

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

OCTOBER 16, 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., EDT 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.

Trustees Absent: Naaman Lowry, Laura Spicer.

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. COMMENT PERIOD

General Issues. A grandparent relayed her frustration to the Board regarding issues with her student that she felt had not been properly addressed by the district.

III. DISCUSSION

A. School Board Appreciation Week, October 16-20, 2023

Superintendent Kelly stated that the School Board Appreciation Week was established to promote awareness and understanding of the important work they do. She related one motto of our positivity project, "other people matter," to our local members, saying each one lives this every day, making decisions that are in best interest of students, staff, and the entire GCS community. The audience gave a round of applause.

B. Wildcat News

Fall sports highlights for every team were shared, including personal successes for our Cross-Country runners Meredith Bush, Abby Bowman and Zoe Griffith; the varsity and JV football teams' current undefeated records; the varsity girls' swim team members achieving new top times and first-place finishes; and the great numbers for modified sports with 117 student-athletes participating.

C. Upcoming Events

1. Ag Academy Open House – October 19, 2023, 5-6:30 PM

2. GEA "Socktober" Sock Drive for students – October 16-24

Socks are one of the least donated but most needed items for families in need.

D. Student Board Representative report – Abigail Bowman

Ms. Bowman reported on the successful Homecoming week activities, including "Fun Days", like Barbie & Ken Day; a Pep Rally where \$4,700 was raised from the Pie in the Face contest, with the money going to the local food pantry, and the football game and dance.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. September, 2023

*(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)*

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 accept the Financial Report for September, 2023, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

B. Student Activities Financial Report for Third Quarter, 2023

*(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education accept the Student Activities Financial Report for Third Quarter, 2023, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. STUDENT ACTIVITIES FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER, 2023, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

October 16, 2023

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second Reading and Adoption of Policy

*(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education adopt the following revised policy, effective immediately, as presented: 6180 – Safety of Students (Fingerprinting Clearance of New Hires)

DISCUSSION: This will allow for hourly and per diem substitutes to be reimbursed for the cost of the required clearance.

YEAS: All Trustees Present      NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. POLICY 6180, 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 Dr. Cartwright, seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-D, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 25, 2023, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

*(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for 9/22/23, 9/29/23, 10/6/23, and 10/13/23, as presented.

C. CSE 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:

5103030	5103045	5103188	5103253	5102187	5101096
5100263	5100299	5104126	5102363	5101775	5103547
5102829	5104398	5104386	5104249	5102837	5100311
5103872	5103924	5103269	5101986	5102659	5101585
5100422	5102519	5101625	5102299	5104585	5102545
5102913	5104147	5102080	5102750	14199	5102491

D. Treasurer's Report – September 2023

*(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2023, as presented.

**Vote on Consent Agenda Items**

YEAS: All Trustees Present      NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

## VII. 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 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 Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-E, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Tenure Recommendations

- a) CANDACE J. GRANT, who holds Professional certification in LITERACY (BIRTH-GRADE 6) issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the tenure area of REMEDIAL READING effective 12/09/2023, conditioned upon compliance with APPR requirements or waiver as determined by the State of New York.
- b) AARON M. MCEATHRON, who holds Initial certification in PHYSICAL EDUCATION issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the tenure area of

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

### A. Tenure Recommendations (Cont.)

- b) PHYSICAL EDUCATION effective 11/01/2023, conditioned upon compliance with APPR requirements or waiver as determined by the State of New York.
- c) TECIA M. TARKOWSKI, who holds Teaching Asst Level 2 certification in TEACHING ASSISTANT issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in the tenure area of TEACHING ASSISTANT effective 11/18/2023.

### B. Resignations

- a) Accept the request for resignation from Jade A. Walker, from her position as Teaching Assistant – Counselor (1-year appointment), effective at the end of the day, November 3, 2023.
- b) Accept the request for resignation from Ciera Vanderbogart, from her position as 2.75-hour Food Service Helper, effective at the end of the day, October 31, 2023.
- c) Accept the request for resignation from Julie Carpenter, from her position as Individual Aide, effective at the end of the day, October 13, 2023.

### C. Appointments

#### 1. Extra Duty

- a) High School Detention Monitors. Appoint Sabrina Jones, Ken Nicholas, and Sam Sochia as Detention Monitors for the 2023-24 school year, to be paid at the established rate of \$30/hour.
- b) Fitness Center Attendant. Appoint Sabrina Jones as a Fitness Center Attendant for the 2023-24 school year, to be paid at the established rate of \$15/hour (School Monitor). Ms. Jones is up to date with her First Aid certifications.

#### 2. Substitutes and Tutors

Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes in instructional and/or support positions, pending completion of all requirements: Teena McGill, Abigail Simmons, Ellen Baer, Sullivan Rumble, Sharon Gates.

#### 3. Extra-Curricular

- a) Approve the following coach(s) for the 2023-2024 winter season:

WRESTLING VARSITY	GEORGE J. BAER	CLASS 1	Step 14
BASKETBALL GIRLS 8TH GRADE	EVELYN G. BARTON	CLASS 4	Step 16
WRESTLING JV	SHAWN P. CUMMINGS	CLASS 2	Step 27
WRESTLING 7TH & 8TH GRADE	DAVID M. DAILEY	CLASS 4	Step 23
BASKETBALL GIRLS VARSITY	SEAN T. DEVLIN	CLASS 1	Step 18
BASKETBALL GIRLS 7TH GRADE	KORRINE PATTERSON	CLASS 4	Step 1
BASKETBALL BOYS 8TH GRADE	MICHAEL A. SHATTUCK	CLASS 4	Step 7
BASKETBALL BOYS 7TH GRADE	MICHAEL A. SHATTUCK	CLASS 4	Step 7
BASKETBALL GIRLS JV	RICK L. VROOMAN	CLASS 2	Step 12
BASKETBALL BOYS JV	ROBERT WEBSTER	CLASS 2	Step 2
INDOOR TRACK	KURTIS P. WELLS	CLASS 2	Step 17
SWIM BOYS	SADDIE R. WHITAKER	CLASS 1	Step 2
SWIM BOYS MODIFIED	BRETT M. WORDEN	CLASS 4	Step 1

- b) Approve the following advisor(s) for the 2023-2024 school year:

K-KIDS CLUB (MODIFY FROM 1.0 TO .5)	ALISSA M. COLLIER	Class E	Step 1
K-KIDS CLUB (.5)	KAYLA SIDE	Class E	Step 1
O.M. COORDINATOR	JESSICA MILLER	Class D	Step 1

### D. Modification to Appointment

Revise the appointment of Tabitha L. Kirkpatrick, approved at the August 21, 2023 regular Board of Education meeting, to a probationary period start date effective September 13, 2023 through September 12, 2027.

### E. Leaves

Acknowledge the paid and unpaid medical leave of absence (not FMLA-eligible) for employee #00694 from October 5, 2023 to (TBA). Employee will incur approximately 40 unpaid days beginning October 17. Time on unpaid leave of absence will not count toward seniority.

### **Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items**

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Agreement Between the GCSD and the Western New York Educational Service Council to conduct a Long-Range Enrollment/Viability Study

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Superintendent Kelly explained that this will create long-range enrollment and fiscal projections and utilize that analysis to recommended options for possible school organizations and programming, and it will be a good foundation for developing a long-range strategic plan for the district.

B. SEQRA Resolution

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the SEQRA Resolution, as presented in the attached document.

**DISCUSSION:** Superintendent Kelly and Business Manager Munn recently met with representatives from BCA and Fiscal Advisors. The public forum dates were set for November 20 and December 4 and the project newsletter to be sent to the public was discussed. Trustee Dr. Cartwright suggested that district representatives also attend local civic organization meetings to present the project to a wider audience. Superintendent Kelly agreed to reach out.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. SEQRA RESOLUTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

C. Publication of Notice Regarding Vote on Proposition by Special Meeting to be held December 12, 2023

(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Bush, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. A special meeting of the qualified voters of the Gouverneur Central School District shall be held in the GCS Auditorium in said District, on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, between the hours of 12:00 PM and 8:00 PM, for the purpose of voting on the proposition described in the notice of special meeting hereinafter set forth.
2. Said special meeting shall be called by giving the NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT as presented in the attached document as Sheet #9.
3. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed providing for payment of such capital costs and providing for the financing costs therefor. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education.
4. The District Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby directed to publish a copy of said notice of special meeting in two newspapers having general circulation within the School District in the manner prescribed by law for publication of notice of the annual meeting of the School District.
5. All actions by the School District prior to the final environmental determination by the Board of Education, if any, are hereby found and determined to have been preliminary planning activities under SEQRA necessary to the formulation of a proposal for action which did not commit the School District to commence, engage in, fund or approve any portion of the proposed capital improvement project and financing therefor.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**DISCUSSION:** President David Fenlong thanked everyone for their work going into this.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE REGARDING VOTE ON PROPOSITION BY SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD DECEMBER 12, 2023, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

D. Policy Review – First Reading

(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)

The Board reviewed the following revised policies: 3420 – Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District; the Training section was updated to include the retention of employee training records. 5140 – Administration of the Budget; this was revised to reflect the expiration of Ed. Law §3614 that required districts to annually submit to the Commissioner and the Director of the Budget a statement of the total funding allocation for each district school. 5661 – Wellness; this was updated to reflect current practices. Policy 5330 - Budget Transfers, was recommended for deletion as the language is duplicated in Policy 5140. A new policy was introduced, 5711 – Unauthorized Individuals on School Buses Operated by First Student, Inc. This policy relates to the prevention of unauthorized students or individuals from riding District buses, and to the removal of such students and individuals from District buses.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

E. Proposed Waiver of second reading and Adoption of Policy 3420

(See Sheet #11, 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 Roberts, that the Board of Education waive the second reading and adopt Policy 3420, Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District, effective immediately, as presented.

