

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

April 2, 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 Cafeteria, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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; Harold Simmons, Director of Facilities; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

News Media: Jessyca Cardinell, Gouverneur Tribune Press.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

President Ed Siebels opened the floor for the first of two public comment periods. No comments were offered.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Administrative Updates

1. Principals and CSE

CSE/CPSE Chairperson Robyn Knowlton updated Board members on current student alternative assessments and staff training taking place. The principals reported on recent staff training, including continuing restorative practices and developing scripted protocol that targets building discussion with kids at the middle school, where next year they will start the day with an advisory period to engage in topics centered on character education traits; and responsive classroom training for special area and reading teachers at the elementary. A new video newsfeed led by elementary students is now in place for morning announcements.

2. Facilities

Two employees have started at the new middle school cleaning. Most of the contractors except electrical are finished. The fire alarm and gym floor will be completed by the end of the week.

3. Student Board Representative

Myia Tyler announced that the fundraisers for the senior trip next month have concluded, and many of her peers are looking forward to finishing up school.

B. Communications

None.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Discussion

Business Manager Carol LaSala provided board members with a variety of tax levy scenarios with the net effect each would have on taxes based on a \$60,000 and \$100,000 home, with Basic and Enhanced Star. The scenarios included the cost of staying within the tax cap increase of 3.03%; adding a Licensed Clinical Social Worker would increase that to 4.86%; adding a School Resource Officer increases it to 4.39%; and adding both positions would total 6.21%. Exceeding the tax cap of 3.03% means we have to pass the budget with a super majority vote of 60%, and taxpayers will not receive a rebate. Superintendent French opened the discussion of the list of 10 items under consideration. Board members had ranked them as follows, beginning with their top priority and associated cost: Addition of LCSW, \$107,773; Addition of secondary 12:1:1 Program, \$89,231; Addition of RN, \$75,317; Middle School Guidance Secretary, \$70,550; Fund APE through BOCES, \$43,232; Reduction of Driver Education by .5 FTE (\$21,000); Fill aide position due to retirement, \$36,274; Addition of Cleaner position, \$65,657; Addition of second Cleaner position, \$65,657; Addition of SRO, \$80,000. Discussion ensued about costs. Regarding if other districts have

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IV. FINANCIAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

Budget Discussion – Cont.

