

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

February 12, 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, Lisa Dunkelberg, David Fenlong, , Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen, Roland Roderick, Ed Siebels.

Trustees Arriving Late: James Delity.

Trustees Absent: Karen Geer.

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; Robyn Knowlton, CSE/CPSE Chairperson; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

News Media: Jessyca Cardinell, Gouverneur Tribune Press.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

President Ed Siebels opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comments. Tina French addressed the Board, asking that comments not be limited during this open period. Superintendent Lauren F. French clarified that the Board’s request to limit the scope of comments to agenda items stemmed from a recent litany of personal attacks to which Board members and administrators cannot respond to in open session. Those concerns regarding specific personnel must be brought to the attention of administration through the proper school channels or a board member, and concerns pertinent to open discussion can be added to the Board’s agenda through those same channels. President Ed Siebels added that it is the Board’s focus and mission to set policy and work on the budget, and the comment period should be the Board’s opportunity for meaningful feedback from the public.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Administrative Updates

1. Principals

Principals provided updates on upcoming professional development and the data being used to identify student growth at the mid-point of the year. Mr. Wood also reported on winter sports and individual athletes advancing to states.

CLERK’S NOTE: Trustee James Delity arrived at this point in the meeting, at 6:45 p.m.

2. Facilities

Superintendent Lauren F. French conveyed that a project meeting was scheduled the next day to talk about the final punch list for the elementary building, the move into the Middle School and what we need to do to stay on track, and the High School project. The move to Middle School could happen as early as May as they continue to be ahead of schedule.

3. Student Board Representative

Myia Tyler stated the Winter Dance held at Bonnie Castle in Alexandria Bay was a success with approximately 155 students attending. The week of February 28 the Student Senate is again holding the Amazing Race Gouverneur Edition. The contests include challenges in academic areas, not just athletics, needing different skills and teamwork. Everyone has fun including the staff who put together challenges.

4. CSE/CPSE

CSE/CPSE Chairperson Robyn Knowlton shared information about the NYS alternative assessment, and preparation has started for the extended school year for special education students.

B. Communications

None.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Budget and Tax Cap Discussion

Superintendent Lauren F. French and Business Manager Carol LaSala led a discussion on the budget and taxes. Gouverneur is approximately \$3.2 million underfunded in foundation aid, but unlikely to see a correction because other component school districts are overfunded. The 2% tax cap calculation comes in this year at a 3.03% tax levy increase, or \$179,232 that we can ask taxpayers for without a super majority vote. Mrs. French said every line item is being examined and difficult options are being considered, and administrators have been told if they want something that costs extra they must give up something of equal value. For example, to add an additional Licensed Clinical Social Worker, we must remove something of equal value or raise more in taxes or dip into the fund balance or a combination of those three. Ms. LaSala stated the BOCES budget will be available by the next meeting so right now our BOCES costs are estimated. Discussion continued with Ms. LaSala explaining the tax cap calculation in more detail, and providing scenarios of a 1.5% (generating \$88,585 from taxes raised) to a 4% (generating \$236,228 from taxes raised) increase and how those amounts would affect homeowners based on current assessments, saying that a \$60,000 home with basic STAR would see a net tax increase of \$11.55 at 3%; \$11.68 at 3.03%; \$12.51 at 3.25%; \$13.47 at 3.5%; \$14.43 at 3.75%; and \$15.40 at 4%. A \$60,000 home with enhanced STAR would see \$0 increase at all levels. A \$100,000 home with basic STAR at the same levels would see a net increase of \$26.94, \$27.26, \$29.19, \$31.43, \$33.68, and \$35.92; and with enhanced STAR the increase is \$14.55, \$14.72, \$15.76, \$16.97, \$18.19, and \$19.40 respectively. Stating that she needs to file by March 1 whether the district intends to stay at or below the tax cap, and that the decision can be amended through the file date of July 1, Ms. LaSala recommended that at this time the Board not override the tax cap. Discussion continued on avenues already pursued with the state to receive maximum aid including efforts from our teachers, business officials, state superintendents' council, and meetings with Regent Ouder Kirk. Ms. LaSala clarified that the numbers tonight represent the governor's proposal; we will not know final numbers until the entire state budget has passed. Final Board consensus was to leave the tax levy increase at 3.03% to remain at the state tax cap.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second Reading and Adoption of 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 Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the additions, revisions, and deletions to the Board Policy Manual, effective immediately, as presented:

- 3290 Revised Operation of Motor-Driven Vehicles on District Property
- 5761 Revised Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers and Other Safety-Sensitive Employees
- 6440 Revised Negotiations
- 6460 Delete Jury Duty
- 7222 Revised Diploma or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities
- 7313 Revised Suspension of Students
- 7320 Revised Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, and Other Substances

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

B. Continuation of Athletic Discussion

Trustee Lisa McGregor requested the dialogue continue due to the current financial environment, saying the Board may need to start looking at all programs. Suggestions included combining teams with low participation in order to keep the same number of students, increasing recruitment efforts to maximize student participation, and tasking Mr. Wood and Athletic Coordinator Frank Bush to convene coaches and provide recommendations. Superintendent Lauren F. French provided board members with historical data based on the number of students who completed each season, going back five years, along with coaching salary information and other costs associated with each activity. Total athletic costs are about \$440,000 including transportation. No board member was in favor of making cuts at this time, but many agreed it was necessary to look at all of the data to make informed decisions. Trustees Dr. William Cartwright and Lisa Dunkelberg both expressed their desire to continue to offer all activities to keep students engaged and in school.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. Public Response to Previous Comments

Start times for school (from 10th Grade Honors Class presentation 1/29/18). President Ed Siebels reiterated that Ms. Figulara's class shared a fantastic presentation with the Board at the previous meeting. Superintendent French stated that the district is considering going back to a single-trip for busing that would result in slightly later start times for the Middle and High School students. She recapped that we originally put in double-tripping due in large part to parental requests, in response to complaints about the length of time students were on the bus and the combination of young and older students riding together. The district also felt with double-tripping they would increase ridership from alleviating those issues. The double-tripping did reduce the time spent on the bus and the age gap of the students, but there was actually a decrease in ridership. Since then she has had several parents approach her to reconsider the double-tripping and with the data presented by the students last week she felt it was a good time to open the discussion. The current contract is in place for one more year, but we will begin to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) this fall and will reconvene the transportation committee and get parent input. Discussion ensued about going back to a single run and incorporating a later start time, with Mrs. French reminding those present that we must support Southwest Tech and the scheduling involved to make sure our students who attend, over 50% of our juniors and seniors, arrive there on time. Other considerations include not having elementary students at three different buildings. Unintended consequences of double-tripping have included siblings needing childcare at different times or being home alone, and the difficulties encountered on the recent emergency dismissal drills combined on one run.

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 Roland Roderick, seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, that the Board of Education take the following action:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 29, 2018, as presented.

B. Claims Auditors Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 1/20/18 – 2/2/18, 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#:

5103426	0011970	0011167	0014036	5100437	5101163	5103492
5100668	0001562	0011205	5101761	0011200	0001631	0011896
0011897	5102569	5101877	5103016	0011173	5103553	5103558
0010750	5100704	0014250	0011932			

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#:

5102559	5103246	5103281	5103255
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E. Regular Staffing Actions

CSE/CPSE Personnel Action: Creation of 1:1 Supplementary School Personnel position for Student #5103558, effective 2/06/18.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nomination for BOCES Board

Be it resolved, upon motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District hereby nominates Dr. William Cartwright of Gouverneur, NY, to fill a vacant seat on the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties BOCES Board.

DISCUSSION: Nancy Cappellino represented us from 1995 through 2017. At this time only districts who are not represented can put a nomination forward; since we no longer have representation, GCSD can nominate a sitting or former member of the GCSD Board.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. NOMINATION OF DR. WILLIAM CARTWRIGHT TO FILL VACANT SEAT ON ST. LAWRENCE-LEWIS COUNTIES BOCES BOARD, APPROVED.

B. Approval of 2018-19 St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School Calendar

(See Sheet #5, 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 2018-19 St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School Calendar, with the modification to change the August 31 Staff Development day to August 29, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2018-19 ST. LAWRENCE-LEWIS COUNTIES SCHOOL CALENDAR, APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION.

