

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

AUGUST 21, 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, Naaman Lowry, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD

President David Fenlong opened the floor for public comment; no comments were offered.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentation – Final Proposed Scope of Capital Project

John A. Sokol, RA, Principal/Architect; and Taylor Woolf, AIA, Architect; of BCA Architects and Engineers; along with Melissa Kirkland of Bernard P. Donegan Inc., presented an overview of the proposed capital project that included a list of the prioritized items for all buildings with the estimated costs. At the high school this includes improvements and upgrades for the parking lot, swimming pool, exterior, multiple interior rooms, infrastructure, mechanical, electrical and plumbing, and a secured main entrance. The middle and elementary schools include parking lot and infrastructure improvements and emergency generators. Mr. Sokol told the board that these buildings had fewer priorities due to the recent work completed in the previous project. The bus garage work will include a fuel dispensing system, bus wash bay, sidewalk improvements, new pole barn, interior infrastructure improvements, and ventilation upgrades. In addition, there are plans for an athletic stadium to include concessions, team rooms, and toilet room facilities. The total, including administrative and incidental costs as well as the DASNY fee and capitalized interest, is \$57,380,000. Ms. Kirkland then discussed financing. The \$9.5 million in the capital reserve will be used to offset the overages that are expected based on the cost allocation, and the district's building aid ratio of almost 98%, one of the highest levels in the state, means there will be no anticipated tax increase to the community. The timeline was reviewed, and pending a successful vote on December 12, the design phase and SED submission, review and approval is expected January 2024-January 2025, with construction to start in late spring 2025 and finish in August 2026.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly announced that the Gouverneur Marching Wildcats, under the direction of Jenelle Yeoman, received first place awards in Class B at the night parade at the Jefferson County Fair, the Sackets Harbor parade, and the Seaway Festival Parade. Our mascot received first place at the Seaway Festival Parade and the Carlton Peck Day Mascot Competition on Band Day at the Gouverneur and St. Lawrence County Fair. Ayden Drake, an 8th grade student at Gouverneur Middle School, traveled to Sweden and Finland to play competitive hockey in the Lions Cup Tournament. Zoe Griffith, a rising junior at Gouverneur High School, was the 16U Girls National Champion at the Women's Freestyle National Wrestling Tournament in Fargo, North Dakota. Connor Fenlong, a 2018 graduate, agreed to a free agent deal with Major League's Baseball Kansas City Royals. Ms. Kelly concluded, saying, "I am looking forward to our students returning to school and the many accomplishments that will be made throughout the school year in the classrooms, on the athletic fields and stage, and all across the community."

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Gouverneur School Rate Calculation form

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Naaman Lowry, and seconded by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, that the Board of Education approve the Gouverneur School Rate Calculation form, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. GOUVERNEUR SCHOOL RATE CALCULATION FORM, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

August 21, 2023

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of School Safety Plan 2023-24

(See Sheet #2, 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 approve the School Safety Plan, to be submitted to SED and distributed to specified agencies, as presented.

DISCUSSION: President David Fenlong thanked all who were instrumental to present the Plan.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN 2023-24, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. Second Reading and Adoption of Policies

(See Sheet #3, 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 revisions to the Board Policy Manual, effective immediately, as presented.

3421 - Title IX and Sex Discrimination

5676 - Privacy and Security for Student Data and Teacher and Principal Data

6122 - Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly explained that the changes to Policies 3421 and 5676 only reflect the employees taking over the roles of Title IX Coordinator (Jessica Sullivan replacing Carol LaSala) and Data Protection Officer (Jacquelyn Kelly replacing Shannon Mattice) due to those employees leaving the district. The updates to required Policy 6122 are in line with the updated sexual harassment prevention policy for New York State employers.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. POLICY REVISIONS, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

C. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policy

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Spicer, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the additional revisions to Policy 3420 and add the revised policy to the Board Policy Manual, effective immediately, as presented.

