

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

SEPTEMBER 25, 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; 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

Open-Carry Request from School Resource Officers. Two residents, Tina French and Kim Reed, both spoke in favor of allowing the district's SRO's to open carry. No oppositions were voiced.

Board Meeting location. Resident Lynette Patnode referenced a comment she made at the previous meeting, clarifying that it wasn't about the auditorium as the location, but rather using the stage for the Board meeting. She would prefer to see the meeting held on the floor at the same level as the audience.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Welcome to new Student Board Representative: Abbie Bowman

President David Fenlong welcomed Ms. Bowman, saying that the board appreciates the perspective and the student voice she will bring to the meetings and that they look forward to working with her.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly announced the launch of the Positivity Project, known as P2, across the District in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8. P2 is an initiative designed to promote character strengths and foster a positive school culture where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Through the Positivity Project, the district is committed to nurturing kindness, empathy, and collaboration among students. Ms. Kelly also recognized former superintendent Lauren French, who was recently honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the New York State Council of School Superintendents, for her continued efforts to promote and support the education of students across New York State.

C. Upcoming Events

Southwest Tech Open House – October 5, 2023 from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Budget Transfers

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 budget transfers:

\$35,000 to 1621410 Security (Doors and Cameras)

\$17,500 from 1621450000054 Cleaning Supplies

\$17,500 from 1621450005430 Custodial Paper

DISCUSSION: Business Manager Munn explained that the District can opt to spend \$35,000 annually on security and be reimbursed the following year. The security team will meet and prioritize how to increase our building safety by adding cameras to locations that are currently not visible on surveillance video and door hardening.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

B. Transportation – Capital Reserve Use

Discussion took place about using funds from the Transportation – Capital Reserve to purchase three new school buses this school year. Using those funds requires voter approval, so a proposition would need to be added to the December referendum vote. The district originally budgeted for one new bus and the trade of three buses. Trustee Roberts recalled that decision was based in part on the upcoming conversion to an electric bus fleet. Business Manager Munn said he reviewed the current bus replacement cycle with the transportation director, who apprised him that during various times each month four buses are pulled from the fleet for inspection, and to not impact instruction or extra-curriculars it would be feasible to have four spare buses on a daily basis. Based on further investigation, including repair costs for accidents and the continued use of the three buses set aside for trade, Mr. Munn recommended that it would not be responsible to reduce the size of the fleet at this time. Meanwhile, those three buses have aged out of warranty and will become increasingly difficult to rely on. Further discussion took place regarding bus warranties and cost. Mr. Munn confirmed that if the buses are funded through the Reserve, the cost is still aidable at approximately 85%.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval for GCSO School Resource Officers to Open Carry

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 request to allow School Resource Officers wearing clearly identifying uniform apparel to Open Carry firearms on school grounds.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Roberts thanked SROs Klimowicz and Tyler for coming forward and the public for their input.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. REQUEST TO ALLOW SRO'S TO OPEN CARRY, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. Capital Project Update

Superintendent Kelly stated, "As part of the capital project, the district must comply with the environmental review process required by the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the Board cannot approve an action until the SEQRA process is complete. The SEQRA process is not yet complete. Paperwork has been submitted to SED and we are waiting for them. At this time, the plan is to bring the resolution for the capital project to the Board of Education meeting on October 16, 2023 for your approval. Once that is approved, an official date for the vote can be set. At this time, we are still within our timeframe to have the vote on December 12. If that plan changes, I will keep the public and board informed." Discussion then took place regarding the Capital Reserve, with Trustee Hendrick expressing reluctance about using the entire \$9.5 million from the Reserve and questioning whether a costly item such as the geothermal heat pumps could be removed from the Project in order to keep some funds in the Reserve for emergency purposes or in case it is needed for something in the future. Business Manager Munn relayed that the entire Reserve Plan holds a significant number of Reserves, and the Board can potentially move some of the monies in underused Reserves to the Capital Reserve to be accessible in case of an emergency. The Board could also establish a new Capital Reserve in the future. Trustee Hendrick asked if that would require voter approval; Mr. Munn responded that is dependent on the stipulation for funding each Reserve has. Trustee Dr. Cartwright opined that the district should take advantage of the current 97.5% aid ratio from the state and do as much as possible, especially since the money exists in this Capital Reserve to cover the other 2.5%, leaving the district in a good situation for the future. He continued that if items are removed now and still need to be done at a later date, there's no guarantee and a good likelihood that the aid will be less than 97.5%. Trustee Roberts commented that regarding the high cost of the heat pumps, the geothermal will pay for itself in under 10 years. President Fenlong concluded the discussion, thanking everyone for their input.

C. School Lunch ala carte pricing

Superintendent Kelly referred to the \$.25 ice cream increase discussed at the previous board meeting, and asked Business Manager Munn to explain the requirements for ala carte profits. Mr. Munn informed those present that every three years there's a review by NYSED regarding school lunch, and the last one was done in 2020. Among the things included in that review is a non-program revenue calculator. The purpose of that is to make sure federal funds are not supplementing the purchase of non-federal expenses. The cost of ice cream varies depending on the type of ice cream, and the lowest price we should be charging to keep up with the federal guidelines is close to \$1.50 - \$1.60 per item; we currently charge \$.75. Mr. Munn stated the price will gradually increase to demonstrate progress towards compliance prior to our upcoming three-year evaluation.

