

# 2019 BUDGET NEWSLETTER



## Message from the Superintendent

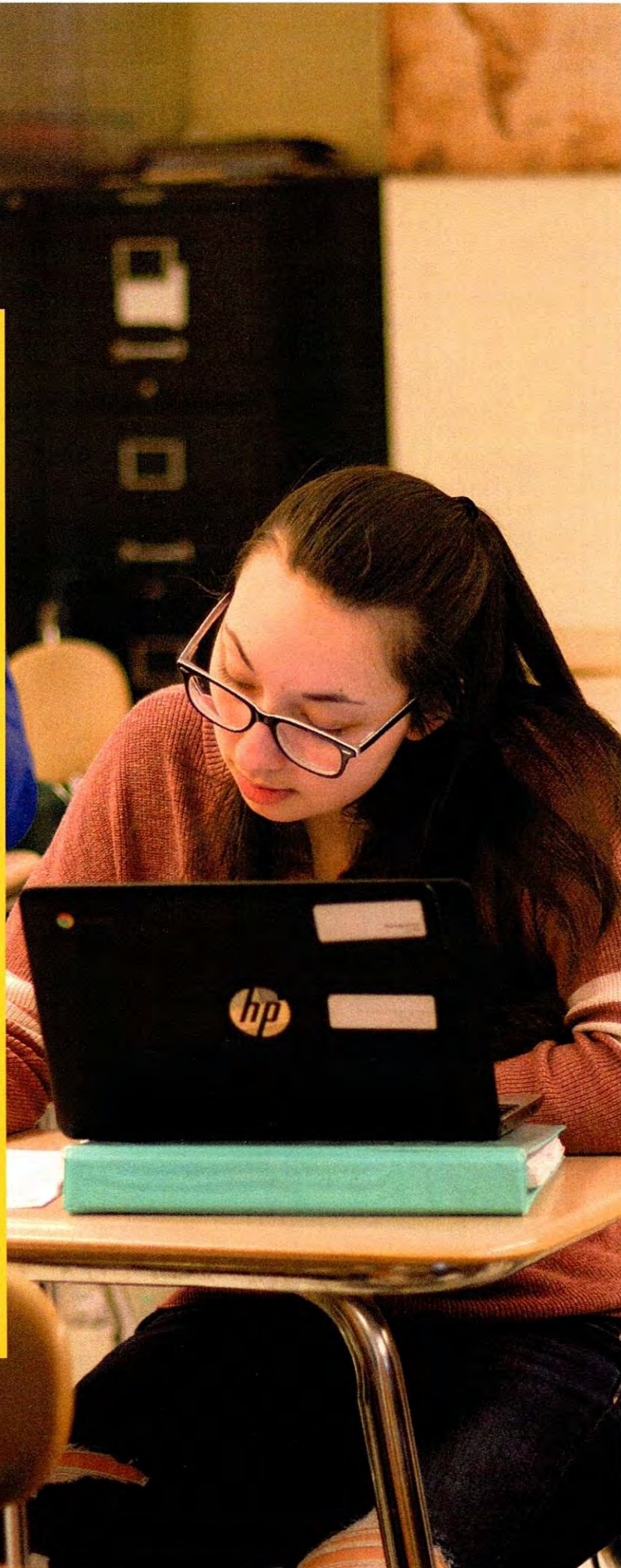
To the Residents of Gouverneur Central School District:

On April 22, the Gouverneur CSD Board of Education unanimously adopted a proposed budget for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of \$36,788,822. This budget represents an increase of \$111,983 over the 2018-2019 school year or an increase of 0.31% in expenditures and an increase of 2.39% in the tax levy which is compliant with the tax cap limit. Looking at a typical \$60,000 assessed value home with basic STAR in Gouverneur, the estimated cost will be an increase of \$19.33 this year.

In developing the budget for the 2019-2020 school year, we had to make very difficult decisions to balance the learning needs of all scholars. This budget is based on the belief that learning needs must encompass all aspects of a scholar's life, from health, safety and wellness needs, to instructional needs to the need to belong and participate in extended opportunities. Our expenditures increased by 5.81%, yet our revenues only increased by .81%. This shortfall can only be resolved through a variety of reductions. I presented options to the Board of Education at the March 25, 2019 and again at the April 8, 2019 meeting. The budget presented in this briefing is a combination of our efforts. We looked at balancing the budget through reductions to staff through retirement, reductions to programs, professional development and supplies and reduction through realignment and reduction of administrative positions.

