

GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 BOARD OF EDUCATION
 GOUVERNEUR NEW YORK 13642
 ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING AND VOTE

MAY 8, 2023
 MAY 16, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING of the qualified voters of the Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by Chairperson Laurie Roberts on May 8, 2023 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, Mark Hendrick, 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.

Chairperson Roberts announced that polls will be open in the High School Auditorium from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on May 16, 2023 for in-person voting. She proceeded to read the ballot items, reminding everyone the ballots are two-sided. One side is for the Election of Board Members with the names of the five candidates who submitted petitions as well as spaces for up to three write in votes. The other side has the propositions to be voted on this year; Proposition #1, the General School Budget; and Proposition #2, Capital Reserve Fund – Transportation.

II. DESIGNATION OF INSPECTORS AND OFFICERS OF ELECTION

The following Inspectors and Officers were appointed by the Board of Education at their meeting on March 6, 2023: Chief Inspector Diane Kelley, and Inspector of Election Judith Poticher. The alternate Inspector of Election is Susan McHeffey. The Acting Clerk in the absence of the District Clerk is Lisa Sheen, and the Assistant Clerk of the Annual District Budget Vote and Election is Kim Shampine.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly explained the three components comprising the 2023-2024 proposed budget of \$42,635,420. The Administrative Component includes expenses for the Board of Education, Chief School Administrator, business administration, auditing, treasurer, tax collector, purchasing, legal services, personnel services, records management, public information services, curriculum development and supervision, central data processing, central printing and mailing, central storeroom, judgments and claims and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in this component. For 2023-24 this represents 10.93% of the total budget, or \$4,660,041, a decrease of \$40,526 from the previous year. The Program Component is the largest expense at 68.84% of the total budget, or \$29,351,198, an increase of \$1,023,756 from the previous year. The Program Component includes salaries and benefits of teachers, guidance, health services, psychological and social work services, pupil personnel services, co-curricular activities, interscholastic athletics, district transportation services (excluding bus purchases), contract transportation, recreation, youth programs, civic activities, employee benefits attributable to salaries included in this component, transfers to school lunch and special aid funds, and legal services relating to the program component. Finally, the Capital Component covers the operation and maintenance of buildings, school bus purchases, debt service, transfers to capital and debt service funds, tax certiorari, judgments and claims, and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in this component. Ms. Kelly emphasized that for 2023-2024 this component also includes a cash capital project in the amount of \$1,200,000 that will improve paving, lighting, sidewalks and some interior work at the Gouverneur Middle School. The total Capital Component comes to \$8,624,181, or 20.23% of the total budget, an increase of \$335,183 over the previous year. The tax levy for 2023-2024 is \$6,925,551, an increase of \$138,439 which is a 2.04% increase. Examples were given for the financial impact on property owners with homes valued at \$60,000 and \$100,000. The net tax increase with Basic STAR is \$7.24 and \$16.89, respectively; and with Enhanced STAR the increase is \$0 and \$9.12, respectively.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET (CONTINUED)

The budget also supports the long-term district-wide goals. First, to bring consistency to curriculum decisions across grade levels and provide appropriate professional development to support those curriculum decisions, with a primary focus on developing the foundational skills necessary for students to effectively read and write. Second, to provide social emotional support and academic opportunities necessary for all students to be engaged in school and find success. Finally, to provide a continuum of Special Education services district-wide to support the needs of all our students. Superintendent Kelly recapped that the proposed budget focuses on preserving the strong educational programming, safe and secure environments, and extracurricular activities that our community has supported over the years. This budget also provides for additional academic support for all students. This is a fiscally responsible and educationally sound spending plan that focuses on providing the academic supports necessary for all students to be successful. This budget will support needs created as a disruption to education due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the addition of a Math Academic Intervention Services (AIS) teacher at the Middle School, a Special Education teacher and teaching assistant at the Elementary School, a Business teacher at the High School, and an additional Keyboard Specialist at the Elementary School. She concluded by providing additional information about the Capital Project at Gouverneur Middle School, stating that the district is looking to utilize surplus funds from the 2022–2023 fiscal year to address concerns regarding the bus loop and the safety of our students during the drop-off and pick-up times. Sidewalks along Wilson Street will be replaced and added at various entrance locations, portions of the existing bus loop and parking lots will be repaved, exterior lighting will be enhanced, and some interior renovations are included as well. This work will likely take place during the late spring and summer of 2024. Ms. Kelly again emphasized that this will come at no additional cost to district taxpayers due to the utilization of surplus funds to pay for this work.