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. Trustee Roberts asked that Item C, CSE Business, be removed for separate consideration.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, and D:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve items A, B, and D as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2023, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 9/8/23 – 9/15/23, as presented.

D. CPSE 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 CPSE Meeting Minutes report:

5104785

Vote on Consent Agenda Items A, B, and D:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A, B, D, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Trustee Roberts, seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the services, including additions, modifications and deletions, for the following classified students, as reflected in the attached CSE Meeting Minutes report:

5102754 5104832 5104462 5104794 5103872 5101339

5102314 5104792 5104855 5104823 5104820 5103182

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly responded to a question regarding transfer students, explaining that in New York State, districts are required to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), including comparable services to an existing IEP, in consultation with parents, until the committee adopts or develops a new IEP.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CSE BUSINESS, 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 Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-G, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Memorandum of Agreement #6 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association (aka Gouverneur Teachers' Association)

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#6 to the contract between the District and GEA to amend Appendix A to recognize Trap Team Advisor – Fall (Class B) and Trap Team Advisor – Spring (Class B), as presented.

B. Memorandum of Agreement #7 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association (aka Gouverneur Teachers' Association)

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#7 to the contract between the District and GEA to provide additional compensation to teachers who voluntarily forfeit a preparation period in order to provide coverage for a class period and teaching assistants who substitute teach when no substitutes or other appropriate means are available, as presented.

C. Memorandum of Agreement #5 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#5 to the contract between the District and GSRPU to provide additional compensation to teacher aides who substitute teach when no substitutes or other appropriate means are available, as presented.

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VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

D. Memorandum of Agreement #2 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Administrators’ Association

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#2 to the contract between the District and GAA to include provisions for the job title of Athletic Coordinator for 2023-2024, as presented.

E. Appointments

1. Instructional

- a) Gouverneur Elementary School Afterschool Tutoring - Instructor. Appoint Caitlyn Sullivan as a Tutoring Instructor for the 2023-24 school year, at the rate of \$30/hour, funded through the ARP.
- b) Gouverneur Middle School Afterschool Tutoring - Instructors. Appoint the following Tutoring Instructors for the 2023-24 school year, at the rate of \$30/hour, funded through the ARP: Kim Reed, Melissa Sweeney, Jennifer Wilcox, Danielle Peake, Terri Whitaker, Brandon Griffin, Robert Webster, Christine Cognetti, Nola Farns, Julie Neiss, Melinda Schiszler, Shari Ronas, Gina Taylor, Sean Devlin, Lisa Stowell.
- c) Gouverneur Middle School Afterschool Tutoring – Lead Teacher. Appoint Stacey Devlin as Lead Teacher for the 2023-24 Afterschool Tutoring program, at the rate of \$40/hour, funded through the ARP.
- d) High School Detention Monitors. Appoint the following Monitors for detention for the 2023-24 school year, to be paid at the contractual rate: Bob Dunkelberg, Lisa Dunkelberg.

2. Substitutes

Appoint the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes, pending completion of all requirements: For Teacher/Teaching Assistant/Aide: Hailey Cook, Gina Johnson, Alexandria Klimowicz, Bridget White. For Cafeteria: Britney Gardner, Amy Saxbury-Christensen. For Clerical: Patricia Bush.

3. Extra-Curricular

2023-24 Advisors. Approve the appointments of the 2023-2024 Advisors, to be compensated in accordance with the Club Salary Schedule of the GTA contract, as presented:

TRAPSHOOTING TEAM - FALL	PAUL D. CAPPELLINO	CLASS B	Step 1
DRAMA CLUB 7 & 8	BRANDON A. GRIFFIN	CLASS C	Step 2
HONOR SOCIETY 7 & 8	MONICA L. SCOTT	CLASS C	Step 3
STUDENT COUNCIL 7 & 8	HEATHER I. ROSE	CLASS D	Step 22
MILITARY KIDS CLUB HS/MS (.5)	SARAH E. STEDMAN	CLASS E	Step 2
MILITARY KIDS CLUB HS/MS (.5)	KELLY L. WILSON	CLASS E	Step 2
HISTORY CLUB	LISA M. STOWELL	CLASS D	Step 3

4. Lifeguard Instructor

Approve the appointment of Cortney Evans-Eppolito, who holds Initial certification in Physical Education and Health, as a Lifeguard Instructor for the 2023-2024 school year.

F. Temporary Appointment

Special Education Teacher. Appoint Kylie Helvie, who holds Initial certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), to the temporary position of Special Education teacher effective September 26, 2023 – June 26, 2024, in a non-probationary capacity without eligibility for an appointment on tenure. Ms. Helvie shall be compensated at Step 1, Bachelor’s, in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers’ Association Agreement current salary schedule for year 2023-2024, prorated to September 26, 2023.

