

GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSED BUDGET

2017-2018

FOR PRESENTATION TO THE VOTERS OF THE GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Hearing

Monday, May 8, 2017

6:30 PM

High School Cafeteria

Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

NOON to 8 PM

**High School Auditorium
(Rear Entrance)**

GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Mrs. Lisa Dunkelberg
President
Term Expires 6/2018**

**Mr. Edward Siebels
Vice-President
Term Expires 6/2018**

**Mr. Jeremy Bartholomew
Term Expires 6/2017**

**Dr. William Cartwright
Term Expires 6/2019**

**Mr. David Fenlong
Term Expires 6/2017**

**Mrs. Karen Geer
Term Expires 6/2019**

**Mrs. Lisa McGregor
Term Expires 6/2019**

**Mr. Nickolas Ormasen
Term Expires 6/2018**

**Mr. Clark Porter
Term Expires 6/2017**

ADMINISTRATION

LAUREN F. FRENCH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
(315) 287-4870

DONNA RUNNER
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
(315) 287-4870

CAROL LASALA
BUSINESS MANAGER
(315) 287-4836



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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DAVID FENLONG
KAREN GEER
LISA MCGREGOR
NICKOLAS ORMASEN
CLARK R. PORTER

To the Residents of Gouverneur Central School District:

On April 11, the Gouverneur Board of Education unanimously adopted a proposed budget for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$34,927,600. This budget represents an increase of \$409,340 over the 2016-2017 school year or an increase of 1.19% in expenditures and an increase of 2.00% in the tax levy. Looking at a typical \$60,000 assessed value home with basic STAR in Gouverneur, the estimated cost will be an increase of \$7.61 this year.

In developing the budget for the 2017-2018 school year, we have again focused on programs for students. In response to the needs of our school community, we will replace the majority of the positions opened by retirement. These replacements will keep class sizes at sound instructional levels and increase opportunities for students. We will reconfigure the Reading Teaching Assistant position to become a Reading Teacher with responsibilities in the early primary grades. We are finding many children entering school have significant needs in basic academic skills. Our goal is to support these scholars with early interventions so they have a solid foundation for their future academic programs.

We will continue to support the Agriculture Academy which is housed at Cornell Cooperative Extension Farm. The students who participated in the program this year indicated their experience was of exceptional quality and encouraged us to keep this as an option for future students. We will also continue to support the PACE program at Southwest Tech which meets the needs of learners in a project based learning environment. I had an email from a grandmother who said, "This is the first time my grandson has experienced success with a program and gained self-confidence, he now has a vision and a goal for his future." This is the exact reason why we offer programs for a variety of learners. We all have goals, skills, abilities and talents and it is incumbent upon schools to find the right fit and meet the needs of all our scholars.

Our academic program continues to grow with additional SUPA (Syracuse University Project Advance) Classes. These classes provide college credit for students and the academic challenges some students need to be prepared for post-high school education. We are also expanding our DL (Distance Learning Programs) and for the first time will be offering American Sign Language to students.

We will continue to support the Southwest Tech (SWT) Center as the careers around automotive, construction, welding, electrical and human services will continue to provide employment opportunities for our highly motivated scholars. We support SWT with an enrollment that approaches 125 students.

Our relationship with many local community members is treasured. A prime example is the Maple Sugar House and the production of gallons of syrup. That would not be possible without the support of many community members and the Maple trees in their yards and on their properties. Our FFA students thoroughly enjoy teaching this activity as our elementary students participate in walking field trips to see the process.

Our renovation project is meeting all deadlines and we are very pleased with Northland Associates, Construction Associates and MARCH Associates. We have three local firms; Lawman Heating and Cooling, Inc., Watson Electric and E-Z Paving which have all been excellent in their responsiveness to our concerns and needs. It is quite an experience to see what can transpire in a few days as the team opens walls, replaces windows, heating units, plumbing fixtures and all electrical and technology support. The environment that will be created for our younger scholars for the opening of school in September will amaze everyone. It has been very special to have parents of our students working on the building in several capacities, and in some cases, even grandparents!

We continue to offer a solid program in the arts. Our musical, Dean Oratorical Contest, displays of art at the Remington Museum and the Gouverneur Art Show, concerts and Marching Band all give students experiences in the arts. In addition, our athletic programs offer students the opportunity to share training and competition with their peers from the region and across the state.

