

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

October 16, 2017

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, Karen Geer, Lisa McGregor, Roland Roderick, Ed Siebels.

Trustees Absent: Nickolas Ormasen.

Also Present: 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. PRESENTATION:

1. External Audit Report - Crowley & Halloran, CPAs, P.C.

Michael W. Crowley, CPA, and Pamela J. Halloran, CPA, of Crowley & Halloran, CPAs, P.C., shared the results of their audit for the year ending June 30, 2017. They briefly went over the contents of the report, stating that it received an unmodified opinion, the highest opinion allowed. In response to a discussion on pension costs, Mr. Crowley explained that we fund what TRS and ERS bill us; if something changes in their assumptions, such as expected longevity, interest rates, inflation, etc., that will affect the rate they bill us, which the district has no control over. The new reporting under GASB 68 also changed the reporting from an asset to a liability. Responding to a question about leftover extracurricular funds from the Class of 2017, High School Principal Cory Wood responded that it gets reallocated through the student council to a charitable donation determined by the class. Trustee Karen Geer thanked Business Manager Carol LaSala for the good job she does on the budget.

2. School Board Appreciation Week, October 23-27

Superintendent Lauren F. French shared a short video from Stephanie Plaisted, Instructional Technology Specialist, highlighting the integration of technology in our PreK, Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms, stating that this is what the Board's dedication to students has provided. Pam Mahay and Brooke Santamont, co-presidents of the GTA, distributed gift bags from the GTA. Ms. Santamont spoke on behalf of the GTA, thanking Board members for their time, dedication, and determination they have for the school community. The Board members received a round of applause from those in attendance.

III. COMMENT PERIOD

Wrestling Program. Joel Baer, Gouverneur wrestling coach, referenced the upcoming request for approval for three overnight trips, saying he was extremely grateful to the school board for allowing the team to travel and see the best competition around the state. He also requested that the Board discuss one additional tournament that is not listed, and possibly add it at a later date, for the Eastern States. They have received approval in the past for that tournament; it is the same weekend as the Fisher tournament, but the Eastern States is a premier tournament not meant for the entire team and only select athletes attend. He gave examples of student athletes who competed at that tournament who went on to become state champions and gotten into higher institutions, saying it is a disadvantage to not attend. Another trip he requested the Board to consider is a charity tournament to benefit Golisano Children's Hospital. All fees go to the sponsor school, Chittenango. He stated that these two trips were requested and denied and appealed to the Board for additional consideration.

October 16, 2017

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Administrative Updates1. Principals

Middle School Principal Steven Coffin shared that student attendance last month was close to 97%, with the goal at 96% for the year, assisted by numerous parent contacts from guidance and administration, and identifying the root cause of the absences/tardies. Discipline referrals are also down 38%. The Character Education program for grades 5-8 has started, with the first 12 students honored at the end of September. High School Principal Cory Wood recounted a field trip for over 50 SUPA students to Syracuse University where they met with 2015 Gouverneur graduate Troy Gates, who effectively communicated the importance of college transition, telling the students to go to “reach” schools and don’t settle. Mr. Gates graduated from Gouverneur with 24 credits, allowing him to graduate in three years from SU. Mr. Wood also updated the board on senior privileges, stating that after the first five weeks an additional 13 students were added by setting it at 82 for the next five week. During this time they will look at the next target. Technology success stories were shared at the Elementary level, including a student using distance learning from his home to interact with his classmates and remain caught up while on medical leave, and a joint effort with Mr. Sochia’s 3-D printing class, Mrs. Ayen’s PreK class, and our TVI teacher Ms. Bognaski, to create 3-D toys and braille Lego blocks. A discussion took place on transportation and Mrs. French provided an explanation of the Zonar reporting capabilities.

2. Facilities

Director of Facilities Harold Simmons reported that many supplies have been moved to the new storage building with some items set aside for auction. In response to discussion about construction, he said he is being persistent with the contractor to make sure the punch list items were getting completed at the elementary school.

3. CSE/CPSE

Robyn Knowlton, CSE/CPSE Chairperson, announced her department had implemented the new Frontline IEP program and the reports for board approval were generated from the new system beginning with this meeting. She also lauded having an in-district TVI to supply that service, making it much more consistent and centered on student needs, saying it was going very well.

