

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

MARCH 6, 2023

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 Cafeteria, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, Brooke Bush, Dr. William Cartwright, David Fenlong, Mark Hendrick, Naaman Lowry, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Arriving Late: Laura Spicer

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were shared.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentation – Staff Recognition Award

The District Shared Decision-Making Committee has chosen Teaching Assistant Laurie Shrewsberry to receive the Staff Recognition Award. *She is known to always step in to help when there are absences or shortages of substitutes within the classroom. Laurie not only interacts with her students but other students as well. She supports the aides with recommendations of what to do better in order to engage the students more in the lessons and skills to provide them with a better life outside of school.*

B. Communications

1. Regent Catania Dinner Meeting

President David Fenlong encouraged those present to attend the SLLCSBA meeting and dinner with Regent Catania on March 22 at Seaway Tech Center.

C. Student Recognition

Superintendent Kelly acknowledged many winter student athletes: Eight Wildcat wrestlers competed at the State Wrestling Competition in Albany: Paul Minckler, James Minckler, Cyler Baer, Zoe Griffith, Turner Sochia, Hunter Mashaw, Drew Gates, and Vandavian Way, who placed fourth for the second year in a row. Attending the State Competition for Track and Field on Staten Island were Abigail Bowman, Audrey Gaines, Meadow Greenhill, Jacey Sheen, Owen Siebels, and Emily Smith. The 4x200 Bowman-Sheen-Greenhill-Smith set a new school record. Riley Shepard represented the Wildcats at the State Swimming Competition in Ithaca. The Girls' Varsity Basketball team is the 2023 Overall Section 10 Champions; Chloe Smith is the girls' Section X co-MVP. In boys' basketball, Raine Rumble was named Section X MVP. Trustee Roberts commented that it was good to see the sea of blue-clad fans cheering on our athletes at the game. Trustee Bush shared a public thank you to Cory Young for all of the great pictures he takes at all events, seconded by the full board.

D. Student Board Representative Report – Mariah Manning

Ms. Manning said the musical rehearsals for *Into the Woods* have been going very well and encouraged everyone to attend on March 24-25. The National Honor Society sponsored a blood drive recently and reported a good turnout.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lowry, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 02/13/2023 – 03/03/2023, as presented.

YEAS: Bush, Cartwright, Fenlong, Hendrick, Lowry, Ormasen, Roberts.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: Bates

MOTION CARRIED. CLAIMS AUDITOR'S REPORTS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

March 6, 2023

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

B. 2023-2024 Budget Discussion Items1. Review of BOCES Preliminary Request for Services

Business Manager LaSala reviewed the initial draft of anticipated BOCES services. She noted that the BOCES administrative fees are not negotiable; the Tech Centers charges are based on the three-year average of students attending those programs, not a specific number enrolled; special education costs are estimated on what services we expect to need next year; and instructional programs through BOCES include summer school - although that may be removed if we offer that in-house. Among other changes, she explained that next year will be the second year in transition from NERIC to SLL BOCES so there is an increase in some items that were not there last year. She also pointed out that in addition to the payroll services and assistant business manager we added this year, next year includes a new cost for a shared business manager. Trustee Dr. Cartwright asked what our increase in BOCES aid is, and what our RWADA is. Ms. LaSala replied she will have the updated aid information at the next meeting, and our current RWADA for 2022-23 is 1,512, and for 2023-24 it is 1,475. The final BOCES commitment form will be reviewed for approval at the next meeting.

2. 2023-2024 Budget Discussion

Business Manager LaSala led a discussion pertaining to Projected Staffing; Teaching Regular School; Students with Disabilities/ENL Services; Occupational Education & Teaching Special School; Instructional Media; and Pupil Services. Projected changes to instructional staff include the addition of a 12:1+1 teacher and teaching assistant at the elementary school, and the carryover of the Business teacher position that has not yet been filled. Budget increases for teaching regular school include over \$50,000 for contractual salary increases; additional dollars set aside for tutoring in anticipation of the new requirement to provide 15 hours per week of instruction, up from 10 hours to homebound students; and increases to the equipment and supplies budgets to catch up from previous years' cuts. For students with disabilities and ENL services, Ms. LaSala commented that right now three students are receiving ENL services out of district, but it is unclear whether that program will continue to be offered, so at this time that cost has been removed. There are increases for salaries, equipment, and supplies; the special education student population is expected to increase from 273 this year to 293 in 2023-24. The \$54,000 decrease to instructional media is due to moving a portion of the TOSA Instructional Technology Coach's salary to Grants and moving a portion of hardware & software to BOCES. Among items that still need to be finalized is whether summer school will again be regional through BOCES or offered in-house. Superintendent Kelly recapped that regional summer school last year started at around \$375/student, but the cost went up to about \$600/student; we were notified about a month ago that based on the population that participated the cost would increase, adding that there is reimbursement on that. One of the struggles the BOCES found last year was finding staff, and the talk right now at the regional level is to move to a fully virtual summer school. Ms. Kelly has talked with the administrative team and believes that it could be done in-house and in person, and benefit students and families more. She stated there is federal funding in the budget that could be used for summer school for all three buildings this summer and is in the process of determining how many teachers would be needed.

