

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

January 8, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by President Ed Siebels, at 6:30 P.M., EDT in the High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Dr. William Cartwright, James Delity, Lisa Dunkelberg, David Fenlong, Karen Geer, Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen, Roland Roderick, Ed Siebels.

Trustees Absent:

Also Present: Myia Tyler, Student Board Representative; Lauren French, Superintendent of Schools; Donna Runner, Assistant Superintendent; Carol LaSala, Business Manager; Cory Wood, High School Principal; Steven Coffin, Middle School Principal; Victoria Day, Elementary Principal; Charity Zawatski, Elementary Principal; Shannon Mattice, CIO; Robyn Knowlton, CSE/CPSE Chairperson; Harold Simmons, Director of Facilities; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

News Media: Jessyca Cardinell, Gouverneur Tribune Press.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

President Ed Siebels announced that the comment period is for the audience to make comments and the Board to get feedback from the public, and items that can have public discussion and debate will be followed up at a subsequent board meeting under Unfinished Business. No comments were shared.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Administrative Updates

1. Principals

High School principal Cory Wood stated that all sports and activities affected by the weather, including the winter ball, have been rescheduled. Elementary principals Victoria Day and Charity Zawatski talked about the upcoming professional development opportunities and student testing. Middle School principal Steve Coffin updated those present on character development and behavior expectations in his building following an increase in disruptive behaviors prior to break. CSE/CPSE Chairperson Robyn Knowlton discussed alternative assessments and teacher training.

2. Facilities

Mr. Simmons informed Board members that that new middle school should be done by the end of April, allowing for the move to take place in a timely manner. Discussion ensued about the temperature variations at the Elementary school.

3. Student Board Representative

Myia Tyler, Student Board Representative, summarized a meeting she had with Christine Bristol, School Lunch Manager, who was very receptive to ideas for updating breakfast foods. Plans are underway for the senior trip, and a full itinerary will be shared soon with the Board. To date 72 seniors have signed up, the largest group in many years. Ms. Tyler also brought a concern from her classmates asking if the students on senior privileges could use the senior doors. President Ed Siebels deferred to High School principal Cory Wood for a response, and Mr. Wood stated that the doors must remain locked solely for security purposes. All doors are locked at 7:50 a.m. except the main entrances to the middle school and high school and must remain so for the day.

B. Communications

None.

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IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Carol LaSala presented a PowerPoint reviewing the State of the District, sharing historical data to identify trends, anticipated results for 2017-18, and preliminary projected data for 2018-19 through 2022-23 to assist in preparation for the 2018-19 budget. Data was obtained from multiple state sources, including NYSED School Enrollment data, NYSED Salary records, NYSED ST-3 Financials, and the New York Office of the State Comptroller. She highlighted trends over the past ten years in the areas of enrollment, stating the average class size has gone from 118 to 110, although the number of students with disabilities has remained stable since FY2013, and over 60% of our students are living in a poverty situation, approximately 9% higher than the state average. The student-teacher ratio has gone from 13.6 to 12.1 since 2012, compared to the current 11.5 county-wide. Ms. LaSala explained the general fund revenue by source, describing the local, state, and federal sources, and how local taxpayers are providing a lower percentage since 2012 due to an increase in state aid, which remains our largest funding source at 80.75%, although we are no longer eligible for federal impact aid due to our lower population of military connected students. Ms. LaSala explained how the full value tax rate is calculated, and how it has gradually increased since FY2010. Currently our full value tax rate is the 3rd lowest in the county, where rates range from around \$10 to \$26, with ours at \$12.83. She recapped that the BOE only sets tax levy and has no control over the full value. She also noted the trend in the General Fund Property Tax since FY2012, where the share of local property tax collected in addition to other tax items such as STAR payments and pilots/interest penalties has steadily increased. Her presentation continued with a breakdown of general fund expenses by department and by purpose, and showed the instructional salary and benefits per student equals \$11,812 compared to the county average of \$14,005. Ms. LaSala then explained the three areas of the total Fund Balance: assigned (the amount appropriated to balance the budget); restricted (our reserves); and unassigned (which must be less than or equal to 4% of the total). In 2013 the Board established a Reserve Plan that funds certain reserves at an estimated 5 years expense level – Unemployment, Workers’ Compensation, and Retirement. In FY2015 we added and established a Capital Reserve fund for the current project. In June 2016 we established two new capital reserves, for building and buses, and at end of 2017 both were fully funded to 2.5 million. We try to keep the fund balance at around \$11 million for stability. Ms. LaSala went on to summarize each year in more detail, and then presented preliminary projections through 2022-23. President Ed Siebels thanked Ms. LaSala for the information, and encouraged the Board members to carefully consider the information and bring questions to the next meeting. Discussion ensued on specifics of the Reserve accounts.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Policies

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Board Policy Manual, effective immediately, as presented:

5670 – Records Management, Revised

7532 – Dignity for All Students Act, Revised.

