

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

MARCH 4, 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 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, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: None.

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD

Patricia Williams, a veteran teacher of 37 years, read a letter to the Board summarizing her reaction to a matter she felt had an undesirable solution for those involved.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Communications

1. Board Member Update

President Fenlong announced letters of resignation were submitted by two board members: Naaman Lowry, effective February 19, 2024, and Mark Hendrick, effective June 30, 2024. Both of their terms were originally set to end on June 30, 2025.

2. BOCES Annual Meeting – April 11, 2024

President Fenlong reminded board members to RSVP to Tatia by March 18 if they planned to attend.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly extolled the effects of the Positivity Project at the middle school, sharing that 327 students participated in voting to nominate a teacher who exemplifies a particular character trait such as Kindness, Optimism, and Perseverance, among others, culminating with a Masked Teacher competition at the second quarter Positivity Project Assembly. Mrs. Kelly stated that it's great to witness such enthusiasm and engagement with the Positivity Project initiatives and she couldn't be prouder of the collective efforts of our faculty and staff, administration, students, and families. Mrs. Kelly also announced that Family Swim is once again being held on Sundays from 1-3 PM for \$1.00/person.

C. Upcoming Events

1. March 4-8 – Wildcat Swim Camp, 3-5 PM

2. Sunday, March 10 – Daylight Savings Time starts

3. Friday, March 15 – Staff Development Day, no school for students

4. Monday, March 18 – Board Meeting, 5:30 PM, **Middle School Cafeteria**

5. March 22-23 – High School Musical performances

D. Student Board Representative Report – Abigail Bowman

Ms. Bowman reported that the Key Club clothing drive was a huge success with enough donations for students in our district as well as extra to share with other schools and local charities. The National Honor Society had a great response to their recent blood drive and the Red Cross has asked them to hold another one. Beginning March 5, the Amazing Race contest begins. Students in teams of three will compete in various challenges, with prizes of \$300 for first place, \$150 for second, and \$75 for the third-place team to split amongst themselves.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. 2024-2025 Budget

1. Budget Draft Document #1

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

March 4, 2024

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

Business Manager Munn provided a narrative highlighting the revenues and expenditures in the first draft of the 2024-25 budget. He summarized that the previously discussed priorities of the district, which were gathered from all stakeholders, were incorporated in the draft, with the exception of the 9th grade academy and alternative at-risk programs. Proposed total expenditures for 2024-25 are \$44,066,493, 3.36% higher than the 2023-24 adopted budget. The major increases appear in the budget lines of Administration and Improvement (13.24%), which includes positions and professional development that were previously incorporated in the ESSR grant. The Pupil Services line is 26.81% higher to cover the online psychologist services that we currently receive through a grant. Pupil Transportation increased 37.90% because we projected five buses plus two electric buses and a Suburban for 2024-25. He added that corresponding revenue will offset most of the bus costs including electric bus grants. A significant reduction in the Board of Education account of over 26% is anticipated after Mr. Munn assessed the actual costs incurred for board training and professional development over the past few years and found it wasn't being utilized. President Fenlong commented that the more seasoned the board the less training they need, but with potential new members joining the board, he would be reluctant to remove too much of their training budget. The other significant changes to expenditures occurred in Debt Service (-23.37%) due to paying off a bond; and Interfund Transfers (-81.57%), which was a one-time transfer to capital in 2023-24 for the paving project. On the revenue side, Mr. Munn anticipates an increase of 9.56% over what was budgeted for 2023-24 from increases in New York State aid, or approximately \$43,537,544. The tax levy is estimated at \$7,066,189 with the tax cap at 2.03%. Keeping in mind the proposed expenditures are about \$500,000 higher than the anticipated revenues, he recommended, consistent with the District Reserve Plan, to appropriate \$75,000 from the Workers Compensation reserve and \$453,949 from the TRS reserve. Mr. Munn added that this draft does not include the appropriation of unassigned fund balance. Discussion ensued over likely state funding decisions, with Mr. Munn stating that the areas he feels are foremost for rural schools relate to the foundation aid funding formula and the elimination of the hold harmless portion that requires no school to receive less funding than the previous year regardless of enrollment.

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 for an item to be removed for special consideration and discussion.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda:

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

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024 Regular Meeting, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 02/01/24 - 02/23/24, 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:

CSE Student ID#:

5104462	5103321	5104114	5103917	5104219	5103855
5102802	5102987	5102682	5102813	5104895	5102084
5102888	11924	5102531	5100940	11950	5104901
5103000	5104902	5104903	5104915	5103140	5104544
5104757	5104471	5102511	5103177	5101105	5104727
5100704					

CSE Personnel Action: Creation of 1:1 Aide position for Student #5104544, effective immediately.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

D. CPSE 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:

CPSE Student ID#:			
5104727	5104365	5104473	

Vote on Consent Agenda:

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 for an item to be removed for special consideration and discussion.

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 Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items A-D as a Consent Agenda:

A. Retirements

- a) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Valerie Graves, from her position as 12-month Secretary 1 (HS Guidance), effective September 16, 2024.

B. Resignations

- a) Accept the request for resignation from Melissa Robinson, from her position as Teaching Assistant, effective at the end of the day, April 4, 2024.
- b) Accept the request for resignation from Derek Gordon, from his position as Teaching Assistant, effective at the end of the day, April 18, 2024.
- c) Accept the request for resignation from Katherine Doster, from her position as Elementary Teacher (grade 4), effective at the end of the day, June 26, 2024.

C. Appointments

1. Non-Instructional

- a) Custodian. Approve the appointment of Jackson Sheen to the position of Custodian in the competitive class of the Civil Service, effective March 5, 2024, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU collective bargaining agreement, to be compensated at Level 1, Custodian, prorated to March 5, 2024. This will end Jackson Sheen’s appointment as a Cleaner on that date.
- b) 6-hour Food Service Helpers. Approve the appointment of the following personnel as 6-hour Food Service Helpers in the labor class of the Civil Service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU collective bargaining agreement, as presented:
 - Connie Davis. Modify the position of Connie Davis from a 2.75-hour Food Service Helper to a 6-hour Food Service Helper, effective February 26, 2024.
 - Nola Scott. Approve the appointment of Nola Scott to the position of 6-hour Food Service Helper, effective March 5, 2024.
 - April Marcellus. Approve the appointment of April Marcellus to the position of 6-hour Food Service Helper, effective March 5, 2024.

2. Extra-Curricular

- a) 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, as presented:

DIRECTOR	JENELLE PATCHIN	CLASS A	Step 2
ASSISTANT 1	RYAN BURT	CLASS E	Step 2
ASSISTANT 2	MADISON KURDZEIL	CLASS E	Step 2
COLOR GUARD	HAILEY COOK	CLASS E	Step 2

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

C.2 Appointments – Extra Curricular (Cont.)

- b) 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 TRACK	JULIE NEISS	CLASS 4	Step 1
GOLF – VOLUNTEER	NICHOLAS STERLING	Uncompensated	

- c) 2023-2024 Advisors. Approve the following recommendations, compensated in accordance with the 2023-24 Club Salary Schedule of the GTA contract, as presented:

TRAPSHOOTING TEAM – SPRING	PAUL CAPPELLINO	CLASS B	Step 1
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND	Rescind Jessica Miller		

D. Organizational Appointments - Other

- Committee on Special Education Members
Appoint Kimberly Richards as Alternate Chairperson for the year 2023-2024.
- Committee on Preschool Special Education Members
Appoint Kimberly Richards as Alternate Chairperson for the year 2023-2024.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

President Fenlong congratulated Mrs. Graves on her retirement, thanking her for her years of service to students and staff. He thanked Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gordon, and Ms. Doster for their service with a special thanks to Mr. Doster for his military service. He welcomed the new hires and thanked all of the advisors and volunteers, wishing them luck in the new season.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Seat Discussion

- Options to fill Mr. Lowry’s seat (vacant as of February 19, 2024)
President Fenlong explained that the board could either appoint someone now or leave the seat vacant until the election on 5/21/24, and then the lowest vote-getter (out of the top 4) will immediately take the seat until 6/30/25. A third option, to hold a special election, would not be feasible as an election takes approximately 60 days to set up and the May election is about 60 days away. The board discussed the options, and in response to a question President Fenlong stated that he had been approached by previous board member Lisa McGregor, who was interested in stepping in to fill the seat until 5/21/24, adding that in this scenario it would be best to have someone with experience and the knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of a board member. After further discussion it was agreed by all to appoint Lisa McGregor at the next meeting to serve in Mr. Lowry’s seat until May 21, 2024.
- Options to fill Mr. Hendrick’s seat (vacant as of July 1, 2024)
President Fenlong explained the options to fill Trustee Mark Hendrick’s seat are the same, and said the discussion would be revisited in June.
- Shifting from 9- to 7-member Board - discussion
President Fenlong stated this is an opportunity for the Board to share their thoughts about the number of seats on the Board. In New York State, the number of seats can be 5, 7, or 9. The number may only be decreased by a resolution on the ballot to be voted on by the public. Trustee Dr. Cartwright declared he was against going from nine to seven based on the size of the district and having as much diversity as possible. Trustee Laurie Roberts agreed, saying they want to engage more people, not turn people away from serving. Trustee Mark Hendrick disagreed, pointing out that the size of the district isn’t necessarily a factor as he has met board members from districts with over 10,000 students who have a seven-member board. Trustee Laura Spicer expressed that she likes the diversity more people can bring to the table. Trustee Nickolas Ormasen commented that we haven’t had trouble finding people to run for the board in the past, so he is in favor of remaining at nine members. President Fenlong thanked everyone for their input, adding that if the topic should ever be revisited it takes a full year to implement.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

B. Memorandum of Agreement for Election Services between St. Lawrence County Board of Elections and Gouverneur Central School District Board of Education*(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, 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 21, 2024, and any subsequent revote(s) related thereto, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MOA FOR ELECTION SERVICES WITH ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. 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 21st day of May, 2024, 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 Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the Chairperson, certified inspectors, acting clerk, and assistant clerk as follows:

1. **Lisa Sheen**, 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 21, 2024, and the Budget Hearing on May 13, 2024.
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.
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: Trustee Roberts asked if the stipends for the election inspectors had changed; district clerk Kennedy said the stipends approved prior to the special vote in December are in effect for the school year.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. INSPECTORS AND OFFICERS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

D. 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 Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education declare as surplus and authorize the Business Manager to sell/dispose of the following items:

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

D. Authorization to Declare as Surplus and Sell/Dispose of Equipment (Cont.)

Item	Number
Wrestling Mat	1 (3 pieces)
Tables	25
Chairs	150
Cafeteria Rack	2
Mixer	1
Desk	20
Baby chick rack	1
Portable Serving stations	2
Filing Cabinets	10
Book Shelves	2
Assorted carts	5
Risers	4
Kettle	1

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ITEMS DECLARED AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZED FOR DISPOSAL, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

In response to her question, Trustee Roberts was told the Middle School Positivity video would be released soon for viewing. Trustee Roberts also commended administration for getting ads placed for Fall openings already.

X. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, to adjourn to executive session in Conference Room 310R of the Dolan wing of the High School, to discuss the employment history of particular persons, to include the evaluation of the superintendent.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:26 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:40 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, 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