

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

November 19, 2018

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 6:30 P.M., EDT in the High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: James Delity, David Fenlong, Karen Geer, Lisa McGregor, Laurie M. Roberts, Roland Roderick, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: Dr. William Cartwright, Nickolas Ormasen,

Also Present: Abigail Riutta, Student Board Representative; Lauren French, Superintendent of Schools; Donna Runner, Assistant Superintendent; Carol LaSala, Business Manager; Cory Wood, High School Principal; Steven Coffin, Middle School Principal; Victoria Day, Elementary Principal; Charity Zawatski, Elementary Principal; Robyn Knowlton, CSE/CPSE Chairperson; Harold Simmons, Director of Facilities; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

News Media: Jessyca Cardinell, Gouverneur Tribune Press.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

President David Fenlong opened the floor for the first of two public comment periods, reminding those present to keep any comments to five minutes or less, and the Board will not respond to speakers during the meeting unless to address inaccurate information or ask clarifying questions. Discussion items not on the agenda must be clearly identified by topic, and questions raised may be responded to at the next meeting. No comments were offered.

III. DISCUSSION

A. FFA Presentation

Hannah Hight, chapter President; along with Faith Miller, Vice President; Maxwell Sheen, Treasurer; and Stephanie Laforty, Reporter, shared highlights from the national convention they attended with close to 70,000 other students, guests and advisors at the University of Findlay, Ohio, including the Caterpillar visitor center in Peoria, IL; the John Deere pavilion, Moline, IL; the Pruet show cattle, Danville IN; Crossroad Genetics, Clayton IN; Ozark Fisheries, North Martinsville, IN; and a private concert from Garth Brooks, who was honored with an FFA jacket and lifetime alumni membership. This year's theme was "Just 1." Advisor Mary Foote shared that Ms. Hight was also interviewed for RFD-tv that will air in December. Trustee Karen Geer told the students, "I'm proud of all of you for doing this; never stop learning." President David Fenlong was presented with an FFA mug as a token of appreciation as the FFA representatives thanked the Board and Administration for their support.

B. Administrative Updates

1. Building Principals and CSE

Elementary principals discussed ongoing staff development on phonics with Laurie Baker. Responding to questions, Principal Zawatski confirmed that the district uses reading specialists; one at every grade level K-4 and the middle school, who meet weekly with teachers and have common planning time daily. Dr. Runner verified they are paid through Title I. Principal Coffin described the volunteer efforts from staff members for the annual Community Dinner scheduled for December 1. Principal Wood highlighted some of the events students are working for, including bell ringing and the Christmas parade on December 7, and FFA Advisor Mary Foote explained the milk drive they are doing for local food pantries. CSE/CPSE Chairperson Knowlton provided a brief update on special education services, stating recent progress reports were very positive and services are more directed in meeting student needs.

2. Facilities

Director of Facilities Harold Simmons reported that no issues resulted from the first snowstorm; everything worked as needed. The summer equipment has been cleaned and stored for the winter.

3. Student Board Representative

Abigail Riutta informed those present that the high school is doing a Christmas Spirit week with daily activities including ugly sweaters, Christmas Karaoke day, a can drive, and concluding with the student senate dressing as elves on Friday and handing out candy canes to every child in the district.

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III. DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

C. COMMUNICATIONS

1. NYSSBA Convention update

Trustee Laurie Roberts provided a report from her notes of the NYSSBA 99th Annual Convention she attended, including key points from Commissioner Elia's conversation with attendees on NYS Assessments and APPR. President Fenlong thanked her for representing our district at the convention.

2. Letter from Syracuse University

Superintendent French shared an informative letter from SU about a small increase to SUPA tuition rates of \$3 per credit hour, the first increase in 5 years and the second in 13 years rates have increased. Discussion ensued that the district continues to reimburse students as in the past, and the Gouverneur Foundation and Gouverneur Business Women also contribute.

3. Letter of Commendation to GCS Nursing staff

Letters of commendation for Beverly Martin, Marla Shampine, Melissa Breckenridge, Christine Sitts, and Jennifer Gardner were shared, commending the nursing team for their perfect audit by the NYS Department of Health. Superintendent Lauren F. French stated she wanted to let the Board know who she is recognizing for their services, and President David Fenlong responded that the Board also wishes to thank them for everything they do.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Budget Calendar

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Discussion took place, with Business Manager Carol LaSala going through the dates items need to be completed prior to board adoption of the 2019-2020 budget on April 22, 2019. The budget document will be available to the public on May 6, with the Budget Hearing on May 13 and the vote on May 21. Superintendent Lauren F. French added that conversation has already started with the administrators, with every building administrator tasked to look at classes and student needs to be reviewed prior to admin council on December 17. Responding to questions, Business Manager Carol LaSala stated there are fewer "unknowns" this year with the Middle School open and operating. Trustee Roberts asked about adding P.E. minutes and whether that would go back to the P.E. teachers; Dr. Runner stated that hasn't come up yet since we have been able to meet the requirement with the current model utilizing five-minute brain breaks, math & movement, etc. She said she would need to see what would be given up to move the extra minutes to P.E., without increasing class size and reducing teaching load, stressing the need to prioritize.