C. Adoption of 2018-19 Gouverneur Central School District Calendar

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roland Roderick, and seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, that the Board of Education approve the 2018-19 Gouverneur Central School District Calendar, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2018-19 GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR, ADOPTED.

D. 2018-2019 Fire Safety Inspection Report

(See Sheet #7, 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 2018-2019 Fire Safety Inspection Report; all items listed have been corrected on or before 2/5/2018.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2018-19 FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT, APPROVED.

E. Re-Opening of Building and Grade Reconfiguration

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 authorizes:

1. The re-opening of the West Side Intermediate building beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, to be named Gouverneur Middle School with grades 5-8 to be housed there.
2. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, Gouverneur Jr./Sr. High School shall be renamed Gouverneur High School and will house grades 9-12.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RE-OPENING OF BUILDING AND GRADE RECONFIGURATION, AUTHORIZED.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Retirements1. Non-Instructional

Waltraud Evans. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Vice-President David Fenlong, that the Board of Education accept with regret the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Waltraud Evans, Teacher Aide, effective June 22, 2018.

DISCUSSION: President Ed Siebels asked that the district pass along a thank you from the Board.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RETIREMENT OF WALTRAUD EVANS, TEACHER AIDE, ACCEPTED.

B. Appointments1. Instructional

Mentors. 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 approve the appointment of the following teachers as Mentors to new teachers in the district for the 2017-18 school year, at a rate of \$16.67 per hour for up to ten hours:

Kelly Ayen	Christine Cognetti	Meagan Dupuis-Fregoe	Bridget Lewis
Beverly Phelps	Crystal Snyder	Deb White	

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF MENTORS FOR 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR, APPROVED.

2. Non-Instructional:

- a. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee James Delity, that the Board of Education appoint Kara L. Mashaw to the position of 1.0 FTE Individual Aide in the District, effective February 12, 2018, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union Agreement, at Level 1 Individual Aide 7.5-hour, prorated to 2/12/18. This appointment will fill the vacancy created for Student #5103547.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF KARA L. MASHAW AS INDIVIDUAL AIDE, APPROVED.

- b. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee James Delity, that the Board of Education appoint Tecia M. Tarkowski to the position of 1.0 FTE Individual Aide in the District, effective February 12, 2018, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union Agreement, at Level 1 Individual Aide 7.5-hour, prorated to 2/12/18. This appointment will fill the vacancy created for Student #5103558.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF TECIA M. TARKOWSKI AS INDIVIDUAL AIDE, APPROVED.

3. Extra-Curricular:

FFA Advisor. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, to approve the following extra-curricular appointment: Mary-Elizabeth Foote, FFA Advisor, Class B, Step 1, effective January 29, 2018 for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF MARY-ELIZABETH FOOTE AS FFA ADVISOR, APPROVED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Bowling Fundraiser. Jerrilyn Patton, GTA Vice-President, extended an invitation from the GTA for a "Strike Out Breast Cancer" fundraiser at the Harrisville Lanes on March 16 to support the Gouverneur Breast Cancer Walk. Last year GCS raised over \$5,400, and we would like to meet or beat that challenge.

Community. Maureen Baer emphasized to the Board that to many the school is the main focal point in the community, as we have no movie theatre, YMCA, etc. and urged them to be very careful if they start thinking about cuts, saying we have a great school and small cuts could have a bigger impact than they realize.

Busing. Sharon Gates thanked the board for reconsidering the double-tripping, and shared that as a bus driver, she heard a lot of negative comments and that many miss the single trip. Bus driver Judy Nichols also spoke in favor of going back to single trips.

X. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Vice-President David Fenlong, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. EXECUTIVE SESSION ENTERED AT 8:00 PM, EDT.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED AT 8:31 PM.

XI. RESOLUTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roland Roderick, and seconded by Trustee James Delity, that the Board of Education approve a paid administrative leave for a tenured teacher (#01484), effective January 17, 2018, pending the outcome of an investigation.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR TENURED TEACHER, APPROVED.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, 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