

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

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by President David Fenlong, at 5:36 PM, in the High School Auditorium, 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; Cory Wood, Executive Director of Operations & Personnel; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk, Ashlyn Besaw, Student Board Representative.

II. PUBLIC HEARING ON ADDENDUM TO SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

The Public Hearing on the addendum to the School Safety Plan commenced at 5:37 PM, local time, in the High School Auditorium at 133 East Barney Street, Gouverneur, New York. President Fenlong explained that the purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed required cardiac arrest addendum to the district-wide School Safety Plan, in compliance with education law and public health law. The addendum was posted on the district website for review and comments. Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly explained that recent amendments to state law regarding cardiac arrest procedures and automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment require policies and procedures for response to sudden cardiac arrest be included in building level emergency response plans. Those plans are modified each year by the building level safety teams and are not shared publicly. Amendments to education law regarding AED equipment, maintenance and signage, and school safety training regarding cardiac emergency response plans in district-wide School Safety Plans are also expected to be in place by January 20, 2026. She clarified that we currently have the appropriate procedures in place, and this addendum formalizes it in writing per education and state laws. It is a general overview of what is included in the confidential building level safety plans that will be made part of the public district-wide School Safety Plan. In her conclusion, she said she would be asking the board later in this meeting to approve the addendum so it can be submitted to the State by the October 1 deadline. President Fenlong then opened the floor for Board and public comments. No additional comments were received or submitted prior to the hearing. President Fenlong concluded the Public Hearing at 5:40 PM.

III. COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were offered.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Welcome to new Student Board Representative: Ashlyn Besaw

Superintendent Kelly introduced Ashlyn Besaw, the 2025-2026 Student Board Representative. Ashlyn is a senior and currently serves as Student Senate President. She is an active member of the Varsity Club and National Honor Society, and participates in soccer, basketball, and softball. Ashlyn's leadership and involvement reflect her strong commitment to both academics and athletics. President David Fenlong gave a warm welcome to Ms. Besaw, saying the Board is looking forward to her input and, "It makes all of us better and stronger together."

B. Wildcat News – Capital Project Update

Executive Director of Operations & Personnel Cory Wood updated the Board on the progress of the work taking place at the west side fields near the Middle School. Sheehan began excavating the site on July 15 and 16,500 yards of topsoil were removed. Mr. Wood talked a bit about the drainage solutions and shared photos. Also at that site, Building B is progressing with concrete and electrical in place, and Building A is scheduled to be poured. Near the high school Dolan wing, drilling has begun and work remediating the spaces above the floors is underway. Work at the bus garage has started as well.

C. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly read the list that included Spirit Week and Homecoming activities.

September 22, 2025

V. FINANCIAL REPORT – August 2025

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Dale Munn spoke of items impacting the projected budget from August. On the Revenues side, a music teacher was successful in obtaining a grant for a classroom set of Ukuleles. New York State aid came in at \$7,000 for cell-phone storage, well below the projected \$30,000. Mr. Munn also mentioned that he does not expect the EPA grant to come through for two additional electric buses. Regarding Expenditures, the 2025 summer school expenses should break even with the anticipated revenues that are derived from two sources: first, part of the foundation aid formula is based on the number of hours of instruction students receive; and second, the tuition received from out-of-district students. Another reduction in expenses came from the appointment of an in-house school psychologist that will negate what was previously spent on contracting outside services. Finally, all new employee salaries have been encumbered and are within what was budgeted. A short discussion took place regarding electric buses and, separately, the expected increase in electric costs, with Mr. Munn saying that he will speak more about that at a future meeting. He also provided a description of the tri-county energy consortium we are aligned with and how those rates are established.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Motion to approve Consent Agenda:

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

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2025, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 9/12/25 – 9/19/25 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: 5100907, 5103269.

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: 5105210

E. Treasurer's Report – August 2025

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2025, as presented.

