

**GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**  
**October 6, 2025**  
**5:30 p.m. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**  
**Final Agenda: [www.gcsk12.org/boe/](http://www.gcsk12.org/boe/)**  
***Delivering the Promise of a Brighter Future***

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- II. COMMENT PERIOD
- III. DISCUSSION
  - A. Presentations
    - 1. School Board Appreciation Week, October 13-17, 2025
  - B. Wildcat News
  - C. Upcoming Events
    - October 13 – Columbus Day holiday – no school
    - October 13-17 – School Board Recognition Week
    - October 14 – Virtual NYSSBA Business Meeting (Voting Delegate Nickolas Ormasen)
    - October 20 – Half Day Staff Development; no school for students PM.
    - October 20 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 PM, HS Auditorium
    - October 23-25 – NYSSBA Convention
    - October 29 – Regent Dinner with Regent Roger Catania, Northwest Tech
  - D. Student Board Representative report – Ashlyn Besaw
- IV. FINANCIAL REPORT - None
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None
- VI. CONSENT AGENDA:  
Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly, that the Board of Education approve the following items as a Consent Agenda:
  - A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2025
  - B. Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 9/25/25 – 9/26/25
  - C. CSE Business
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL:  
Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items as a Consent Agenda:
  - A. Resignations
    - a) Barbara M. Gauthier, from her position as Reading Teacher, effective 10/06/2025.
    - b) Mackenzie Reynolds, from her position as Teaching Assistant - Counselor, effective 10/10/2025.
  - B. Appointments
    - 1. Extra Duty
      - a) 2025-26 Gouverneur Elementary TCIS Coordinators: Kaitlin McEathron, Brittany Lewis.
      - b) 2025-26 Gouverneur Middle School TCIS Coordinators: Rob Klimowicz, Brittany Buckmaster.
      - c) 2025-26 Gouverneur Elementary Extended Day Afterschool Tutoring – Instructors: Stephanie LaShomb.
    - 2. Substitutes and Tutors
      - a) Appoint the following to work as per diem substitutes in instructional and/or support positions, pending completion of all requirements: Mackenzie Reynolds, Catherine Alo, Tori Burnet, Jasmine Matice

- b) Approve the following current staff members/substitutes to work as instructional tutors for homebound students: Stephanie LaShomb, Lindsey Daniels, Kristen Kulp Gaebel, Amanda Newvine
- c) Appoint Patricia A. Williams, holding permanent NYS certification in *Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6*, to the non-probationary position of long-term substitute for the Reading position that is encumbered by a vacancy, at the established rate of 25+ days, effective 9/16/25.

C. Appointment to New Tenure Area

WHEREAS, tenured teacher Karleen A. Bognaski possesses multiple certifications, including "Blind and Visually Impaired"; "Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2)"; Childhood Education (Grades 1-6); "Students with Disabilities (Birth-Grade 2)"; "Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)"; and "Students with Disabilities (All Grades)"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bognaski commenced her employment with the District in the tenure area of "Elementary" and was tenured in that tenure area effective September 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bognaski commenced full-time service in the second tenure area of "Special Education – Blind and Visually Impaired" in September 2017, was tenured in that second tenure area effective September 1, 2020, and is the only teacher in the District serving in that tenure area; and

WHEREAS, due to student demographics and needs, Ms. Bognaski was not needed to provide full-time service in the second tenure area of "Special Education – Blind and Visually Impaired" during the 2024-2025 school year, but her services were necessary in the tenure area of "Special Education – General"; and

WHEREAS, during the 2024-2025 school year, Ms. Bognaski served 50% of the time (.5 FTE) in the tenure area of "Special Education – Blind and Visually Impaired", and 50% of the time (.5 FTE) in a third tenure area, namely: "Special Education – General"; and

WHEREAS, the District and Ms. Bognaski have agreed that for the 2025-2026 school year at a minimum, she will continue to serve 50% of the time (.5 FTE) in the tenure area of "Special Education – Blind and Visually Impaired", and 50% of the time (.5 FTE) in a third tenure area, namely: "Special Education – General"; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to ensure clarity with regards to Ms. Bognaski's status and tenure areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved:

