

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

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by President Lisa McGregor, at 5:30 P.M., in the High School Cafeteria, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, Logan Buckmaster, Dr. William Cartwright, 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; Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent; Cory Wood, Executive Director of Operations and Personnel; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk; Laina Kurdziel, Student Board Representative.

II. COMMENT PERIOD – None.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Welcome to 2026-27 Student Board Representative: Laina Kurdziel

Ms. Kurdziel was officially welcomed and sworn in as the ex officio student board member. She shared a little about herself, including her involvement in performance, music, athletics, National Honor Society, and volunteer work, and said she is excited to be here and provide input from the student perspective.

B. Wildcat News – Summer School Update

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Principals Connelly, Hammond, and Donaldson reported the enrollment statistics for their respective buildings and shared highlights from the term.

C. IDEA Support Plan Update

The district was identified to receive a Focused Intervention (FI) Support Plan by the New York State Education Department. Kimberly Richards, Director of Special Education, and Lisa Dunkelberg, CSE/CPSE Chairperson, shared basic information about what the support plan entails. They will bring more detailed information, including specific steps and data, to the board at a future meeting.

D. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly reminded Board members about the retreat taking place on October 5. Staff will have a professional development half day on October 9, with students being dismissed for the PM. School Board Recognition Week is October 12-16, and the next Board meeting is October 19 in the HS auditorium.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report – August 2026

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Dale Munn's August report shows we are still on track with our beginning-of-year projections. He discussed the predicted cuts to the Federal E-Rate program, explaining that the program was designed to address community infrastructure needs including schools and libraries. Since we are part of a consortium and BOCES handles our network infrastructure, he stated that we are unlikely to see a revenue decrease due to the E-Rate, but BOCES costs would increase. Vice-President Tina French asked about opportunities to advocate against the cuts, and Mr. Munn said there are lobbying efforts underway and a town hall coming up. Mr. Munn also shared that as a result of investing some of our reserve funds in nine-month municipal CDs we garnered an additional .5% interest, resulting in approximately \$150,000 in increased revenues. Moving to Expenses, he said this year our special education costs will most likely utilize all and possibly more than what was budgeted due to an increase in levels of need we are seeing. Notes on the Fund Balance included that approximately \$80,000 was set aside for the Tax Certiorari Reserve to cover a recent assessment challenge that will be settled over the next three to five years.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. BOE Committee Designations

Board members confirmed their participation on the following committees: GEA: Roberts, Bush, McGregor; GAA: Roberts, Bush, Spicer; GSRPU: McGregor, Cartwright, Roberts, French; Capital Project: Cartwright, Bates, Ormasen; Safety Plan: Ormasen, Buckmaster; Transportation: Bates, Spicer, Bush; Technology: Bates, Ormasen, French; Policy: Bates, McGregor, French, Buckmaster.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

President Lisa McGregor 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 Laura Spicer, and seconded by Trustee 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 August 17, 2026, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 8/21/26 – 9/11/26, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the services, including additions, modifications and deletions, for the following classified CSE students, as reflected in the attached CSE Meeting Minutes report:

5102952 5102898 5101866 5102769 5104621 5102793

D. CPSE Business

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the services, including additions, modifications and deletions, for the following classified CPSE students, as reflected in the attached CPSE Meeting Minutes report:

5105242 5105210

E. Treasurer's Report – August 2026

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

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

F. Change Orders

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

1. Approve the Change Order for Contract: Capital Improvements Project Phase 1 – MS Athletic Facility: Stadium Sound System - Electrical (Number 4-01), as presented.
2. Approve the Change Order for Contract: Capital Improvements Project Phase 1 – MS Athletic Facility: Alternate – Hvy Duty Parking Lot Add (Number 5-06), as presented.
3. Approve the Change Order for Contract: 2024 Capital Project: 285LF of 15" Connection between Drywell No 6 and existing CB by School (Number 5-07), as presented.

Vote on Consent Agenda:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

President Lisa McGregor 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 Tina French, and seconded by Trustee Laura Spicer, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-D, as a Consent Agenda:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

A. Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement #6 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the amendment to MOA#6 to the contract between the District and GEA for a non-precedent setting agreement to continue to provide unpaid leave for a particular Teacher's Service as Town Justice for the 2026-27 school year.

B. Retirements

Accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from David M. Dailey, from his position as Secondary Mathematics Teacher, with appreciation and regret, effective December 1, 2026.

