

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

MARCH 18, 2024

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 Middle School Cafeteria, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Trustees Absent: None.

Also Present: Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools; Dale R. Munn Jr., Business Manager; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk; Abigail Bowman, Student Board Representative

II. APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education appoint Lisa McGregor to fill the vacancy created by the unexpired term of Naaman Lowry, effective immediately, to serve until May 21, 2024.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. LISA MCGREGOR APPOINTED AS BOARD TRUSTEE FOR THE PERIOD 3/18/24 – 5/21/24.

Trustee McGregor took the Oath of Office from the Clerk.

III. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were offered.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Presentation – Staff Recognition Award

The District Shared Decision-Making Committee selected Elementary Teacher Aide Heather Davis as the March recipient of the Staff Recognition Award. In the words of her colleagues, “Heather deserves to be recognized for her hard work, dedication, and loyalty to the kindergarten team.” “When one of the kindergarten teachers was out for an extended period of time, Heather stepped up to cover the class as the substitute teacher.” “She kept everyone on schedule and created a safe, happy, and loving classroom environment.” “Heather builds fantastic relationships with students, so this helped to make a smooth transition for them.” “Heather has a heart of gold and is truly deserving of recognition.”

B. Wildcat News

March is National Reading Month, and the Elementary Reading Committee planned several activities around the theme “Explore the Universe with Books!” One of the highlights was welcoming over 200 parents and grandparents in to the school to read with their student. The North Country Art Teachers Association PreK – Grade 8 Art Show will showcase pieces by our students from March 21-April 30: Jenning Storie (PreK), Genevieve Trimm (Kindergarten), Amelia Martin and Harper Graham (Grade 1), Kailyn Tuttle (Grade 2), Lillyan O'Donnell (Grade 3), and Aubree Spicer and Hadley Fishel (Grade 4). April is also the month of the Military Child, and our Military Kids Club has designated April 19 as “Purple Up! For Military Kids,” to honor the critical role military children play and recognize the unique challenges they face while their service member parents serve our country. Mrs. Kelly concluded with an update on the District’s Capital Project. Representatives from Bernier, Carr and Associates met with stakeholders on March 13 to discuss particular spaces scheduled to be redesigned or newly developed.

C. Upcoming Events

1. March 22-23 – High School Musical performances
2. March 29 – Good Friday holiday; school is not in session.
3. April 1-5 – Spring Break; no school for students and 10- and 11-month staff.
4. April 8 – Snow Day Give-back; no school for students and 10- and 11-month staff.
5. April 9 – Rescheduled Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 PM, HS Auditorium (previously 4/8/24).
6. April 11 – BOCES Annual Meeting

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IV. DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

D. Student Board Representative Report – Abigail Bowman

Ms. Bowman encouraged everyone to attend a performance of “SpongeBob The Musical” during the upcoming weekend, saying there is a lot of excitement in the cast and crew. Many new students have signed up for a spring sport and the outlook is good for all teams. Seniors are preparing for next year with many college acceptances coming in from a variety of schools.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. 2024-2025 Budget Draft Document #2

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn stated this draft incorporated the board’s feedback from the previous meeting as well as additional information received since then. Under Expenditures, two changes were made: The Board of Education contractual for training and professional development was restored for potential new board members; and funds were added to support a new local BOCES Alternative Education option. There were no changes to the Revenue side. Mr. Munn informed the Board that while both sides of the legislature have discussed increasing funding to schools, a decrease in enrollment due in large part to more students being homeschooled will result in a corresponding decrease in aid because the district no longer receives aid for those students. To cover the proposed increased expenditures in this draft, Mr. Munn recommended to appropriate additional funds, consistent with the District Reserve Plan, from the TRS reserve in the amount of \$552,421, and \$75,000 from the Workers Compensation reserve, and not use unassigned fund balance. He also reviewed the three-part budget report, highlighting the increase to the Program component from ending grant-funded positions, and the decrease to the Capital component due to decreased funding to the Capital Fund. A brief discussion on homeschooling followed, with Superintendent Kelly responding that we have approximately 151 students homeschooled in grades K-12, the highest in the region. Conversation then turned to establishing a repair reserve, with Mr. Munn explaining that a repair reserve has more flexibility than a capital reserve; the Board can authorize the use of money for unexpected expenses, such as the recent pool pump replacement. Trustee Roberts asked if there was a dollar limit; Mr. Munn responded that with four buildings he would recommend \$250,000. Trustee Hendrick questioned if it needed voter approval; Mr. Munn said a repair reserve can be established by Board resolution.

