

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

APRIL 20, 2026

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 Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

II. COMMENT PERIOD – None.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Communications

Absentee and Early Voting Ballot Applications are available from District Clerk.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly announced that summer school programs would once again be held in-person for elementary and middle school students with engaging activities to support and strengthen reading, writing, and math skills. The district will also host two sessions (July 7-27, and July 28-August 17) for in-person high school learning for our students and surrounding school districts, to be held at the middle school. Free breakfast and lunch will again be available to all students who are 18 years and under.

C. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly shared the numerous spring concerts scheduled for all grade levels and reminded everyone that the budget hearing would take place on May 11 with the vote on May 19.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report - March

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Munn reiterated that the state budget that was due April 1 is still not final. Major concerns that directly impact our budget are in the areas of foundation aid and maintenance of students in residential placements. To date, the legislative and executive budgets have not agreed on these items. We do have students who participate in residential programs, and in his estimation, it would cost us an additional \$200,000 to continue to provide those necessary services. At the federal level, one priority under discussion includes consolidation of services, and that may include the Department of Agriculture. The Community Eligibility program operates under that department; therefore, it is uncertain whether we can continue that after the end of this fiscal year. Under Expenditures, Mr. Munn stated that we are forward spending as much as possible for 2026-27 supplies.

B. Draft Reserve Plan

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Mr. Munn provided a summary draft of the district's Reserve Funds. Of note, the *Worker's Compensation Reserve* usage rate increased from \$75,000 this year to an anticipated \$109,000 next year. The *Reserve for Retirement Contributions – ERS*, used to pay for increased annual costs in ERS, also went from \$100,000 this year to a projected \$107,850 for 2026-27. The *Reserve for Tax Certiorari*, used to pay for prior year claims when a property owner contests their assessment and the amount of taxes they believe they owe, anticipates using approximately \$73,000 to pay back those taxes if they are successful in their claim. Mr. Munn added that it can take several years for a claim to be finalized, and when you pay judgments, you are typically obligated to pay interest as well. The district also has three capital reserves. The *Capital Reserve – Building*, started in 2020, was the original starter fund for the current project and has a balance of approximately \$220,000; he recommended using that as a starter fund for a future Capital Reserve. Funds were set aside this year for the *Repair Reserve*; that money can be used for major emergency repairs. The *Capital Reserve – Transportation* can currently be funded up to \$4.4 million. Mr. Munn recommended that this could be the starter fund once the architects finish the fleet electrification plan, subject to voter approval.

April 20, 2026

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 Laura Spicer, seconded by Trustee Laurie Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-G, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 30, 2026, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 3/31/26 – 4/17/26, 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:

5105334	5102200	5101212	5100907	5101946	5104600	5104365
5103896	5104312	5104725	5104629	5104844	5103087	5101856
5103591	5103375	5103269	5101986	5105156	5102737	5104573
5104877	5105028	5105178	5104022	5104906	5102867	

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:

5105347	5105340
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E. Student Activities Report – 1st Quarter, 2026

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the SA Report for the 1st Quarter of 2026, as presented.

F. Treasurer's Report – March 2026

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2026, as presented.

G. Change Order

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Change Order for Contract No. 5 – Site Construction (Number 5-01), as presented.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

President David Fenlong asked if any member on the Board wished to have any item on the Consent Agenda – Personnel removed for special consideration and discussion. No member asked that any items be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Personnel

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items A-E as a Consent Agenda:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

A. Tenure Recommendations

1. RESOLVED, that Desiree Simmons, Teaching Assistant, who holds *Teaching Assistant Level 3* certification issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in TEACHING ASSISTANT effective 05/21/2026.
2. RESOLVED, that Michelle M. Benda, Physical Education Teacher, who holds Permanent certification in *Physical Education* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in PHYSICAL EDUCATION effective 09/01/2026.
3. RESOLVED, that Candace M. Brown, Teaching Assistant, who holds *Teaching Assistant Level 3* certification issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in TEACHING ASSISTANT effective 09/01/2026.
4. RESOLVED, that Kimberly A. Richards, Director of Special Education, who holds Professional certification in *School District Leader* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in ADMINISTRATOR- SPECIAL EDUCATION effective 07/01/26.
5. RESOLVED, that Jessica A. Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent, who holds Professional certification in *School District Leader* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION effective 07/01/26.
6. RESOLVED, that Matthew R. Miller, Social Studies Teacher, who holds Initial certification-Time Extension in *Social Studies 7-12* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in SOCIAL STUDIES ACADEMIC TENURE, GRADES 7-12 effective 09/01/2026.
7. RESOLVED, that Kayla M. Side, Grade 4 Teacher, who holds Initial certification in *Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in ELEMENTARY PRE K- 6 effective 09/01/2026.
8. RESOLVED, that Alissa M. McEathron, Grade 4 Teacher, who holds Professional certification in *Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)* issued by the Commissioner of Education, is prospectively awarded tenure in ELEMENTARY PRE K- 6 effective 09/01/2026.

B. Retirements

Accept the request from Richard Nicholas, Jr., 12-month Cleaner, to extend his retirement date from July 31, 2026, to August 31, 2026. His last day of employment will be August 30, 2026.

C. Resignations

Accept the request for resignation from Emma York, from her position as Social Studies Teacher, effective June 26, 2026.