We will continue to support the SLL BOCES Agricultural Studies Academy, which is housed at Cornell Cooperative Extension Farm. The students who participated in the program in previous years indicated their experience was of exceptional quality and encouraged us to keep this as an option for future students. In addition, the academy changed offerings, so some of our students have the ability to attend the 1/2 day program. This program dovetails nicely with our local FFA and Ag Science Program run by Ms. Foote. Her experience and enthusiasm has students all over the north country gathering sap, serving pancakes, raising chickens, running hydroponics to grow salad greens and competing at various competitions.

**Gouverneur Central  
School District  
Vote: Tuesday, May 21, 2019  
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM**





Our academic program continues to grow with additional SUPA (Syracuse University Project Advance) Classes. These classes provide college credit for students and the academic challenges some students need to be prepared for post-high school education. We are also expanding our DL (Distance Learning) Programs. At graduation 2018, a total of 621 SUPA credits and other collegiate credits were awarded.

We will continue to support the Southwest Tech (SWT) Center as the careers around automotive, construction, welding, electrical and human services will continue to provide employment opportunities for our highly motivated scholars. We support SWT with an enrollment of 100 students. Last year, 55 of these students were program concentrators, 35 earned Technical Endorsement (2-auto, 3-child care, 5-construction, 2-heavy equipment, 2-cosmetology, 11-criminal justice, 2-graphics, 3-nursing assistant, 5-welding). Gouverneur Central School is very proud of our scholars who have demonstrated the ability to earn Technical Endorsement! We have already received news this year that several of our students have employment offers as a result of their shadowing programs.

At the Elementary School, our focus in aligning our programs to New York State Next Generation Learning Standards in all subject areas, specifically in the area of ELA and Math will continue as we refine the practice of a Balanced Literacy approach to reading and writing as well as curriculum mapping in Mathematics. Our extra programs such as B.E.A.R. Club (Be Excited About Reading) and Odyssey of the Mind will continue to foster the love and passion for reading and creative thinking in our young scholars. The support of inclusive practices for our younger students to provide equity in the delivery of services will also continue to be a focus for the Elementary building as we immerse our students with special needs in the school-wide programs. Our vision, "Delivering the Promise of a Brighter Future to all Students" is an inclusive statement and must also be defined in our actions.

Our renovation project enabled us to open a safe, renovated Elementary and Middle School. Thank you to the special efforts of Administrators Day, Zawatski, Coffin and Sullivan we have been able to benefit from the new areas. The safety features continue to expand and with the Smart Schools allocations, cameras and communications will be finished in the very near future. A special thank you to our community members who invested their heart and soul into getting these buildings renovated. The High School project bids were received and due to the increased costs of materials since 2014 when we started the process, we will be asking voters to approve an additional bond that will allow us to use \$1,025,000 of funds from the capital

reserve. These funds can only be used as resources for capital projects as established by voter approval in 2016. Without this additional approval of funds which have been set aside, the High School project will not take place.

After a lengthy hiring process, we are very pleased to have School Resource Officer Robert Klimowicz circulating around our campuses. His position was established in the 2018-19 budget. His presence, combined with what we have been able to accomplish through the renovation project, has enabled us to address safety and security at the Elementary and Middle School buildings. With voter support on the referendum, we will be able to finish the High School with the added layers of safety and security.

I, along with the Board of Education, staff, and students appreciate the community support that is demonstrated in a variety of ways. Your presence at events reminds me how important each person is in the education of the scholars within our school community.

Please take time to review this budget document and feel welcome to attend the Budget Hearing on May 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Voting will take place on May 21, 2019 from noon to 8:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

If you would like additional information, feel free to contact my office or any member of the Board of Education. Each of us would be pleased to answer your questions or concerns.

Lauren F. French  
Superintendent of Schools





## Curriculum and Instruction Update

### Dr. Donna Runner, Assistant Superintendent

The Gouverneur Central School District strives to “Deliver the Promise of a Brighter Future” to our scholars. That delivery requires us to offer instruction that will allow students to communicate well by learning to read, write, speak and listen in a variety of content areas and opportunities.