I, along with the Board of Education, staff and students appreciate the community support that is demonstrated in a variety of ways. Your support and presence at events reminds me how important each person is in the education of the scholars within our school.

Please take time to review this budget document and feel welcome to attend the Budget Hearing on May 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria. Voting will take place on May 16, 2017 from noon to 8:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Please note the end time is 8:00 p.m.

If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact my office or any member of the Board of Education. All of us would be pleased to answer your questions or concerns.

Lauren F. French
Superintendent of Schools

GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2017-2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

This budget is presented in three parts, as per Sections 207 and 2601-a of the Education Law and as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 171 of the Laws of 1996.

Administrative Component Includes:

Board of Education; district clerk; district meeting; chief school administrator; business administration; auditing; treasurer; tax collector; purchasing; fiscal agent fees; legal services, except those relating to the program component; personnel services; records management; public information services; curriculum development and supervision; research; planning and evaluation; supervision – regular school; supervision – special schools; central data processing; central printing and mailing; central storeroom; special items; judgments and claims; and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in this component.

Capital Component Includes:

Operation and maintenance of buildings; school bus purchase; debt service; transfers to capital and debt service funds; tax certiorari; judgments and claims; and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in this component.

Program Component Includes:

In-service training instruction; teaching – regular school; programs for students with disabilities; occupational education; teaching – special schools; school library and audiovisual; educational television; computer-assisted instruction; attendance; guidance; health services; psychological services; social work services; pupil personnel services; co-curricular activities; interscholastic athletics; district transportation services (excluding bus purchase); contract transportation; recreation; youth programs; civic activities; employee benefits attributable to salaries included in this component; transfers to school lunch and special aid funds; and legal services relating to the program component.

Summary of Components for the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget:

	2016-2017 <u>Actual Budget</u>	2017-2018 <u>Proposed Budget</u>	Increase or <u>(Decrease)</u>
Administrative	\$4,109,927	\$4,307,963	\$198,036
Program	24,654,329	24,379,632	(274,697)
Capital	<u>5,754,004</u>	<u>6,240,005</u>	<u>486,001</u>
Totals	\$34,518,260	\$34,927,600	\$409,340