**DISCUSSION:** Superintendent Kelly explained the request for the waiver is because this policy was just reviewed and revised in August and the only recommendation refers to keeping training records on file.

YEAS: All Trustees Present      NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. SECOND READING WAIVED AND POLICY 3420 ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.**

F. 2023-2024 Lease Agreement with St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES

(See Sheet #12, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Bush, that the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Lease Agreement between the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES and the GCSD, as presented.

**DISCUSSION:** This lease is relative to our distance learning classroom at the high school.

YEAS: Bush, Cartwright, Fenlong, Hendrick, Ormasen, Roberts      NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: Bates

**MOTION CARRIED. 2023-2024 LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SLL BOCES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

G. Appointment of Department Chairpersons

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 appoint the following Department Chairpersons for the 2023-2024 school year, to be compensated at a \$1,000 stipend from ARP funds:

Middle School Math-Terri Whitaker	Middle School Language Arts-Stacey Devlin
Middle School Social Studies-Jerrilyn Patton	Middle School Science-Brock Davison
Middle School Special Education-Brittany Buckmaster	High School Math-Megan Sovie
High School Social Studies-Justin Young	High School Science-Sarah Wood
High School Special Education-Heather Parker	Art-Amber Ormasen
Foreign Language-Shari Ronas	Music-Sarah Stedman
Guidance Department- Monica Scott	Reading Intervention-Paula Bates
Math Intervention-Jessica Cappellino	Elementary Special Area – Betty Hall

**DISCUSSION:** Superintendent Kelly reiterated that curriculum leaders were already appointed at the elementary level and this represents the middle and high school content areas, all funded by American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds.

YEAS: Bush, Cartwright, Fenlong, Hendrick, Roberts      NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: Bates, Ormasen

**MOTION CARRIED. DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

H. Overnight Trip Requests – Varsity Wrestling

(See Sheet #13, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Bush, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the request for the Varsity Wrestling team to attend and compete in the following tournaments and the associated fees for registration and transportation, as presented:

- December 9, 2023: Valley Duels, Central Valley HS, Ilion NY
- December 28-29, 2023: Windsor Christmas Tournament, Windsor HS, Windsor NY
- January 6-7, 2024 – Dame of Thrones/Armbar at the Armory, Washington Ave Armory, Albany, NY
- January 20-21, 2024: King and Queen Bison Invitational, Shaker HS, Latham NY

YEAS: All Trustees Present      NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. WRESTLING OVERNIGHT TRIPS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

I. Overnight Trip Request – National FFA Convention

(See Sheet #14, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Bush, that the Board of Education approve the request for the members of the local chapter of the FFA to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, from 10/29 – 11/4/23. The students will be traveling with the Lowville chapter and will cover their own expenses.

**DISCUSSION:** High School Principal Wood responded that there were currently four students signed up but he expects an additional one or two others.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. OVERNIGHT TRIP REQUEST FOR FFA NATIONAL CONVENTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

J. Authorization to Declare as Surplus and Sell/Dispose of Equipment

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education declare the following equipment as surplus and authorize the Business Manager to sell/dispose of the following items: One (1) Braising Pan, One (1) Mixer, One (1) Ice Maker.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. ITEMS DECLARED SURPLUS AND APPROVED FOR SALE/DISPOSAL AS PRESENTED.**

K. Board Committees

Discussion took place on the NYS regulations for required committees. Superintendent Kelly stated that both she and Business Manager Munn would like to recommend keeping the entire board for the Audit Committee for 2023-24, and then possibly look at different options such as an Audit subcommittee for 2024-25. In regard to the Shared Decision-Making committee, BOE members are prohibited from serving. Vice-President Bates resumed his role on the Technology committee, which did not meet last year, and Trustee Ormasen joined that committee as well. Trustee Bush moved from the Policy to the Transportation committee, and Trustee Ormasen replaced President Fenlong on the Capital Project committee.

## IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Transportation. Lindsey Carvel voiced her discontent over the double bus run and requested that the Board consider going back to a single bus run in the future.

Wellness Policy. Tina French suggested that the policy incorporate mental health as part of wellness in addition to the nutritional and physical aspects included in the policy.

Substitutes. Superintendent Kelly updated that another substitute training was recently completed but there isn't a large pool. She confirmed that the district is high on the regional pay scale.

## X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons; including the annual informal evaluation of Superintendent Kelly; and contractual negotiations with regard to the GSRPU.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:21 PM.**

## RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**Open session resumed at 8:15 PM.**

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Hendrick, that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present.    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 PM, EDT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file  
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file  
David Fenlong, President