

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

NOVEMBER 8, 2021

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 High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Trustees Absent: Laurie M. Roberts.

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD

A. School Board Response to Previous Comments

Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly responded to a list of questions received at the October 19 meeting from parents Lynn Kurdziel and Heather Wilson: *At this time, what is the school Board's position regarding the possibility of mandatory COVID vaccinations for our students as a condition of school enrollment?* Answer: As a Board of Education, we want all students to be healthy and in school. Our position regarding the possibility of a mandatory COVID vaccination, is that we are required to follow New York State Public Health Law Section 2164 and New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations Title 10, Subpart 66-1 which requires every student entering and attending public school to be vaccinated against several diseases. If the NYS Public Health Law is amended to include the COVID vaccination, we will have no other choice but to enforce the rules. *If the Federal Government or State does in fact mandate COVID vaccinations for eligible children to attend school, how does the school plan to address that issue?* Answer: If the NYS Public Health Law is amended to include the COVID vaccination, we will have no other choice as a district but to enforce the law. *In a case that a child is unable to take the COVID vaccine, has the Board discussed what accommodations will be available to these students and parents?* Answer: For the current mandatory list of vaccinations required to attend school, valid medical exemptions to immunization are allowed. We are hopeful, if the COVID vaccine was mandated that medical exemptions would be allowed for children who were unable to tolerate the vaccine. Ms. Kurdziel and Ms. Wilson followed up with additional questions regarding what options parents will have if medical doctors will not grant exemptions or if parents opt to not vaccinate their children. Superintendent Kelly replied that at this time she does not have those answers but would research and respond at a future meeting.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentations

1. School Safety Excellence Award

Superintendent Kelly announced that the Utica National Insurance Group has given the Gouverneur Central School District the "2021 School Safety Excellence Award". Along with a framed certificate commemorating the district's safety efforts, a \$500 award was included for use in furthering safety in the district. "Your continued efforts to provide a safe, healthy, and focused culture for learning in 2021 are to be applauded and we're pleased to be able to present this award to you," remarked Brian D. Saville, Utica National's Senior Vice President of the Educational Institutions, in a communication that accompanied the award. Schools are evaluated in categories such as bullying prevention programs, playground safety, transportation, and other areas using specific, quantifiable surveys.

2. Evergreen STEM Scholarships – Hailey Morrissiey and Brynn Farley

The Evergreen STEM Scholarship is made possible to students through the generosity of Gouverneur residents and Massena natives Charles and Hi Owens. The Owens's fund is administered by the Northern New York Community Foundation and provides at least \$30,000 in scholarships to St. Lawrence County students in perpetuity. This year the Gouverneur Central School District had two seniors who each received a \$3,000 award: Hailey Morrissiey, who intends to major in Chemistry and Biomolecular Science at Clarkson University; and Brynn Farley, who plans to major in Engineering at Clarkson. The purpose of this scholarship is to inspire high school students to pursue continued studies and careers in STEM areas, which include science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

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III. DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

B. COVID Update

Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly reported that for the period of Saturday, October 30th – Friday, November 5th the district saw a significant spike in positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff, including 4 cases at Gouverneur High School; 5 at Gouverneur Middle School; and 11 at Gouverneur Elementary School. There were over 250 new students quarantined because of close contacts to these cases. She commented that with each case we continue to look closely at the environment in which the positive case and subsequent exposure occurred. Approximately 100 unvaccinated employees and students (with parental consent) were also screened and/or tested.

C. Student Board Representative – Cole Siebels

Mr. Siebels stated he would have items to share later in the agenda for the Senior Class Trip discussion. Trustee Laura Spicer congratulated Cole on making states in Cross Country.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Update on Solar Consortium

Business Manager Carol LaSala briefed those present on the Tri County Energy Consortium we participate in. From the first array at Jeff-Lewis BOCES in 2018, three have since been added and a fifth array is expected to be operational by the end of the year. Last year we received a check for \$5,542, which represents 4% of our electricity costs. For 2021 we anticipate a savings of \$25,000.

