GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
GOUVERNEUR NEW YORK 13642
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 19, 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 Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, Logan Buckmaster, Dr. William Cartwright, Tina French, Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen.

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush, Laurie M. Roberts, Laura Spicer.

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; Laina Kurdziel, Student Board Representative.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

Brandon Griffin, teacher and advisor for the Middle School Drama Club, shared flyers for the upcoming production of *Seussical Jr.* and encouraged everyone to attend on November 20-21.

Jerrilyn Patton, teacher and president of the Gouverneur Education Association (GEA), shared a flyer for *Socktober* and asked those present to please consider supporting the union's annual efforts to supply socks, undergarments, and hygiene products at all of the schools for distribution to children in need.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentations – School Board Appreciation Week

Superintendent Kelly announced that the New York State School Boards Association designated October 12-18, 2026, as School Board Appreciation Week, saying that it is a time meant to promote awareness of what a school board does, but more importantly, it is a time for us to say thank you. Mrs. Kelly elaborated on the responsibilities, commitment, and diligence required of the nine individuals who sit at the table and drive student achievement, saying, "You carefully align our budget resources and policies so that every dollar directly supports our classrooms. You diligently monitor student progress to keep us accountable, while simultaneously fostering a school culture that is safe, healthy, and supportive for both our staff and our kids. And finally, you ensure strong leadership, constantly pushing all of us toward continuous improvement. To the citizens of Gouverneur, our school board members give you a direct, local voice in education decision-making. So, to our board: Even though we make a special effort to show our appreciation during this specific week, please know that we recognize your contribution is a year-round, personal commitment. Thank you for your grace, your stamina, and your unwavering dedication to the children of our district."

Jerrilyn Patton spoke on behalf of the GEA to express their gratitude to the Board, saying, in part, "Your leadership and service does not go unnoticed; and we do recognize all you do and the hard work you put into sometimes difficult decisions. We appreciate all the capital improvements, your demonstrated commitment to creating opportunities for students, and the stronger future for our students and community. Thank you."

B. Wildcat News

Superintendent Kelly shared student successes. Senior Sophia Klimowicz has been selected to attend the SkillsUSA Leadership Conference representing the Southwest Tech. B.O.C.E.S. Rose Cox, Walton Douglas, Abel Halladay, and Karissa Hamilton are attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Hannah White and Kylie Gallagher have been accepted into the National FFA Band and have flown out to the convention ahead of the others. This year, the Ag. Advisory Board is paying for the flights for Hannah and Kylie; they also paid the deposit for Rose, Walton, Abel, Karissa, and Mrs. Torres to attend the convention. The students fundraised approximately 75% of the cost of their trip outside of the ag board's contribution. Audrey Ormasen and Jackson Breckenridge both received the Evergreen STEM Scholarship, a highly competitive, permanent fund administered by the Northern New York Community Foundation, designed to support, inspire, and encourage top-tier high school students across St. Lawrence County who plan to pursue post-secondary studies and future careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) fields. The program is made possible by the generosity of north country native Charles Owens and his late wife, Higouhi, and only selects 10 students annually from across all of St. Lawrence County.

III. DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

C. Communications

Board members received a letter from Robert G. Andrews Jr. announcing his resignation from the Agriculture Advisory Board, concluding 40 years of service. President McGregor publicly acknowledged, with thanks and appreciation, the time and effort he gave to our students and wished him well.

An invitation from the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School Boards Association for "Dinner and Dialogue" with Regent Roger Catania was shared with a reminder to RSVP to the Clerk.

D. Upcoming Events

Superintendent Kelly shared several events occurring in the next month, including the annual Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Middle School on November 10, parent-teacher conferences, and stage productions.

E. Student Board Representative – Laina Kurdziel

Ms. Kurdziel congratulated the varsity football team on their win clinching the regular season title. She announced that the National Honor Society would conduct a blood drive the following week, and they are hoping to meet or surpass their collection goal.

F. NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting update – delegate Nickolas Ormasen

Trustee Ormasen described the voting process at the virtual meeting, where he represented our district among the 250 people on the Zoom session. He said the process has changed greatly from the in-person meetings held years ago, becoming much more efficient. He stated that they do not make legislation; rather, they make guidance decisions for NYSSBA to advocate for. This year they discussed 26 resolutions. Mr. Ormasen briefly spoke on some that were of interest to our board and said a full list would be available from NYSSBA. President McGregor thanked him for participating on our behalf.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report – September 2026

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Dale Munn reviewed highlights from the September report. Under revenue, he reiterated that the district's largest revenue source is state aid. That amount is a projection until BEDS day (the first Wednesday in October), when enrollments are certified across the state and the actual state aid reports are published on November 15. He also announced the district was awarded a $514,000 grant for the purchase of two electric buses. These are in addition to the two already in the fleet. When the first two were acquired, two chargers were installed that could each handle two buses. Bus costs above the grant amount will be paid from the New York Transportation budget, with no local cost for inclusion in the 2027-28 budget. The projected expenses for the month are $762,000 under budget. Mr. Munn clarified this is due to the 8-1-2 CPSE program that was discontinued, imparting a similar decrease in revenues. Actual salaries and benefits are also now encumbered; this includes all the new hires that were an estimated cost in the budget. He provided an update on the fund balance, with the projected unassigned fund balance around 7.3% at the end of the fiscal year. The auditors will present their annual report at the next meeting, and there will be a finding related to the unassigned fund balance being over 4%.

B. Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Todd Bates, and seconded by Vice-President Tina French, that the Board of Education approve the Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PRELIMINARY SMART SCHOOLS INVESTMENT PLAN, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. Student Activities Financial Report for Third Quarter, 2026

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Todd Bates, and seconded by Vice-President Tina French, that the Board of Education accept the Student Activities Financial Report for Third Quarter, 2026, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. STUDENT ACTIVITIES FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER, 2026, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

VIII. 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 Todd Bates, and seconded by Vice-President Tina French, 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 September 14, 2026, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #4, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 9/12/26 – 10/16/26, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #5, 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:

5105358	5104099	5102502	5102952	5104877	5104254	5105382
5103509	5104002	5104803	5104434	5103496	5100805	5101991
5104387	5102693	5102187	5103080	5100807	5103045	5103222
5104967	5102202	5102511	5103547	5105021	5102138	5102218
5105437	5104618	5104674	5104987	5105438	5103934	5104337
5102987	5102802					

D. CPSE Business

(See Sheet #6, 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: 5105032

E. Treasurer's Report – September 2026

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

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

F. Change Orders

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

1. Approve the Change Order for Contract: Capital Improvements Project Phase 2 – HS Aux Gym Framing Changes (Number 1-07), as presented.
2. Approve the Change Order for Contract: Capital Improvements Project Phase 2 – Mezzanine Ceiling Modifications (Number 1-08), as presented.
3. Approve the Change Order for Contract: Capital Improvements Project Phase 2 – Signage (Number 1-09), 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 Trustee Todd Bates, and seconded by Vice-President Tina French, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items, A-F, as a Consent Agenda:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

A. Adoption of Memorandum of Agreement #10 between the Gouverneur Central School District and the Gouverneur Education Association

(See Sheet #9, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the MOA#10 to the contract between the District and GEA to amend Article 11.1, stating the LMC shall be comprised of an equal number of representatives of each party; in addition to the GEA President and the Superintendent, each party may have up to six, but not less than four, other members for representation.

B. Positions

Approve the recommendation to create one 5-hour Food Service Helper position (high school) under the Labor Class of the civil service, represented by the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union, effective immediately.

C. Resignations

a) Accept the request for resignation from Jessica A. Sullivan, from her position as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, effective at the close of business on September 30, 2026.

b) Accept the request for resignation from Aiden Breckenridge, from his position as Individual Aide, effective at the close of business on September 30, 2026.

D. Termination

Approve to terminate the employment of employee #00524, effective September 30, 2026, as discussed in a previous executive session.

E. Appointments

1. Non-Instructional

Cleaner. Appoint Niklas Tharaldsen as a Cleaner in the labor class of the civil service, under the terms and conditions of the GSRPU contract, effective October 20, 2026, at a salary of Cleaner, Level 1.

