

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

November 20, 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, Nickolas Ormasen, Roland Roderick, Ed Siebels.

Trustees Absent:

Also Present: Lauren French, Superintendent of Schools; Donna Runner, Assistant Superintendent; Carol LaSala, Business Manager; Cory Wood, High School Principal; Victoria Day, Elementary Principal; Charity Zawatski, Elementary Principal; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

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 now be followed up at a subsequent board meeting under Unfinished Business.

Bullying. A parent shared that her child has been bullied for 3 years, and listed some of the comments she and her child have been told by teachers and staff that were not helpful. She would like to see immediate action and more punishment, along with additional education for teachers, staff and students to make them aware of what is going on around them, adding that children should not be scared to come to school.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Administrative Updates

1. Principals

High School Principal Cory Wood accompanied a team of teachers to a BOCES presentation, "High School That Works," that focuses on the middle 60% of students getting the credentials and college credits for successful vocations that include partnering with local businesses and additional career exploration options. Elementary principals Victoria Day and Charity Zawatski discussed professional development taking place in their building, including virtual technology units of study and writing, math instruction progress utilizing the district math coach, Poverty in Trauma strategies, and a book study taking place on *The ZEN Teacher*. A discussion took place regarding the elementary school's communication to parents and teachers, with Ms. Zawatski stating they do a weekly "Look Ahead" online using a shared Google Site for all building staff, a printed monthly newsletter sent home to parents and available online, a building Facebook page, and two email listserves used intermittently. Recognition was also given to the Middle School production of *The Wizard of Oz* and the turkey dinner served to the entire elementary building.

B. Communications

None.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

None.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second Reading Adoption of New and Revised Policies; Deletion of Obsolete 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:

1338 -Duties of the School Physician/Nurse Practitioner, Revised; 2210 -Committees of the Board, DELETE; 3220 -Public Expression at Meetings: **Removed for third reading 12/10/17**; 5640 -Smoking/Tobacco Use, Revised; 6125 -Employee Grievances, DELETE; 7320 -Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, and Other Substances, Revised;

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V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

A. Second Reading Adoption of New and Revised Policies; Deletion of Obsolete Policies (Cont.)

7520 - Accidents and Medical Emergencies, Revised; 7521 - Students with Life-Threatening Health Conditions, Revised; 7670 - Due Process Complaints: Selection and Board Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officers, Revised.

DISCUSSION: In regard to Policy 3220, board members discussed clarifying language for responding to community comments at the following board meeting. The Policy will be updated and brought back December 11, 2017.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

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 reject the adoption of proposed Policy 3112 – Website Accessibility.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent French shared the accessibility report provided by webmaster Cory Young that scored the district's website as 99% accessible. Inviting Mr. Young to speak, he explained that we subscribe to Siteimprove.com, an app that monitors our website to meet and exceed the state expectation for accessibility. Board members agreed our current practice upholds the legal requirement without the need for a separate policy.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. PROPOSED POLICY 3112 – WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY, REJECTED.B. Public Response to Previous Comments1. Parent Concerns over changes in instructional staffing.

Superintendent Lauren F. French reported that following a meeting with Assistant Superintendent Donna Runner, and parent representatives Carley Beardon and Tina French, Mrs. Runner has worked with the elementary principals to formulate the substitute transition: to maintain consistency, a long-term substitute will remain through January 29, giving administration the opportunity for a full slate of applicants and ample time to complete the full interview process. In addition, Mrs. Runner is preparing the Dreambox, Lexia, and NWEA materials that will be shared with families, and 7 parent conferences have been held for students that had specific concerns, with more scheduled as needed.

2. Athletic Code of Conduct.

Superintendent French recounted her phone conversation with Mr. Price, explaining that the Athletic Code of Conduct is not meant to limit any student's participation, but to address the need of both the school and family to know where students are and that they are safe. Mr. Wood also conveyed his conversation with Mr. Newvine that clarified the benchmarks being used this year for academics, and adding that for the first 10 weeks we currently have 0 student ineligible, 6 on remediation who are failing two or more subjects and receiving after school help, and 25 on warning who are failing one subject and required to have communication between student, teacher, and coach, out of 300 athletes.