B. Cafeteria Update

Business Manager Carol LaSala announced a huge increase in meals served since providing free meals at the elementary, resulting in an increase in revenue of almost \$19,000 for just September - October. She predicted we should be able to expand to at least one more building if not both; her goal is for all three buildings to be CEP.

C. LED Lighting Project

Ms. LaSala asked board members to determine if they wished to move ahead with the lighting project based upon the presentation given at the previous board meeting, stating it would result in a cost savings only after the cash outlay, and would reduce the cost of operating the building. The cost for three floors would be a \$50,500 investment. Director of Facilities Harold Simmons added that the money paid for fluorescent, along with the cost of maintenance and savings in lighting would result in a 3-year payback. Following discussion, board members agreed to move forward, starting the project July 1 to be included in the next year's budget.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Public Response to Previous Comments

Boys' Soccer. High School Principal Cory Wood summarized the public conversations regarding the placement of the varsity boys soccer team in an independent league, stating the decision came following the review of a number of factors including enrollment. The independent league provides competition against schools that are similar in makeup with a modified and varsity team. The data shows we had more success in this format and enjoyed more competitive games. The downside is it removes the team and players from sectional play and awards. This year we finished with 11 varsity players; a minimum of 11 players is necessary to field a team.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

A. Public Response to Previous Comments (Cont.)

Next year there are 17 known players for varsity and 7 for modified to date. The decision for 2019-20 must be made by February. Responding to questions, Mr. Wood recapped that not just soccer, but all programs need to look at their numbers. There are over 40 teams in the district that attract our student athletes, with more girls than boys playing sports. It is unknown why young athletes in the youth soccer leagues do not continue in the sport as they enter the higher grades. Per Mr. Wood's discussions with student athletes, he said the ones he spoke with had mixed emotions; they like scoring goals, and some were realistic that they aren't in the running for any of the Section X awards. President Dave Fenlong stated that it sounds like students who love to play soccer are getting their chance to play. Trustee James Delity commented that he wasn't clear on the benefits of going back to Section X if the students are seeing more success in the independent league and would not be in the running for any awards. Trustee Spicer said not being in Section X could discourage the younger athletes from pursuing soccer at all. Trustee Geer agreed, saying soccer needs to be promoted more, and reminding them that Dustin Currier had asked how we could bridge something between AYSO and the indoor league with the district. Trustee Roberts supported an intermural soccer program after school if we could find someone to be involved at all levels. Superintendent French concluded the conversation, drawing a parallel to our trap team, saying we didn't have one but the students wanted it and got the support from the community for it. Our FFA program is thriving; again, when the community stands behind the programs our students want it thrives. It is not always the job of the board to determine what programs we have. Other schools are cutting programs because they don't have the students, and she provided examples of nearby schools and sports they had recently cut, adding that she believes this program deserves another year to work.

B. SRO Position

Superintendent French provided an update on the status of this position, saying that a contract has been drawn up with support from our legal team, and she had made four requests to the village to discuss the position. If the village agrees, we would use our resources for salary and benefits but the SRO would be a village employee. She added that both Canton and Potsdam have done agreements with their village police, and she has already had several interested people contact her, including retired law enforcement individuals.

C. Transportation

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Carol LaSala reiterated that the current transportation contract expires at the end of June and shared responses from the recent transportation survey. She commented that previous goals were to separate the population and make sure students were not riding more than an hour, and the "satisfied" responses reflected those goals. Addressing other survey responses, out of 19 buses we currently have 8 monitors on Elementary runs and 5 on Middle School runs. All buses have seat belts, and if a parent sends in a request the student will use them. Ms. LaSala said she is looking into utilizing online transportation changes as well as installing extended stop sign arms. Right now there are two cameras on each bus; she is looking at the possibility of adding a third. Last year the school did allow all children to ride, adding local bus stops in the village. Ms. LaSala went over committee recommendations, including making the monitors GCSD employees, and adding a GCSD transportation supervisor. She then thanked Vice-President Lisa McGregor, Roland Roderick, and Laura Spicer for their work on the committee, as well as everyone who answered the survey. Responding to follow-up questions, Ms. LaSala reported that bus drivers receive CPI training for de-escalation techniques. First Student prepares the routes based on ridership and Ms. LaSala reviews them. Trustee Delity asked if the contract stipulates that a student will not be on the bus more than one hour, and if not, if that could be added; Ms. LaSala responded she will check into that.

