

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

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 5:32 P.M., in the High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Trustees Absent: Naaman Lowry.

Also Present: Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools; Carol LaSala, Business Manager; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were shared.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentations

1. Staff Recognition Award – Heather Parker

President Fenlong announced that the District Shared Decision-Making Committee chose Heather Parker, high school special education teacher, to receive the February Staff Recognition award, reading in part, "...besides her work with her own students, she spends countless hours working with new teachers in developing/assisting with lessons provided to students. She also works tirelessly each January and June coming up with the high school's exam schedule. This is not an easy job and she takes on these duties without complaint..." President Fenlong thanked the Shared Decision-Making Committee for all the work they do to select the nominees.

2. AIS Math – Jillian McDougall

Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly introduced Jillian McDougall, the district's Math A.I.S. teacher who currently works with grades 1-4 at the Gouverneur Elementary School, who shared information related to the elementary Math Academic Intervention Services program, including the progress of the 77 students currently receiving services at the Tier II and Tier III levels, and data that shows the importance for continuing to fund this position. Ms. McDougall acknowledged that scheduling that many students and moving them through tiers is exceedingly difficult for one person, and she commended the classroom teachers for the part they play in monitoring and red flagging students in the classroom. Board members asked some clarifying questions and discussed the data. Superintendent Kelly thanked Ms. McDougall for sharing the information with the Board and commented that the more intensive instruction we can offer our youngest students, the more successful they will be.

3. Student Recognition

Superintendent Kelly recognized the following students and teams for excelling in athletics and extracurricular clubs, saying it is in these areas that our students learn lifelong lessons that complement the academics taught in the classroom: The **Competitive Cheer** Team received 2nd place in the COED Division; the **Girls Basketball** Team are Section 10, Class B champions for the first time in 33 years; the **Boys Basketball** Team reached the sectional final game for the first time in 17 years where they eventually lost to Canton; the **Wrestling** team had 7 student athletes go to the state competition, with three wrestlers making it to the podium: Trayton Tupper, Vandavian Way and 3-time NYS champion and MOW (Most Outstanding Wrestler) Carter Baer. Rikki Griffith, Ella Impaglia, and Alex Ordway will compete in the **Indoor Track and Field** Championships on March 5 at Staten Island; Aiden Breckenridge will compete in the 100-yard breaststroke in Ithaca on March 3-4 in the **Boys Swim** competition. Aiden broke the previous school record by 2.5 seconds in that event. For the second year in a row, 15 Gouverneur students led by Mrs. Lisa Dunkelberg earned 14 medals at the **Adirondack Regional Science Olympiad** competition's 23 events.

B. Communications

President Fenlong referred to a memo from SLL BOCES regarding the process for the BOCES Annual Meeting, Election, and Vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget. He also announced that School Board Candidate Petition Packets and Applications for Absentee Ballots are available from the District Clerk.

February 28, 2022

III. DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

C. COVID Update

Superintendent Jacquelyn Kelly reported that for the period of February 19 to February 25, the district had no positive COVID-19 cases reported. During the preceding week, February 12 to February 18, there were sixteen new cases. At-home test kits were sent home with students on February 17 and families were asked to test their children upon return to school on February 28. The nurses continue to notify impacted families, faculty, and staff of positive cases, but no longer quarantining has been beneficial for everybody. Governor Hochul announced that the statewide mask requirement in schools will be lifted on Wednesday, March 2 based on declining positivity and hospitalization rates. However, counties and cities may still require masks in schools depending on local conditions. As of this date, St. Lawrence County has not confirmed whether they plan to follow the new guidance released by the Governor. If St. Lawrence County chooses to follow the updated NYSDOH guidance, the Gouverneur Central School District will continue to support any student or staff member who would like to continue masking. If St. Lawrence County does not support the new guidance, neither the Board of Education nor the Superintendent have the authority to override that decision.

D. Student Board Representative Report – Cole Siebels

Mr. Siebels remarked that he has heard many comments about what a good year it has been for Gouverneur athletics, adding that it has boosted morale among the students, and he is proud to be part of the impressive student fan base who comes out to support the teams. He also encouraged everyone to attend the musical, *Cinderella*, on March 18-19, noting it is going to be exceptionally good.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. 2022-2023 Budget Discussion Items

1. Property Tax Cap

President Fenlong reviewed that the Board had agreed at the March 7, 2022, meeting to proceed with the 1.5% tax levy increase, and confirmed to Trustee Ormasen that is the maximum increase supported by the tax cap calculations. With no additional discussion, the Board approved that Business Manager LaSala file the 1.5% increase to SED on March 1.