With that goal in mind, we start with the New York State Academic Standards and use those standards to create specific objectives and learning tasks that support student achievement. Our curriculum maps, created by our teachers, offer guidance in how best to accomplish this planning for instruction. These maps support a progression of learning, increasing in complexity, by grade level and content area.

In the early grades, our focus is on learning to read using a balanced literacy model, where students participate in a read aloud, shared reading, interactive writing, shared writing, Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop and Word Study. In Kindergarten and First Grade, we use resources from Fountas & Pinnell Classroom that include specific mini-lessons for reading strategies and Word Study that includes phonics and spelling. In Second through Fourth Grades, our students use resources from Units of Study in Reading. The units include use of a workshop model where scholars receive direct, explicit instruction in the skills and strategies of proficient reading. Students read from real books and select those titles on their own and with increasing complexity.

All grades use Units of Study in Writing in a Workshop Model that includes mini-lessons and opportunities for students to learn to write to share an opinion, information or a narrative. Students learn to write the kinds of texts they see in the world and write for real audiences. Students receive instruction in spelling and conventions as well as the qualities and strategies of good writing.

In the middle and high school grades, we focus on close reading of primary source documents, literature and non-fiction texts that support learning in specific content areas. Across subjects, students focus on writing to respond and support their writing with specific details from the texts they are using. Students are also taught how to write creatively and use conventions appropriately.

If a student struggles in reading, teachers offer reteaching opportunities in small group or individual settings and our scholars receive additional, personalized online reading instruction through Lexia, an adaptive intervention that adjusts to the needs of the individual students. The teacher monitors this learning and offers particular skills instruction needed based on the data in the reports generated by the students’ time on task and units covered.

Our goal is to ensure that our students are comprehending what they read, that they can gain insight and knowledge from the the act of reading. Encourage your child to read every day and model that by reading yourself!

**Gouverneur Central School District is Proud to Recognize our HONORS GROUP, Seniors who have maintained an average of 90 or better throughout their entire high school career.**

**Harley Austin**

**Jenneca Cook**

**Grace Cummings**

**Sophie Fawcett**

**Hannah Hight**

**Collin Hutton**

**Kurtis Knight**

**Virginia Knowlton**

**Mitchell McMaster**

**Ireland Martin**

**Keegan Matthews**

**Elaina Porter**

**Abigail Riutta**

**Nathan Sitts**

**Hannah Spilman**

**Jayden Strawder**





# 2019-20 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

## HOW IS THE TAX RATE SET?

School districts establish the tax levy, the total amount of money raised by local taxes to fund the school budget, but do not determine what portion of the tax burden is placed on any one town or property owner. Each year the actual tax rate increase/decrease varies from town to town due to changes in the assessed values and equalization rate, which are set by the Office of Real Property Services, and are not finalized until August.

In late August, the District uses the total taxable assessed value of properties in each of its towns and the state equalization rates to calculate each town's portion of the school tax levy. The portion of the tax levy is then divided by the total assessed value of property in each town to determine the school tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value by town. Individual tax bills are printed and mailed to property owners on September 1st.

## HOW IS TAX LEVY DIFFERENT FROM TAX RATE?

The tax levy is the total amount that a school district raises each year in taxes from all property owners. The tax rate is the amount of tax paid for each \$1,000 of assessed value of property.

## IS THE TAX LEVY INCREASE WITHIN THE TAX CAP?

Yes. In fact, the proposed tax levy increase of 2.39% is at the district's 2019-20 maximum allowable tax levy limit of 2.39%. Staying at the tax levy limit allows residents to qualify for the state's property tax rebate.

## HOW DOES THE TAX LEVY CAP WORK?

Under New York state tax cap rules, school districts must use a complex formula to calculate their own unique "tax levy limit." Districts then add exclusions set forth in the law to this limit to determine their maximum allowable tax levy for a simple majority vote.

## THREE PART BREAKDOWN

Administrative Costs: \$4,470,615 or 12.15% of the budget

Administrative costs include the salaries and benefits of all certified staff who spend 50% or more of their time in administration, plus the salaries and benefits of clerical staff. Also included are school board costs, and curriculum development.

Program Costs: \$25,000,608 or 67.96% of the budget

Program costs include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff. Also included are textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular student activities, costs of the transportation program except bus purchases.

Capital Costs: \$7,317,599 or 19.89% of the budget

Capital costs include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, plus debt service, bus purchases, utilities, general insurance, tax certiorari and other court-ordered costs.

