

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

MARCH 17, 2025

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 Gouverneur Elementary School Cafeteria, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, Dr. William Cartwright, David Fenlong, Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush.

Also Present: Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools; Dale R. Munn Jr., Business Manager; Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum; Cory Wood, Executive Director of Operations and Personnel; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Communications

None.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly shared an update on our success with *Sweethearts & Heroes*, an organization dedicated to spreading hope, empathy, and resilience. The Middle School has hosted two of their presentations, with upcoming appearances at the elementary and high school. They are also working on providing summer training for our staff. Fifth grade students are participating in Fort Drum's STARBASE program over a three-week period. This is a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program utilizing hands-on learning to explore problem-solving, teamwork, and innovation in real world settings. The 8th grade class recently visited the BOCES Southwest Tech CTE center, where they explored a variety of career pathways, from healthcare to automotive technology to culinary arts.

C. Upcoming Events

Mrs. Kelly reminded everyone that March 21 is a staff development day, with no school for students. The High School musical performances will be held March 28-29.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report - February

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

Business Manager Munn's monthly review of the revenue and expense projections showed an approximate \$600,000 increase in fund balance compared to original forecasts. He discussed some of the legislative budget proposals, highlighting some of the elements included by either or both of the executive branch and legislative branch that we as well as our BOCES have advocated for with our local representatives. These concerns include increasing the base aid for BOCES teachers, an increase for capital outlay from \$100,000 to \$250,000, extending the earnings waiver for retirees, and items related to the implementation of zero-emission buses. Regarding expenditures, an increase to health insurance is due to the recent strike where some members of our community lost their health insurance, and because their spouses work for us, they changed to our plan. Mr. Munn said a computer order has already been placed for next year to avoid expected tariffs. In discussing the fund balance, he talked about the Repair Reserve that was established last year by public vote. He recommended \$1 million to fund it; this Reserve is to handle unexpected repairs. The appropriated fund balance will increase for next year, \$1.4 to \$1.5 million. Trustee Roberts asked if more could be put in the Capital Reserve; Mr. Munn replied the current Capital Reserve cannot be added to, but a new one can be started. Additional discussion took place regarding the capital project and anticipated costs. Mr. Munn confirmed that if bids are over what is budgeted, the district can reject all bids and reduce the scope of the project, adding that at the high end of the scope, some portions of the project were not eliminated but added as alternatives, and bids can be approved with or without those alternatives.

March 17, 2025

## IV. FINANCIAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

B. 2025-2026 Budget1. Budget Draft Document #2

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

Highlighted items in budget document #2 include the addition of the Repair Reserve to the Capital Component and two additional items under the Program Component -- Summer Camps and School Psych Intern. Mr. Munn worked with Athletic Coordinator Aaron McEathron to develop a \$75,000 budget for the summer camps. That includes in-house options with our coaches for an estimated \$15,000; off-campus activities at local colleges at a cost of \$40,000, and transportation costs of \$20,000. The previous enrichment grant also provided an educational component, and Mr. Munn recommended keeping that to be consistent with our mission statement and perhaps a community service element where the students would "repay" by giving back to the community. Superintendent Kelly reiterated that final decisions about what is offered will focus on fair distribution to allow maximum student participation. Mr. Munn talked about a few items he was still waiting for data on, saying he should have more complete information by the next meeting and will present budget draft #3, which he expects will be the final version for adoption. President Fenlong asked if there was anything removed from this budget they would have liked to keep; Superintendent Kelly replied that she believes everything in the list is what the district needs for our students to be successful, and delivering the promise of a brighter future was the barometer used throughout the process.

## 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 one asked for any item to be removed.

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items**

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

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 3, 2025, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

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

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 2/20/25 – 3/15/25, as presented.

C. CSE 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:

5101571	5104347	5103177	5102952	5100940	5104322	5101916
5100362	5102431	5101669	5101846	5100724	5103265	5105023
5103005	5103002	5103182	5100753	5104372	5104697	5104359
5103845	5103211	5104373	5104915	5103112	5104392	5103383
5102999	5103620	5104749				

D. CPSE 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 CPSE Meeting Minutes report:

5104691

E. Treasurer's Report – February 2025

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

Accept the Treasurer's Report for February, 2025 as presented.

**Vote on Consent Agenda Items**

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

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

March 17, 2025

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

President 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. William Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-C, as a Consent Agenda:

#### A. Approval of Amendment to Superintendent's Contract

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Resolved, that the Board approves of an amendment, in the form included in the minutes for this meeting, to the July 1, 2021 contract of employment between the Board and the Superintendent.

#### B. Resignations

Accept the request for resignation from Alejandra Hall, from her position as Individual Aide, effective March 28, 2025.