D. Capital Project

Superintendent French informed Board members that after meeting with the architects and engineers last Tuesday it was determined that the high school will be closed down for asbestos abatement after graduation and closed in terms of student use. The summer feeding program and summer school will all take place at the Middle School. The plan is for it to reopen by September. Central office personnel will be relocating in March/April to address the renovation and demolition of the Dean building. Plans for the high school include completing all windows and infills, the roof and second floor of the Dolan building, entryways, the ramp between the library and back portion, and removal of the Dean portion. Remaining items, such as finishing 3rd floor, the HVAC, 1954 bathroom, etc. will need to be prioritized with remainder of unused money.

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 member asked that any items be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, seconded by Trustee Roderick, that the Board of Education take the following action:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the October 22, 2018 regular meeting, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Internal Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 10/11/18 – 11/09/18, 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:

CSE Student ID#:

5101105	5102291	5102837	5101225	5102021	5101009
0011924	5102035	5100881	0011233	0011385	0011700
0011143	0010492	0010633	0011255	5101680	5101651
5102739	5102509	5101802	5102363	5103015	5102806
5103081	0014076	5100729	0010638	5100715	5102510
5102569	5101810	5102036	5103508	5101680	0011566
5102976	0010687	5100437	0010618	5102448	5102693
5102401	0011200	0011921	5102952	5102519	

CSE Personnel Action:

- Elimination of 2:1 Supplementary School Personnel for student #5103495, effective 10/26/18 (student left district).
- Creation of a 2:1 Supplementary School Personnel for student #5100729, effective 10/31/18.
- Creation of 1:1 Supplementary School Personnel for student #5103508, effective 11/2/18.
- Kaitlyn Thorne transferred from 0.5 FTE to 1.0 FTE Individual Aide, effective 11/5/18.

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:

CPSE Student ID#:

5103715

E. Treasurer's Report – October 2018

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2018, as presented.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2018 Tax Collector's Report and Return of Unpaid Taxes to St. Lawrence & Jefferson Counties

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education approve the 2018 Tax Collector's Report, dated November 19, 2018, showing a tax levy of \$6,290,255.46, for the 2018-2019 school year, with \$625,210.34 of the levy remaining unpaid, and approve the 2018 Return of Unpaid Taxes in the amounts of \$621,991.17 and \$3,219.17 plus any penalty for collection to St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, respectively, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2018 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT AND RETURN OF UNPAID TAXES TO ST. LAWRENCE AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES, APPROVED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

B. Disposal of Used Maintenance Vehicle

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Karen Geer, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education authorize the Business Manager to dispose of 2009 Ford Van VIN# 1FMNE11W09DA87075Bus which is surplus and no longer needed.

DISCUSSION: Business Manager LaSala confirmed advertising would be done locally for a buyer.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. DISPOSAL OF USED MAINTENANCE VEHICLE, APPROVED.

C. Adult School Lunch Price Revision

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee James Delity, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education revise the adult lunch price to \$4.50 (tax included) effective December 1, 2018.

DISCUSSION: Ms. LaSala stated it was previously \$4.00 but New York State increased the minimum charge.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ADULT SCHOOL LUNCH PRICE REVISION, APPROVED.

D. Approval of Quote for Purchase of Natural Gas

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Karen Geer, that the Board of Education approve the quote from Sprague Operating Resources, LLC for the purchase of natural gas commodity at a fixed price of \$0.335 per therm for the period of December 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019 as presented.

DISCUSSION: Business Manager Carol LaSala explained we have new cooperative purchasing agent at BOCES. She had asked if we could go with other St. Lawrence County schools to bid with TransCanada; we are not eligible based on where we live, but we are eligible to go with Jeff-Lewis BOCES. Due to timing this year we are piggybacking, but next year can get in on the initial bid for a better rate. This rate is only for the commodity, we still have to pay delivery. She expects significant savings from the group buy in the future. President David Fenlong thanked Carol for her work.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. NATURAL GAS QUOTE FROM SPRAGUE OPERATING RESOURCES LLC, APPROVED.

E. Substitute Pay – Certified Teacher Tutor

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee James Delity, and seconded by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the creation of position: "Tutor-Certified", at the hourly rate of \$30.00/hour, effective immediately.

DISCUSSION: It was clarified that this is a certified teacher; an uncertified tutor received \$12.50/hr. Dr. Runner stated we don't have enough tutors to service the number of students who need tutors, and this will expand our pool by compensating our certified teachers for after-hours.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CERTIFIED TEACHER TUTOR POSITION APPROVED.

