

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

April 16, 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: James Delity, Lisa Dunkelberg, David Fenlong, Karen Geer, Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen, Roland Roderick, Ed Siebels.

Trustees Absent: Dr. William Cartwright,

Also Present: Lauren French, Superintendent of Schools; Donna Runner, Assistant Superintendent; Carol LaSala, Business Manager; Cory Wood, High School Principal; Harold Simmons, Director of Facilities; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

II. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION and APPOINTMENT OF CLERK PRO TEMPE

Motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, 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 6:31 PM, EDT.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED AT 7:17 PM.

III. COMMENT PERIOD

Resident Bill Hay shared his opinion that particular matters discussed in executive session could subject the district to a lawsuit. Teacher and parent Erin Gates stated she was pleased that the SRO position was reconsidered, saying, "In lieu of recent events in our community and events nationwide, I feel the safety of our children needs to be put in the forefront," adding she still had unanswered questions about the discrepancies between buildings using the term lockdown that have not been resolved. Laurie Roberts addressed budget questions to the Board, why we would contract with BOCES for APE services we already provide. Superintendent French responded that not only do we get back aid, but the reconfiguration of the schools will mean children in all three buildings will need services, and based on our cost analysis it was more beneficial to contract with BOCES for the exact time we need the services. Additional questions posed about special items and salaries were to be answered in the upcoming presentation.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Administrative Updates

1. Principals

Spring sports have yet to have a contest due to the weather and poor field conditions. Grades 9-10 attended an internet safety presentation that was well received and generated good conversations.

2. Facilities

The new middle school is almost complete with all contractors to be out of the building by May 1. The 911 and fire alarm numbers have been installed.

B. Communications

None.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Financial Report for Period Ending March 31, 2018

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Karen Geer, and seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, that the Board of Education accept the financial report for the period ending March 31, 2018, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 3/31/18 ACCEPTED.

April 16, 2018

V. FINANCIAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

B. Budget Discussion

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Business Manager Carol LaSala provided board members with a reconciliation worksheet that incorporated the changes from the previous meeting's discussion. The \$80,000 cost for an SRO was removed and replaced with \$40,000 for SRO; the second FTE was added for Driver's Education at a cost of \$15,775; The RN position was removed and replaced with an LPN; the MS guidance secretary was removed and with reconfiguration an additional clerical aide will be added; and an increase to Transfer to Capital Fund added \$43,300. That comes to a total budget document of \$36,676,839. That is \$21,692 less than the last document discussed. Ms. LaSala went on explain the Transfer to Capital Fund amount, stating that at the 4/10 bid opening for the Capital Outlay Project for the sewage station at the elementary building, which is capped at \$100,000 by authorization of our voters, the lowest bid came in at \$143,300. The remedy is to add an additional \$43,300 to THE 2018-19 budget, which changes the classification of the \$143,300 amount from a capital outlay project to a cash project. This means the District will not receive \$93,700 of Building Aid in 2018-19 as anticipated; the cash project will be aided over 15 years starting when the final cost report is filed. The net effect for 2018-19 is expenditures increase by \$43,300, revenue is reduced by \$93,700, and both of these items affect the tax cap calculation (increase in Capital Expenditures and decrease in Building Aid) for a \$137,000 increase to the tax cap, instead of 3.03% = \$179,232, the cap is now 5.35% = \$316,232. President Siebels confirmed that 5.35% is the new tax cap. Responding to a question from Trustee Delity, Ms. LaSala explained we will receive building aid over 15 years due to the classification as a cash project in the estimated amount of \$8,000 per year. Ms. LaSala proceeded to review each section of the Discussion Document, and responded to questions. She explained that the Middle School guidance secretary position will still exist but through a reconfiguration of staff where there will be equity among the buildings with secretaries and clerical aides performing duties based on their job descriptions. The Central Services – Printing & Mailing salary line item increased from \$17,500 to \$43,000 due to reclassifying the print shop aide's salary to this budget from the instructional budget. Superintendent Lauren F. French added that they have been working to classify positions appropriately, which does not change the overall budget but will make it easier to compare budget items. The reduction of the Special Apportionment Programs for students with disabilities Tuition of \$300,000 to \$75,000 is due to no longer having students attend the School of the Blind. The Occupational Education – BOCES services also decreased, and Superintendent French explained that BOCES bills based on a 3-year average enrollment and our enrollment has slowly declined. We no longer send students to Ogdensburg and focus on programs available at Southwest Tech and Canton Ag. Additional discussion took place on the BOCES aidable expenses and the reduction in building aid. A worksheet was shared showing 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, ranging from 3.03% to 5.35% increases. At 5.35%, the net increase for a \$60,000 home with Basic Star is \$20.61; Enhanced Star is \$0. For a \$100,000 home at 5.35%, the net increase with Basic Star is \$48.09, and Enhanced Star is \$25.97. Board members discussed putting forward a budget at the tax cap of 5.35%. Trustee Geer opined that the community is suffering and does not wish to see them strapped too much more with taxes. President Siebels countered that at 5.35 eligible homeowners will still receive the Star rebate and feels the community would support the increase. Vice-President Fenlong added that individuals have spoken up at board meetings stating they would support an increase in taxes to support student safety. Trustee Ormasen suggested 4.75 with \$36,000 more out of fund balance, and balance the need of continual tax increases with the fund balance. Trustee Roderick reflected that the actual household dollar amount increase did not differ greatly among the rates, and said he prefers to stay ahead of depleting the fund balance and keep it at 5.35. Trustee Geer supported 4.75 and suggested waiting a year to see how the opening of the mines affects the community. President Siebels summed up the discussion, stating that the Board can vote on 4.75 of 5.35. Further discussion indicated that amounted to \$36,000 less from taxes, which would not be a lot per taxpayer, and the board members unanimously agreed to put forward a proposed budget with an anticipated tax levy increase of 5.35%.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Proposed 2018-2019 Budget