3. Consistency among sports teams.

Superintendent Lauren F. French prepared and shared an Excel spreadsheet showing general expenses budgeted for each athletic team. Among the highlights: uniforms are on rotation, with the goal of a 5-year replacement depending on condition. Miscellaneous expenses include things such as \$150 to seed the football field; \$13,100 for pool scoreboard/timer; fees to St. Lawrence University for Indoor Track to use their fields; and \$7,100 for the wrestling scoreboard. New York State requires football helmets to be reconditioned (\$54 each) and pass a yearly certification test, along with cleaning and sanitizing the pads. Our helmets were all purchased more than ten years ago, and the current cost is \$300 per helmet. A replacement cycle will need to be initiated so we will not have to replace 165 helmets at one time. Other expenses include \$3,300 in dues to the Frontier League for boys swim; impact concussion training of \$750; \$9,000 to take teams to Sectionals; \$1,500 for awards; \$650 for rule books; and \$4,200 to paint the soccer and football fields. None of this includes transportation costs or any coach's salary. Mrs. French also reminded Board members that \$114,150 was spent to resurface the track, but since it is also used for instructional P.E. classes she did not include that amount in this spreadsheet. Trustee Lisa McGregor thanked Mrs. French for the information, saying it is important for the entire community to understand that no one sport is supported more than any other. Mrs. French added that other organizations, for example FFA, do not have a budget, and pay all of their own transportation and fees through student fundraisers. She stated that our goal is to provide a sense of belonging for every student. Rather than cut one activity, the burden has to be equally shared. Trustee Dr. William Cartwright stated the higher percentage of students we can get engaged in activities the better off we are. Responding to a question about how booster clubs contribute, Mrs. French stated that there is a booster club but being a separate organization from the school she has no involvement or information on their financials.

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

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 6, 2017, as presented.

B. Claims Auditors Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Internal Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 10/28/17 – 11/10/17, 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#:

005103007	005102951	000010661	000011233	000011385
000011700	005102804	005102724	005100881	005102035
000010492	000014171	000010629	000010633	000011255
000011387	005100704	005101220	000010416	000011143
005100333	005102806	005101225	005102739	005101810

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:

CSE Student ID#:

005102984	005103217	005103525
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E. Treasurer's Report – October 2017

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

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

F. Regular Staffing ActionsCSE/CPSE Personnel Action:

Creation of a 1.0FTE Supplementary Support Personnel for Student #005102739.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2017 Tax Collector's Report and Return of Unpaid Taxes to St. Lawrence & Jefferson Counties

(See Sheet #6, 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 Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education approve the 2017 Tax Collector's Report, dated November 8, 2017, showing a tax levy of \$5,974,130.93, for the 2017-2018 school year, with \$598,525.96 of the levy remaining unpaid, and approve the 2017 Return of Unpaid Taxes in the amounts of \$595,959.83 and \$2,566.13 plus any penalty for collection to St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, respectively, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Upon request, Business Manager Carol LaSala explained that taxes are levied on 9/1, and the tax collector has until 10/31 to collect. Taxes not paid by then, including unpaid future installments on installment payments, get turned over to the county; this is the amount collected by the county and turned over to us in April.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2017 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

B. Substitute Pay – Cook

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 creation of position: “Sub Cook”, at a base hourly rate of Cook Step 1 (currently \$18.27/hour), to be used only for internal coverage of individual Cook when individual Cook is absent for a minimum of 5 or more consecutive days, effective November 1, 2017.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CREATION OF “SUB COOK” POSITION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

C. Calendar Change – Early Dismissal Drill 11/21/17

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 adjustment to the 2017-18 School Calendar as follows:

November 21, 2017 – Mandatory Early Dismissal Drill. Gouverneur Elementary School will dismiss at 1:15 PM; Buses are anticipated to load and depart to Jr-Sr High School by 1:35 PM. Buses are anticipated to depart from the Jr-Sr High School at 1:45 PM.

DISCUSSION: President Ed Siebels commented that this exercise is to combine all Elementary and High School transportation into one run rather than two runs. Superintendent Lauren F. French added that since we began double-tripping, we would use two runs for an early dismissal. The goal of a single run is to get everyone home safely in the minimum amount of time. Discussion took place on routes and seating, and Mrs. French she would have a follow-up report at the next meeting.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. CALENDAR CHANGE FOR EARLY DISMISSAL DRILL ON 11/21/17, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

D. Transportation Update

Superintendent Lauren F. French informed Board members that the current contract expires in June 2019, necessitating an RFP next fall to accurately budget for 2019-20. She asked them to consider the feasibility of having a transportation manager who is a Gouverneur employee rather than an employee of the transportation provider, and provided many examples of time invested by her and Mrs. LaSala that a GCS transportation manager could handle, Conversation took place about the use and cost of Zonar, utilizing a system that would alert households when their bus is near, and adding as a contract item the maximum riding time for students. President Ed Siebels recommended restarting the transportation committee for future discussions.