Vote on Consent Agenda:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

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

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Personnel:

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

A. Memorandum of Agreement #7 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#7 to the contract between the District and GEA to update the Club classifications in Appendix A: *Drama Club 7th & 8th* from Class C to Class B; *Senior High Fall Play* from Class E to Class B; and add the new position of *Drama Club 7th & 8th Assistant* as Class F.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

B. Appointments1. Extra-Curricular

2025-26 Advisors. Approve the appointments of the 2025-2026 Advisors, to be compensated in accordance with the Club Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

REVISION: DRAMA CLUB 7-8	BRANDON GRIFFIN	CLASS B (WAS C)	Step 4
REVISION: SENIOR HIGH FALL PLAY	MICHAEL BASON	CLASS B (WAS E)	Step 4
FFA ASSISTANT	POLLY SERGEL	CLASS F	Step 1
DRAMA CLUB 7-8 ASSISTANT	CATIE YABLONSKI	CLASS F	Step 1

2. Extra Duty

Middle School Afterschool Tutoring – Instructors: Appoint the following Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2025-2026 school year. Shari Ronas, Ken Nicholas

3. Substitutes and Tutors

- a) Appoint Kathleen A. Buell, holding permanent NYS certification in *Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6*, to the non-probationary position of long-term substitute to replace Brittany L. Lewis during her leave of absence, effective on or about September 23, 2025, to terminate on the return from the leave of absence, at the established rate of 25+ days.
- b) Appoint Betty L. Hall, holding permanent NYS certification in *Music and Pre-K-6*, to the non-probationary position of long-term substitute to replace Bridget M. Capito during her leave of absence, effective on or about September 25, 2025, to terminate on the return from the leave of absence, at the established rate of 25+ days.

4. Students

Appoint the following student workers for the Buildings & Grounds department for 2025-26, pending completion of all requirements: Electa Fitzgerald, Arianna Wood.

5. Other

Appoint Cory Young as Webmaster for the 2025-26 school year, at a stipend of \$5,202.

C. Retirements

- a) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Jeffrey B. Hale, Building Maintenance Worker, effective March 31, 2026.
- b) Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Daniel R. Erdman, Building Maintenance Worker, effective March 31, 2026.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Cardiac Arrest Addendum to School Safety Plan

(See Sheet #1, 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 Roberts, that the Board of Education adopt the addendum to the 2025-26 School Safety Plan, “*Section X: Sudden Cardiac Arrest Preparedness – Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP)*”, to be submitted to SED, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ADDENDUM TO SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

B. Fire Safety Inspection Report

(See Sheet #8, 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 Fire Safety Inspection Report dated June 20, 2025; all items listed have been corrected on or before June 27, 2025 and we have received the Certificate of Occupancy.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

September 22, 2025

IX. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. Request for Approval to Attend Out-of-State Conference

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Spicer, seconded by Vice-President Bates, that the Board of Education approve the request for two teachers to attend the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) 2025 Annual Meeting & Exposition Conference in Atlanta, GA, October 16, 17, and 18, 2025.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. REQUEST TO ATTEND OUT-OF-STATE CONFERENCE, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

D. Request for Approval to Attend Out-of-State Conference

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Spicer, seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the request for two teachers to attend the 9th Annual Conference of The Reading League in Chicago, IL, October 8, 9, and 10, 2025.

DISCUSSION: Assistant Superintendent Jessica Sullivan confirmed that the conference aligns with our current curriculum and the Science of Reading.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. REQUEST TO ATTEND OUT-OF-STATE CONFERENCE, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

E. Tax Roll Correction

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Spicer, and seconded by Trustee French, that the Board of Education approve the application for tax roll correction for the Town of Gouverneur parcel 173.066-2-24 to correct a clerical error (incorrect exemption applied). Tax adjustment from \$776.47 to \$362.35.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TAX ROLL CORRECTION APPLICATION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

X. COMMENT PERIOD

Brandon Griffin, 7th grade Social Studies teacher and advisor for the Middle School Drama Club, thanked the Board for supporting the club classification increases and especially for their overall support for the arts. He shared that they had 110 students audition for the Middle School production of *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, including students from St. James, with the final cast numbering approximately 50 students.

XI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:22 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 6:50 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee French, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file

David Fenlong, President

September 22, 2025