DISCUSSION: President Ed Siebels brought attention to the additional change in #7532, adding uncompensated extra-curricular volunteers to the training.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. UPDATES TO BOARD POLICY MANUAL, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

B. Public Response to Previous Comments

1. Special Education.

Superintendent Lauren F. French reported that a personal letter had been mailed to the parent summarizing actions taken for each of his concerns, and reiterated that a special education teacher was appointed, an individual aide was appointed, two rooms were restructured, and two bus monitors have been added. Mrs. French added that the district has no control over busing issues.

2. Sports meal money.

Research with other districts by Mr. Wood and Mrs. French found that meal money is overwhelmingly provided by the Booster clubs.

3. Discipline data analysis.

Mrs. French stated that Board members have been provided with summary reports on infractions and attendance trends.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

President Ed Siebels 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 that any items be removed.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, that the Board of Education take the following action:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2017, as presented.

B. Claims Auditors Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Internal Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 12/02/17 – 12/29/17, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #3, 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:

CSE Student ID#:

5102389	0011204	0011959	5101045	5100654
5101561	5102951	5100907	5100970	0010420
0010710	5102804	5103268	5102363	5100252
5102536	5101356	0010439	0001631	

D. CPSE Business

(See Sheet #4, 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:

CPSE Student ID#:

5103505	5103122	5102987	5103222	5103525
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E. Treasurer's Report – November 2017

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2017, as presented.

F. Regular Staffing ActionsAppointment of Substitutes:

Mary-Elizabeth Foote, instructional; Deb Colton, Registered Nurse; Paulette Fenlong, support.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

Abstain – Dave Fenlong

MOTION CARRIED. ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Resignations1. Instructional

Kevin Burke, Jr. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation from Kevin Burke, Jr., Special Education teacher, effective January 1, 2018.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION OF KEVIN BURKE, JR. EFFECTIVE 1/1/18, ACCEPTED.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

A. Resignations1. Instructional – Cont.

Harold J. Bullock. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation from Harold J. Bullock, Agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor, effective January 27, 2018.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Lauren F. French shared that Mr. Bullock asked to extend his appreciation to the Board of Education, and that he had been given the opportunity to manage a maple syrup business.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION OF HAROLD J. BULLOCK, EFFECTIVE 1/27/18, ACCEPTED.

B. Rescind Appointment of 3-hour Food Service Helper

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, that the Board of Education rescind the appointment approved at the November 20, 2017 regular meeting of Joanie M. Cole to the position of 3-hour Food Service Helper, effective November 27, 2017, pending OSPRA Fingerprint clearance. Ms. Cole did not complete a timely fingerprint clearance.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF JOANIE M. COLE, RESCINDED.

C. Appointments1. Non-Instructional

Eva M. LaForty. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education appoint Eva M. LaForty to the position of Cleaner, effective January 1, 2018 at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union Agreement, at Level 1 Cleaner, from the 2017-2018 salary schedule.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF EVA M. LAFORTY AS CLEANER, APPROVED.

Brandy J. Macaulay. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education appoint Brandy J. Macaulay to the position of 3-hour Food Service Helper, effective January 9, 2018 at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union Agreement, at Level 1 Food Service Helper, from the 2017-2018 salary schedule.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF BRANDY J. MACAULAY AS FOOD SERVICE HELPER, APPROVED.

2. Extra-Curricular:

Winter Coaching Appointments for 2017-18. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, to approve the following extra-curricular appointment: Rachel Knowlton, Girls Basketball Volunteer (uncompensated)

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF RACHEL KNOWLTON AS WINTER COACH, APPROVED.

Trap League Advisor. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, to approve the appointment of Paul Cappellino as Trap League Advisor, uncompensated.

DISCUSSION: President Ed Siebels stated he is excited to hear about this opportunity for our students.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF PAUL CAPPELLINO AS TRAP LEAGUE ADVISOR, APPROVED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Special Education concerns. Parent Andre Cummings referenced Superintendent French's prior statement about the school having no control over busing due to it being contracted out and expressed his dissatisfaction that the school does not hold more responsibility over busing, and reiterated the suggestion that more training take place for bus drivers to learn about each child's individual needs.

X. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION and APPOINTMENT OF CLERK PRO TEMPE.

Motion made Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, to enter into executive session to discuss matters leading to the discipline of a particular person, and to appoint Superintendent Lauren F. French as Clerk Pro Tempe for the remainder of the meeting.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. BOARD MEMBERS ADJOURNED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:33 PM WITH LAUREN F. FRENCH AS CLERK PRO TEMPE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED AT 8:32 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Roland Roderick, and seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, to adjourn at 8:32 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:32 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Ed Siebels, President

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