. WORDEN	CLASS B	Step 3
E-Sports	MICHAEL A. SHATTUCK	CLASS B	Step 1
DEANONIAN 2	BETHANIE J. DENESHA	CLASS B	Step 11
TRAPSHOOTING TEAM - FALL	PAUL D. CAPELLINO	CLASS B	Step 3
TRAPSHOOTING TEAM - SPRING	PAUL D. CAPELLINO	CLASS B	Step 3
CHOREOGRAPHER (MUSICAL)	DANIELLE J. PEAKE	CLASS C	Step 2
DRAMA CLUB 7 & 8	BRANDON A. GRIFFIN	CLASS C	Step 4
HONOR SOCIETY 7 & 8	MONICA L. SCOTT	CLASS C	Step 5
HONOR SOCIETY 9-12	JULIA M. STREETER	CLASS C	Step 3
STAGE BAND	OLIVIA R. MONTAGNO	CLASS C	Step 2
STUDENT COUNCIL HIGH SCHOOL	HEATHER L. PARKER	CLASS C	Step 2
VARSITY CLUB	SARAH J. WOOD	CLASS C	Step 4
ADVISOR, GRADE 11 #1	SARAH J. WOOD	CLASS D	Step 7
ADVISOR, GRADE 11 #2	BETHANIE J. DENESHA	CLASS D	Step 15
ADVISOR, GRADE 12 #1	KATHLEEN M. STAMPER	CLASS D	Step 7
ADVISOR, GRADE 12 #2	BOBBIE HOLMES	CLASS D	Step 3
HISTORY CLUB	LISA M. STOWELL	CLASS D	Step 5
KEY CLUB	EMILY B. MASHAW	CLASS D	Step 3
STUDENT COUNCIL 7 & 8	HEATHER I. ROSE	CLASS D	Step 24
WHIZ QUIZ	EMILY M. BASON	CLASS D	Step 7
MUSICAL SET DIRECTOR	ROBERT D. DECKER	CLASS D	Step 4
BUILDERS CLUB	BRITTANY L. BUCKMASTER	CLASS D	Step 3
ADVISOR, GRADE 10 #1	HEATHER L. PARKER	CLASS E	Step 14
COMPETITIVE SPEAKING CLUB	MICHAEL J. BASON	CLASS E	Step 9
MATH CLUB	CORY V. YOUNG	CLASS E	Step 5
PERFORMING ARTS DIRECTOR	RICHARD PATTON	CLASS E	Step 2
SENIOR HIGH FALL PLAY	MICHAEL J. BASON	CLASS E	Step 4
K-KIDS CLUB (0.5)	ALISSA M. MCEATHRON	CLASS E	Step 3
K-KIDS CLUB (0.5)	KAYLA M. SIDE	CLASS E	Step 3
MILITARY KIDS CLUB ELEMENTARY (0.5)	NICOLE CUDHEA	CLASS E	Step 2
MILITARY KIDS CLUB ELEMENTARY (0.5)	KATRINA COOK	CLASS E	Step 2
BAND PEP	OLIVIA R. MONTAGNO	CLASS F	Step 2
TRI-M ADVISOR (Shared)	OLIVIA R. MONTAGNO	VOLUNTEER	
TRI-M ADVISOR (Shared)	BRETT M. WORDEN	VOLUNTEER	

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

B. Appointments (Cont.)5. Extra Duty

- a) Elementary School Afterschool Tutoring – Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2025-2026 school year: Corey Rogers, Penny Matice.
- b) Middle School Afterschool Tutoring – Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2025-2026 school year: Stacey Devlin, Brandon Griffin, Sean Devlin, Nola Farns, Julie Neiss, Lisa Stowell, Pam Stevens, Jennie Dalton, Denise Baer, Melinda Schiszler, Chris Cagnetti, Brad Davis, Kristina Hitchman, Cheri Zira, Kim Reed, Brock Davison, Desiree Simmons, Jessica Miller, Candy Brown, Melissa Sweeney.

6. Other

- a) School District Foster Care Co-Liaison. Appoint Kayley Learn Denner as a School District Foster Care Co-Liaison, in accordance with Board Policy 7133, Education of Students in Foster Care, for the 2025-26 school year.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items A-B:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL ITEMS A-B, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

President Fenlong welcomed all the new appointees and thanked them for choosing Gouverneur. He thanked the staff who took on additional duties and wished well those who are leaving.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Warrant for 2025-2026*(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Todd Bates, that the Board of Education approve the tax warrant for 2025-2026 in the amount of \$7,281,815 (\$7,208,765 School + \$73,050 Library), as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TAX WARRANT FOR 2025-2026, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.B. School Lunch and Breakfast Program

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Tina French, and seconded by Vice-President Todd Bates, that the Board of Education approve participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program for 2025-2026. Breakfast and lunch meals served to all students at no cost (\$0.00); adult breakfast is \$3.00 + tax, and adult lunch is \$5.25 + tax.

DISCUSSION: President David Fenlong stated he is glad the district can continue to provide free meals.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAM FOR 2025-2026, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.C. Voting Delegate for the NYSSBA Virtual Annual Business Meeting

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Todd Bates, that the Board of Education appoint Trustee Nickolas Ormasen, as the voting delegate for the New York State School Boards Association's Annual Business Meeting to be held virtually on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 4pm.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Ormasen asked that if anyone had particular opinions on the matters to be addressed at the business meeting to let him know.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TRUSTEE NICKOLAS ORMASEN NAMED VOTING DELEGATE FOR NYSSBA VIRTUAL ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

D. Approval of Phase 2 Building Contracts

(See Sheet #7, 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 Tina French, that the Board of Education approve the contracts for the Capital Improvements Project – Phase 2, as referenced on the attached document from BCA Architects & Engineers.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PHASE 2 CONTRACTS, AWARDED AS PRESENTED.

Clerk's Note: This attachment is noted to have a clerical error; a revised corrected document is included in the Minutes of the September 8, 2025, regular Board meeting.

E. Authorization to Declare as Surplus and Dispose of Used Items

Whereas, the School District owns certain items which are obsolete, no longer useful or necessary for school district purposes and of no value to the School District; therefore, be it resolved:

- a) Upon motion made by Trustee Laurie Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Tina French, that the Board of Education hereby declares the following item(s) to be surplus and authorizes the Business Administrator to donate said items to St. James School: *Core Knowledge Language Arts Curriculum* materials: 5 classroom sets and teacher editions (Grade 3) and 5 classroom sets and teacher editions (Grade 4).

DISCUSSION: Responding to Trustee Roberts, Superintendent Kelly confirmed that we are continuing with the newer edition of this curriculum.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS TEXTBOOKS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

- b) Upon motion made by Vice-President Todd Bates, and seconded by Trustee Tina French, that the Board of Education hereby declares the following item(s) to be surplus and authorizes the Business Administrator to dispose of such items in accordance with Board Policy and in the best interests of the School District: Three (3) *Leedy & Ludwig* Timpani drums.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS TIMPANI DRUMS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Todd Bates, and seconded by Trustee Tina French, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:02 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 6:51 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file

David Fenlong, President