C. Appointments

1. Instructional

- a) Science Teacher. Appoint Jung (Veronica) LaMothe, holding NYS Initial certification in Physics (Grades 7-12) to the position of Science Teacher in the Science academic tenure area. Mrs. LaMothe will have a four-year probationary period commencing on September 15, 2026, and anticipated to end on September 14, 2030, at an annual salary set at Step 1, B45M, in accordance with the Gouverneur Education Association Agreement current salary schedule for 2026-2027, prorated to September 15, 2026. This appointment is contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term.

2. Non-Instructional

- a) Individual Aides. Appoint the following Individual Aides, in the noncompetitive class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, effective September 15, 2026, at a salary of Individual Aide 7.5, Level 1, prorated to September 15, 2026:

1. Terry L. Collier
2. Janet M. McIntosh
3. Veronika Holmberg-Kicakova

3. Substitutes and Tutors

- a) Approve the appointment of substitutes for 2026-27, pending any outstanding requirements:

Nola Farns, certified teacher (retired)
 Carlton Bressett
 Allysa Byrd (cafeteria)
 June Dewhirst
 Christine Weaver
 Nelson Barker
 Nichole Hull
 Richard Nicholas (B&G)
 RaeLynn Absalon
 Hillary Bowman
 Lauren Frank
 Kortnee Lucidi
 Brianna Macaulay

- b) Approve the appointment of tutors for homebound instruction for 2026-27:
 Josh Forgione

4. Extra-Curricular

- a) 2026-27 Coaches – Fall. Approve the following coaching recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding certification requirements, and compensated in accordance with the 2026-27 Coaching Salary Schedule of the GEA contract:

FOOTBALL – JV ASSISTANT	ALAN COUNTRYMAN	RESIGNED	
FOOTBALL – VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT	MICHAEL SHATTUCK	RESCIND	
FOOTBALL – JV ASSISTANT	MICHAEL SHATTUCK	CLASS 3	Step 8

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

C.4 Appointments – Extra-Curricular (Cont.)

- b) 2026-27 Advisors. Approve the appointments of the 2026-27 Advisors, to be compensated in accordance with the 2026-27 Club Salary Schedule of the GEA contract:

DEANONIAN	CORY V. YOUNG	CLASS A	Step 12
MUSICAL DIRECTOR # 1	EMILY M. BASON	CLASS A	Step 9
ART CLUB HS	ROBERT D. DECKER	CLASS B	Step 13
FFA	KYLIE A. TORRES	CLASS B	Step 5
MUSICAL DIRECTOR # 2	OLIVIA R. DEARBECK	CLASS B	Step 3
SELECT CHOIR (CHAMBER SINGERS)	BRETT M. WORDEN	CLASS B	Step 4
E-Sports	MICHAEL A. SHATTUCK	CLASS B	Step 2
DEANONIAN 2	BETHANIE J. DENESHA	CLASS B	Step 12
TRAPSHOOTING TEAM - FALL	PAUL D. CAPPELLINO	CLASS B	Step 4
TRAPSHOOTING TEAM - SPRING	PAUL D. CAPPELLINO	CLASS B	Step 4
DRAMA CLUB 7 & 8	BRANDON A. GRIFFIN	CLASS B	Step 5
SENIOR HIGH FALL PLAY	MICHAEL J. BASON	CLASS B	Step 5
CHOREOGRAPHER (MUSICAL)	DANIELLE J. VALENZUELA	CLASS C	Step 3
HONOR SOCIETY 7 & 8	MONICA L. SCOTT	CLASS C	Step 6
HONOR SOCIETY 9-12	JULIA M. STREETER	CLASS C	Step 4
STAGE BAND	OLIVIA R. DEARBECK	CLASS C	Step 3
STUDENT COUNCIL HIGH SCHOOL	HEATHER L. PARKER	CLASS C	Step 3
VARSITY CLUB	SARAH J. WOOD	CLASS C	Step 5
A-V DIRECTOR	RICHARD PATTON	CLASS C	Step 3
ADVISOR, GRADE 12 #1	BETHANIE J. DENESHA	CLASS D	Step 16
ADVISOR, GRADE 12 #2	SARAH J. WOOD	CLASS D	Step 8
ADVISOR, GRADE 11 #1	HEATHER L. PARKER	CLASS D	Step 15
ADVISOR, GRADE 11 #2	CORY V. YOUNG	CLASS D	Step 12
HISTORY CLUB	LISA M. STOWELL	CLASS D	Step 6
KEY CLUB	EMILY B. MASHAW	CLASS D	Step 4
STUDENT COUNCIL 7 & 8	HEATHER I. ROSE	CLASS D	Step 25
WHIZ QUIZ	EMILY M. BASON	CLASS D	Step 8
MUSICAL SET DIRECTOR	ROBERT D. DECKER	CLASS D	Step 5
ADVISOR, GRADE 10 #1	GINA WHITE	CLASS E	Step 2
ADVISOR, GRADE 9 #1	KATHLEEN M. STAMPER	CLASS E	Step 8
COMPETITIVE SPEAKING CLUB	MICHAEL J. BASON	CLASS E	Step 10
COSTUME CLUB	MEAGHAN A. MATTHEWS	CLASS E	Step 5
MATH CLUB	CORY V. YOUNG	CLASS E	Step 6
K-KIDS CLUB (0.5)	ALISSA M. MCEATHRON	CLASS E	Step 4
K-KIDS CLUB (0.5)	KAYLA M. SIDE	CLASS E	Step 4
MILITARY KIDS CLUB ELEMENTARY (0.5)	NICOLE CUDHEA	CLASS E	Step 3
MILITARY KIDS CLUB ELEMENTARY (0.5)	KATRINA COOK	CLASS E	Step 3
BAND PEP	OLIVIA R. DEARBECK	CLASS F	Step 3
TRI-M ADVISOR (Shared)	OLIVIA R. MONTAGNO	VOLUNTEER	
TRI-M ADVISOR (Shared)	BRETT M. WORDEN	VOLUNTEER	