D. Appointments1. Instructional

- a) Rescind the appointment of Joshua Forgione in the *General Special Education* tenure area, and appoint Joshua Forgione, holding Initial certification in Social Studies 7-12 and Social Studies 5-6 Extension, to the position of Social Studies Teacher in the *Social Studies* tenure area, effective 7/1/26 for professional development purposes. Mr. Forgione will have a four-year probationary period commencing on August 31, 2026, and anticipated to end on August 30, 2030, at an annual salary set at Step 5, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2026-2027. This appointment is contingent upon his successful completion of the probationary term.
- b) Modify the appointment-pending-certification of Michele Brenno, holding Professional certification in Students With Disabilities (All Grades), to a four-year probationary period commencing on April 4, 2026, and anticipated to end on April 3, 2030, in the *General Special Education* tenure area, at a salary set at Step 9, B45M, effective April 4, 2026. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term.
- c) Special Education Teacher. Appoint Kristin Lamanteer, pending NYS applicable certification, to the position of Special Education Teacher in the *General Special Education* tenure area, effective 7/1/26 for professional development purposes. Ms. Lamanteer will have a four-year probationary period tentatively commencing on August 31, 2026, and anticipated to end on August 30, 2030, at an annual salary set at Step 1, B30, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2026-2027. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

E. Leaves and Leave Replacements

1. Acknowledge paid and unpaid leave of absence covered under FMLA provisions for probationary employee #00879 for the period March 1, 2026, up to June 26, 2026. Employee will use sick time and will incur up to 65 unpaid days. Time on unpaid leave will not count toward tenure or seniority.
2. Acknowledge paid and unpaid leave of absence covered under FMLA provisions for employee #00375, for the approximate period 04/28/2026 – 06/09/2026. Employee will use sick time and is eligible to use sick bank time per collective bargaining agreement. Employee will incur approximately fifteen (15) unpaid days. Time on unpaid leave will not count toward seniority.
3. Acknowledge paid and unpaid leave of absence covered under FMLA provisions for employee #00524, for the approximate period 01/23/2026 – 06/30/2026. Employee will use sick time and is eligible to use sick bank time per collective bargaining agreement. Employee will incur approximately five (5) unpaid days. Time on unpaid leave will not count toward seniority.
4. Acknowledge paid leave of absence covered under FMLA provisions for employee #00876, for the approximate period 03/30/2026 – 06/26/2026.
5. Acknowledge paid leave of absence covered under FMLA provisions for employee #00513, for the approximate period 04/13/2026 – 06/26/2026.
6. Appoint Sarah Riutta to the non-probationary position of long-term substitute to replace Employee #00876 effective March 30, 2026, to terminate on June 26, 2026, at the established rate of position title Sub Teacher 25 days.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

President Fenlong commented that it is a privilege to recognize the tenure appointments of the dedicated group of educators who achieved this remarkable milestone in their career. He thanked Mrs. York for her time with us, and her husband for his service to our country.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Proposed 2026-2027 Budget

(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee French, that the Board of Education adopt the proposed general fund budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year in the amount of \$50,483,279, with an anticipated tax levy increase of 2.0%, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Bush asked Superintendent Kelly to recap the decision about moving the Kindergarten aides; Mrs. Kelly said the anticipated movement is dependent on incoming enrollment numbers and utilizing aides for maximum benefit in the classrooms. President Fenlong thanked the administrative team for all their work on this budget.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2026-2027 BUDGET, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

B. Approval of Property Tax Report Card for 2026-2027

(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve and authorize submission of the Property Tax Report Card for 2026-2027 to the State Education Department, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Dr. Cartwright stated he is pleased to see the tax cap remain at 2%.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD FOR 2026-27, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. Election of Members of BOCES Board of Education

(See Sheet #11, 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 cast their ballot for the three (3) open seats on the BOCES Board of Education, for: Todd Bates, Michael Miller, and Kevin Wells.

YEAS: Bush, Cartwright, Fenlong, French, McGregor, Ormasen, Roberts, Spicer. NAYS: None.
ABSTENTION: Bates

DISCUSSION: President Fenlong thanked Mr. Bates for his commitment on the BOCES board.

MOTION CARRIED. BALLOT FOR BOCES BOARD OF EDUCATION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

D. Vote on 2026-2027 BOCES Administrative Budget

(See Sheet #12, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education cast their vote for the adoption of the 2026-2027 Administrative Budget for the Board of Cooperative Education Services in the amount of \$10,279,948.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. BOCES 2026-27 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

E. Report of BOE Candidate Petitions Received

(See Sheet #13, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee French, that the Board of Education accept the report of Board of Education Nominating Petitions Received as of 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2026, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. REPORT OF BOE NOMINATING PETITIONS RECEIVED, ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

F. Merger Request – Girls' Wrestling

(See Sheet #14, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roberts, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education approve a merger request from Heuvelton Central School District to allow their students to participate on our Varsity Girls' Wrestling team during the 2026-2027 school year, per the terms of the Section 10 Athletics Combined Teams Application, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MERGER REQUEST FROM HEUVELTON CSD, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

G. Code of Conduct Public Hearing

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee French, and seconded by Trustee Spicer, that the Board of Education set Monday, 6/1/26 for a Public Hearing to discuss the annual updates and revisions, if any, to the District's Code of Conduct. The Public Hearing will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the HS Auditorium, followed by the regular Board of Education meeting.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PUBLIC HEARING FOR UPDATES TO DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT, SCHEDULED FOR 6/1/26 AT 5:30 P.M.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD – None.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Bush, that the Board of Education move into executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:30 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:30 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee French, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President