B. COMMUNICATIONS1. St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School Boards Association Annual Regent Dinner

President Ed Siebels reminded Board members the Regent Ouderkirk Dinner Meeting is November 1.

2. NYSSBA Convention Update

Trustees Dr. William Cartwright and Karen Geer attended the NYSSBA Convention and shared highlights of sessions they attended.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Carol LaSala stated that the NYCLASS account the Board previously approved is earning .93% interest, versus .08% at Community, resulting in over \$1,800 interest, almost double what we earned last year for the same time period.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of Athletic/Extracurricular Code of Conduct

(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 James Delity, that the Board of Education approve the Athletic/Extracurricular Code of Conduct, with the correction that all occurrences of “Maintenance of Order on School Property” be corrected to “maintenance of order on school property” as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ATHLETIC/EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT, APPROVED AS CORRECTED.

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 F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education take the following action:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the September 25, 2017 regular meeting, as presented.

B. Claims Auditor's Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Internal Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 09/16/17 – 10/06/17, 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 & 504 Student ID#:

000011591	5101175	5103042	5100412	10648	000010628
005101105	000001570	000014125	000001606	005101872	005101745
005101802	005102310	005103081	005100807	005103056	000014053
5103456	5103455	5101991	5103495	5103438	5103437
005101025	005102147	000010455	000014148	005100616	000010493
000011925	005103416	000010459	11228	5103261	5103262
000011015	000010153	005100087	000011585	005101846	005102036
005100095	000001365	5103429	005102247	005103188	005103426
5103480					

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#:

00503427

E. Treasurer's Report – September 2017

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

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

F. Tax Roll Corrections

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

1. Sharon Parker (2017-2018)

Approve the application for tax roll correction for the Town of Gouverneur parcel 404089-173.001-4-23 assessed to Sharon Parker 1870B State highway 58, Edwards NY 13635 to correct a clerical error made on the part of the Assessor (manufacture home was removed from site prior to March 1, 2017) tax adjustment from \$248.05 to \$91.32.

2. Cathryn Hamilton (2017-2018)

Approve the application for tax roll correction for the Town of Gouverneur parcel 404001-173.031-2-26 assessed to Cathryn Hamilton, 152 Johnstown Street, Gouverneur, NY 13642 to correct a clerical error made on the part of the Assessor (enhanced star should not have been removed) tax adjustment from \$656.93 to \$7.55.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

G. Regular Staffing Actions1. CSE/CPSE Personnel Action

Creation of .5 FTE Supplementary Support Personnel for Student #5103495, and recall Kenneth J. Nicholas as .5FTE Individual Aide, effective 10/10/17.

Creation of 1.0 FTE Supplementary Support Personnel for Student #5103416, and recall Kylee A. Prashaw as 1.0 FTE Individual Aide, effective 10/16/17.

2. Appointment of Substitutes

Autumn Baker: Instructional, Support; **Amber Carr:** Instructional, Support; **Derek Gordon:** Instructional; **Elisa Green:** Support; **Tabitha Kirkpatrick:** Instructional, Support; **Michael Hotchkiss:** Instructional; **Monika Hotchkiss:** Instructional, Support; **Amy Suttles:** Support; **Kara Whitford:** Instructional, Support; **Brenda Tharrett:** Support; **Marcie Dean:** Support; **Britany DuFault:** Support

3. Appointment of Students

Mitchell Longstreth: Lifeguard

H. Approval of Amendment to Superintendent's Contract

(See Sheet #7, Board Minutes File Folder)

Resolved, that the Board approves of an amendment, in the form included in the minutes for this meeting, to the July 1, 2017 contract of employment between the Board and the Superintendent. The amendment extends the term of the Superintendent's employment for an additional year, through June 30, 2022, and establishes the salary for the 2018-2019 school year.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg asked for clarification of B. – Claims Auditor's Reports, regarding payments to Farley's; Business Manager Carol LaSala stated that the checks were in payment for the full year, not monthly. In response to Trustee James Delity, Ms. LaSala explained that the tax roll corrections were due to one having a manufactured home removed from the property, resulting in an error to the value on the tax bill; the other correction was the Enhanced Star credit was mistakenly removed.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Accept External Public Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

(See Sheet #8, 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 McGregor, that the Board of Education accept the External Public Auditor's Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, as presented by Crowley & Halloran, CPAs, P.C.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. EXTERNAL PUBLIC AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017, ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

B. Annual Financial Report (ST-3) for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

(See Sheet #9, 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 James Delity, that the Board of Education accept the Annual Financial Report (ST-3) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (ST-3) ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. School Safety Plan

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Karen Geer, that the Board of Education adopt the updated District Wide School Safety Plan and Building Level School Safety Plans for 2017-18 regarding crisis intervention and emergency response and management, as per the Commissioner of the New York State Education Department's prescribed requirements set forth in regulation 8 NYCRR Section 155.17(b).

DISCUSSION: President Ed Siebels recapped that Board members that Lisa McGregor and Nickolas Ormasen represented the Board on the safety committee.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN, ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

D. Authorization for Disposal of Obsolete Textbooks

WHEREAS, the School District owns certain textbooks which are obsolete, no longer useful or necessary for school district purposes and of no value to the School District, as listed below:

Title	Student Editions	Teacher Editions
Prentice Hall Mathematics New York: Geometry ISBN: 978-0-13-202875-2	61	1
Prentice Hall Mathematics New York: Algebra 2 & Trigonometry ISBN: 978-0-13-371482-1	21	0
Prentice Hall Mathematics New York: Integrated Algebra ISBN: 0-13-201528-6	41	1

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, that the Board of Education hereby declares such textbooks to be surplus property and of no value to the School District and authorizes the Business Manager to dispose of such textbooks in accordance with Board Policy and in the best interests of the School District.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Dr. William Cartwright requested that the district attempt to give the textbooks away to parents. Business Manager Carol LaSala responded that could be attempted but the books are very outdated.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. AUTHORIZATION FOR DISPOSAL OF USED TEXTBOOKS, APPROVED.

E. Overnight Wrestling Trips Request

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 from the wrestling team to attend the following overnight trips, with associated travel and participation fees:

Dec. 28 –Queensbury Holiday Wrestling Festival, Queensbury, NY; fee \$300.00

January 5-6 – 49th Peru Invitational Wrestling Classic, Peru, NY; fee \$300.00

January 12-13 – 2018 Jack Fisher Newark Tournament, Newark, NY; fee \$300.00

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. OVERNIGHT WRESTLING TRIPS, APPROVED.

F. Counseling Resources

Two information pieces developed by the counselors and school social worker were shared with Board members, a Mental Health Protocol and Transition Plan.

G. Bullet Aid

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 appropriate \$4,500.00, as per Senator Ritchie's communication to A2110.480.10.2600 to support the Gouverneur Central School District's Reading Program.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Lauren F. French explained that senators get bullet aid to disperse as they wish to schools, libraries, etc.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. BULLET AID APPROPRIATION, APPROVED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

H. Gouverneur Central School District Tech Summit

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Karen Geer, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education appropriate \$11,750.00 for the Tech Summit from sponsorships and fees, allocating \$8,000.00 to A2070.400.10.0000 and \$3,750.00 to A2070.450.10.0000 for estimated expenses for summit.

DISCUSSION: Assistant Superintendent Donna Runner announced that on November 9 the district is hosting a summit offering many sessions, from an introduction how to check email/WinCap to the more experienced Excel. Superintendent Lauren F. French added that the keynote speaker is former graduate of Gouverneur, was the creative director at Facebook, Google, and Apple, now has a short film out, "Coin operated," and has received international recognition for her creative aspect. She will be talking from home in California about what it was like to go from Gouverneur to being international with computers and technology. Mrs. Runner said that many of our teachers as well as some students will present sessions, and we have gotten sponsorship from ANNESE and Day Automation. There will be prizes and take-home gifts, and 175 slots to the summit have been open to other districts. Business Manager Carol LaSala explained the \$11,750 is revenue we hadn't planned on, from the sponsorships and fees from other schools; and \$8,000 and \$3750 are fees going out. The summit will be held in this building.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TECH SUMMIT APPROPRIATIONS, APPROVED.

I. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Lauren F. French introduced the yearly enrollment report. Trustee Karen Geer stated that it looked like class sizes are equitable with student ratios. Superintendent Lauren F. French said we have been fortunate to maintain our elementary class sizes, and secondary has been very successful in offering SUPA classes of interest to our students. She added that we will be aggressive to coordinate offering Distance Learning to neighboring districts, needing to start that process in November. President Ed Siebels reminded Board members to use this information to start thinking about priorities and needs of district, and the direction the board wants to go in regard to the budget.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Creation of Position

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to create the following position:

Pool Coordinator. Motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education approve the creation of a Pool Coordinator position to be filled by a certified staff member at a stipend of \$500/year.

DISCUSSION: Responding to questions, Superintendent Lauren F. French stated this person would be responsible for lifeguard training, scheduling, etc. The position would be year-round, and the stipend was balanced with the chemical hygiene officer, comparable to amount of time.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CREATION OF POOL COORDINATOR POSITION, APPROVED.

B. Appointments1. Instructional

Melanie Miles. 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 Melanie Miles, possessing a Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) Initial Certificate, to a four-year probationary term as an Elementary Teacher, in the PreK-6 Elementary tenure area, at an annual salary in accordance with the Gouverneur Teachers' Association Agreement, at Step 2, B45M. The probationary period is effective October 16, 2017 through October 16, 2021 (unless extended in accordance with the law). This expiration date is tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3012-3 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the teacher must receive composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

B. Appointments (Cont.)1. Instructional – Melanie Miles (continued)

pursuant to Section 3012-d and/or 3012-3 of the Education Law of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and if the teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period the teacher shall not be eligible for tenure of that time.

DISCUSSION: Melanie was present and welcomed.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF MELANIE MILES AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER, APPROVED.

Title I Tutors for 2017-18. 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 approve the appointment of the following teachers as Title I Tutors for 2017-18, at the rate of \$30/hour: Pamela Stevens

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF TITLE I TUTOR, 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 Roland Roderick, and seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, to approve the following extra-curricular appointments, compensated in accordance from the Coaching Salary Schedule of the GTA contract:

Basketball Boys Varsity	Justin M. Young	Class 1	Step 11
Basketball Boys JV	Shawn J. Typhair	Class 2	Step 15
Basketball Boys 8th Grade	Lynn F. Davis	Class 4	Step 2
Basketball Boys 7th Grade	Nicholas P. Costa	Class 4	Step 3
Basketball Boys Volunteer	Joshua F. Simmons	N/A	Uncompensated
Basketball Girls Varsity	Frank D. Bush	Class 1	Step 12
Basketball Girls JV	Timothy W. Knowlton	Class 2	Step 21
Basketball Girls 8th Grade	Sean T. Devlin	Class 4	Step 12
Basketball Girls 7th Grade	Evelyn G. Barton	Class 4	Step 10
Basketball Girls Volunteer	Rick L. Vrooman	N/A	Uncompensated
Cheerleading Winter	Brandy L. Peck	Class 1	Step 1
Indoor Track	Kurtis P. Wells	Class 2	Step 11
Indoor Track Modified	Mark C. Martin	Class 4	Step 4
Swim Boys	Matthew D. Benner	Class 1	Step 7
Swim Boys Modified	Matthew D. Benner	Class 4	Step 7
Wrestling Varsity	George J. Baer	Class 1	Step 8
Wrestling JV	Shawn P. Cummings	Class 2	Step 21
Wrestling 7th & 8th Grade	David M. Dailey	Class 4	Step 17
Wrestling Assistant - Volunteer	Randolph G. Morrison Jr	N/A	Uncompensated

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2017-18, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

X. COMMENT PERIOD

Donation Drive. Pam Mahay announced a donation drive taking place, "Socktober," a sock drive for needy families, and encouraged those present to donate new socks to collection boxes located at the entrance to schools.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION and APPOINTMENT OF CLERK PRO TEMPE:

Motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, to enter into executive session for the purpose discussing the employment history of a particular person, specifically the informal evaluation of the superintendent, and to discuss matters made exempt under federal law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 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 OF EDUCATION MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:25 PM, EDT, WITH LAUREN F. FRENCH NAMED CLERK PRO TEMPE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING.

XII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION and ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education return to open session and adjourn the meeting.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:37 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Ed Siebels, President