5. Extra Duty

- a) High School After School Tutoring. Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2026-2027 school year: Kathleen Beese, Josh Forgione, Alexia Taylor, Rebecca Taylor, Sam Sochia; substitutes – Lisa Carbone and Jill Davis.
- b) High School Detention Monitors. Appoint the following personnel for the 2026-2027 school year: Bobbie Holmes, Bille Jean Sheen, Rebecca Taylor; substitutes – Jessica Miller and Sam Sochia.
- c) Middle School After School Tutoring Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2026-2027 school year. Jen Earlywine, Desiree Simmons, Lisa Stowell, Kim Reed, Chris Cagnetti, Kristina Hitchman, Melinda Schiszler, Shari Ronas, Jerrilyn Patton, Kristen Gaebel, Brandon Griffin, Melissa Sweeney, Cheri Zira, Sean Devlin, Denise Baer, Autumn Baker, Stacey Devlin; Lead Teacher – Stacey Devlin.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

C. Appointments (Cont.)

6. Leaves and Leave Replacements

- a) Acknowledge paid and unpaid leave of absence covered under the FMLA for tenured employee #00599, for the approximate period 08/31/2026 – 11/20/2026. Employee will use paid time per terms of the GEA collective bargaining agreement. Employee will incur approximately twenty and one-half (20.5) unpaid days. Unpaid time on this leave of absence will not count toward seniority.
- b) Acknowledge paid and unpaid leave of absence covered under the FMLA for probationary employee #00550, for the approximate period 08/31/2026 – 11/20/2026. Employee will use paid time per terms of the GEA collective bargaining agreement. Employee will incur approximately forty-eight (48) unpaid days. Unpaid time on this leave of absence will not count toward tenure or seniority.
- c) Acknowledge paid leave of absence covered under the FMLA for probationary employee #00870, for the approximate period 09/14/2026 – 10/23/2026. Employee will use paid time per terms of the GEA collective bargaining agreement. Employee may incur unpaid days based on return date. Unpaid time on this leave of absence will not count toward tenure or seniority.
- d) Acknowledge paid and unpaid leave of absence covered under the FMLA for tenured employee #00100, for the approximate period 08/31/2026 – 11/20/2026. Employee will use paid time per terms of the GEA collective bargaining agreement. Employee will incur approximately sixteen and one-half (16.5) unpaid days. Unpaid time on this leave of absence will not count toward seniority.
- e) Appoint Nelson Barker as a long-term substitute for the AIS Math position that is encumbered by a vacancy, effective September 21, 2026, to terminate upon or before the probationary appointment of an AIS Math teacher, at the established rate of Uncertified Substitute Teacher.