E. Re-Certification of Lead Evaluator

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirement of Education Law Section 3012-c and Part 30-2.9 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the individual(s) named below have completed all the necessary training to be recertified as lead evaluator(s) of classroom teachers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education hereby certifies the following individual(s) as lead evaluator(s) of classroom teachers: Maria T. Mesires, Assistant Principal

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MARIA T. MESIRES RECERTIFIED AS LEAD EVALUATOR OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

F. 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
Prentice Hall America Pathways to the Present ISBN: 0-13-435100-2	25
Glencoe Advanced Mathematical Concepts: Pre-calculus with Applications ISBN: 0-02-834175-9	28
Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley: Calculus: Graphical, Numerical, and Algebraic ISBN: 0-201-32445-8	29
Glencoe Economics: Principals & Practices ISBN: 0-07-860693-4 (<i>To be sold on consignment</i>)	27

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: High School Principal Cory Wood confirmed that these textbooks are in addition to textbooks previously disposed of at the October 16, 2017 regular meeting.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. OBSOLETE TEXTBOOKS AUTHORIZED FOR DISPOSAL AS LISTED.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Appointments1. Instructional

Lindsey Carvel. 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 the appointment of Lindsey Carvel as a substitute Elementary Teacher, beginning November 27, 2017, at the established rate of Uncertified Substitute Teacher. Ms. Carvel has met all of the requirements for New York State Certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), and upon issuance of Initial Certification will advance to the established certified rate of 25+ days through January 29, 2018.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. LINDSEY CARVEL APPOINTED AS SUBSTITUTE ELEMENTARY TEACHER, AS PRESENTED.

2. Non-Instructional

Joanie M. Cole. 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 Joanie M. Cole to the position of 3-hour Food Service Helper, effective November 27, 2017, pending OSPRA Fingerprint clearance.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. JOANIE M. COLE APPOINTED AS 3-HOUR FOOD SERVICE HELPER, AS PRESENTED.

3. Extra-Curricular

Jessica McMaster. 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 appointment of Jessica McMaster as Winter Color Guard Advisor for 2017-18, at Step 1, Class E, effective November 20, 2017.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. JESSICA MCMASTER APPOINTED AS WINTER COLOR GUARD ADVISOR FOR 2017-18, AS PRESENTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Gouverneur Teacher's Association (GTA) statement. GTA co-president Brooke Santamont extended thanks to the Board on behalf of the GTA for making themselves available to problem-solve with the GTA for the good of the GCS community, adding she looks forward to an open dialogue and ongoing addressing of concerns.

New Teacher statement. Lindsey Carvel addressed the Board, thanking them for the opportunity and stating she looks forward to working in the district.

Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union (GSRPU) statement. GSRPU president Steve Besaw spoke highly of the recent staff development day, or tech summit, and especially the student presenters as well as the great job Stephanie Plaisted did setting it up, and requested that it take place every year. He commented highly on many of the sessions he took part in, as well as the skyped address from Jessica Bigarel, the keynote speaker, and recommended our students see that. He also recognized the cast and crew responsible for *The Wizard of Oz*, saying it was a fantastic show. Superintendent Lauren F. French added that Jessica has volunteered to connect with our students, and that is in process of being scheduled.

Parent statements. Tina French expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with administrators and opening that line of communication. Rod Price thanked Superintendent French for timely responding to his concern, and as the Exalted Ruler at the Gouverneur Elks Lodge talked about various partnerships with the district. Elementary principal Charity Zawatski recognized Mr. Price and the Elks for their support at the recent holiday dinner.

Athletic Banquet. Pam Stevens, parent of an athlete, spoke about the recent athletic banquet and how families departed following their athlete's recognition, leaving very few people to acknowledge the efforts of the students on the final few sports teams honored. Trustee Dr. William Cartwright suggested they reverse the order of the presentations to start with the smaller teams and recognize the biggest teams last.

Community Dinner. Cory Wood reminded everyone that the annual free community dinner is on December 2 at the Jr-Sr High School, it is open to the public. Last year they served over 400 dinners.

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

Motion made Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, to enter into executive session to discuss collective negotiations pertaining to the Gouverneur Teachers' Association contract, and the employment history 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 8:10 PM WITH LAUREN F. FRENCH AS CLERK PRO TEMPE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING.

XI. OPEN SESSION RESUMED AT 9:45 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, to adjourn at 9:46 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:46 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Ed Siebels, President