IV. CANDIDATES FOR OPEN BOARD SEATS

Current Board Members are David Fenlong, President; Todd Bates, Vice President; Brooke Bush, Dr. William Cartwright, Mark Hendrick, Naaman Lowry, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie Roberts, and Laura Spicer. Board members whose terms are expiring on June 30, 2023 are Todd Bates, Brooke Bush, and David Fenlong. Three vacancies will be voted upon, each for a 3-year term, effective July 1, 2023. Petitions have been filed by five individuals. A drawing was done on April 18 for ballot placement. The candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot: Todd Bates – Incumbent, Wendy Shepherd, Andrew Losey, Brooke Bush – Incumbent, and David Fenlong – Incumbent.

V. COMMENT PERIOD

Chairperson Roberts asked if there were any questions or comments. Gouverneur Teachers' Association co-President Jerrilyn Patton thanked the board and administration for their work putting together the budget, saying that while it does a nice job of supporting our long-term interests and goals, she would like to see immediate needs discussed including staffing, behavior and discipline, and special education needs. With no further comments, Chairperson Roberts reminded those in attendance that all residents would receive a copy of the budget postcard in the mail, and the full budget is also available on our website.

VI. RECESS UNTIL POLLS OPEN ON MAY 16, 2023

There being no further business or discussion, Chairperson Laurie Roberts recessed the meeting at 5:46 p.m., until the polls open on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at the Auditorium beginning at 12:00 p.m.

BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**VII. OPENING OF THE POLLS**

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. local time, Chairperson Laurie Roberts reconvened the annual meeting and declared the polls open for voting. The following Election Inspectors were present: Diane Kelley, Chief Inspector; Judith Poticher, Election Inspector; and Tatia Z. Kennedy, Clerk.

VIII. CLOSING OF THE POLLS

After Chairperson Laurie Roberts had ascertained that all who were in the polling place at 8:00 p.m., local time, who wanted to vote had done so, she declared the polls closed.

IX. VOTING AND ELECTION RESULTS

After the votes were tallied, Chairperson Laurie Roberts announced the Voting Results as follows:

A. PROPOSITION ONE: GENERAL SCHOOL BUDGET.

Authorize the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District to expend for General Fund Appropriations a sum of \$42,635,420.00 and to levy the necessary taxes thereof.

PASSED. YES - 208 NO - 116

B. PROPOSITION TWO: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – TRANSPORTATION.

Authorize the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law to be designated, “2023 Transportation Capital Reserve Fund” created to defray the cost of school buses and other vehicles, and transportation infrastructure, including construction and reconstruction of School District buildings and facilities, original equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, furnishings and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, and to defray the cost of, in whole or in part, and in order to accomplish the same, the Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such reserve fund to be Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) inclusive of accrued interest and other investment earnings, with a probable term of ten (10) years. The Board of Education is hereby authorized to pay funds from the available fund balance, unexpended funds from the Capital Reserve Fund - Buses not to exceed Three Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$390,000.00), state aid reimbursement to the School District on account of capital projects, such other monies as the voters may direct, and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such reserve fund in an amount determined by the Board of Education up to the maximum authorized amount.

PASSED. YES - 201 NO - 122

C. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:

For three (3) vacancies with terms of three (3) years (7/1/23 – 6/30/26) to succeed Todd Bates, Brooke Bush, and David Fenlong. The three (3) highest vote getters will be elected to the three (3) 3-year terms (top 3 vote getters indicated*):

*Todd Bates	*184
Wendy Shepherd	112
Andrew Losey	103
*Brooke Bush	*248
*David Fenlong	*233
Write-in	4 – Rob Macaulay

Successful candidates: TODD BATES, BROOKE BUSH, DAVID FENLONG.

IX. VOTING AND ELECTION RESULTS (CONTINUED)

D. VOTERS:

Number of Voters Registered	<u>328</u>
Number of Voters Voted	<u>328</u>
Number of Spoiled Ballots	<u>005</u>
Number of Blank or Void Votes	<u>000</u>

Attachments:*Sample Ballot**Oath of Inspectors**Certificate of Inspectors of Election with Absentee Ballot Return and Write-in Candidate Tally**Machine Tapes: open poll; ballots cast; close poll*

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson Laurie Roberts declared the Annual Budget Vote and Election of the Residents of the Gouverneur Central School District to be adjourned at 8:35 p.m., local time.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
 Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk