

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

NOVEMBER 20, 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 5:33 P.M., in the High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Trustees Absent: Dr. William Cartwright.

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were offered.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentations

1. Staff Recognition Award

The District Shared Decision-Making Committee awarded Brittany Buckmaster the Staff Recognition Award for the month of November. In the words of her colleagues, Brittany is not only committed to her students but other students in the building. She teaches the students about academics as well as life lessons. She is involved in many activities in the building and in our community. President Fenlong presented Brittany the award and a round of applause was given.

2. 2023 NYS 3-8 Assessment Results

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

Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, shared our NYS Assessment results from the 2022–2023 school year, our second “normal” year of testing since prior to the pandemic. The proficiency rate (scores in levels 3 and 4) met or exceeded the proficiency rates prior to the pandemic. She also discussed some of the curriculum and instructional adjustments being made to identify students lacking grade level skills and shift our intervention process to focus on building those missing foundational skills. Responding to questions, Ms. Sullivan explained the decrease between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math scores is because accelerated students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade take the Algebra Regents test rather than the NYS Math assessment. Math scores are moving in the right direction, and teachers are happy with the new programs and training.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly commended the exceptional performance by the Middle School Drama Club for their presentation of *The Wizard of Oz*, and thanked Mr. Griffin and the volunteers. Nine GCS students participated in the Zone 5 NYSSMA Area All State concert at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. The varsity football team ended their season Friday night against Fonda-Fultonville, and Ms. Kelly praised the team and coaches for their outstanding season. Lastly, she announced that high school science teacher Sarah Wood was selected as a New York State Master Teacher. This program is a professional network of more than 1,400 outstanding public-school K-12 STEM teachers throughout the state who share a passion for their own STEM learning and for collaborating with colleagues to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders. Mrs. Wood joins Mrs. Lisa Dunkelberg and Mr. Sam Sochia as Master Teachers. This is quite an honor for our District and speaks highly of the STEM education our students receive while they attend our school.

C. Upcoming Events

1. November 22-24 – Thanksgiving holiday break, no school for students
2. Monday, November 27 – Board of Education Retreat, 5-8 PM, HS Cafeteria
3. Monday, December 4 – Capital Project public forum, 5:00 PM, HS Auditorium
4. Monday, December 4 – Board of Education meeting, 5:30 PM, HS Auditorium
5. Tuesday, December 5 – Grades 1-2 Winter Concert, 6:30 PM, HS Auditorium
6. Wednesday, December 6 – Grades 3-4 Winter Concert, 6:30 PM, HS Auditorium
7. Thursday, December 7 – Elementary concert make-up date
8. Tuesday, December 12 – Capital Project vote, 12-8 PM, HS Auditorium

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## III. DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

D. Student Board Representative report – Abigail Bowman

Ms. Bowman reported that the winter sports season started last Monday, with a lot of new interest and great numbers. The National Honor Society has started their bell-ringing campaign for the Salvation Army at the local Price Chopper. Plans are underway for a Senior Lounge for seniors to go to for lunch and study halls.

## IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

None.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## 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, seconded by Vice-President Todd E. 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 November 6, 2023, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for 11/4/23 – 11/17/23, 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:

5104573	5100775	5102147	5101378	5100743	5103056
5103583	5101009	5102744	5101441	5100919	5103791
5100299	5100923	5104061	5101130	5104868	5104877
5104867	5104002	5104038	5103509	5103913	5104434
5104618	5100806	5104592	5102952	5100416	5103245
5102363	5102837	5102187	5102024	5102202	5102693

D. Treasurer's Report – October 2023

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for October 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 Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-C, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Retirements

Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Debra S. Andrews, from her position as Science Teacher, effective June 28, 2024.

B. Resignations

- a) Accept the request for resignation from Kaylee Ordway, from her position as Individual Aide, effective November 10, 2023.
- b) Accept the request for resignation from Nanette Holt, from her position as secondary English Teacher, effective January 1, 2024.

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

C. Appointments1. Substitutes and Tutors

Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes in instructional and/or support positions: Kaylee Ordway.

2. Extra-Curricular – Winter Coaching Appointments

WRESTLING – VOLUNTEER	DYLAN MORRISON	Uncompensated
TRACK – VOLUNTEER	BOBBIE HOLMES	Uncompensated

3. Students

Approve the appointment of the following student(s) as listed: Riley Shepherd, Fitness Center Attendant.

**Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items**

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

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

**President Fenlong acknowledged teacher Deb Andrews for her 32 years of service to the district with best wishes and thanks for all she has done.**

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2023 Tax Collector's Report and Return of Unpaid Taxes to St. Lawrence & Jefferson Counties  
(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Naaman Lowry, that the Board of Education approve the 2023 Tax Collector's Report, dated November 6, 2023, showing a tax levy of \$6,925,551 for the 2023-2024 school year, with \$807,665.65 of the levy remaining unpaid, and approve the 2023 Return of Unpaid Taxes in the amounts of \$799,259.86 and \$8,405.79 plus any penalty for collection to St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, respectively, as presented.

**DISCUSSION:** Business Manager Munn explained that after the closing date for payment of school taxes, any amount left unpaid is reported to the County; the County issues the district a check for that amount and takes over the collection of the unpaid monies.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. 2023 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT AND RETURN OF UNPAID TAXES TO ST. LAWRENCE & JEFFERSON COUNTIES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

B. Positions

Superintendent Kelly updated the Board on positions that are currently open in the district and potential solutions for filling those positions. Regarding the Director of Facilities position, there are other titles and certifications that may encompass a possible restructuring of the position. She told board members that she will keep them updated as she gathers more information and works with the Civil Service Department. The vacant Keyboard Specialist position was originally to support the work of our former CIO and District Data Coordinator, but with the added need for this candidate to work on projects year-round that are confidential in nature, we will be working with the Department of Civil Service to determine how to proceed. Trustee Roberts asked if transportation duties were still being considered under the new Director of Facilities role, and Superintendent Kelly affirmed that is still being discussed.

## IX. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were shared from the audience. Board members discussed the outreach being done ahead of the capital project vote, and Mrs. Kelly stated that if somebody doesn't receive a budget newsletter or postcard, to please contact our office. Trustee Hendrick reminded those present that we are a poll district, meaning you do not need to be registered with the county board of elections to vote, as long as you are a district resident for at least 30 days.

## X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons and discuss pending litigation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:08 PM.**

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**Open session resumed at 7:25 PM.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Ormasen, and seconded by Trustee Bush, that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:25 PM, EDT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file  
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file  
David Fenlong, President