

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

OCTOBER 6, 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 5:30 PM, in the High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush, Laura Spicer.

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. COMMENT PERIOD

Jacqueline Scott-Hardy, introducing herself as a parent and former employee, addressed the Board to share her personal concerns that she feels negatively affected her and other staff and students in the district, and asked the board to foster changes that will improve the school environment for everyone.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentations - School Board Appreciation Week, October 13-17, 2025

President Fenlong stated the twelve years he has served on the Board have been a great experience and he feels proud to be working with this amazing group. Superintendent Kelly said, "The New York State School Boards Association will recognize, next week, October 13-17, as School Board Appreciation Week. This is a time to promote awareness and understanding of the important work performed by school boards. Board members are required to make difficult decisions and spend countless hours studying education issues and regulations in order to provide accountability to our community stakeholders. Our Board members spend many hours volunteering their time to ensure strategies, resources, policies, and programs align with district goals. School board members give the citizens of Gouverneur a voice in decision-making. They are advocates for public education. It takes strong schools to build a strong community, and these men and women devote their time to make sure our schools are helping every child have the opportunity to be successful. Every decision they make is not only in the best interest of our 1,400 students, but also in the best interest of our students' families, our faculty and staff members, and the entire community. Thank you for everything you do for every stakeholder in our District!" Board members also received student-made gifts and a short video produced by Stephanie Plaisted.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly shared news about a new opportunity that juniors and seniors have thanks to a collaboration with the Madrid-Waddington Central School District. The Drone and Computer Technologies program, which consists of courses about unmanned aeronautical vehicles, 3D printing, AI literacy, cybersecurity, and drone soccer, will prepare students for careers in technology and aviation with the opportunity to earn more than 30 college credits. This year we have seven (7) juniors and seniors participating in the program. President Fenlong publicly thanked Madrid-Waddington Superintendent Eric Burke for opening the program to neighboring districts, adding it is exciting to see new opportunities for our students.

C. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly shared events occurring in the second half of the month.

D. Student Board Representative report – Ashlyn Besaw

Ms. Besaw provided an update focusing on Spirit Week events that included different dress-up categories, the pep rally activities, and the football game, saying it was a great way to kick off the school year. She also announced Pink Zone nights and Senior nights happening across the fall sports, and reminded everyone that the National Honor Society has a blood drive on October 30 and signups are underway.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT – None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

October 6, 2025

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 member asked for any item to be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda:

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

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2025, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 9/25/25 – 9/26/25 as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #2, 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:

5101810	5103246	5103056	5102744	5100743
5102147	5100923			

Vote on Consent Agenda:

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 for any item to be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Personnel:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President Todd Bates, and seconded by Trustee Tina French, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-D, as a Consent Agenda:

A. Resignations

- a) Accept the request for resignation from Barbara M. Gauthier, from her position as Reading Teacher, effective October 6, 2025.
- b) Accept the request for resignation from Mackenzie Reynolds, from her position as Teaching Assistant - Counselor, effective October 10, 2025.

B. Appointments1. Extra Duty

- a) Gouverneur Elementary TCIS Coordinators. Appoint the following personnel as TCIS Coordinators for the 2025-2026 school year: Kaitlin McEathron, Brittany Lewis.
- b) Gouverneur Middle School TCIS Coordinators. Appoint the following personnel as TCIS Coordinators for the 2025-2026 school year: Rob Klimowicz, Brittany Buckmaster.
- c) Gouverneur Elementary Afterschool Tutoring - Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2025-2026 school year: Stephanie LaShomb.

2. Substitutes and Tutors

- a) Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed 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 Sept. 16, 2025.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

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 2024-25 school year, but her services were necessary in the tenure area of “Special Education – General”; and

WHEREAS, during the 2024-25 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 2025-26 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).

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy Review – First Reading

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

President Fenlong introduced the new slate of policies for a first review, adding that they will be brought back to the October 20th meeting for a second reading and anticipated adoption. **3240 – Participation in School-Based Planning and Shared Decision-Making: Periodic review; suggested changes reflect**

October 6, 2025

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

A. Policy Review – First Reading (Cont.)

current practices. 3412 – Threats of Violence in School: Recommended 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: Recommended 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: Periodic review; suggested changes reflect current practices. 5681 – School Safety Plans: Recommended 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: Periodic review; suggested changes for clarity. 7521 – Students with Life-Threatening Health Conditions and/or Anaphylaxis: 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. 8360 – B.Y.O.D. (Bring Your Own Device): Recommended 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

(See Sheet #4, 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 appoint the Department Chairpersons for the 2025-2026 school year as listed on the attached sheet.

YEAS: Cartwright, Fenlong, French, McGregor, Roberts NAYS: None ABSTAIN: Bates, Ormasen

MOTION CARRIED. DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. Overnight Trip Request – National FFA Convention

(See Sheet #5, 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 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.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Kelly explained that the district pays travel expenses to Lowville; then the two groups will travel together and split the cost. The Ag Advisory Board was thanked for their financial support.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. OVERNIGHT TRIP REQUEST, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Discussing the newly vacant positions, Superintendent Kelly stated a substitute will remain in the Reading position while she looks at the numbers, and the T.A. Counselor will be posted and filled as soon as possible.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee French, 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 6:21 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:30 PM.

XI. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, to 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
October 6, 2025

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President