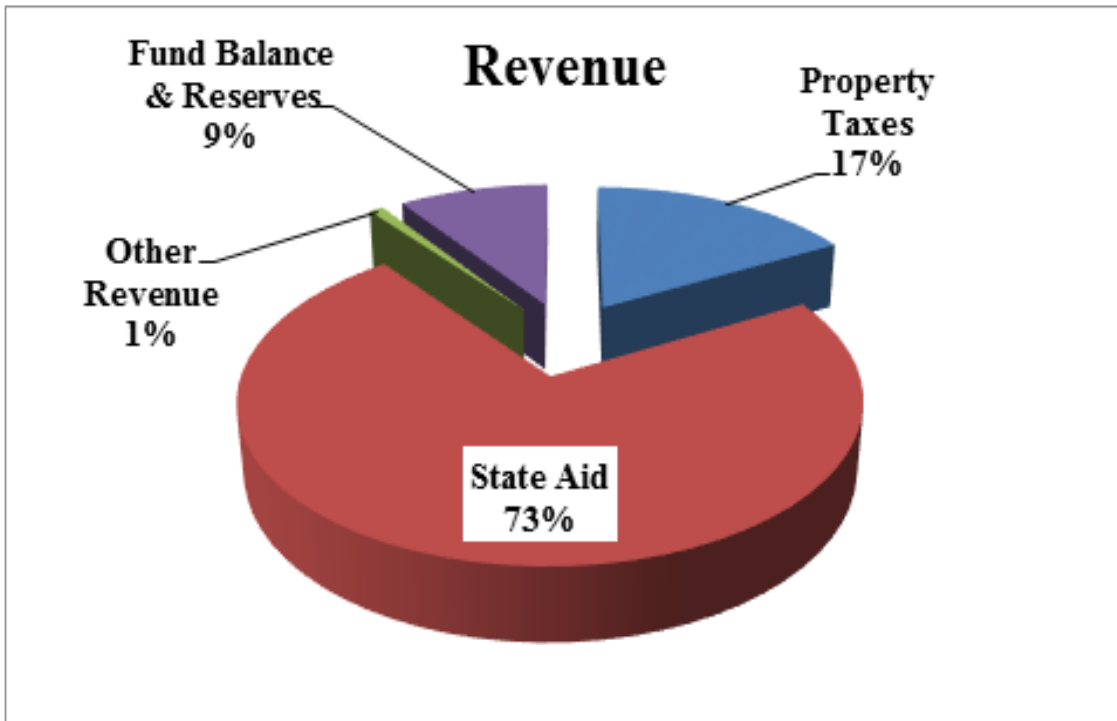
	2016-2017 <u>Budget</u>	2017-2018 <u>Budget</u>	2017-2018 <u>(+ or -)</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT			
Board of Education	\$28,505	\$28,505	\$0
Central Administration	212,250	219,000	6,750
Finance	382,564	385,225	2,661
Staff	102,625	101,900	(725)
Central Services	721,325	796,069	74,744
Special Items	947,150	967,150	20,000
Curric. Dev., Instr. & Admin	927,153	1,001,654	74,501
Employee Benefits	788,355	808,460	20,105
TOTAL SUPPORT & ADMIN.	<u>\$4,109,927</u>	<u>\$4,307,963</u>	<u>\$198,036</u>
PROGRAM COMPONENT			
Staff	\$10,000	\$14,500	\$4,500
Improvement	207,350	221,100	13,750
Teaching Reg. Schools	7,116,894	7,196,282	79,388
Students w/Disabilities	4,800,768	4,325,771	(474,997)
Occupational Education	1,240,000	1,215,000	(25,000)
Teaching Spec. Schools	60,675	60,775	100
Instructional Media	941,346	932,373	(8,973)
Pupil Services	1,320,208	1,334,680	14,472
Pupil Transportation	2,543,620	2,547,300	3,680
Census	6,400	6,400	0
Employee Benefits	6,307,068	6,425,451	118,383
Transfers to Special Aid	100,000	100,000	0
TOTAL PROGRAM	<u>\$24,654,329</u>	<u>\$24,379,632</u>	<u>(\$274,697)</u>
CAPITAL COMPONENT			
Central Services	\$2,315,875	\$2,272,500	(\$43,375)
Special Items	1,000	1,000	0
Pupil Transportation	375,000	580,000	205,000
Employee Benefits	971,129	989,505	18,376
Debt Service	1,991,000	2,297,000	306,000
Transfer to Capital Fund	100,000	100,000	0
TOTAL CAPITAL	<u>\$5,754,004</u>	<u>\$6,240,005</u>	<u>\$486,001</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	<u>\$34,518,260</u>	<u>\$34,927,600</u>	<u>\$409,340</u>

We are designated as a small-school, high needs rural district. Recognizing the necessity to provide students in high needs districts with quality educational programs and opportunities, every effort has been made by the administration, staff and Board of Education to minimize cost in this budget year.

Every effort has also been made to propose programs which are needed by our students that are affordable and sustainable by our taxpayers.

As outlined in the Superintendent's letter in the front of this document, the administration, staff and board of education have all been instrumental in keeping costs down.

The Property Tax Levy Cap is 2.00%. We have utilized monies from our reserves and unappropriated fund balance to keep the tax levy increase at the tax cap and still maintain a high-quality curriculum for our students.



Revenue Summary			
REVENUE DESCRIPTION	2016-17	2017-18	Difference
Property Taxes	\$ 5,789,708	\$ 5,905,696	\$ 115,988
State Aid	\$ 25,042,228	\$ 25,364,285	\$ 322,057
Other Revenue	\$ 242,874	\$ 313,000	\$ 70,126
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$ 3,443,450	\$ 3,344,619	\$ (98,831)
TOTAL	\$ 34,518,260	\$ 34,927,600	\$ 409,340

**PROPOSED GENERAL FUND REVENUES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

SOURCE

LOCAL SOURCES

Real Property Tax Items (excludes levy)	\$25,000	
Charges for Services	22,500	
Use of Money and Property	9,500	
Sale of Property & Compensation for Loss	1,000	
Miscellaneous Revenues	<u>255,000</u>	
Total Local & Misc. Sources		\$313,000

STATE, FEDERAL & INTERFUND SOURCES

Foundation, Excess Cost, Lottery Aids	\$22,857,035	
B.O.C.E.S. Aid	2,350,000	
Other Aids	157,250	
Interfund Transfer for Debt Service	<u>0</u>	
Total State, Federal & Interfund Sources		\$25,364,285

APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO REDUCE LEVY

Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,248,020	
Reserve Fund for ERS Retirement Contribution	500,000	
Reserve Fund for Liability	25,000	
Reserve Fund for Insurance	25,000	
Reserve Fund for Employee Benefits	55,000	
Reserve for Unemployment Insurance	40,000	
Reserve Fund for Workers Compensation	139,750	
Reserve for Sale of Fowler	27,324	
Capital Reserve - Buses	<u>284,525</u>	
Total Appropriated Funds to Reduce Levy		<u>\$3,344,619</u>

TOTAL REVENUES BEFORE TAXES		\$29,021,904
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REAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY (2.00% Increase)		<u>\$5,905,696</u>
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TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		<u>\$34,927,600</u>
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Tax Highlights

You will receive a separately mailed letter entitled “Gouverneur Central School District Budget Notice.” This is required by New York State statute, the contents of which are also specifically required by statute.

Budgeted 2017 Tax Levy Increase	2.00%
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Estimated Tax on Residential Property

With full value of

	<u>\$60,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>
With Maximum Basic Exemption (as established by New York State)	\$387	\$904
<u>Annual Increase in Tax from 2016</u>	\$8	\$18
<u>Annual Increase With Maximum Enhanced Exemption (as established by New York State)</u>	\$0	\$10



TAX CREDIT REBATE

The 2017–18 Gouverneur Central School District budget complies with all criteria to once again qualify resident taxpayers receiving STAR exemption for the property tax rebate automatically issued by the State of New York.

**Gouverneur Central School District
2017-18 Property Tax Report Card**

	Budgeted 2016-17	Budgeted 2017-18	Percent Change
Total Spending	\$34,518,260	\$34,927,600	1.19%
Proposed School Tax Levy	\$5,789,708	\$5,905,696	2.00%
Permissible Exclusions	\$259,910	\$238,968	
School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Permissible Exclusions	\$5,590,479	\$5,666,728	
Total Proposed Tax Levy Excluding Permissible Exclusions	\$5,529,798	\$5,666,728	
Difference: (if negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)	\$60,681	\$0	
Public School Enrollment	1,575	1,562	-0.83%
Consumer Price Index			1.26%
Property Tax Levy Cap			2.00%

	Actual 2016-17	Estimated 2017-18
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$6,565,453	\$6,500,000
Adjusted Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,248,020	\$2,000,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$1,788,077	\$1,677,488
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	5.12%	4.76%

Per Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations:
Adoption by Board of Education 4/11/2017
Submission to State Education Department by 4/12/2017

Salary: Administrative Compensation Information

Title	Salary	Employee Benefits	Other Remuneration
Superintendent of Schools	\$150,000	\$37,333	\$1,200

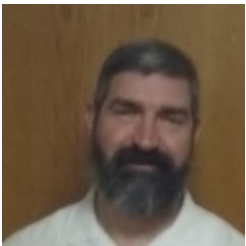
BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCIES

For the 2017-2018 school year, three vacancies will occur on the Board of Education. These vacancies are each for three-year (3-year) terms.

Vacancies for positions on the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific offices and the nominating petition does not describe any specific vacancy upon the Board of Education for which the candidate is nominated. Therefore, those three candidates getting the most votes from the entire field of candidates will be elected to fill the three 3-year term vacancies on the Board of Education, effective July 1, 2017.

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

(Listed Alphabetically)



James Delity

After graduation from Slippery Rock University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, I enlisted in the U.S. Army where I spent 24 years as a logistician. My assignments included tours to Korea, Germany, El Paso, Texas and Lawton, Oklahoma. Additionally, I completed combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan where I was awarded with the Bronze Star. In September 2016, I retired from active duty at Fort Drum as a Chief Warrant Officer Five. I am currently serving as a volunteer at the USO on Fort Drum. I am married to Gouverneur Middle School STEM teacher, Heather Delity. We have two children: Evan, 27 and Stefan, 15.

I am interested in serving on the Gouverneur Central School District school board to assist with setting policies and procedures that can help affect the education received by my son, as well as other current and future students. My military experience has taught me to collaborate with others to identify and achieve goals. In this case, to improve the public education within my community. Additionally, as a taxpayer, I have a vested interest in ensuring that we adopt a fiscally responsible budget.