1. Effective June 30, 2024, a .5 full-time equivalent ("FTE") instructional position in the "Special Education – Blind and Visually Impaired" was abolished. As Ms. Bognaski was the only teacher in that tenure area, Ms. Bognaski was considered excessed from a .5 FTE position in the "Special Education – Blind and Visually Impaired". However, for the reasons set forth below, Ms. Bognaski remained employed by the District in a full-time capacity.
2. Ms. Bognaski was assigned to serve in a .5 FTE position in the "Special Education – General" tenure area for the 2024-2025 school year, such that she remained a 1.0 FTE employee, and served successfully in that capacity. Ms. Bognaski was and is appropriately certified to serve in that third tenure area.
3. Ms. Bognaski is deemed to have commenced a new probationary period in a third instructional tenure area, namely, "Special Education – General", effective September 1, 2024. As she acquired tenure twice previously in the District, she is entitled to a reduced probationary period of three years. Given her history of service to the District, the Superintendent and Board may consider her for tenure in the third tenure area of "Special Education – General" prior to the conclusion of the full three-year probationary term, so long as applicable laws, rules and regulations permit.
4. Ms. Bognaski shall remain employed as .5 FTE in the "Special Education – Blind and Visually Impaired" tenure area, and .5 FTE in the "Special Education – General" tenure area for the 2025-2026 school year and for the foreseeable future. Ms. Bognaski shall accrue seniority in both tenure areas consistent with applicable law, regulations and rules.

D. Modification to Appointment

Revise the appointment of Madison Hurlbut, in the Elementary PreK-6 tenure area, approved at the May 23, 2025 regular Board of Education meeting pending certification, to a probationary period effective September 26, 2025 through September 25, 2029. Ms. Hurlbut holds NYS Initial certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6).

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Upon presentation and recommendation of Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly, that the Board of Education consider the following items under New Business:

A. Policy Review – First Reading

**3240 – Participation in School-Based Planning and Shared Decision-Making (revised)**

*Periodic review; suggested changes reflect current practices.*

**3412 – Threats of Violence in School (recommend to delete)**

*This information is covered in the Code of Conduct, district-wide and building-level safety plans, as well as other policies, and it is not required to be in the district's policy manual.*

**3510 – Emergency School Closings (recommend to delete)**

*This information is included in the required "Emergency Remote Instruction Plan" and the "Remote Snow Day Learning Protocols" shared with families each year, and it is not required to be in the district's policy manual.*

**5250 – Sale and Disposal of School District Property (revised)**

*Periodic review; suggested changes reflect current practices.*

**5681 – School Safety Plans (recommend to delete)**

*This policy is not required to be in the district's policy manual. The district maintains a District-Wide School Safety Plan and Building-Level Emergency Response Plan(s) as prescribed in Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations.*

**5683 – Cardiac Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Public School Facilities (revised)**

*Periodic review; suggested changes for clarity.*

**7521 – Students with Life-Threatening Health Conditions (revised)**

*Erie1 BOCES Policy Services has revised this policy in response to a review of the NYSED and the NYSDOH Guidelines for Managing Allergies and Anaphylaxis in Schools. The name was also changed to "Students with Life-Threatening Health Conditions and/or Anaphylaxis."*

**8360 – B.Y.O.D. (Bring Your Own Device (recommend to delete)**

*This policy is no longer relative with the current prohibition of internet enabled devices, and it is not required to be in the district's policy manual.*

B. Appointment of Department Chairpersons

Appoint the Department Chairpersons for the 2025-2026 school year as listed on the attached sheet.

C. Overnight Trip Request – National FFA Convention

Approve the request for three student members of the local chapter of the FFA, along with Hannah White (selected for the National FFA Band) and advisor Kylie Torres, to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, from October 26 – November 1, 2025. The students will be traveling with the Lowville chapter.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

X. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss the employment history of particular persons.

XI. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT