

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

DECEMBER 8, 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 Elementary School Cafeteria, 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, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush.

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

Message from President Fenlong: *I want to pause and share a moment of gratitude as I am reminded every day of how fortunate we are to be part of such a caring and committed community. To all the staff on our team — thank you for your dedication, your compassion, and the countless ways you go above and beyond for all our kids. It is incredible. To our families and community members — thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your support. We can only do this together. And to my fellow board members — thank you for your service and your commitment to doing what's best for everyone. On behalf of the entire school board and our governance team, I wish each of you a peaceful holiday season filled with lots of time with friends, family and loved ones.*

II. PUBLIC HEARING

Partial Property Tax Exemption For Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss whether the Board should allow a partial property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers pursuant to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law. No comments were received. President Fenlong closed the hearing at 5:37 PM. The resolution will be considered later in this meeting.

III. COMMENT PERIOD – None.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Presentations

1. NYS Assessment Results

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Superintendent Kelly shared the updated 3-8 assessments that showed measured growth in ELA and Math and discussed some specific reasons related to the improvements. Trustee Roberts commented that she is glad that the board's support in providing academic coaches, AIS teachers, and increased professional development has paid off.

2. Conference Reports

Staff members Jilliam McDougall (AIS Math) and Jessica Cappellino (Math Coach) shared their experiences from the 2025 NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) annual meeting in Atlanta, and they talked about how math education has evolved over the past four years and contributed to success in our district. Paula Bates (Reading Teacher) and Gwen O'Shea (Reading Specialist) reviewed some research-based instructional strategies learned at the 2025 Reading League Conference and their takeaways to implement in our district. President Fenlong thanked them, stating we fortunate to have such passionate people in these positions.

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly announced that the district plans to initiate a transportation study in January to get feedback on potentially moving from double-tripping to single-tripping. This would put students on a similar schedule for school day start- and end-times, but would mean potentially longer bus rides, all students in PreK-12 riding the same bus, and an increased cost to the district.

C. Upcoming Events

Numerous holiday concerts will take place over the next week as well as the high school drama production of "The Play That Goes Wrong." Students will have early dismissal on December 19 for a half-day staff development day, and no school December 19-January 2 for winter break.

December 8, 2025

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Financial Reports – October and November 2025

(See Sheets #2 and #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

For the October report, Business Manager Munn explained how our participation in the tri-county solar consortium operates and the factors that affect our revenues; our share currently covers about one-third of our total energy costs. An item related to our expenses is the approval of BOCES COSER 5860 which, over time, will see the BOCES take some of the local expenses of providing advanced coursework to our students. Referring to the Fund Balance, Mr. Munn said the solar consortium is in discussion to allow the participating municipalities to use some of the revenue for their Capital Reserves. The November worksheet's Revenue notes indicated a significant increase in BOCES aid related to usage and the salary cap increase from \$30,000 to \$60,000 over the next three years. For this year, aid will be about \$500,000 more than last year. Mr. Munn expects the rest of the State Aid reports in mid-December. For Expenditures, he promised to continue monitoring federal and state discussions related to the One Big Beautiful Bill and how the state will address those issues. In the Fund Balance report, Mr. Munn stated that he wants to start a discussion related to the Transportation Capital Reserve and the final Bus Electrification plan, which includes applying for a grant to receive two electric buses and a charger.

B. 2026-2027 Budget Calendar

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Mr. Munn noted that due to the break schedule, there is one less meeting between now and the board's adoption of the budget than in previous years.

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 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 Lisa McGregor, seconded by Vice-President Todd Bates, that the Board of Education approve the following items, A-F, as a consent agenda:

A. Minutes

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

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for 11/06/25 – 12/05/25, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #6, 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:

5104011	5104706	5103897	5104875	5102898	5100805	5104987
5104557	5103188	5104715	5104372	5104052	5104249	5104386
5104061	5102773	5105034	5103426	5102310	5101339	5101991
5102491	5103619	5105324	5105319	5103658	5102998	5103551
5101821	5102203	5102163	5103496	5103777	5104869	5104868
5102769	5104053	5104621	5104829	5104748	5104737	5102545
5104084	5101866	5102193	5102795	5104511	5103253	5104674
5103389	5102021	5104043	5104398	5104064	5103036	5105317

D. CPSE Business

(See Sheet #7, 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:

5104862	5105081	5105241	5104776
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E. Treasurer's Reports – October and November, 2025

(See Sheets #8 and #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Reports for the months of October 2025, and November 2025, as presented.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

F. Impartial Hearing Officer Appointment

(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)

The resolution appointing Robert Rodriguez to serve as impartial hearing officer for NYSED Case No. 667243 was signed and made effective by Board President David Fenlong on November 5, 2025 and will be made part of this meeting's minutes by attachment.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 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 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 Laura Spicer, and seconded by Trustee Laurie Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items as a Consent Agenda:

A. Retirements

- a) Kelly Spencer Ayen. Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Kelly Spencer Ayen, Elementary (Kindergarten) teacher, effective January 9, 2026.
- b) Robert J. Dunkelberg. Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Robert J. Dunkelberg, Social Studies teacher, effective June 30, 2026.

B. Resignations

- a) Ashley Davis. Accept the request for resignation from Ashley Davis, 8-hr. Cleaner, effective at 6:00 p.m. on November 3, 2025.
- b) Krystle Cardinell. Accept the request for resignation from Krystle Cardinell, 6-hr. Food Service Helper, effective November 28, 2025.
- c) Kimberly A. Cummings. Accept the request for resignation from Kimberly A. Cummings, 2.75-hour Food Service Helper, effective January 9, 2026.

C. Appointments1. Extra-Curricular - 2025-26 Winter Coaches

Approve the following coaching recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding certification requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2025-26 Coaching Salary Schedule of the GEA contract:

CHEERLEADING VOLUNTEER - WINTER	HAILEY COOK	Uncompensated
WRESTLING - GIRLS	DYLAN J. MORRISON	CLASS 2 Step 2
WRESTLING VARSITY ASST/ JV	RANDY MORRISON	CLASS 2 Step 17
BASKETBALL GIRLS VOLUNTEER	CHLOE M. SMITH	Uncompensated
BASKETBALL GIRLS VOLUNTEER	LANEY SMITH	Uncompensated
WRESTLING ASSISTANT - VOLUNTEER (GIRLS)	SAMUEL E. SOCHIA	Uncompensated
WRESTLING ASSISTANT - VOLUNTEER (GIRLS)	BENJAMIN HOFFMAN	Uncompensated
WRESTLING ASSISTANT - VOLUNTEER	DILLON STOWELL	Uncompensated

2. Instructional

Maggie E. Murphy. Appoint Maggie E. Murphy, pending NYS teaching certification, to the position of Elementary (Kindergarten) Teacher in the Elementary PreK-6 tenure Area commencing on January 5, 2026, for a four-year probationary period, at an annual salary set at Step 1, B30M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2025-2026. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term.

3. Non-Instructional

- a) Shawn Byrne. Appoint Shawn Byrne to the position of Cleaner in the labor class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, commencing on December 9, 2025 at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Cleaner 8HR Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to December 9, 2025.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

C.3 Appointments: Non-Instructional (Cont.)

- b) Hana Smith. Appoint Hana Smith to the position of Cleaner in the labor class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, commencing on December 9, 2025 at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Cleaner 8HR Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to December 9, 2025.
- c) Michael Crown. Appoint Michael Crown to the position of Cleaner in the labor class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, commencing on December 9, 2025 at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Cleaner 8HR Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to December 9, 2025.
- d) Morgan House. Appoint Morgan House to the position of Cleaner in the labor class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, commencing on December 10, 2025 at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union agreement, Cleaner 8HR Level 1, from the current GSRPU salary schedule, prorated to December 10, 2025. (This is an emergency conditional appointment pending fingerprint clearance.)
- 4. Substitutes and Tutors
Approve the appointment of Julieanne Koerick to work as a per diem substitute in instructional and/or support positions.
- 5. School Psychologist Intern
Appoint Emma McDougall as a School Psychologist Intern (SUNY Plattsburgh) for the 2026-2027 school year, at a stipend equivalent to Step 1, Bachelors, from the 2026-2027 salary agreement with the Gouverneur Education Association. The host site supervisor will be Dale R. Munn Jr., who holds permanent certification in School Psychologist.
- 6. Other
Approve the leave of absence of Carrie Chartrand from her position as *Food Service Helper (6-hr)* and appoint her as a long-term substitute *Cook*, from 9/24/25–10/7/25, in accordance with the salary from the GSRPU Contract for Cook, Level 1. This will not impact Ms. Chartrand's seniority as a Food Service Helper.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel Items

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

On behalf of the Board, President Fenlong thanked Mr. Dunkelberg, who was in the audience, as well as the other employees who have been with the district, for their service and commitment.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Resolution for Partial Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers.

(See Sheet #11, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee French, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for partial property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Responding to Trustee Roberts, Business Manager Munn clarified an exemption was previously done in 2005 but the law was recently updated. Other municipalities and districts in the region are also doing the same.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESOLUTION FOR PARTIAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.B. Resolution Approving Easement for Utility Purposes

(See Sheet #12, 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 approve the Easement for Utility Purposes, as presented in the attached document.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESOLUTION APPROVING EASEMENT FOR UTILITY PURPOSES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

IX. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. 2025 Tax Collector's Report and Return of Unpaid Taxes to St. Lawrence & Jefferson Counties
(See Sheets #13 and #14, 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 approve the 2025 Tax Collector's Report, dated December 2, 2025 showing a tax levy of \$7,208,765.00 for the 2025-2026 school year, with \$847,139.75 of the levy remaining unpaid, and approve the 2025 Return of Unpaid Taxes in the amounts of \$835,142.53 and \$11,997.22 plus any penalty for collection to St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, respectively, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2025 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT AND RETURN OF UNPAID TAXES TO ST. LAWRENCE AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

D. Overnight Trip Requests – Varsity Wrestling

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 the request for the Boys' and Girls' Varsity Wrestling team(s) to attend and compete in the following applicable tournaments:

- a) **December 29-30.** *Windsor Holiday Tournament* at Windsor High School, Windsor, NY. The team will depart on December 28, 2025, and return on December 30, 2025. The cost to the district is \$350 (registration fees) plus transportation.
- b) **January 16-17.** *Bradshaw Invitational* at Canandaigua Academy, Canandaigua, NY. The team will depart on January 16, 2026, and return on January 17, 2026. The cost to the district is \$550 (registration fees) plus transportation.
- c) **January 18-19.** *Second Annual Windsor Lady Black Knights Invitational* at Windsor High School, Windsor, NY. The team will depart on January 18, 2026, and return on January 19, 2026. The cost to the district is \$300 (registration fees) plus transportation.
- d) **January 24-25.** *King and Queen Bison Invitational* at Shaker High School, Latham, NY. The boys depart on January 23, 2026; the girls depart on January 24, 2025; both teams return on January 25, 2026. The cost to the district is \$700 (registration fees – includes combined boys' and girls') plus transportation.
- e) **January 30-31.** *Lady Legacy Tournament* in Homer, NY. The team will depart on January 30, 2026, and return on January 31, 2026. The cost to the district is \$600 or \$60/wrestler (registration fees) plus transportation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. VARSITY WRESTLING OVERNIGHT TRIP REQUESTS, APPROVED.

X. COMMENT PERIOD – None.

XI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:06 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:40 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Vice-President Bates, and seconded by Trustee Ormasen, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Signature on file
David Fenlong, President