3420 - Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District

DISCUSSION: The new revisions to this required policy create consistency with Policy 6122.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. POLICY REVISION, 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 Lowry, seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-C, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of July 31, 2023, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 7/21/23 – 8/18/23, as presented.

C. Treasurer's Report – July 2023

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of July, 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. Trustee Roberts asked that item D.1 be pulled for separate consideration and discussion. Therefore, Item D.1., Appointments-Administrative: Athletic Coordinator was pulled from the Consent Agenda – Personnel for separate 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 Laurie M. Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-C, and D.2-7, as a Consent Agenda:

A. School Resource Officer contract amendment

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve to extend the contract with Rob Klimowicz for one additional year, through June 30, 2024, as presented.

B. Positions

- a) Athletic Director. Approve the recommendation to abolish the position of Athletic Director, effective immediately.
- b) Athletic Coordinator. Approve the recommendation to create the position of Athletic Coordinator, to be added to the Gouverneur Administrators Association as an eleven-month position, effective immediately.
- c) Teacher Aides. Approve the recommendation to create two (2) classroom aide positions under the GSRPU contract title 7.5-hour Teacher Aide, effective 09/01/2023.

C. Resignations

- a) Rebekah Baker. Accept the request for resignation from Rebekah Baker, from her position as Elementary Teacher, effective August 31, 2023.
- b) Brooke Tiernan. Accept the request for resignation from Brooke Tiernan, from her position as Speech Teacher, effective August 31, 2023.
- c) April Nelson. Accept the request for resignation from April Nelson, from her position as Secondary Special Education Teacher, effective August 21, 2023.
- d) Kaitlyn Thorne. Accept the request for resignation from Kaitlyn Thorne, from her position as Individual Aide, effective September 1, 2023.

D. Appointments

2. Instructional

- a) Special Education Teacher. Appoint Carol Trombly, holding Permanent certification in Special Education, to the position of Special Education Teacher in the General Special Education Tenure Area effective August 22, 2023 for professional development purposes. Ms. Trombly will have a three-year probationary period* commencing on September 5, 2023, and anticipated to end on September 4, 2026, at an annual salary set at Step 29, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2023-2024. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term and having received annual composite or overall APPR ratings of Highly Effective or Effective in at least two of the three preceding years and a rating higher than "Ineffective" in the final year of the probationary period. *Ms. Trombly has been previously tenured in another district.
- b) Elementary Teacher. Appoint Gina White, holding Permanent certifications in PreK-6, to the position of Elementary Teacher in the PreK-6 Elementary Tenure Area effective August 22, 2023 for professional development purposes. Ms. White will have a three-year probationary period* commencing on September 5, 2023, and anticipated to end on September 4, 2026, at an annual salary set at Step 25, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2023-2024. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term and having received annual composite or overall APPR ratings of Highly Effective or Effective in at least two of the three preceding years and a rating higher than "Ineffective" in the final year of the probationary period. *Ms. White has been previously tenured in another district.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

D.2 Appointments – Instructional (Cont.)