been capable of hiring an SRO for \$30,000, Superintendent French responded that is possible if a retiree from a police force is available; but if not you have to budget the entire amount. Superintendent French stated the increase in our state aid package was \$536,000, offsetting the original shortfall of \$1.2 million, and said she would not advocate going above the tax cap at this time. She also stated that the addition of a secondary 12:1:1 program plus the aide for that classroom are both requirements. Funding the APE through BOCES will free a staff person to work with students in our district as well as generate aid in the following school year. Ms. LaSala clarified that if the Board chose to add all 10 items, the entire amount, \$612,691, has to come out of the fund balance to keep the tax cap at 3.03%. President Siebels said that one of the things to be considered is the use of any fund balance this year will carry over and need to be used again in future years. When asked about the rationale behind the new positions, Director of Facilities Harold Simmons explained that in the past, the East Side building was 65-70% occupied, and both East Side and West Side had empty storage rooms. Square footage has been added to each building along with new classrooms, and the unoccupied rooms are now used by students. Based on a study done by Hillyard Cleaning, we are short-staffed for the amount of square footage to be cleaned. Superintendent French explained the new RN position, saying we currently have one RN and one LPN at the elementary school, and two RNs at the high school. We need one RN at the new middle school, so our option is to leave two RNs at the high school and hire one RN for the middle school; or move an RN to the middle school and hire an LPN to work with the RN at the high school, which would save approximately \$25,000. There is a need for one of the three nurses to float between the middle and high school, and there is also always a nurse on rotation to cover St. James. A discussion was had on filling the position with an LPN, and Mrs. French shared that the preference of our health office was for another RN due to the significant medical cases they deal with every day. Regarding the middle school guidance secretary, Mrs. French explained that when the high school and middle school guidance ran out of the same office, one secretary could handle all of it. With the separation of those two offices, there may still be a way to reconfigure that. Discussion regarding the Driver's Ed position took place, with Trustee Ormasen saying he felt it was not worth saving \$21,000 to take that away from the students. Concerning the SRO position, Superintendent French said that candid conversations have been held about that, reiterating that we cannot, with or without an SRO, make the campus 100% safe. The elementary school now has locking mechanisms in place that help to deny access, and when the renovation is finished that will be in place in all buildings. Trustee Fenlong added that there is just as much danger outside as well as inside, and taking into account athletics and extra-curriculars, there is too much uncovered time. Board members discussed funding all priorities except the SRO, at a cost of \$553,000 including restoring the full Driver's Ed position, and anticipating \$100,000 back in aid from the BOCES position next year. Trustee Cartwright was in favor of adding the SRO, saying having one on campus part of the time is better than not having anybody, and to ignore that isn't a good policy. Trustee McGregor asked if local agencies have offered to increase their presence, and principal Cory Wood responded that they have always responded within 2-3 minutes. Trustee Roderick said that depends on if they are already involved on another call, while an SRO would be dedicated to the school. Trustee Cartwright added that an SRO might deter students from certain behaviors as well. President Siebels asked if a part-time SRO could be considered, with Trustee Delity predicting the cost for an SRO is likely to increase each year and Trustee Fenlong reasoning there is too much space and time they can't cover with our buildings open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Trustee McGregor said it would be ideal to find two people to work for \$30,000 each and split the shift, and Trustee Delity said the budget should reflect \$80,000 for one SRO with no assumptions. President Siebels asked the Board to come to consensus, stating his opinion is to support all of the items except the SRO. Trustee Ormasen stated he was in favor of the SRO, but financially it doesn't make it to the top of the list. He advocated revisiting the SRO next year. Trustee Roderick acknowledged that you are never going to guarantee safety, but he is in favor of keeping the SRO in the budget, and asked about removing the Driver's Ed program and contracting it through a driving school as he is aware is done in other schools. Conversation ensued on driver's ed, with Trustee Ormasen pointing out that of all the risks our students face, driving is statistically the most dangerous and driving instruction is a more valuable service to our students. He added that he would also like to revisit the SRO position next year. President Siebels and Trustees Fenlong and Delity both agreed with Trustee Ormasen's position. Trustee McGregor also agreed, saying driver's ed should also be revisited next year as a potential reduction. Trustee Dunkelberg agreed, stating she is in favor of staying at the tax cap, but leave driver's ed at the proposed reduced rate. Trustee Cartwright was in favor of all 10 priority items plus reinstating the full-time driver's ed position. President Siebels summarized the results: that the budget not fund an SRO, put driver's ed back in full time, revisit driver's ed next year at tuition, revisit the SRO position next year, stay at the tax cap of 3.03%, and use roughly \$575,000 out of the fund balance. Superintendent French said research would be done between now and next year on the private driver's ed contract and what it would cost per student. That situation would not be credit bearing for the student. Additional conversation about safe schools took place, and Harold Simmons informed Board members about additional new safety technology that could be incorporated into the renovation; he will bring more information and costs to a future meeting. President Siebels concluded, saying, "I think it's important as a Board – we all want to keep our school and kids safe. Most of us have kids in here." Business Manager LaSala stated at the next meeting she will have Discussion Document #2 and they would need to adopt a final budget.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

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

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2018, as presented.

B. Claims Auditors Reports

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 3/15/18 – 3/23/18, as presented.