7. Other

- a) Webmaster. Approve the appointment of Cory Young as Webmaster for the 2026-27 school year, at a stipend of \$5,410.
- b) McKinney-Vento 2026-2027. Through the McKinney-Vento consortium grant we are able to have the following people support our identified homeless population: DTST Members: Monica Scott, Kayley Learn Denner, Christie Warren, Kaitlin McEathron, Saddle Whitaker (Support Leader), Stephanie Plaisted (Support Leader). M-V Mentors: Monica Scott (Liaison/Mentor); Christie Warren, Hunter Hitchman, Kaitlin McEathron, Kayley Learn Denner.

D. Amendments to Organizational Meeting Business

1. Committee on Special Education Members

The following be appointed as members of the Committee on Special Education, effective 8/31/26: Alternate Chairperson(s): Remove Grace Dumas, Add Lisa Dunkelberg

2. Committee on Preschool Special Education Members

The following be appointed as members of the Committee on Preschool Special Education, effective 8/31/26: Alternate Chairperson(s): Remove Grace Dumas, Add Lisa Dunkelberg

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

President McGregor thanked Mark Dailey for all he's done for our students over the years and said he will be missed. She welcomed Ms. LaMothe and the new aides to the District and thanked all the staff who were appointed for extra duties.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. School Lunch and Breakfast Program

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Bates, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, that the Board of Education approve participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program for 2026-2027. Breakfast and lunch meals served to all students at no cost (\$0.00); Adult Breakfast Meal is \$3.75 + tax, and Adult Lunch Meal is \$5.50 + tax.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND PRICING, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. Authorization to Declare as Surplus and Dispose of Used Items

Whereas, the School District owns certain items which are obsolete, no longer useful or necessary for school district purposes and of no value to the School District, as indicated below; Therefore, be it resolved, that upon motion made by Trustee Bates, and seconded by Vice-President French, that the Board of Education hereby declares such items to be surplus property and of no value to the School District and authorizes the Business Administrator to dispose of such items in accordance with Board Policy and in the best interests of the School District:

Item	Number	Condition	Reason For Disposal	Recommended means of disposal
Mama and Baby Echo	3	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level K Teacher Manual	1	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level K Composition Notebook	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level K Practice Book	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level K Letter Boards	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level K Student Notebook	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Grade 1 Teacher Manual	1	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level 1 Composition Notebook	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level 1 Practice Book	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level 1 Letter Boards	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level 1 Student Notebook	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Grade 2 Teacher Manual	1	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level 2 Composition Notebook	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level 2 Practice Book	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level 2 Letter Boards	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Level 2 Student Notebook	20	Like New	No Longer Used	St. James Donation
Misc. Steel beams	10	Like New	Not Used	Auction

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ITEMS AS LISTED DECLARED AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZED FOR DISPOSAL, AS PRESENTED.

C. Resolution Approving Intermunicipal Agreement

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Spicer, and seconded by Trustee Bates, that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education for the Gouverneur Central School District owns and operates an unleaded gasoline and diesel fueling facility for its vehicles at 109 Gleason Street, Gouverneur, NY 13642, and the Village of Gouverneur ("Village") and Town of Gouverneur ("Town") seek to use such fueling station and reimburse the School District for fuel consumption;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, with advice of counsel, has prepared a proposed intermunicipal agreement between the School District, Village, and Town (hereinafter the "Agreement"); and

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. Resolution Approving Intermunicipal Agreement (Cont.)

WHEREAS, the School District's fueling station can accommodate the anticipated additional use by the Village and Town;

WHEREAS, the proposed Agreement authorized by Article 5-G, Section 119-o of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District as follows:

Section 1. The proposed Agreement between the School District, Village, and Town is in the best interest of the School District and is hereby approved.

Section 2. The Superintendent of the School District is authorized and directed to execute the Agreement, and take all steps necessary or appropriate to complete the transaction.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESOLUTION APPROVING INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT, APPROVED.

D. Fire Safety Inspection Report

(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Vice-President French, and seconded by Trustee Bates, that the Board of Education approve the Fire Safety Inspection Report dated May 3, 2026; all items listed have been corrected.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT DATED 5/3/26, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

E. Overnight Trip Request – National FFA Convention

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Bates, and seconded by Vice-President French, that the Board of Education approve the request for four student members of the local chapter of the FFA, and advisor Kylie Torres, to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, from October 18 – October 24, 2026. The students will be traveling with the Lowville chapter. We also have two students attending who were selected for the National FFA Band.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FFA OVERNIGHT TRIP REQUEST TO NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION, APPROVED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD – None.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Bates, and seconded by Trustee Roberts, to 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 6:11 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 6:44 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Bates, and seconded by Vice-President French, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Lisa McGregor, President

September 14, 2026

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