3. Annual Notice Proposition

Business Manager LaSala explained that the present capital reserve for bus purchases has expired, and if the board would like to establish a new capital reserve for bus purchases it would need to be approved by the voters at the annual meeting. Discussion followed, with Ms. LaSala stating that the balance from the present capital reserve can be used to fund the new capital reserve. The proposition could also include language added for EV (Electric Vehicle) infrastructure. Ms. LaSala said she would talk to the architect to clarify if EV infrastructure is included in the capital project. If so, funding it from the capital project may be aidable, but funding it from a reserve may not be aidable. She asked if the board would support establishing a new reserve, and if so, would they support rolling the money from the present reserve into it or not. President Fenlong said having the bus reserve made perfect sense and supports establishing and funding a new one. Trustee Hendrick said he does not support it at this time without more information. Trustee Ormasen asked where the money in the present reserve fund would go if a new one is not established; Ms. LaSala said it was her understanding it would take voter approval to close that reserve and the money would go back to unreserved fund balance. He then questioned if the EV infrastructure is funded through the capital project, can the bus reserve be used to fund our portion since the capital project doesn't usually fund 100%; Ms. LaSala said she would check with the attorney to make sure. Trustee Roberts asked if the district is applying for a two-year waiver on the electric bus mandate; Ms. LaSala said it is not available right now but she would recommend we do so when it becomes available. Ms. LaSala confirmed that the language right now just says "purchase of buses" but she will double check it can be used for both gasoline and electric buses. The final proposition language will be introduced at the next board meeting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

President 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 Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-B, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2023, as presented.

B. CSE Business

(See Sheet #2, 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#:

5102527	5104600	5103281	11955	5103851	5104084
5104232	5103775	5102522	5103855	5104064	5103036
5101651	5102247	5101775	5101808	5102591	5102202
5102830	5102084	5102682	5102793	5100432	

Vote on Consent Agenda Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

President 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 Dr. William Cartwright, and seconded by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-B, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Appointments1. Instructional

- a) Agriculture Teacher. Approve the probationary appointment of Kylie A. Spinner, who holds Transitional A certification in Agricultural Production, Science and Business 7-12, to the position of Agriculture Teacher in the Agriculture Tenure Area for a 4-year probationary period commencing on February 2, 2023 and anticipated to end on February 1, 2027 at an annual salary set at Step 1, Bachelors, in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement current salary schedule for year 2022-2023. 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.
- b) Special Education Teacher – Secondary. Approve the probationary appointment of Jill M. Davis, who holds Professional certification in Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) and (Grades 5-9), to the position of Special Education Teacher in the General Special Education Tenure Area for a 3-year* probationary period commencing on May 1, 2023 and anticipated to end on April 30, 2026 at an annual salary set at Step 12, B60M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement current salary schedule for year 2022-2023, prorated to May 1, 2023. 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 two of the three preceding years and a rating higher than "Ineffective" in the final year of the probationary period. *Ms. Davis has been previously granted tenure.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

A/1. Appointments/Instructional (Cont.)

- c) Special Education Teacher – Elementary. Approve the probationary appointment of Keegan Little, who holds Professional certification in Students with Disabilities (Birth – Grade 2) and (Grades 1-6), to the position of Special Education Teacher in the General Special Education Tenure Area for a 3-year* probationary period commencing on May 1, 2023 and anticipated to end on April 30, 2026 at an annual salary set at Step 9, B60M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement current salary schedule for year 2022-2023, prorated to May 1, 2023. 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 two of the three preceding years and a rating higher than "Ineffective" in the final year of the probationary period. *Ms. Little has been previously granted tenure.

