

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

November 6, 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, Ed Siebels.

Trustees Absent: Roland Roderick.

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; Steven Coffin, Middle 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

Parent Concerns over changes in instructional staffing. Parents Tina French and Carley Bearden, who is also a representative of the elementary school's Principal Advisory Committee, read from letters they provided to Board members that listed positive traits of a departing teacher as well as concerns raised as a result of the staffing change. They requested solutions regarding report cards and parent-teacher conferences, and support for both students and teachers during the transition. Additional items addressed included the dismissal policy, which was described as chaotic, and concern that low teacher morale will affect students.

Gouverneur Teacher's Association (GTA) statement. GTA co-president Brooke Santamont read a statement on behalf of the GTA regarding the membership's concern about the district, and expressing their solidarity and willingness to problem solve and come together.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Administrative Updates

1. Principals

Principal Steve Coffin reported that last month middle school attendance dropped below the goal of 96%, due to increased absences of certain students. They are working to find the root cause and get outside support where needed. Discipline referrals are down this time from last year but up since September, and Board discussion took place on specific types of referrals and consequences. Wednesday is the Veteran's Day assembly. Mr. Cory Wood, High School Principal, reported on a successful financial aid night and fall sports advancements. Winter sports are starting with 220 athletes signed up. At the elementary school, Principal Day shared PTO events including a fundraiser at McDonald's, and a fall festival on November 17. The Kiwanis Club is hosting a breakfast for staff to say thank you to the teachers for their support with the backpack program and K-Club. Mrs. Zawatski added that the team sent to the poverty initiative in October would be presenting at the next staff meeting.

2. Facilities

Superintendent French updated board members on the progress taking place at the middle school, formerly WS Elementary, and the Smart Schools money, explaining that we are still waiting on final approval of the diagrams of the security features from SED. Business Manager LaSala added that we can hire Day Automation through BOCES and generate BOCES aid for next year, and then expand on that with the Smart Schools money. Responding to a request for a timeline, Superintendent French stated we are ahead of schedule right now, on track to be in the building in July rather than August.

3. Student Representative – Myia Tyler

Ms. Tyler addressed the Board regarding breakfast food selection, requesting more variety with healthier options. Discussion ensued with agreement for Myia to work with administration and cafeteria staff to see what else can be offered to students and to generate the same discussion with the Wellness Committee.

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III. DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

B. Communications

President Ed Siebels shared a letter for Friends of Southwest Tech announcing their open house from 5-7 PM the following night.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Financial Report for Period Ending September 30, 2017

(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 Vice-President David Fenlong, that the Board of Education accept the financial report for the period ending September 30, 2017, as presented.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017, ACCEPTED.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Wrestling Team Request for Additional Overnights - Discussion

At the October 16, 2017 regular meeting, wrestling coach Joel Baer spoke during the first comment period to appeal to the Board to reconsider two wrestling overnights that had been denied, a charity tournament at Chittenango School to benefit Golisano Children's Hospital, and Eastern States tournament for select athletes taking place the same weekend as the approved Fisher tournament. Superintendent Lauren F. French stated that since the October 16 meeting, Business Manager Carol LaSala and High School Principal Cory Wood met with coach Baer, coach Shawn Cummings, and Athletic Coordinator Frank Bush. Business Manager Carol LaSala stated that regarding the Chittenango trip, she was asked to provide estimated transportation costs for the team to attend on their own. She provided two different rates, one rate is the athletic rate that we pay to send our teams to away contests; the other rate is what an outside organization would pay to use school transportation, which is almost double our athletic rate. Further discussion clarified that two rates were provided due to the trip not being approved by the Board and the question of whether the request would be considered similar to other outside organizations. Superintendent Lauren F. French stated that the decision was made to use the athletic rate to support our students, which was a compromise between going at the higher rate, and not going at all. Clarification was made that the wrestling team is paying the entrance fee and transportation costs for the Chittenango event. There is no transportation aid. Business Manager Carol LaSala also stated that Eastern States was discussed in the meeting, and since it is not a team event and only for a couple of wrestlers, those athletes would be responsible for that event.

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 Lisa Dunkelberg, seconded by Trustee Karen Geer, that the Board of Education take the following action:

A. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2017, and the Special Meeting of October 26, 2017, as presented.