#### C. Appointments

##### 1. Instructional

- a) Teaching Assistant – Counselor. Appoint Mackenzie D. Reynolds, holding NYS Teaching Assistant Level I certification, to the position of Teaching Assistant – Counselor in the Teaching Assistant tenure area for a four-year probationary period commencing on February 3, 2024 and anticipated to end on February 2, 2028.

##### 2. Non-Instructional

- a) Individual Aide. Appoint Grace Holmes as an Individual Aide, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, effective March 17, 2025 at a salary of Individual Aide 7.5, Level 1, prorated to March 17, 2025.
- b) Individual Aide. Appoint Kateena E. Smith as an Individual Aide, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, effective March 18, 2025 at a salary of Individual Aide 7.5, Level 1, prorated to March 18, 2025.

##### 3. Extra-Curricular

- a) Marching Band – Summer 2025. Approve the following Marching Band recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2025-26 extra-curricular Club salary schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

DIRECTOR	OLIVIA MONTAGNO	CLASS A	Step 1
ASSISTANT 1	RYAN BURT	CLASS E	Step 3
ASSISTANT 2	JENNECA COOK	CLASS E	Step 1
COLOR GUARD	HAILEY COOK	CLASS E	Step 3

- b) Advisors – 2024-25. Approve the following Advisor for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year, with stipend prorated to March 18, 2025:

PERFORMING ARTS DIRECTOR	RICHARD PATTON	CLASS E	Step 1
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- c) 2024-25 Spring Coaches. Approve the following coaching recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding certification requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2024-25 Coaching Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

MODIFIED BASEBALL- <b>RESCIND</b>	ANTHONY BESAW	CLASS 4	Step 2
JV BASEBALL	ANTHONY BESAW	CLASS 3	Step 2
MODIFIED SOFTBALL	LEESA ISEREAU	CLASS 4	Step 1
MOD TRACK – VOLUNTEER ASS'T	BRANDON GRIFFIN	UNCOMPENSATED	
MOD TRACK – VOLUNTEER ASS'T	CONNOR CANELL	UNCOMPENSATED	

##### 4. Substitutes and Tutors

- a) Appoint the following personnel to work as per diem substitutes for Instructional and Support positions, pending completion of all hiring requirements: Nicole Law, Donna Massey, Reigan Ayen, Emma Lucas, Destiny Blair, Connor Canell, Drew Gates, Sarah Measheaw.
- b) Appoint the following current staff to work as instructional tutors for the 2024-25 school year: Kristen Gaebel, Kelly Spencer Ayen, Stephanie LaShomb

March 17, 2025

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

**Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items**

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

President Fenlong took the opportunity to publicly thank Superintendent Kelly on the occasion of her contract amendment for all she does on behalf of our students and staff throughout the year.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Memorandum of Agreement for Election Services between St. Lawrence County Board of Elections and Gouverneur Central School District Board of Education***(See Sheet #8, 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 Trustee Lisa McGregor, 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 20, 2025, and any subsequent revote(s) related thereto, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MOA FOR ELECTION SERVICES BETWEEN SLCBOE AND GCSD, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**B. **Compensation Rate for Election Inspectors**

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve to compensate Election Inspectors at the rate of \$175/day on School District voting days during the 2024-2025 school year.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. COMPENSATION RATE FOR ELECTION INSPECTORS, 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025, 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 Vice-President Todd E. Bates, 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 20, 2025, and the Budget Hearing on May 12, 2025.
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.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. Appointment of Inspectors and Officers for the Annual Meeting and Vote (Cont.)

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.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. INSPECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTE, APPOINTED AS PRESENTED.**

D. Bid Award for Trash Removal and Recycling Services

*(See Sheet #9, 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 Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve and award the bid from Waste Management in the amount of \$20,374.32. Bids were opened publicly on March 3, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. BID FOR TRASH REMOVAL AND RECYCLING SERVICES, AWARDED AS PRESENTED.**

E. Acceptance of Gift

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 formally accept with thanks and appreciation the gift of the donation from Northern Credit Union in the amount of \$250.00, for support of the Positivity Project at the Middle School, and increase the 2024-25 budget code A2210-400-22-002600 by the same.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. GIFT FROM NORTHERN CREDIT UNION, ACCEPTED WITH THANKS AND APPRECIATION AS PRESENTED.**

F. SEQRA Resolution – Geothermal Heat Pump

*(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)*

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the resolution regarding State Environmental Quality Review, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

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

G. Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing Resolution

*(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 Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the Annual Meeting/Budget Hearing Resolution, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING RESOLUTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

## IX. COMMENT PERIOD

None.

## X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education move into executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons, including tenure recommendations, and collective negotiations pertaining to the support staff union.

YEAS: All Trustees Present    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:15 PM.**

## RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**Open session resumed at 6:40 PM.**

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Laurie M. Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present.    NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:40 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file  
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file  
David Fenlong, President