F. Calendar Change – Early Dismissal Drill 12/21/18

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roland Roderick, and seconded by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the adjustment to the 2018-19 School Calendar as follows:

December 21, 2018 – Mandatory Early Dismissal Drill.

DISCUSSION: Students will be dismissed 15 minutes early; information will be sent to all parents.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. EARLY DISMISSAL DRILL 12/21/18, APPROVED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

G. FFA Overnight Trip Request – Camp Oswegatchie

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roland Roderick, and seconded by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the request for the Gouverneur Chapter of FFA to attend the overnight trip to Camp Oswegatchie December 19-21. Approximately ten students will attend with advisor Ms. Mary Foote. There is no expected cost to the District.

DISCUSSION: It was confirmed that our district will bus the students.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FFA OVERNIGHT TO CAMP OSWEGATCHIE, APPROVED.

H. FFA Overnight Trip Request – Leadership Conference

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education approve the request for the Gouverneur Chapter of FFA to attend the overnight trip to the 212°/360° Leadership Conference January 26-27 in Syracuse. . The 212° focuses on individual leadership and 360° is excellent for older students with leadership experience, helping them to recognize the potential they have to impact their chapter, school and community around them. Ms. Foote will also attend professional development workshops and receive 6-hours of PD. There is no expected cost to the District.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FFA OVERNIGHT TO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, APPROVED.

I. Smoking and Vaping at Schools

It was brought to the attention of the Board that vaping has been on the increase among students. Superintendent French stated that it is the responsibility of staff to acknowledge the student's behavior and use the Code of Conduct for appropriate discipline. The school attorney has recommended adding the term "vaping" to our board policy 7320, which will be brought to the next board meeting for review. Middle School Principal Steve Coffin stated that all students have gotten a presentation on the dangers of vaping, but it is still very active in the middle school.

J. Dogs on School Property

Board members held a discussion regarding complaints about dogs being brought to practices and other outdoor events, and whether a formal policy should be created to ban the animals. Signs are in place on our practice fields and permission was received from the fair board for signs at the football field. It was determined at this time to not create a formal policy but monitor the areas and make more effort to reduce the problem, including a Facebook blast.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Termination

Brandy Macaulay. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education terminate the employment of Brandy Macaulay from her position as 2.75-hour Food Service Helper under Article 15.4(f) of the GSRPU contract, for failure to report to work without making satisfactory arrangements, effective November 2, 2018.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TERMINATION OF BRANDY MACAULAY, EFFECTIVE 11/2/18, APPROVED.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

B. Appointments

1. Instructional

Amy F. Davis. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roland Roderick, and seconded by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Amy F. Davis to a probationary appointment as an Elementary teacher in the *Elementary (PreK-6)* tenure area, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement, at Step 13, B45M, from the current GTA salary schedule. effective December 10, 2018, for a four year term tentatively scheduled to conclude on December 9, 2022, contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term and having received composite or overall APPR ratings of either "Effective" or "Highly Effective" in at least three of the four preceding years and a rating higher than "Ineffective" at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year. (Certification held: State of Florida Dept. of Ed Elementary Education Grades K-6 Professional; New York State Initial certification Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) pending.)

DISCUSSION: Superintendent French announced that Ms. Davis is replacing Mrs. Bell who retires in December.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF AMY F. DAVIS, ELEMENTARY TEACHER, APPROVED.

Curriculum Map Writers. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Karen Geer, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following teachers as Curriculum Map Writers for 2018-19: Joel Baer, Amy Heath, Joe Wahl

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CURRICULUM MAP WRITERS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

Extended Day Program Teachers. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roland Roderick, and seconded by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the following appointments for 2018-19, funded through the federal Title I program at the rate of \$30/hour, as presented: Michael Shattuck, Michael Gately.

DISCUSSION: It was confirmed that this after-school program is for grades 5-6, involving outside agencies and tutoring for math and science.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM TEACHERS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

2. Substitutes

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes for instructional, support, buildings & grounds, and/or food service departments, pending completion of all requirements including mandatory training, NYSED fingerprint clearance, and necessary employee paperwork, for the 2018-2019 school year:

Amber Barr	Brenda Gallagher
Jennifer Hay	Mark Horne
Joelle Lynde	Jessica Miller
Angela Richardson-Walsh	Keirsten Thomas
Gidget Wainwright	Dustin White

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Boys' Soccer. John Pratt requested that administration makes sure the athletes have a chance to have a say in this piece about what they want to do, as well as a meeting with the parents to make sure they are on the same page. He stated one thing he liked is to make it more interesting, starting with AYSO and teaching fundamentals.

Services. Board Member Laura Spicer requested more information about the services provided to our students, and how a teacher refers a student they think may need services.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

David Fenlong, President