B. 2022 Exemption/Income Ceiling Changes

Business Manager LaSala referenced the annual letter from St. Lawrence County asking if we want to change our exemption income level. It is at 0 (zero), and it has been for many years. She explained that with the Enhanced STAR there is no benefit to change it and recommended leaving it at 0. All board members present agreed, so no action is necessary.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Review of Workshop Meeting / District Goals

The Board of Education held a workshop meeting on Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., where they discussed and established the following Goals: Curriculum. Involve teachers in a team approach to the selection of curriculum. Bring consistency to curriculum decisions across grade levels. Provide appropriate professional development to support curriculum decisions. Increase support by having two literacy specialists and one math specialist for the district. Social-Emotional Learning. Utilize counselors, social workers, and principals appropriately. Initiate student support teams that include a classroom teacher, special education teacher, and a team teacher. Include all faculty and staff in trauma sensitivity and social emotional training. Special Education. Decrease the number of students placed out of the district by adding the necessary programs in the district to offer a continuum of services. Initiate student support teams and merge the RTI/AIS plans. President David Fenlong commented that the superintendent has put together a great team of people to support these goals and we will support them and make improvements in these areas.

B. Second Reading and Adoption of Policies

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the revised and deleted policies, effective immediately, as presented.

6120 – **Equal Employment Opportunity** – Revised.

6122 – **Sexual Harassment in the Workplace** – Revised.

7110 – **Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy** – Revised.

7311 – **Loss or Destruction of District Property or Resources** – Deleted.

7420 – **Sports and the Athletic Program** – Revised.

7531 – **Sexual Harassment of Students** – Revised.

8130 – **Equal Educational Opportunities** – Revised.

8220 – **Career and Technical (Occupational) Education** – Revised.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. POLICY UPDATES, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

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 Naaman Lowry, and seconded by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the following items as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 18, 2021, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor’s Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor’s Reports for the period 10/01/2021 and 10/22/2021 – 10/29/2021, 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#:

5102829	5101101	11366	11523	11974	5100907
5100970	5102431	5103505	5103122	5103620	5104429
5104430	5102739	5103546	11909	14044	11288
5103547	5101986	5103016	5101775	5102137	5102659
5101856	11925	5103546	5102080	5102545	5103268
5103269	5100807	5101212	5101625	5100421	5101585
5104147	5103761	5102362			

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#:

5104002	5104386	5104137	5104446	5104398
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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 Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items as a Consent Agenda:

A. MOU between the Gouverneur CSD and the Gouverneur GTA and GTA Member Kimberly A. Reed

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOU to allow Ms. Reed the benefit from the previous (7/1/17 – 6/30/21) GTA Contract under Article 7.1 reflecting five (5) years of service as established with former Superintendent French on her date of hire, June 9, 2021.

B. Tenure Recommendation

RESOLVED, that LINDSEY N. CARVEL, Grade 1 Teacher, who holds INITIAL certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the tenure area of Elementary Pre-K- 6 effective 01/11/2022, conditioned upon compliance with APPR requirements or waiver as determined by the State of New York.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT / PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

C. Resignations

Accept the request for resignation from Kristin W. Brown from her position of Social Worker – 11 month, under the Managerial/Confidential (non-contractual) employee group, effective December 10, 2021.

D. Appointments1. Instructional

Approve the appointment of the following teachers as Credit Recovery Instructors for the 2021-2022 school year, to be paid at the contractual rate: Bethanie Denesha (Health).

2. Substitutes and Tutors

- a) Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes for Instructional and Support positions, pending completion of all requirements including mandatory training, NYSED fingerprint clearance, and necessary employee paperwork, for the 2021-2022 school year: Amanda Murray, Alana Luther, Mary Dusharm, Gabrielle Lane, Dustin Reynolds, Michelle Fiacco.
- b) Approve the addition of position title “Tutor (uncertified)” for current substitute Britny Harmer.
- c) Approve the appointment of the following GCS Teachers to work as tutors outside of the regular school day for the 2021-2022 school year at the established rate of Certified Tutor (\$30/hour): Christine Cognetti, Melinda Schiszler, Kim Reed, Pam Stevens
- d) Approve the appointment of the following GCS Staff to work as tutors outside of the regular school day for the 2021-2022 school year at the established rate of Tutor (uncertified): Melissa Robinson, Marie Moore, Jessica Miller, Cherie Zira, Tabitha Kirkpatrick.

3. Coaches

Approve the following coach(s) for the 2021-2022 winter season:

BOYS BASKETBALL – VOLUNTEER	DEREK GORDON	Uncompensated
MODIFIED BOYS’ SWIM	KATHERINE L RICHEY	Class 4, Step 1

4. Students

Approve the following students to work as Fitness Center monitors for the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of all requirements including mandatory training and necessary employee paperwork: Carter Todd, Peyton Mussaw, James Hayden.