- c) Physical Education Teacher. Appoint Kyle Bouchard, holding Professional certifications in Physical Education K-12, to the position of Physical Education Teacher in the Physical Education Tenure Area effective August 22, 2023 for professional development purposes. Mr. Bouchard will have a three-year probationary period* commencing on September 5, 2023, and anticipated to end on September 4, 2026, at an annual salary set at Step 7, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2023-2024. This appointment is contingent upon his successful completion of the probationary term and having received annual composite or overall APPR ratings of Highly Effective or Effective in at least two of the three preceding years and a rating higher than "Ineffective" in the final year of the probationary period. *Mr. Bouchard has been previously tenured in another district.
- d) Aide to Teaching Assistant. Accept the resignation of Kylie A. Prashaw from her position of Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, under the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union, and appoint Kylie A. Prashaw, who is certified as a Teaching Assistant Level 1, to the probationary position of Teaching Assistant in the Teaching Assistant tenure area, at an annual salary of Teaching Assistant Step 1 in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2023-24, effective September 1, 2023. The probationary period is effective September 5, 2023 and is anticipated to end on September 4, 2027 (unless extended in accordance with the law). This expiration date is tentative and conditional only.
- e) Aide to Teaching Assistant. Accept the resignation of Tabitha L. Kirkpatrick from her position of Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, under the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union, and appoint Tabitha L. Kirkpatrick, who is awaiting reissuance of Teaching Assistant certification, to the probationary position of Teaching Assistant in the Teaching Assistant tenure area, at an annual salary of Teaching Assistant Step 1 in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2023-24, effective September 1, 2023. The probationary period is effective September 5, 2023 (or the date of reissuance of certification, whichever is later) and is anticipated to end on September 4, 2027 (unless extended in accordance with the law). This expiration date is tentative and conditional only.
- f) Title I .30 FTE Teacher – St. James: Appoint Judith Tomford to the non-probationary position of .30 FTE Teacher, effective September 1, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement, at Step 4, B30M, for the 2023-24 school year, paid through Title I funds. Ms. Tomford holds Permanent certification in Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6. Ms. Tomford is assigned to St. James.

3. Non-Instructional

- a) School Resource Officer – 1-year appointment. Appoint Michael Tyler as a School Resource Officer in the competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023 at an annual salary of \$35,000 for the 2023-2024 school year, paid through ARP funding, pending reachable score on civil service list and per terms of SRO contract, attached to the Minutes as *Sheet #8*.
- b) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper. Approve the appointment of Michelle Fiacco as a 2.75-hour Food Service Helper in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, FSH 2.75, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule.
- c) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper. Approve the appointment of Anna Cox as a 2.75-hour Food Service Helper in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, FSH 2.75, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.
- d) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper. Approve the appointment of Brittany Petrie as a 2.75-hour Food Service Helper in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, FSH 2.75, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.
- e) 2.75-hour Food Service Helper. Approve the appointment of Hollie Platt as a 2.75-hour Food Service Helper in the labor class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, FSH 2.75, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

D.3 Appointments – Non-Instructional (Cont.)

- f) Individual Aide. Approve the appointment of Maneka M. Weir as an Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.
- g) Individual Aide. Approve the appointment of Sarah D. Scott as an Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.
- h) Individual Aide. Approve the appointment of Tammy J. LaBrake as an Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.
- i) Individual Aide. Approve the appointment of Julie Carpenter as an Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.
- j) Individual Aide. Approve the appointment of Sabrina Jones as an Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule.
- k) Individual Aide. Approve the appointment of Tina M. Stowell as an Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.
- l) Individual Aide. Approve the appointment of Denise L. LeClair as an Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.
- m) Individual Aide. Approve the appointment of Amanda J. Newvine as an Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule.
- n) Individual Aide. Approve the appointment of Aiden S. Breckenridge as an Individual Aide in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Teacher Aide 7.5, Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule.

4. Extra Duty

Curriculum Writers. Approve Lindsey Carvel and Kayla Side as Grade Level Curriculum Leaders 2023-2024. Lindsey Carvel's appointment is effective 6/1/23 and will conclude in March, 2024, at a \$2,500 stipend, to be paid in two installments. Kayla Side will replace Rebekah Baker, effective 9/1/23, and will be paid half the stipend, \$1,250, in the March 30, 2024 paycheck. The positions are being paid for through ARP funding.

5. Extra-Curricular

2023-2024 Coaches - Fall. 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 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL | LEESA ISEREAU | CLASS 4 | Step 1 |
| SOCCER GIRLS VOLUNTEER | BOBBIE HOLMES | Uncompensated | |

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

D. Appointments (Cont.)6. Substitutes

- a) Returning Substitutes. Approve the appointment of returning substitutes for 2023-24: Carley Bearden, Clerical; Joshua Bennett, Teacher/TA/Aide; Brittany Hoffman, Cafeteria; Taylor Laidlaw, TA/Aide; Gabrielle Platt, Aide; Laney Smith, Teacher/TA/Aide.
- b) New Substitute. Approve the appointment of Jordan Colino for 2023-24, pending completion of all new hire requirements including fingerprint clearance.