B. Claims Auditors Reports

(See Sheet #2, Board Minutes File Folder)

Approve the Internal Claims Auditor's Reports for the period 10/7/17 – 10/27/17, 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:

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

C. CSE Business (Cont.)**CSE & 504 Student ID#:**

005101587	000011258	000011696	005100753	005101148	005101560
005100766	005101711	005102501	005102682	005101256	005102888
005103208	000011967	000011950	000010747	005103148	005100622
005100432	005103209	000010750	000014052	005101194	005103200
005101190	005101191	000010621	000011218	005103201	005103056
005102203	005102713	005102711	005102291	005103125	005103519
000010654	005102790	005100806	000011308	000011021	005101761
000014240	000011922	005100683	005100263	005102892	000011295
000011955	005101417	000011924	005102607	005101041	005100252

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#:

005102987	005103157	005102837	005103306	005103226
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E. Regular Staffing Actions

Appointment of Substitutes: Anita Mantia, support; Michelle Martin, support; Clara McIntosh, support; Joanie Cole, support.

Appointment of Student Workers: Shea-Marie Mussaw, Lifeguard

Leave Replacement Appointments:

Barbara Sadue, as long-term substitute for Employee #00247, from October 27 to TBA, at the established certified rate of "sub teacher retired" if the assignment ends prior to December 5. If the assignment ends December 6 or later, Mrs. Sadue will be retroactively paid at the established rate of "sub teacher 25 days". Mrs. Sadue holds permanent certification in Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6.

Vote on Consent Agenda Items:

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy Review*(See Sheet #5, Board Minutes File Folder)*

The following policies were reviewed for recommended adoption at the November 20, 2017 BOE Meeting:

POLICY REVIEW - FIRST READING

1338 - Duties of the School Physician/Nurse Practitioner – Revised, *Updated to reflect that physical exams are no longer required for new employees.* **2210 - Committees of the Board** – DELETE, *This Board no longer schedules workshop/committee meetings, all discussions now take place during regular meetings. The reference to an Audit Committee is thoroughly contained in Policy 5572.* **3112 - Website Accessibility** - New – OPTIONAL, *The law requires website accessibility for individuals with disabilities, but does not require districts to develop a specific policy.* Discussion took place on the value of having a written policy in addition to law, and Superintendent Lauren F. French shared that Cory Young, our webmaster, is aware of and following the legal requirements this law sets forth. The policy as written does not go above or beyond what the law states. **3220 - Public Expression at Meetings** – Revised, *Expanded to provide consistency during public comment period for both board members and audience members.* **5640 - Smoking/Tobacco Use** – Revised, *Governor Cuomo signed legislation in July 2017 which effectively banned the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) on public and private school grounds as well as on buses and other vehicles that transport students or school employees.* **6125 - Employee Grievances** – DELETE, *Repeated in Policy 3231 (Complaints and Grievances by Employees).* **7320 - Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, and Other Substances** – Revised, *This policy also reflects the*

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VII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

A. Policy Review (Cont.)

prohibition of e-cigarettes on school grounds as defined in Public Health Law. 7520 - Accidents and Medical Emergencies – Revised, *We revised the language beneath the "Transporting an Ill or Injured Student" subheading to reflect that district administration will make reasonable efforts to first contact parents or persons of parental relation but will not delay contacting emergency responders if treatment is necessary.*
7521 - Students with Life-Threatening Health Conditions – Revised, *An amendment has eliminated the requirement that districts must enter into, and file, a collaborative agreement with an emergency health care provider in an effort to reduce the regulatory burden on school districts but also to ensure that children are receiving emergency epinephrine when needed.*
7670 - Due Process Complaints: Selection and Board Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officers – Revised, *This policy has been updated to reflect that districts will use the "most current version" of the Procedural Safeguards Notice.*

B. Authorization to Declare as Surplus and Bid the Sale of Used Kitchen Equipment

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 declare as surplus and authorize the Business Manager to bid the sale of the following used kitchen equipment:

- Tray Rack for dishwasher
- Gas Convections Oven
- Dishwasher 208 volts
- Storage Cabinet; Sink
- Sink for Garbage Disposal (no disposal or fixtures)
- (2) Dishwashers
- Gas Steamer
- (2) Hoods for Kitchen Equipment
- Large Stand Mixer

DISCUSSION: Business Manager Carol LaSala confirmed the items would be posted on Auctions International, the site where our bigger items go.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. USED KITCHEN EQUIPMENT DECLARED AS SURPLUS AND APPROVED TO BID FOR SALE, AS PRESENTED.