2. Extra-Curricular

- a) Marching Band – Summer 2023. Approve the following Marching Band recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2023-24 extra-curricular Club salary schedule of the GTA contract, as presented:

DIRECTOR	JENELLE YEOMAN	CLASS A	Step 1
ASSISTANT 1	HAILEY COOK	CLASS E	Step 1
COLOR GUARD	RYAN BURT	CLASS E	Step 1
ASSISTANT 2	MADISON KURDZEIL	CLASS E	Step 1
VOLUNTEER	LYNN KURDZEIL	Uncompensated	

- b) 2022-2023 Spring Coaches. Approve the following coaching recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding certification requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2022-23 Coaching Salary Schedule of the GTA contract, as presented:

JV GIRLS SOFTBALL	Rescind Shawn Typhair		
JV GIRLS SOFTBALL	SADDIE WHITAKER	CLASS 3	Step 6
MODIFIED GIRLS SOFTBALL	Rescind Saddle Whitaker		
ASSISTANT SOFTBALL – VOLUNTEER	EDWARD SMITH	Uncompensated	
JV BOYS BASEBALL	CHRISTINE COGNETTI	CLASS 3	Step 2
MODIFIED BOYS BASEBALL	Rescind Christine Cognetti		
ASSISTANT BASEBALL – VOLUNTEER	MATTHEW ASHLEY	Uncompensated	
ASSISTANT BOYS TRACK	ROBERT WEBSTER	CLASS 3	Step 1
GOLF – VOLUNTEER	NICHOLAS STERLING	Uncompensated	

B. Leaves

Acknowledge paid and unpaid leave of absence covered under FMLA provisions for probationary employee #00583, for the approximate period 04/24/2023 – 06/25/2023. Employee will use sick time and will incur approximately thirty-six and one-half (36.5) unpaid days. Unpaid time will not count toward tenure or seniority.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

[CLERK'S NOTE: Trustee Laura Spicer arrived at this point in the meeting 6:09 PM.]

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Leave Replacement

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Ormasen, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Pat Williams, who is Permanently certified in N-6, as the long-term substitute for the Leave of Absence of Employee 00583, to begin on approximately April 24, 2023 through June 23, 2023, at the rate of Teacher 25 day.

YEAS: Bates, Bush, Cartwright, Fenlong, Hendrick, Ormasen, Roberts, Spicer.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: Lowry.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. LEAVE REPLACEMENT APPOINTMENT, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. Creation of Six (6) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper positions

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to create six (6) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper positions, in the Labor class of the civil service, represented by the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union, effective March 7, 2023.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CREATION OF SIX 2.75-HOUR FSH POSITIONS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. FFA Overnight Trips

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the request from the Gouverneur High School Chapter of FFA to attend and participate in the following: Northeast All-Breeds Spring Cow Show (April 17-22, 2023); FFA State Convention, Buffalo NY (May 17-20, 2023); Washington Leadership Conference, Washington DC (June 6-11, 2023).

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FFA OVERNIGHT TRIPS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

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

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Lowry, 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 16, 2023, and any subsequent revote(s) related thereto, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MOA FOR ELECTION SERVICES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

E. Compensation Rate for Election Inspectors

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, 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 2022-23 school year.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. COMPENSATION FOR ELECTION INSPECTORS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

F. 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 16th day of May, 2023, 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 Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Lowry, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the Chairman, certified inspectors, acting clerk, and assistant clerk as follows:

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

F. Appointment of Inspectors and Officers for the Annual Meeting and Vote (Cont.)

1. **Laurie Roberts**, 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 16, 2023, and the Budget Hearing on May 8, 2023.
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; **Judith Poticher**, Election Inspector; and **Susan McHeffey** as Alternate.
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.

DISCUSSION: President Fenlong thanked all appointees who work together to make this a smooth election process.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS AND OFFICERS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

G. Merger Request

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve a merger with Harrisville CSD to allow their students to participate on the Gouverneur Boys and Girls Track teams at all levels during the 2022-23 school year, per the terms of the Section 10 Athletics Combined Teams Application, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MERGER REQUEST, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

H. Acceptance of Gift

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education accept the donation of 500 Quidel at-home COVID test boxes (2 tests per box) from the Community Health Center of the North Country, for distribution as needed.

DISCUSSION: President Fenlong thanked them very much for the donation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. DONATION FROM THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CTR, ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Lowry, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, to adjourn to executive session in Conference Room 310R of the Dolan wing of the High School, to discuss the employment history of a particular person, specifically, the evaluation of the superintendent; and to discuss pending litigation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:19 PM.

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:40 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Lowry, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, to return to open session in Conference Room 310R and adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file

David Fenlong, President