2. Substitutes and Tutors

a) Approve the following current staff members/substitutes to work as instructional tutors for homebound students: Melissa Sweeney, Sarah Scott, Sabrina Jones.

b) Approve the appointment of the following personnel as listed to work as per diem substitutes in instructional and/or support positions: Haley Morrow, Jane Trowbridge

3. Extra Duty

a) Gouverneur Elementary Afterschool Tutoring - Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2026-2027 school year: Sarah Scott, Shelley Burnham, Katherine Gleason, Kara Mashaw, Kenneth Nicholas, Sabrina Jones, Terry Streeter, Tammy Labrake, Alissa McEathron.

b) Gouverneur Middle School Afterschool Tutoring - Instructors. Appoint the following personnel as Tutoring Instructors (Extended Day After School Program) for the 2026-2027 school year: Trenton Sullivan, Jennifer Earlywine, Connor Canell

4. Extra-Curricular

a) 2026-27 Advisors. Approve the following appointments of the 2026-2027 Advisors, to be compensated in accordance with the Club Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

SELECT STRINGS	PAUL BUELL	CLASS C	Step 3
BUILDERS CLUB	CHRISTINE COGNETTI	CLASS D	Step 1
FFA ASSISTANT	POLLY SERGEL	CLASS F	Step 2
HS SCIENCE OLYMPIAD	SARAH WOOD	CLASS C	Step 3
MS DRAMA CLUB ASSISTANT	CATHERINE YABLONSKI	CLASS F	Step 2

b) 2026-27 Winter Coaches. Approve the following coaching recommendations, pending completion of any outstanding certification requirements, to be compensated in accordance with the Coaching Salary Schedule of the GEA contract, as presented:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

E. Appointments (Cont.)

4.b) Extra-Curricular – 2026-27 Winter Coaches (Cont.)

WRESTLING – VARSITY BOYS	GEORGE J. BAER	CLASS 1	Step 17
BASKETBALL BOYS 8TH GRADE	JARRETT W. BULLOCK	CLASS 4	Step 4
WRESTLING – VARSITY GIRLS	ALAN COUNTRYMAN	CLASS 1	Step 1
INDOOR TRACK ASSISTANT	SHAWN P. CUMMINGS	CLASS 3	Step 30
BASKETBALL GIRLS VARSITY	SEAN T. DEVLIN	CLASS 1	Step 21
CHEERLEADING WINTER	ERICA DOWLING	CLASS 1	Step 4
BASKETBALL GIRLS VOLUNTEER	CHELSI (GRIFFITH) PECK	N/A	
WRESTLING – GIRLS VOLUNTEER ASST	BENJAMIN HOFFMAN	N/A	
WRESTLING – JV/VARSITY ASST	RANDOLPH MORRISON	CLASS 2	Step 18
BASKETBALL GIRLS 7TH GRADE	KORRINE PATTERSON	CLASS 4	Step 4
BASKETBALL GIRLS VOLUNTEER	SARAH RIUTTA	N/A	
BASKETBALL BOYS VARSITY	MICHAEL A. SHATTUCK	CLASS 1	Step 10
BASKETBALL GIRLS VOLUNTEER	CHLOE SMITH	N/A	
BASKETBALL GIRLS VOLUNTEER	LANEY SMITH	N/A	
BASKETBALL BOYS JV	TRENTON SULLIVAN	CLASS 2	Step 2
WRESTLING – VOLUNTEER ASST	DILLAN STOWELL	N/A	
BASKETBALL GIRLS JV	RICK L. VROOMAN	CLASS 2	Step 15
INDOOR TRACK	KURTIS P. WELLS	CLASS 1	Step 20
WRESTLING – MODIFIED	COLTER WHITMORE	CLASS 4	Step 2
SWIM BOYS	BRETT M. WORDEN	CLASS 1	Step 4

5. Students

Approve the following student(s) to work for the 2026-2027 school year, pending completion of all outstanding requirements: Marissa Kerr