G. Leaves and Leave Replacements

- a) Unpaid Leave of Absence. Grant an unpaid LOA to Aaron McEathron from his position as a physical education teacher for the purpose of serving as the Athletic Coordinator during the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with Memorandum of Agreement #2 between the GCSD and the GAA.
- b) Unpaid Leave of Absence. Acknowledge the medical leave for Employee #00563 from 9/5/23 to approximately 9/28/23 or upon medical clearance to return. This leave is not covered under FMLA and the employee will incur approximately 8 unpaid days.
- c) Leave of Absence for Temporary Substitute Appointment. Approve the LOA of Kimberly C. Flood from her position as 5-hr FSH and appoint her as a long-term substitute Cook 6.5 hour for employee #01243, beginning 9/26/23 to continue until employee returns, expected on or about 12/31/23.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of PD (Professional Development) Plan

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Trustee Roberts, seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education re-adopt the Professional Learning Plan for 2023-24, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, reviewed that the Plan is broken down into goals for both educators and administrators. The efforts to support those goals utilize professional learning activities that encompasses, among other things, working with consultants, data analysis, and identifying and prioritizing students in need. Multiple evaluating measures are used that include state scores as well as the district's supporting actions. President Fenlong stated the PD Plan also aligns with the Board's collective goals.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PD PLAN, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. Altria Settlement

(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Trustee Roberts, seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing partial settlement of vaping litigation, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly informed those present that this is regarding the proposed settlement allocation awarded to the District in connection with Altria, the remaining defendant in the vaping litigation. The district intends to use the money for student education on the dangers of vaping and drug use.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ALTRIA SETTLEMENT, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

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

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, 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: 1 small kettle, 2 steamers, 1 double kettle, 12 folding cafeteria tables, 5 double convection ovens.

DISCUSSION: Business Manager Munn confirmed the items would be sold by Auctions International.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. EQUIPMENT DECLARED AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZED FOR SALE/DISPOSAL, AS PRESENTED.

D. Authorization to Dispose of E-Waste

(See Sheet #10, 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 authorize the Business Manager to declare as E-Waste and dispose of 13 Smartboards, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly confirmed that they are being replaced with Promethean boards.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SMARTBOARDS DECLARED AS E-WASTE AND AUTHORIZED FOR DISPOSAL AS PRESENTED.

E. Tax Roll Corrections

(See Sheet #11 and Sheet #12, Board Minutes File Folder)

1. Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the application for tax roll correction for the Town of Pitcairn parcel 672.000-9999-132.350/1883 to correct a clerical error made. (State Utility Advisory value not keyed in.) Tax adjustment from \$601.41 to \$596.03.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TAX ROLL CORRECTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

2. 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 application for tax roll correction for the Town of Hermon parcel 160.002-1-10 to correct an error in material fact. (Barn destroyed but not removed from assessment.) Tax adjustment from \$2,379.80 to \$2,059.90.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TAX ROLL CORRECTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

F. Policy Review – First Reading

(See Sheet #13, Board Minutes File Folder)

Policy 6180 – Safety of Students (Fingerprinting Clearance of New Hires). The policy adds language for reimbursement of the fingerprinting costs for substitute employees working in hourly and per diem positions after completion of five shifts, or days, of substitute service. It was agreed to add language to make it effective September 5, 2023. This was based on discussion at the last Board meeting.

G. HS Window Replacement Project - View-Tech Allowances & Change Order

(See Sheet #14, Sheet #15, Sheet #16, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the following documents, as presented: View-Tech Allowance Authorization #W-002; View-Tech Allowance Authorization #W-003; View-Tech Change Order #W1 with the required SED Certification Form.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. VIEW-TECH ALLOWANCES AND CHANGE ORDERS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

H. Acceptance of Gift

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Kelly, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Bush, that the Board of Education formally accept the donation from the family and friends of Mrs. Jenny Reddick ('64), in the amount of \$325.00, and increase the 2023-24 budget code 2110-450-23-002600 by the same. *This gift is in addition to that accepted at the 7/31/23 regular meeting.*

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. GIFT FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MRS. JENNY REDDICK, ACCEPTED WITH THANKS, AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Open Carry. SRO Tyler referenced the resolution the Board passed earlier “to allow School Resource Officers wearing clearly identifying uniform apparel to Open Carry firearms on school grounds.” He asked that the Board modify to open carry immediately while waiting on the uniform apparel due to safety issues, adding that everyone in the schools know who they are. Following a short discussion, board members agreed to revise the resolution:

Motion to amend Resolution V.-A.

Motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, that the Board of Education amend Resolution V.-A., to allow School Resource Officers to Open Carry firearms on school grounds, *effective immediately for up to four weeks while waiting for uniform apparel.*

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. REQUEST FOR SRO's TO OPEN CARRY EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, APPROVED.

Safety Concern. SRO Tyler informed the Board of a potential safety concern and his recommendation for rectifying. President Fenlong thanked him for bringing it to their attention.

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 tenure recommendations, matters leading to the appointment of a particular corporation, and current litigation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:42 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:50 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Dr. Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Broke Bush, that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President