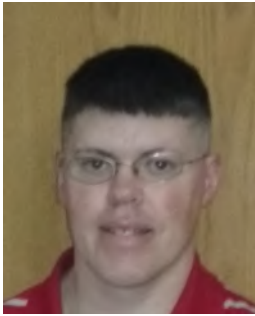


David Fenlong

I grew up in St. Lawrence County and have lived here my entire life. I currently reside in Fowler. I attended and graduated from Gouverneur Central School. After college, I started my 25 year career as the customer experience manager for the drug store division of KPH Healthcare Services, Inc. I am married to Susan Canning Fenlong. I have two sons, Griffin who attends Gouverneur Central School in seventh grade and Ethan is just behind him in sixth grade. I have served on the Gouverneur Central School Board of Education for 3 years and volunteer for various other Gouverneur Central School committees through each school year.

I would like to continue my services as a school board member for several reasons. I am proud of our public school and would like to continue to ensure everyone is getting a fair and equal chance to reach their dreams. While balancing the oversight of the business side of the district, I will continue to pay the closest attention to the district's priorities for academic achievement. While acting as a conduit for concerns and interest of parents and children, I will continue my plan to build trust and be transparent and equitable to all stakeholders. Lastly, with the capital project underway, I would love to see the project through to the end with all of the initial plans and goals in mind.

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Listed Alphabetically)



Roland Roderick

I am originally from Anson, Maine where my parents still live. My mother is a Special Education ED TECH II and my father is a manager of Sugarloaf Ski Resort. I also have two brothers and a sister. I graduated from Carrabec High School in 1998. Upon graduation I joined the Army, getting a job in Military Intelligence. I have served for 19 years and am currently stationed at Fort Drum. I will be retiring next year and plan to stay in Gouverneur. I have served four combat tours, two to Iraq and two to Afghanistan, with my latest serving as a Combat Advisor to the Afghanistan National Police. With my formal education, I have completed an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Jefferson Community College. I am a member of the First United Methodist Church in Gouverneur. I am a lifetime member of the Silas Wainwright VFW Post 6338 in Gouverneur. I am also a member of the American Legion at a post in Madison, Maine. In the summer I am an AYSO soccer coach.

I have been married to my wife, Bridget Roderick for 13 years and we have resided in Gouverneur for the last 9 years. She is a lifelong resident and graduate of Gouverneur Central School. She has served as the West Side School OPT Vice President for the last 5 years. She is also a life member of the Silas Wainwright VFW Post 6338 Ladies Auxiliary. We have one daughter Hannah, age 9, who is currently in the fourth grade at West Side Elementary. She is involved in gymnastics, cheerleading, Karate and AYSO Soccer. As a family we enjoy traveling to Maine, the outdoors and playing with our dogs, Lilly and Laila.

I would like to serve on the Gouverneur Central School Board of Education because as a member of this community and a parent I have a vested interest in the success of our school district. I want my child and all of the children of Gouverneur Central School to be able to get the highest quality education possible. I would like to maintain a good relationship between the Board and the community, especially with all of the ongoing building projects taking place within the district.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO VOTE
ON MAY 16

YOU MAY VOTE ON....

2017-18 Budget Proposition

To adopt the annual budget of the Gouverneur Central School District for the fiscal year 2017-2018 and to authorize the requisite thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District \$34,927,600

Election of Three Members to the Board of Education

A drawing for order of placement on the ballot was held April 18, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., witnessed by Mrs. Lauren French and Ms. Linda Erdman. The candidate names will be listed on the ballot in the following order:

James Delity
Roland Roderick
David Fenlong

ABSENTEE BALLOT

If a voter wishes to receive an absentee ballot by mail, a written application must be submitted to Tatia Kennedy, District Clerk by Tuesday, May 9, 2017. If a voter wishes to pick up an absentee ballot personally, the application must be received by the clerk at least one day before the election. Persons designated by the St. Lawrence County Board of Elections as “permanently disabled” pursuant to the provisions of the election law will automatically receive an absentee ballot.

The absentee ballot must be filed with the District Clerk by 4 PM on the day of the vote, Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

To vote in the Gouverneur Central School District election, a voter must have **ALL** of the following qualifications.

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. At least eighteen (18) years of age.
3. A resident within the District for period of at least thirty (30) days preceding the meeting at which he or she offers to vote.

There is no pre-registration requirement.

<p>VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017 NOON—8 PM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM</p>
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