C. CSE Business

(See Sheet #2, 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#:

5102735	5101533	5100681	0014071	5101745	5103201
5102804	0011205	5100342	5100343	5101378	5102450
5103354	5102928	5103261	5103262	5102036	0011891
5103311	0011552	0010338	5100783	5103429	5100252
5102482	5102902	5103583	5103426	5102739	

D. CPSE Business

(Combined with Sheet #2, 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#:

5103586	5103306	5103307	5103253	5103299	5103427
5103222	5103265	5102837	5102987	5103217	5103525

CPSE to CSE Transition Student #'s:

(CPSE students who will be Kindergarten in the fall)

5103253	5103299	5103525	5103222	5103265	5102837
5102987	5103217				

E. Regular Staffing Actions

1. CSE Staffing Actions

Elimination of 1:1 Supplementary School Personnel position for Student #5102739, who withdrew from the district, effective 3/28/18. Based on seniority, Tecia Tarkowski will be excessed from her position as Individual Aide, effective 3/30/18. Ms. Tarkowski will immediately be placed on the active substitute list for 2017-18.

2. Substitute Appointments

Approve the appointment of the following substitutes for the 2017-18 school year, effective immediately: Spencer Ritchie, Bernadette Karaiscos.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Civil War Living History Demonstration

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 request for the Civil War living history demonstration to be held May 11, 2018.

DISCUSSION: Middle School principal Steven Coffin shared there would be reenactors coming from Rochester to join some locals for the day.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CIVIL WAR DEMONSTRATION ON 5/11/18, APPROVED.

B. FFA State Convention – Overnight Trip

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, and seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, that the Board of Education approve the request for approximately 18 students from the FFA, with advisor Ms. Mary-Elizabeth Foote, to attend the State Convention in Rochester, NY on May 17-19, 2018. Three Gouverneur students, Chloe Renaud, Cheyenne Lilley, and Hannah Hight, will be receiving the Empire Degree, the highest FFA degree in the state.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent French confirmed that the trip is all funded by the FFA.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FFA OVERNIGHT TRIP ON MAY 17-19, 2018, APPROVED.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Lauren F. French took the opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Nicholas Costa for what he does with the Civil War reenactment and the wonderful opportunity it gives our students. She also acknowledged Ms. Mary-Elizabeth Foote and the impact she has already made with the FFA, saying the program has already increased by 8-10 more students.

A. Resignations1. Instructional

Lacy Redmond. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Roland Roderick, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation from Lacy Redmond from her position as 1.0 FTE Teaching Assistant, effective April 2, 2018.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION OF LACY REDMOND EFFECTIVE 4/2/18, ACCEPTED.

B. Appointments1. Non-Instructional

Simeon S. Simons. 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 Simeon S. Simons to the position of 1.0 FTE Cleaner, effective April 2, 2018, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union Agreement, at Level 1 Cleaner, from the current salary schedule.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF SIMEON S. SIMONS AS CLEANER, 4/2/18, APPROVED.

Jackson R. Sheen. 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 Jackson R. Sheen to the position of 1.0 FTE Cleaner, effective April 2, 2018, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union Agreement, at Level 1 Cleaner, from the current salary schedule.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF JACKSON R. SHEEN AS CLEANER, 4/2/18, APPROVED.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

B. Appointments – Cont.2. Extra-Curricular

Spring Coaching Appointments. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, to approve the following for the 2017-18 spring sports season:

Richard Haynes, Modified Baseball Volunteer, uncompensated.

Ed Smith, Softball Volunteer (pending issuance of coaching license), uncompensated.

David Geer, rescind Modified Baseball Appointment

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENT(S), APPROVED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Budget comments. Laurie Roberts commented that Indian River has an SRO for 8 buildings who primarily stays at the high school but gives a sense of security to all staff and students. She added that she is a huge fan of driver's education, but feels the money is better spent on an SRO and taxpayers are asking for it. Resident Sharon Gates also spoke in favor of putting the SRO back in the budget, saying she feels that is of more value than additional cleaners. She requested they find funding for the position or make cuts in other positions and said there are many others who share her opinion.

X. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION and APPOINTMENT OF CLERK PRO TEMPE

Motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment of particular persons, specifically Managerial/Confidential employees, the Business Manager's contract, and tenure recommendations, and to appoint Lauren F. French as Clerk pro tempe for the remainder of the meeting.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. EXECUTIVE SESSION ENTERED AT 7:49 PM, EDT.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED AT 8:33 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, to adjourn at 8:34 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:34 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Ed Siebels, President

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