

DRAFT

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

SEPTEMBER 25, 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 Elementary 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; Victoria Day, Elementary Principal; Charity Zawatski, Elementary Principal; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.
News Media: Jessyca Cardinell, Gouverneur Tribune Press.

II. COMMENT PERIOD

President Ed Siebels thanked everyone for coming to Gouverneur Elementary, and applauded the hard work and effort that went into getting the school up and running. Superintendent Lauren F. French credited the parents of Gouverneur Elementary students, saying what they do for our scholars is never to be underestimated.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Open House / Tour of Gouverneur Elementary School

Principals Victoria Day and Charity Zawatski welcomed everyone, and introduced student ambassadors who individually escorted board members through the school and accompanied the rest of the audience in groups. Mrs. Day spoke about the positive outcome resulting from combining the previous three elementary schools into one building and the support received from families working together over the past five years. Superintendent Lauren F. French and President Ed Siebels oversaw the ribbon cutting ceremony with the student ambassadors prior to the tour. President Ed Siebels led a round of applause following the tours and thanked everyone who contributed to the open house and wonderful tour.

B. Administrative Updates

1. Principals

Elementary Principal Charity Zawatski reported on recent room relocations to adjust for needed space, and discussion ensued about available storage. Upcoming social events include Donuts with Dads and Grandparents Breakfast with the Book Fair. High School Principal Cory Wood briefed the Board on recent homecoming activities and athletics. President Ed Siebels thanked Mr. Wood and the coaches for the behavior exhibited by our football team, saying it is important that we as a district and community hold our folks to a higher standard. Trustee Lisa McGregor thanked Assistant Superintendent Donna Runner and Mr. Wood for participating in the dunk booth during spirit week.

2. Student Representative

Myia Tyler brought for discussion two items from the senior class; the first was a request to leave campus during study halls directly connected to lunches, and second, that the grade point average for privileges be lowered incrementally every 5 weeks to a grade that satisfies expectations. She explained how some students, despite maximum effort, can't meet the same GPA as other students; and students taking higher level SUPA or college courses may also struggle to meet the GPA. High School Principal Cory Wood stated he is supportive of the proposal and agrees that students should have the same opportunities across all curriculums. Responding to questions, Mr. Wood stated that currently we have 52 -56 students that would qualify out of 115 students at 85, and the goal is to incrementally decrease that number to 75-80. Behavior is considered along with the grades, or a parent can request their student lose privileges. Discussion over the extended lunch hours brought clarification that a student could leave campus over a 2-period time: study hall followed by lunch or lunch followed by study hall, not three periods in a row if lunch falls between two study halls. All Board members present were in agreement with the two requests and requested periodic reports.

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III. DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

B. Administrative Updates (Cont.)3. Superintendent

Superintendent Lauren F. French shared an update on the NYSCOSS (New York State Council of School Superintendents) meeting she just attended, where they asked her to chair a women's initiative in northern New York, tentatively scheduled for August in Lake Placid. Regent Ouderkirk was there and has already asked to be a guest speaker; she started in northern New York and worked in this building early in her career. Mrs. French thanked the Board for supporting her attendance at the conference.

C. Communications

None.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

None at this time.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Athletic Code of Conduce

(See Sheet #1, Board Minutes File Folder)

Superintendent Lauren F. French reported that she received revisions from Heather Cole, Attorney for Ferrara Law Firm. Most of the adjustments were to include athletes and participants in extracurricular activities equally throughout the document, but she also removed items that are not in good standing with what state practice is. Mrs. French has a phone conference scheduled this week to review those finer points which will then be shared with the Board. The expected final revision will be brought back for a vote at the next meeting October 16.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

President Ed Siebels asked to have **Item G, Regular Staffing Actions**, removed from the Consent Agenda for special consideration and discussion. No other items were requested for removal. Therefore, Item G, Regular Staffing Actions, was removed for special consideration and discussion.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A-F:

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 September 11, 2017, as presented.

B. Claims Auditors Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 08/26/17 – 9/15/17, 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:

005101041	000014053	000011233	005101946	000010492
000011024	000011864	000010621	005101025	005101680
005102069	005102070	000010661	005103148	

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 CSE Meeting Minutes report:

005102837

E. Treasurer's Report – August 2017

(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)

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

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

F. Tax Roll Correction

(See Sheet #6, Board Minutes File Folder)

Niagara Mohawk A National Grid Company (2017 - 2018)

Approve the application for tax roll correction for the Town of Antwerp parcel 582.00.12-12-3.2 assessed to Niagara Mohawk, A National Grid Company, Property Tax Department, D-Mezz., 300 Erie Boulevard West, Syracuse, NY 13202 to correct a clerical error made on the part of the Assessor (Final Eq rate of 91% not used to calculate Special Franchise - tax adjustment from \$624.79 to \$598.50).

Vote on Consent Agenda Items A-F:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ITEMS A-F, CONSIDERED ON CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item G:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, seconded by Trustee Dr. William Cartwright, that the Board of Education take the following action:

G. Regular Staffing ActionsAppointment of Students:

Gavin Ayen, Fitness Center monitor
 Dakota Breglia, Lifeguard, Fitness Center monitor
 Dean Cameron-Higby, Fitness Center monitor
 Grace Cummings, Fitness Center monitor
 Hannah Hight, Lifeguard, Fitness Center monitor
 Sara Irwin, Fitness Center monitor
 Jillian Mashaw, Lifeguard, Fitness Center monitor
 Nathan Sitts, Lifeguard, Fitness Center monitor
 Joshua Smith, Fitness Center monitor
 Alistair Thomas, Fitness Center monitor
 Mallory Todd, Fitness Center monitor
 Abigail Tracey, Fitness Center monitor
 Ann Zhou, Fitness Center monitor
 Hillary Cook, Lifeguard

DISCUSSION: President Ed Siebels asked for clarification on the selection process and qualifications for students that are board appointed. High School Principal Cory Wood explained that for lifeguarding, the students, at their own expense, undergo 32 hours of lifeguard training and have to be a certified lifeguard. They also must have their CPR and First Aid cards. Those students are used as pool lifeguards for us for the different swims we offer, such as morning swim and weekends. Many of them also work as lifeguards during the summer at local beaches with their certification. Fitness Center monitors cover the Life Fitness room at the end of the day from 2:30 - 4:30. They are not trained to do personal training or coaching, but may act as spotters, wipe down the equipment, check that machines are working properly, and provide general supervision. They also need CPR and First Aid cards. He added that many of our student employees are our athletes and swimmers, they do both lifeguarding and fitness center monitoring, and it is difficult to get enough to cover our needs.

Vote on Consent Agenda Item G

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. ITEM E CONSIDERED ON CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Out of State Conference Approval

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 Middle School Assistant Principal and three (3) Middle School teachers to attend a 1-day workshop in the South Burlington Community Justice Center in South Burlington, Vermont on September 27, 2017 on restorative justice. "We have been identified as a school that suspends a high number of students with disabilities. We have been working Erin Woods (Special Education School Improvement Specialist) to identify strategies to address this problem. In conjunction with the character education program we have been exploring the idea of restorative justice. Restorative justice has been linked to reduced discipline referrals, reductions in serious incidents, increased student attendance and academic outcomes. The focus of the workshop is to assist participants with the integration of restorative justice principles and practices. The workshop will provide our team with the opportunity to assess the application of restorative justice in our middle school and the action steps to integrate restorative justice practices."

DISCUSSION: Assistant Superintendent Donna Runner spoke highly of the person delivering the instruction, who is also the consultant to the city of Burlington, saying references spoke of his knowledge and ability to bring about positive change. Restorative Justice is the model of discipline where, rather than use punishment as discipline, you help the student understand why they acted and how to make better decisions. It has a positive effect on school climate per research. Responding to questions, Mrs. Runner stated that by training an administrator and a few interested teachers, they will be able to pilot and try it, and as they feel more comfortable spread it through the district. Teachers will learn how to identify which behaviors are a result of an identified learning need and not a power struggle. Mrs. Runner concluded that the idea behind it is that it is approached from students becoming mindful of their own behavior and owning it. It will help give teachers additional tools to support each other so you won't see the same punishment for every student all the time. She reiterated that there will still be consequences and it is not a free-for-all.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. OUT OF STATE CONFERENCE, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.B. State Environmental Quality Review Reconstruction Project

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 following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District (the "Board") has considered the effect upon the environment of the proposed District-Wide work at:
Jr/Sr High School, East Side Elementary, West Side Middle School, and Bus Garage
SED Control No. 51-11-01-06-7-999-001

WHEREAS, the Board has received and reviewed the Scope of the Proposed Project prepared and submitted in connection with the Project, and has further received and considered the advice of its Architects and Engineers with regard to the environmental impact of the Project; now therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District as follows:

1. The Board hereby determines in accordance with Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act - SEQRA) of the Environmental Conservation Law that the Project is a Type II action which will not have a significant impact on the environment and is not subject to review under SEQRA.
2. The Project is hereby approved and the Superintendent of Schools and all officers and employees of the District are authorized and directed to perform all actions and execute all documents necessary or appropriate to obtain the necessary funding, complete the Project and to carry out the intent of this resolution.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent French and Business Manager LaSala explained the reason for this resolution was because the Smart Schools project—the technology aspect of the capital project—has a separate project number, and therefore needs a separate SEQRA; we had already done the SEQRA for the capital project. Since the Smart Schools project is mostly internal work there is no environmental impact. It does not change anything on the capital project.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SEQRA RESOLUTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

C. Wrestling Merger 2017-2018

Upon presentation and 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 approve a merger with Harrisville Central School District to allow their students to participate on our wrestling teams (all levels) for the 2017-2018 winter sports season, per the terms of the Section 10 Athletics Combined Teams Application, as presented.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wood announced this was the first time our district has done this merger with Harrisville; in the past we have joined with Clifton-Fine. He added that it does not impact the division we are in.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. SEQRA RESOLUTION, APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Retirements

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes of the following personnel:

Debra French. Motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Debra French, Middle School Social Studies teacher, effective June 21, 2018.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg asked to pass along thanks and appreciation for her service. Superintendent French stated that Mrs. French has over 30 years in education, but not all of them here.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES OF DEBRA FRENCH, ACCEPTED.

Joan E. Serviss. Motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Joan E. Serviss, Teaching Assistant, effective June 30, 2018.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Serviss, who was in the audience, was thanked for her years of service since 1975, with applause.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES OF JOAN E. SERVISS, ACCEPTED.

B. Resignations

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation of the following personnel:

Brandi LaRue. Motion made by Trustee Roland Roderick, and seconded by Trustee James Delity, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation from Brandi LaRue, Elementary Teacher, effective October 1, 2017.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Lauren F. French stated that the grade 3 position has been temporarily filled with a substitute, but it must be filled with a full-time teacher because it is an encumbered position. Ms. LaRue returned to her home district to teach.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION OF BRANDI LARUE, EFFECTIVE 10/1/17, ACCEPTED.

C. Appointments

Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following personnel.

After School Detention Monitors. Motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following teachers as After School Detention Monitors for 2017-18, at the rate of \$30/hour:

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

C. Appointments (Cont.)

Tom Donnelly, (Professional certification in ELA 7-12)
 Ashley Figulara, (Professional certification in ELA 7-12)
 Sam Sochia, (Professional certification in Mathematics 7-12 and Physics 7-12)
 April Nelson, (Initial certification in Students W/Disabilities)

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION MONITORS, APPROVED AS LISTED.

Title I Mentors. Motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Lisa McGregor, that the Board of Education approve the following appointments, funded by SLL BOCES McKinney-Vento Network Consortium: Corey Rogers, Bonnie Bates, Monica Scott, Tonya Rood, Marcy Tyler, Megan Thackston.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. TITLE I MENTORS, APPROVED AS LISTED.

Amber L. Wilcox. Motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Roland Roderick, to accept the request for resignation from Amber L. Wilcox from her appointment as Fitness Center Trainer for the 2017-18 school year, effective September 11, 2017.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF LISA MCCLOUD AS COSTUME DIRECTOR, RESCINDED.

Extra-Curricular Appointments for 2017-18. Motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee James Delity, to appoint the following extra-curricular advisors for the 2017-2018 school year, compensated in accordance from the extracurricular (club) salary schedule of the GTA contract:

Aarik Langevin	Fitness Center Trainer	Class E	Step 1
Alan Betrus	Musical Director #1	Class A	Step 4

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ADVISORS, APPROVED AS LISTED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Storage. Teacher Joel Baer addressed the previous Board discussion on storage space, relaying that they do have additional storage space for items referenced by Dr. Cartwright, but they are waiting on it to be released by the contractors. Additional supplies will be moved to the new cold storage facility as well. Superintendent French commented that one of the difficulties has been the addition of services since the project was originally designed, necessitating the use of available office and classroom space.

GTA Recognition. President Ed Siebels thanked GTA co-presidents Pam Mahay and Brooke Santamont for providing the refreshments for the open house. He continued, saying "I think it is important that we as a district and community take stock and start planning ahead to where we go in the next 5 years, where this district needs to be with new facilities and programs, and don't lose focus." He stated how his student tour guide was excited about the facility, and that is what we want to keep in the forefront of our conversations as we think about the next steps.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee James Delity, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Ed Siebels, President