7. Summer Work

- a) Chromebook updates. Approve the appointment of Cherie Zira at the Middle School for 2 days to update Chromebooks, compensated in accordance with her hourly rate from the 2023-24 salary schedule of her collective bargaining unit.
- b) New Curriculum Planning. Approve up to three (3) days at the contractual rate of \$125/day for: Polly Sergel – English; Michele Brenno – Special Education; Carol Trombly – Special Education.
- c) Kindergarten Screening. Approve the appointment of the following personnel for kindergarten screening, on August 22-23, 2023, from 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Staff will be compensated in accordance with their adjusted FTE from the 2023-24 salary schedule of their collective bargaining unit: Bev Phelps, Teacher; Emily Murphy, Speech; Pam Ault, Speech; Brittaney Fairbanks, Nurse (LPN).

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

D.1 Appointments – Administrative: Athletic Coordinator

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lowry, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education Appoint Aaron McEathron as Athletic Coordinator, effective August 22, 2023, at a salary of \$80,000 for the 2023-2024 school year, prorated to August 22, 2023.

DISCUSSION: President Fenlong asked the Superintendent to explain the process that led to this recommendation. Ms. Kelly stated that the district started looking for an athletic director (AD) over a year ago and found there were not a lot of qualified candidates for this role. Principal Cory Wood assumed the role for 2022-23. With the lack of candidates, the decision was made to post for an Athletic Coordinator (AC). She explained the AC position mirrors the job responsibilities of the AD but does not require administrative certification. The AC position generated two qualified candidates who were interviewed by the committee, one internal and one external. The committee chose Mr. McEathron, the internal candidate, who is also a certified Physical Education teacher. Ms. Kelly said Mr. McEathron will also assume the role of Director of Physical Education, a position the district is required to have. Trustee Dr. Cartwright asked if the other candidate was also certified in P.E.; Ms. Kelly responded the second candidate holds Math certification with experience in athletic coordination. Discussion regarding his salary ensued, and Dr. Cartwright questioned why a previous AC was paid much less. Trustee Spicer pointed out that a retired teacher held that position when a salary cap was in place. Superintendent Kelly stated that the board originally budgeted \$85,000 for the athletic director position and the taxpayers approved the budget, and said that it is a pretty significant role in this district. The individual will interact with teachers, hundreds of parents, and regional colleagues. Trustee Roberts questioned if he would also be allowed to coach; Superintendent Kelly responded that he will give his full commitment to this position and will no longer serve in a coaching capacity. Evaluations were discussed, with Superintendent Kelly clarifying that he can evaluate coaches but not other P.E. teachers. High School Principal Wood added that there are not many P.E. teachers and those evaluations can be absorbed by the current administration. Superintendent Kelly thanked Mr. Wood for filling the role last year, and said she believes Mr. McEathron is committed to the success of the athletic program and success of the district. Trustee Roberts clarified that despite the questions, she is very excited to welcome Mr. McEathron, an alumni Wildcat, to this role.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF AARON MCEATHRON TO ATHLETIC COORDINATOR, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

[Clerk's Note: A memorandum of agreement between Mr. McEathron and the GAA will be attached to a future board meeting's minutes.]

President Fenlong, on behalf of the Board, said that we look forward to another year with SRO Klimowicz and are pleased to welcome SRO Tyler to the team. He congratulated Mr. McEathron along with all of the new hires, and thanked those staff leaving for their service to the district.