E. Leaves and Leave Replacements

- a) Rescind the appointment of Krista Jimenez, as approved at the September 27, 2021 regular board meeting, as long-term substitute for Employee 00113. Ms. Jimenez’s assignment for employee 00617 has been extended through approximately November 8, 2021.
- b) Appoint Tracy McCarthy to the non-probationary position of long-term substitute to replace Employee 00113, beginning October 26, 2021. Ms. McCarthy will be compensated at the established rate of Sub Teacher uncertified.
- c) Acknowledge the medical leave for Employee #01677, to begin on approximately December 1, 2021 and continue for approximately 8 weeks. This leave is covered under FMLA and the employee will incur approximately 12 unpaid days.
- d) Acknowledge the medical leave for Employee #00295, to begin on approximately September 27, 2021 and continue for approximately 10 weeks. This leave is covered under FMLA.
- e) Acknowledge the medical leave for Employee #01184, to begin on approximately November 2, 2021 and continue for approximately 8 weeks. This leave is covered under FMLA and the employee will incur approximately 9 unpaid days.
- f) Appoint Polly Sergel to the non-probationary position of long-term substitute to replace Employee 01184, effective during the leave of absence of Employee 01184. Ms. Sergel will be compensated at the established rate of Sub Teacher Certified and/or Sub Teacher 25 days.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Superintendent/Personnel Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

President Fenlong thanked Ms. Brown for her service to the district.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Increase to Tutor (uncertified) position hourly rate

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Naaman Lowry, and seconded by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the increase to the Tutor position hourly rate from \$12.50/hour to \$15.00/hour, effective November 8, 2021.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TUTOR (UNCERTIFIED) POSITION HOURLY RATE, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. Stipend for Elementary School Bus Attendants

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the creation of a stipend at the rate of \$30/hour through CRRSA funding for Elementary School Bus Attendants for the 2021-2022 school year.

DISCUSSION: In response to Trustee Lowry, Superintendent Kelly clarified this is a stipend for current employees including teachers and aides who are willing to stay after school with students.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. STIPEND FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUS ATTENDANTS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. Senior Class Trip

Board members unanimously supported allowing the senior class, represented by class president Cole Siebels along with Connor Wood, Peyton Mussaw, Ally Martin, and advisor Sarah Wood, to move forward with planning a class trip. High School Principal Cory Wood reviewed the success and diversity of activities provided on previous trips to New York City, and the strict COVID-19 protocols there are in line with their destination goals. Mr. Siebels said a poll was recently held with most of the senior class saying they were interested in going.

D. Approval of Non-Union Health Insurance Buy-Out

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Brooke Bush, that the Board of Education approve a non-union health insurance buy-out for the 2022 calendar year, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. NON-UNION HEALTH INSURANCE BUY-OUT FOR 2022 CALENDAR YEAR, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

E. 2021 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 Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the 2021 Tax Collector's Report, dated November 5, 2021, showing a tax levy of \$6,685,662.79 for the 2021-2022 school year, with \$694,475.87 of the levy remaining unpaid, and approve the 2021 Return of Unpaid Taxes in the amounts of \$684,308.93 and \$10,166.94 plus any penalty for collection to St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, respectively, as presented..

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2021 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT AND RETURN OF UNPAID TAXES TO ST. LAWRENCE & JEFFERSON COUNTIES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

F. GTA Mini-Grant Program

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Todd E. Bates, that the Board of Education appropriate \$1,250.50, as per the GTA Contract, to A-9070.871, GTA Mini-Grant Program.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. GTA MINI-GRANT PROGRAM, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

G. Acceptance of Gift

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Naaman Lowry, that the Board of Education formally accept the gift of 18 jackets valued at \$1,553.22 and a portable speaker valued at \$110.00, from the Gouverneur Wildcat Booster Club to the GCSD Cheerleading Team. These items will belong to the Gouverneur Central School District and will be used for future teams.

DISCUSSION: President David Fenlong remarked this is a very nice gift that will come into use for many years.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. GIFT FROM GOVERNEUR WILDCAT BOOSTER CLUB, ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

H. Overnight Trip Request

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Brooke Bush, that the Board of Education approve the request for four (4) members of the Varsity Cross Country team (Girls - R. Griffith, Z. Griffith, M. Bush; Boys - C. Siebels) and Coaches Shawn Cummings and Joel Baer, to attend an overnight trip to Chenango Forks, New York, on Friday, November 12 and return Saturday, November 13. This event is for the 2021 NYSPHSAA Cross Country State Championships. Transportation and accommodations will be provided by the district to include four rooms at a cost of \$110.00/room.

DISCUSSION: President Fenlong echoed Trustee Bush's earlier congratulations to Cole Siebels and his Wildcat teammates.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. OVERNIGHT TRIP REQUEST, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were offered.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Naaman Lowry, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:17 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:00 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Naaman Lowry, and seconded by Trustee Todd E. Bates, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

David Fenlong, President