B. Monthly Financial Report - February

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn reviewed the report with the Board, pointing out the projections related to expenditures continue to decrease as those unrecognized expenditures, set aside for worst case scenarios, don’t take place. Without utilizing unassigned fund balance for the 2024-25 budget, he provided an updated projection for the Reserve Plan for the end of the year. He added that it does not include a potential repair reserve, and it does prioritize the increase of fund balance going toward the capital transportation reserve. With no further discussion, Mr. Munn told the Board the budget could be ready for adoption at the next meeting if there are no additional changes or discussion.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. 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 for any item to be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-E, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor’s Reports

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor’s Reports for the period 02/27/24 – 03/08/24, 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:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

C. CSE Business (Cont.)

CSE Student ID#:

5104065	5101555	5100729	11344	5103777	5104373
5102309	5103383	5104711	5102773	5104913	5101897
5104906	5103901	5104530	5102299	5101937	5102876
5102406	5101566	5103188	5104632	5102982	5104032
5103871	5102502	5103081	5104570	5104446	

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 CSE Meeting Minutes report:

CPSE Student ID#:

5104912	5104581	5104892
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E. Treasurer’s Report – February 2024

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer’s Report for February, 2024 as presented.

Vote on Consent Agenda:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

President David 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 for any item to be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Personnel:

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 the following Personnel items A-E as a Consent Agenda:

A. Retirements

- a) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Keitha Lamoria, from her position as Courier, effective March 28, 2024.
- b) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Velicia Hadfield, from her position as 6.5-hour Head Cook, effective April 26, 2024.

B. Resignations

Accept the request for resignation from Chandler Young, from her position as secondary English Teacher (Middle School), effective March 11, 2024.

C. Appointments

1. Extra-Curricular

- a) 2023-2024 Spring Coaches. Approve the following coaching recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding certification requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2023-24 Coaching Salary Schedule of the GTA contract, as presented:

MODIFIED SOFTBALL – VOLUNTEER	RICK VROOMAN	Uncompensated
BASEBALL – VOLUNTEER	Rescind Matthew Ashley	
- b) Marching Band – Summer 2024. Approve the following Marching Band recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2024-25 extra-curricular Club salary schedule of the GTA contract, pending completion of all hiring requirements, as presented:

VOLUNTEER	TREVOR SIXBERRY	UNCOMPENSATED
VOLUNTEER	JENNECA COOK	UNCOMPENSATED

2. Substitutes and Tutors

Approve the appointment of the following personnel to work as per diem substitutes for Instructional and Support positions, pending completion of all hiring requirements, for 2023-24: Katelynn Ayen, Alexis Currier, Brittany Davis, Laura Hayden, Kateena Smith.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

D. Modification to Appointment

Revise the appointment of Jarrett Bullock, Physical Education Teacher, approved at the November 6, 2023 regular Board of Education meeting pending certification, to a probationary period effective March 14, 2024 through March 13, 2028.

E. Leaves and Leave Replacements

- a) Acknowledge extension of unpaid leave of absence for childrearing purposes for probationary employee #00583, for the period 04/17/2024 – 06/30/2024, in accordance with Article 12.3.1 of the contract with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association. Time on this unpaid leave of absence will not count toward tenure or seniority.
- b) Acknowledge unpaid leave of absence for medical reasons for employee #00414, for the period March 7, 2024 to March 22, 2024. Time on this unpaid leave of absence will not count toward seniority.
- c) Approve the appointment of Anita Sleeman, who holds Permanent certification in Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6; and Permanent certification in Reading, to the non-probationary position of long-term substitute to replace Employee 00583, effective April 17, 2024 through June 30, 2024, at the prorated salary of Step 1, B30M from the 2023-2024 salary schedule with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

President Fenlong thanked the retirees and extended best wishes on behalf of the Board for their dedicated years of service to the district. He extended congratulations to all of the appointees.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Construction Manager for 2024 Capital Improvement Project

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

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 resolution, as presented:

WHEREAS, the Gouverneur Central School District (the "District") has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to retain a construction manager to provide necessary construction management and related services in connection with its 2024 Capital Improvement Project (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a request for proposals awarded to Pike Construction Services, the District wishes to contract with Pike Construction Services for the purposes of providing construction management and related services for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the School District's legal counsel, Ferrara Fiorenza, PC and Pike Construction Services have jointly prepared a contract for construction management services relative to the Project (a copy of which has been shared with the Board);

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

1. The Board of Education approves the retention of Pike Construction Services to provide professional services and proceed with the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract approved by legal counsel and previously shared with the Board of Education.
2. The Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board or the Superintendent of Schools to enter into the approved contract with Pike Construction Services on behalf of the Board of Education and take all steps necessary or convenient to proceed under the contract in connection with the Project.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly confirmed this resolution is to formalize the contract that was previously agreed to.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF PIKE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AS CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

B. School Safety Plan

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

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 addition of the word "Armed" to the title "District Chief Armed Safety Officer" and corrections to the Safety Team members to reflect persons no longer serving as representatives, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing Resolution

(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, that the Board of Education approve the Annual Meeting/Budget Hearing Resolution, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING RESOLUTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

X. COMMENT PERIOD

Wildcat Swim Camp. Trustee Roberts said she had two parents express their appreciation to her regarding the Swim Camp opportunity.

XI. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons and pending litigation matters.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:20 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:48 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President

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