August 21, 2023

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Warrant for 2023-2024

(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 tax warrant for 2023-2024 in the amount of \$6,999,017.55 (\$6,925,963.11 School + \$60,004.44 Gouverneur Library + \$13,050 Richville Library), as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TAX WARRANT FOR 2023-2024, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. School Lunch and Breakfast Program

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Bush, that the Board of Education approve participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program for 2023-2024. Breakfast and lunch meals served to all students at no cost.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| All breakfasts – Students | \$0.00 |
| All lunches – Students | \$0.00 |
| Breakfast – Adult | \$2.84 (\$3.07 with tax) |
| Lunch – Adult | \$5.09 (\$5.50 with tax) |

DISCUSSION: Trustee Laurie M. Roberts said it is wonderful all of our students can eat free of charge, and in addition the free school supplies this year will be a great help for our families.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAM, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. Amend Gouverneur School District Reserve Plan for June 2023

(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lowry, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education amend the Gouverneur School District Reserve Plan Updated June 2023 as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. GOUVERNEUR SCHOOL DISTRICT RESERVE PLAN FOR JUNE 2023, AMENDED AS PRESENTED.

D. Reserve Funds

Establish and Fund 2023 Transportation Capital Reserve Fund – Amended.

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, as per Education Law Section 3651, established the 2023 Transportation Capital Reserve Fund with a maximum amount of \$5,000,000, inclusive of interest with a probable term of ten years. Initial funding comes from a transfer from the Capital Reserve – Bus Reserve. Additional funds to be added to the 2023 Transportation Capital Reserve Fund to be accounted for in the General Fund (A878.02), in an amended amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 to be funded by excess fund balance, effective June 30, 2023.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Dr. Cartwright asked if the additional monies were for the purpose of the transition to electric buses. Business Manager Munn said it was his understanding the reserve could be used for that purpose. Mr. Munn also clarified that the current transportation aid is approximately 89%. Discussion ensued, with Superintendent Kelly explaining that starting in 2027 we can only purchase electric buses, not gasoline powered, and the entire fleet is to be all electric by 2035. Mr. Munn stated there are still grants available; we did not qualify for a previous one due to economic reasons but should qualify for a future one.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2023 TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND, AMENDED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

E. Calendar Change

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Brooke Bush, that the Board of Education approve a change to the 2023-2024 school calendar to make 10/6/23 a half day (PM) teacher in-service day for professional development (no school for students).

DISCUSSION: Trustee Roberts asked what the topic was for the professional development. Superintendent Kelly responded that as was previously disclosed in the spring, our district has been designated a Focus Intervention District in need of a Support Plan based on results relative to Special Education. The Plan has been developed and submitted to the State. One of the action steps is to have all teachers trained in explicit instruction and the Science of Reading. We are requesting the half day in October for explicit instruction, and will train the Science of Reading at the November Staff Development Day. Trustee Hendrick questioned if any other resources would be provided by the state due to the designation; Superintendent Kelly said there is no money associated with it but there is a great deal of professional development we will take advantage of.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CALENDAR CHANGE, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

F. Participation in Social Media Lawsuit

(See Sheet #11, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laura Spicer, and seconded by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Social Media Companies, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly explained that this lawsuit is very similar to the Juul lawsuit that we joined a couple of years ago. This is a mass tort action that Ferrara is involved in related to damages that school districts may have incurred due to practices of social media companies. Ferrara is recommending we join the lawsuit based on the fact that there is no financial risk to the school district because it is being handled on a contingency fee basis. If any money is awarded, Ms. Kelly stated we could use it toward social workers, counselors, etc.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LITIGATION AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

G. Donation of Item to Town of Gouverneur Previously Declared as Surplus

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Laura Spicer, and seconded by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the donation of one 4-burner Vulcan gas stove to the Town of Gouverneur. This item was declared as surplus at the July 31, 2023 regular Board of Education meeting.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. DONATION OF 4-BURNER VULCAN GAS STOVE TO THE TOWN OF GOUVERNEUR, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were offered.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, to enter into executive session to discuss the employment of particular person.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:08 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:48 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Todd E. Bates, and seconded by Trustee Naaman Lowry, that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:48 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President