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 adopt the proposed general fund budget for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$36,676,839, with an anticipated tax levy increase of 5.35%.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED 2018-2019 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,676,839 WITH AN ANTICIPATED TAX LEVY INCREASE OF 5.35%.

VII. 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 French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dunkelberg, seconded by Trustee Roderick, that the Board of Education take the following action:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2, 2018, as presented.

B. Claims Auditors Reports

(See Sheet #3, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 03/24/18 - 04/06/18, as presented.

C. CSE 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 CSE Meeting Minutes report:

CSE Student ID#:

5100848	5103056	5101872	0011307	0011997	5100253
5100327	5102590	0011337	0011725	5102951	5103456
5103455	5103162	5100288	5100646	0014199	5100625
0010810	0014053	0014148	5101821	5102138	5102027
5102924	5102976	5103315	5101222	5102591	5101041
0011344	5103268	5101105	0011566	0011565	5100704
5102069	5102070	0011864	5102607	5100262	0011024

D. CPSE Business

(Combined with 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#:

5103538	5103226	5103227	5102984	5102783	5103505
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E. Regular Staffing Actions1. CSE Staffing Actions - Amendment

At the April 2, 2018 regular meeting, Tecia Tarkowski was excessed from her position as Individual Aide, effective 3/30/18. That date should be amended to 4/11/18. 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: Amy Cox, Brad Finch, Joshua Girard, Nick Sterling, Alysha Wood, pending completion of all training and fingerprints.

F. Treasurer's Report for March, 2018

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

Accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2018, as presented.

G. Amendment to Business Manager Contract

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Business Manager Contract for the period July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021, as presented.

H. Managerial/Confidential Adjustments

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Managerial/Confidential Salary Adjustments for 2018-2019, as presented.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Property Tax Report Card for 2018-2019

(See Sheet #8, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, that the Board of Education approve and authorize submission of the Property Tax Report Card for 2018-2019 to the State Education Department, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD FOR 2018-2019, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

B. Election of Members of BOCES Board of Education

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Geer, that the Board of Education cast their ballot for three (3) open seats on the BOCES Board of Education, for James K. Lattimer, James E. Young, and Dr. Jack Zeh.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTES CAST FOR ELECTION OF JAMES K. LATTIMER, JAMES E. YOUNG, AND DR. JACK ZEH TO BOCES BOARD OF EDUCATION.

C. Vote on 2018-2019 BOCES Administrative Budget

(See Sheet #9, 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 Karen Geer, that the Board of Education cast its vote for the adoption of the 2018-2019 Administrative Budget for the Board of Cooperative Education Services in the amount of \$6,945,772.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR 2018-2019 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,945,772, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

D. Report of BOE Candidate Petitions Received

(See Sheet #10, Board Minutes File Folder)

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education accept the report of Board of Education Nominating Petitions Received as of April 16, 2018. In order of receipt, petitions were received from John Scordo, William Hay, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie M. Roberts, and Laura Spicer.

DISCUSSION: President Ed Siebels wished all candidates the best of luck in the upcoming election.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. REPORT OF BOE CANDIDATE PETITIONS RECEIVED, ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

E. Compensation Rate for Election Inspectors

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 to compensate Election Inspectors at the rate of \$125/day on School District voting days during the 2017-18 school year.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. COMPENSATION RATE FOR ELECTION INSPECTORS SET AT THE RATE OF \$125/DAY, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

F. Appointment of Inspectors and Officers for the Annual Meeting and Vote

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District, St. Lawrence County, New York, has called an Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote of the qualified voters of said School District to be held on the 15th day of May, 2018, and WHEREAS, it is now desired to provide for the appointment of inspectors and officers for said Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that 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 appointment of the Chairman, certified

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

F. Appointment of Inspectors and Officers for the Annual Meeting and Vote (Cont.)

inspectors, and assistant clerk as follows: 1) Gale **Ferguson**, a duly qualified voter of said School District, is hereby appointed as the Chairman of the Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote on May 15, 2018, and the Budget Hearing on May 7, 2018. 2) The following named qualified voters of said School District are hereby appointed to act as Inspectors of Election of the Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote, so that there shall be at least two Inspectors for each voting machine to be used thereat: **Diane Kelley**, Chief Election Inspector, and **Susan Wangerin**. 3) **Tammy Kimok** is designated as Assistant Clerk of said Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTE, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

G. Field Trip Request

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 request from the First Grade Teachers for a field trip to the Aquatarium in Brockville, Ontario, Canada on or about June 6, 2018.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FIELD TRIP REQUEST FOR FIRST GRADE TO THE AQUATARIMUM IN BROCKVILLE, ONTARIO, ON OR ABOUT JUNE 6, 2018, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

H. Revision to 2017-18 School Calendar

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 following revision to the 2017-18 school calendar: June 21, 2018: no school for students. All staff will report.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. REVISION TO 2017-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

I. Authorization to Declare as Surplus and Dispose of Equipment

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Karen Geer, that the Board of Education authorize the Business Manager to dispose of the following equipment which is obsolete and no longer useful: Thirty (30) 15" Computer Monitors; two (2) 16" Computer Monitors; and two (2) 17" Computer Monitors.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Dunkelberg asked if the disposal meant garbage or an auction; Business Manager Carol LaSala said with electronics they will first see if any students are interested in acquiring it.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. REVISION TO 2017-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

J. Creation of Curriculum Writer Positions for 2018-19

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roderick, that the Board of Education approve the request from the Office of Curriculum and Instruction to create the following positions: Curriculum Writers (7-day Project Stipend at GTA Rate), in the content areas of Grade K Reading, Grade K Writing, Grade 1 Reading, Grade 1 Writing, HS Content Areas, Art K-8, Music K-8, Physical Education K-8. Curriculum Writing Revisions (3-day Project Stipend at GTA Rate), in the content areas of Grades K-8 Science, Grades K-8 Math, Grades K-8 Social Studies, Grades 2-4 ELA, Algebra I, Living Environment, Global History, and Geometry. Curriculum Reviewers (3-day Project Stipend at GTA Rate) for Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies. All projects are due 8/03/18.

DISCUSSION: Assistant Superintendent Runner responded to questions, stating that stipends are at the current GTA rate of \$100/day. Each content area is a separate position, and the funds have been included in next year's budget.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CREATION OF CURRICULUM WRITER POSITIONS FOR 2018-19, APPROVED.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Tenure Recommendations

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Geer, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, to approve the recommendation for tenure in the area of SCHOOL COUNSELING & GUIDANCE for MARCY J. TYLER, School Counselor, effective 09/22/2018. MARCY J. TYLER holds Permanent certification as a School Counselor.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RECOMMENDATION FOR TENURE OF MARCY J. TYLER, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, APPROVED.

B. Retirements

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Dunkelberg, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Lynette M. Emrich, Elementary Teacher, effective 6/22/18.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES OF LYNETTE M. EMRICH, EFFECTIVE 6/22/18, ACCEPTED.

C. Resignations

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Dunkelberg, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation from Kelly J. Benner from her position as Elementary Teacher, effective 3/29/18.

DISCUSSION: Responding to questions, Superintendent Lauren F. French stated that this position has been filled with a long-term sub while Mrs. Benner was on leave, and a permanent replacement will be appointed.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION OF KELLY J. BENNER, EFFECTIVE 3/29/18, ACCEPTED.

D. Appointments1. Leave Replacement Appointments

Polly Sergel. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Delity, and seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the Board of Education appoint Polly Sergel as long-term certified substitute for employee #01484, effective 4/10/18 until end of leave, at the rate of certified substitute 25 days.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF POLLY SERGEL AS LONG-TERM CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTE FOR EMPLOYEE #01484, APPROVED.

X. COMMENT PERIOD

Budget comments. Laurie Roberts asked if the proposed budget reflects savings on the retired teachers; Business Manager Carol LaSala responded the savings is figured into the new positions. Mrs. Roberts asked for further explanation on smart schools money. Ms. LaSala stated that the smart schools money is part of the capital fund, not the general fund. The district is entitled to reimbursement after spending it. Mrs. Roberts also requested that the documents be shared on a large screen which would be easier to read than using their phones, and commented that she was pleased the district is looking into finding a retired SRO to fill that position and save the district money.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Ed Siebels, President