## BUDGET FACTS

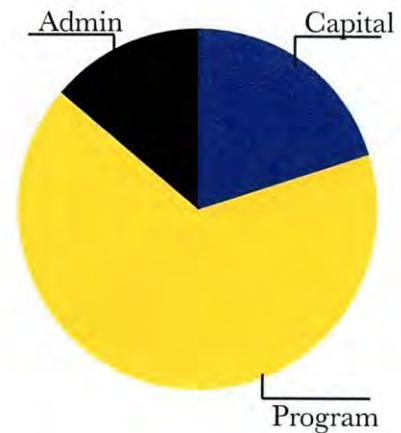
**2019-20 Budget:**  
**\$36,788,822**

**2019-20 Tax Levy Increase:** 2.39%

**2019-20 Tax Levy Increase:** \$148,998

**Total 19-20 Budget Increase:** \$ 111,983

Three Part Breakdown



## QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years old, a resident of the school district for at least 30 days, and must not be prohibited from voting under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law.

## ABSENTEE BALLOT

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 21 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, stop in at the district office or call the district clerk at (315) 287-4870. Applications

must be received in the Superintendent's Office at least seven days prior to election for ballot mailing. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 PM on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.



## A DEVICE FOR EACH STUDENT PROVIDES 21ST CENTURY LEARNING ON AN EVEN PLAYING FIELD

Gouverneur Central School District strives to provide all students with the skills and knowledge necessary for successful futures in the evolving global economy. As technology changes at the speed of light, GCS believes classroom instruction must teach 21st century skills.

Gouverneur Central School will continue to act in accordance with our 1:1 Chromebook replacement plan to ensure that every student is provided with a functioning device to access content. This requires the District to purchase approximately 360 new Chromebooks each year to be deployed to students entering kindergarten, fifth grade, and ninth grade.



Nevertheless, simply putting devices in the hands of students is not enough. Technology alone will not lead to increased engagement, or higher test scores and graduation rates. It is, however, a very powerful tool to be used strategically in the educational process.

Years of research suggest that students learn best in a dynamic, engaging environment, rather than the traditional classroom model that includes a teacher standing static at the front of the room, while students sit at their desks, taking notes throughout the entire class period. By providing students with the types of technology they will undoubtedly use in their future workplace, we are adequately preparing them for successful futures.

By embracing a modern pedagogical practice and implementing corresponding technology in the classroom, Gouverneur Central School District will provide students with the best opportunities for success.

One of the goals of the District Technology Plan is to provide equitable access to content for all learners. Therefore, in addition to devices, the District will also continue to purchase assistive software to aid students with learning disabilities.

The district's initiative to provide every student with a device thereby achieving a 1:1 technology ratio, as part of a systemic change in the attitude and approach toward technology integration in the classroom. In addition, we believe this will level the playing field when it comes to socio-economic status, learning disabilities, etc. We believe in providing every student with the necessary tools to be successful, and the 1:1 initiative is a major step in that direction.

We are committed to the belief that technology should be a tool to empower all of our learners, and should never become a hindrance to them. This year, Gouverneur was able to achieve the 1:1 ratio for all students in grades K-12. This came on the heels of years of preparation, including professional development for staff, pilot programs at different grade levels, and an integrated digital citizenship curriculum.





## Gouverneur Elementary School Qualifies for the Community Eligibility Provision Program

Starting September 2018, the Gouverneur Elementary School qualified for the Community Eligibility Provision Program through NYS Child Nutrition. This program allows the school to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students. This eliminates the burden of collecting household applications to determine eligibility for school meal programs. The District did ask parents to complete and submit to the school a Family Income Form. This information was used to assist us in obtaining grant funds to help support the district in our educational goals.

As of March 31, 2019, Gouverneur Elementary School served 36,483 breakfasts and 41,761 lunches. This represents a 39% increase in breakfast meals served and a 16% increase in lunches served compared to meals served through March 2018.

We are looking to expand the Community Eligibility Provision Program to the Middle and High School buildings for 2019-20 if we meet the eligibility requirements.

Thank you for your support of the Community Eligibility Provision Program at Gouverneur Elementary School.



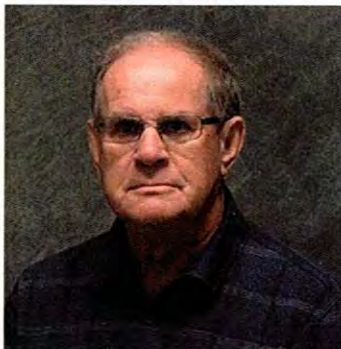
## MEET THE BOARD CANDIDATES



**LISA MCGREGOR** has served two 3-year terms on the Board and is running for her third consecutive term. A 1988 graduate of Adirondack Central in Boonville, she attended SUNY Potsdam and has a Bachelor's Degree in History and Secondary Education. Mrs. McGregor has been married for 27 years and has three children and three grandchildren, and says she was blessed to be able to stay home with her children as they grew up. "Being a Board of Education member is rewarding for me in that I have a voice in guiding the direction of our school and the education our children receive."



**SUE D. NEWVINE** is a former clerical aide who retired after 35 years in the Gouverneur district, where she loved her job along with the staff and teachers she worked with. Born and raised in the Gouverneur-Fowler area, her family and children all attended GCS and she now has three grandchildren proudly attending as well. "I believe in the mission of the school and would love to continue and be part of the growth and dedication to our scholars."



**WILLIAM U. CARTWRIGHT** is running for his second term as a board member. A life-long educator, throughout his 48-year career he has held positions of classroom teacher, elementary school principal, school psychologist, Committee on Special Education chairperson, and most recently, 25 years as a school superintendent. He also supervised student teachers for eight years at SUNY Potsdam. His education includes Master's Degrees in Teaching from the University of Tennessee, and in School Psychology from St. Lawrence University; a Certificate of Advanced Study in Administration from SUNY Oswego; and a Doctorate in Educational Administration from Columbia University. He is married to Susan, a retired Gouverneur elementary teacher, with three married daughters, Jennifer, Emily, and Diana, and three grandchildren. "Serving as a school board member is a fulfilling way to serve our community and students. It also offers me the opportunity to use knowledge from my long career, remain current on educational research, strategies, and technologies, and aid in decisions which best impact our Gouverneur students."



SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE			
	BUDGET ADOPTED FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR	BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR	CONTINGENCY BUDGET FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 36,676,839	\$ 36,788,822	\$ 35,933,534
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$ 111,983	\$ (743,305)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.31 %	(2.03%)
Change in Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 6,221,928	\$ 6,370,926	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable**	\$0.00		
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$0.00		
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0.00		
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy Limit (A + B + C - D)	\$ 6,221,928	\$ 6,370,926	\$ 6,221,928
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ 434,066	\$ 443,072	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 5,787,863	\$ 5,927,854	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 5,787,863	\$ 5,927,854	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$	
Administrative Component	\$ 4,344,863	\$ 4,470,615	\$ 4,282,966
Program Component	\$ 25,186,032	\$ 25,000,608	\$ 24,861,024
Capital Component	\$ 7,145,944	\$ 7,317,599	\$ 6,789,544
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
**List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusions may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)	Description	Amount	
	Use of Capital Reserve for Phase II of Capital Project		
		UNDER THE BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings			\$392
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Gouverneur Central School District, St. Lawrence County, New York, will be held at High School Auditorium in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm, prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.			
1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.			



CURRENT BOE MEMBERS:

DAVID FENLONG, PRESIDENT  
LISA MCGREGOR, V PRESIDENT  
WILLIAM CARTWRIGHT  
JAMES DELITY  
KAREN GEER  
NICKOLAS ORMASEN  
LAURIE ROBERTS  
ROLAND RODERICK  
LAURA SPICER

**Gouverneur Central School District**

**Vote :**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2019**  
**12:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Proposition #1  
Authorize annual budget \$36,788,822.00

Proposition #2  
Authorize the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District to appropriate and expend from the existing capital reserve fund \$1,025,024.65 as of 2/28/2019; plus interest thereon for the capital improvements previously approved by the voters of the School District on March 3, 2015, consisting generally of additions to, and reconstruction and equipping of, existing school buildings and facilities, site improvements and other incidental improvements required in connection therewith for such construction and school use, for a revised estimated maximum aggregate total project cost of \$ 32,475,024.65; plus interest thereon.

BOE Election (Vote for any three):  
Lisa McGregor  
Sue Newvine  
William Cartwright

Gouverneur Central School District  
133 East Barney Street  
Gouverneur, NY 13642

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