F. Amendments to Organizational Meeting Business for 2026-2027

1. Civil Rights Compliance Designees: Appoint Nicole Donaldson to replace Jessica Sullivan as Civil Rights Compliance Designees for students and staff, effective October 1, 2026.
2. *Dignity for All Students Act* Coordinators: Appoint Dale Munn to replace Jessica Sullivan as Lead Coordinator – District, effective October 1, 2026.
3. Title IX Coordinator(s): Appoint Nicole Donaldson to replace Jessica Sullivan to serve as Title IX Coordinator: 315-287-1900, donaldson.nicole@gcsk12.org, effective October 1, 2026.
4. School District Foster Care Co-Liaison: Appoint Kayley Learn Denner as a School District Foster Care Co-Liaison, in accordance with Board Policy 7133, Education of Students in Foster Care, for the 2026-27 school year.

Vote on Consent Agenda – Personnel:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Gift from KPH Healthcare Services, Inc.

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 accept the non-monetary donation of 102 Axe body spray/body wash sets from KPH Healthcare Services, Inc. with thanks and appreciation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. GIFT FROM KPH HEALTHCARE SERVICES, INC., ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

B. Appointment of Department Chairpersons/Grade Level Leaders

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 appoint the following Department Chairpersons/Grade Level Leaders for the 2026-2027 school year, to be compensated $1,000 for each position upon completion of responsibilities.

X. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

B. Appointment of Department Chairpersons/Grade Level Leaders (Cont.)

Gouverneur Elementary School
Pre-K: **Stephanie LaShomb**
Kindergarten: **Sarah Pawananon**
Grade 1: **Teresa Kiechle**
Grade 2: **Marcie Tyler**
Grade 3: **Carrie Hartle**
Grade 4: **Kayla Side**
Special Education: **Kyle Baker**
Reading Intervention: **Gwen O'Shea**
Special Areas: **Leah Card**

Gouverneur High School
English Language Arts: **Meaghan Matthews**
Mathematics: **Megan Sovie**
Science: **Sarah Wood**
Social Studies: **Donna Briscoe**
Special Education: **Kristen Wallace/Heather Parker – Co-Chairs**

Gouverneur Middle School
English Language Arts: **Stacey Devlin**
Mathematics: **Jennifer Anson**
Science: **Saddie Whitaker**
Social Studies: **Brandon Griffin**
Special Education: **Melissa Sweeney**
Reading Intervention: **Pam Stevens**

Gouverneur Central School District
Art: **Amber Ormasen**
Foreign Language: **Emily Bason**
Guidance (HS): **Marcy Tyler**
Math Intervention: **Jessica Cappellino**
Music: **Richard Patton**

YEAS: Bates, Buckmaster, Cartwright, French, McGregor NAYS: None.
ABSTENTION: Ormasen
MOTION CARRIED. CHAIRPERSONS/ LEADERS, APPOINTED AS PRESENTED.

C. Overnight Trip Requests – Varsity Wrestling

Upon presentation and recommendation of Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Bates, and seconded by Trustee Buckmaster, that the Board of Education approve the request for the Boys' Varsity Wrestling team to attend and compete in the following tournaments. The cost to the district is registration fees and transportation:

a) **December 28-29**. *Windsor Holiday Tournament* at Windsor High School, Windsor, NY. Depart December 27, 2026, and return on December 29, 2026. Registration fee: $350.
b) **January 16**. *Schenectady Invitational* at Schenectady High School, Schenectady, NY. Depart on January 15, 2027, and return on January 16, 2027. Registration fee: $350.
c) **January 23**. *King Bison Invitational* at Shaker High School, Latham, NY. Depart on January 22, 2027, and return on January 23, 2027. Registration fee: $375.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.
MOTION CARRIED. OVERNIGHT TRIPS FOR VARSITY WRESTLING, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

XI. COMMENT PERIOD – *No comments offered.*

XII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Buckmaster, and seconded by Trustee Bates, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of persons; including the annual informal evaluation of Superintendent Kelly and tenure recommendations.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.
MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:25 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Open session resumed at 7:14 PM.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Bates, and seconded by Vice-President French, to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

__
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk Lisa McGregor, President