2. Discussion of Various Budgets

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager LaSala reviewed and highlighted the significant proposed changes in the 2022-2023 Central Services, General Instruction, Special Education, Technology, and Athletics budgets. Central Services includes Operations, Maintenance, and Security, and in that category she noted an increase of \$100,000 under Operations for non-instructional salaries, saying those substitutes are currently paid through the federal cares act grant that ends this June, and a substantial increase is also expected for Natural Gas and Electricity. She confirmed that the Security salary budget is paid through a grant and that will continue for 2022-23. Under General Instruction, the \$325,000 increase in salaries is earmarked for contractual raises and the potential addition of three teachers. The Special Education budget includes Students with Disabilities and English-Language Learners and forecasts an increase of almost \$300,000; she explained that is to add a 12:1+1 classroom at each building with a teacher and teaching assistant for each. Adding those classrooms will also decrease the Tuition expense as at least three students will return to our district. The ELL salary was removed; Superintendent Kelly explained that no candidate met the requirements and at this time we do not have the number of students to support a full-time position. Business Manager LaSala explained the proposed increase to the Computer Assisted Instructional budget is for the data plans for 200 Kajeets, but a software decrease due to a significant review undertaken by Superintendent Kelly, CIO Mattice, and our Instructional Technology specialist Ms. Plaisted, countermands a portion of that. Under Athletics, coaching salaries are currently under negotiation so that increase is yet unknown; athletic equipment has increased due to past cuts and items that can no longer wait to be purchased. Discussion ensued on desired support services and funding sources.

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 member asked that any items be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Todd E. Bates, that the Board of Education approve the following items as a consent agenda:

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

A. Minutes

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 7, 2022, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 02/07/2022 – 02/18/2022, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #3, 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#:

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 5102769 | 5102203 | 5102987 | 5103080 | 5101956 | 5104069 | 5101101 |
| 5101991 | 5101937 | 5102511 | 5101987 | 5102491 | 5102021 | 5101339 |
| 14076 | 5104415 | 5101971 | 5103849 | 5104494 | 5104498 | 11523 |
| 5100753 | 5100766 | 5101009 | 5102646 | 5103281 | 5104272 | 5100956 |
| 5100622 | 5100955 | 11967 | 5104019 | | | |

D. CPSE 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 CPSE Meeting Minutes report:

CPSE Student ID#:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 5103833 | 5103916 |
|---------|---------|

Vote on Consent Agenda Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT / PERSONNEL

President David Fenlong asked if any member on the Board wished to have any item on the Consent Agenda – Superintendent / Personnel removed for special consideration and discussion. No member asked that any items be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Superintendent / Personnel

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items as a Consent Agenda:

A. Retirements

Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Marie A. Hutton, from her position as 1.0 FTE Account Clerk, effective April 16, 2022.

B. Appointments1. Instructional

Approve the appointment of Victoria D. Baker who holds Emergency COVID-19 certification in Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) to the position of Special Education Teacher in the General Special Education Tenure Area for a four year probationary period commencing on February 28, 2022 and anticipated to end on February 27, 2026 at an annual salary set at Step 1, Bachelor's, in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement current salary schedule for year 2021-2022, prorated to February 28, 2022. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term and having received annual composite or overall APPR ratings of Highly Effective or Effective in at least three of the four preceding years and a rating higher than "Ineffective" in the final year of the probationary period.

2. Non-Instructional

Approve the appointment of Sarah Besaw, to the position of 2.75-hour Food Service Helper in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on March 1, 2022, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Food Service Helper 2.75, Level 1, from the current 2021-20022 GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to March 1, 2022.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT / PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

B. Appointments (Cont.)3. Leaves and Leave Replacements

- a) Approve the appointment of Krista Jimenez, who is Permanently certified in Prekindergarten, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6, as the long-term substitute for the Elementary position that is encumbered by a vacancy, effective February 28, 2022, to *tbd*.
- b) Grant an unpaid Child Rearing Leave of Absence for Employee #00539 from February 28, 2022, through April 1, 2022, in accordance with Article 12.3 of the contract with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association. Time on this unpaid leave of absence will not count toward tenure or seniority.

4. Coaches – Spring 2022

Approve the appointment of the following coaches for Spring 2021:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Christine Cognetti | Modified Baseball | Class 4, Step 1 |
| Bobbie Holmes | Varsity Girls Track Assistant | Class 3, Step 1 |

5. Extra-Curricular – Spring 2022

Approve the following appointment:

Judith K. Bates Musical – Volunteer Assistant Uncompensated

Vote on Consent Agenda – Superintendent/Personnel Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT/PERSONNEL, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Student Board Member

Per education law, a district may offer voters this option once every two years. After a brief discussion board members unanimously agreed to include the proposition on the May 17 ballot to offer the voters a referendum to allow a student from the high school to continue to sit on the School Board.

B. Location Change of March 14, 2022, Board Meeting

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, that the Board of Education change the location of the March 14, 2022, Board of Education meeting location to the High School Cafeteria (113 East Barney Street, Gouverneur NY). The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. LOCATION CHANGE OF 3/14/22 REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING TO HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

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

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Bates, 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 17, 2022, and any subsequent revote(s) related thereto, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR ELECTION SERVICES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were shared from the audience. Trustee Roberts commented that Coach Devlin asked her on his behalf to thank everyone who has been attending the athletic events and supporting the student athletes. Trustee Dr. Cartwright asked Board members to consider for future discussion supporting a full-day BOCES program and related discussion ensued.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Brooke Bush, to adjourn to executive session to discuss contractual matters related to the Transportation contract.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:49 PM.

President Fenlong announced that the Board would have no further business to take place in open session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:44 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

David Fenlong, President