C. FFA Overnight Trip

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 for the FFA club and Advisor Joe Bullock to attend an overnight trip to Camp Oswegatchie, December 19-21, 2017. Ten to twelve students who are in good standing will attend with Mr. Bullock.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. FFA TRIP TO CAMP OSWEGATCHIE DECEMBER 19-21, 2017, APPROVED.

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:

1. Instructional

Deborah A. Colton. Motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee Karen Geer, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Deborah A. Colton, School Nurse (Head Nurse), effective December 31, 2017.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES OF DEBORAH A. COLTON, ACCEPTED.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

A. Retirements (Cont.)2. Non-Instructional

Martin O'Donnell. Motion made by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, and seconded by Trustee James Delity, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation for retirement purposes from Martin O'Donnell, Custodian, effective December 31, 2017.

DISCUSSION: President Ed Siebels noted that Mr. O'Donnell had been with the district since 1977, wishing him well in retirement.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES OF MARTIN O'DONNELL, ACCEPTED.

B. Revision of 2.75-hour Food Service Helpers to 3-hour Food Service Helpers

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 revise the position of the following 2.75-hour Food Service Helpers to 3-hour Food Service Helpers, effective November 13, 2017:

Carrie Chartrand	Matthew Cousino
Tina Damon	Sherry Finch
Kimberly Flood	Erica Frizzell
Jerrilyn Jesmer	Karrie Koerick
Kristen Kulp	Sandra Martin
Janice Rushlo	Jane Zeller

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. 2.75-HOUR FOOD SERVICE HELPERS REVISED TO 3-HOUR FOOD SERVICE HELPERS, AS PRESENTED.

C. Appointments

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 personnel:

Aarik Langevin. Approve the appointment of Aarik Langevin as Extended Day Program Teacher for 2017-18.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. AARIK LANGEVIN AS EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM TEACHER, APPROVED.

D. Extra-Curricular

Resignation of Winter Color Guard advisor. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee Karen Geer, and seconded by Trustee James Delity, that the Board of Education accept the request for resignation from Richard R. Haynes from the appointment of Winter Color Guard advisor, effective immediately.

DISCUSSION: High School Principal Cory Wood confirmed that a replacement would be hired.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. RESIGNATION OF RICHARD R. HAYNES FROM HIS APPOINTMENT AS WINTER COLOR GUARD ADVISOR, ACCEPTED.

Appointment of Pool Coordinator. Upon presentation and recommendation of Lauren F. French, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Trustee James Delity, and seconded by Trustee Lisa Dunkelberg, that the Board of Education appoint **Michelle Benda**, holding permanent certification in Physical Education, to the position of Pool Coordinator for the 2017-18 school year, at a stipend of \$500, effective immediately.

YEAS: All Trustees Present NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. APPOINTMENT OF MICHELLE BENDA AS POOL COORDINATOR, APPROVED.

IX. COMMENT PERIOD

Wrestling overnights. Coach Joel Baer clarified that all schools attending the Chittenango tournament are public schools with the entry fee going to Chittenango School. Charitable funds raised for Golisano come through raffles and other additional fundraisers at the tournament.

Gouverneur School Related Personnel Union (GSRPU) statement. Steve Besaw, classroom aide and GSRPU union president, reiterated GTA comments about the direction some things are going in the district, and stated that the GSRPU stands strong with the GTA on any issues affecting both unions, adding that he would welcome an opportunity for all stakeholders, including administrators and board members, to meet together.

Athletic Code of Conduct. Charles Newvine asked that specific sections of the Code of Conduct be revisited, specifically asking a child to abide by the Code 12 months a year, 24/7, and the wording under Tier 2 that requires counseling of sorts deemed necessary by the school, as well as the academics being revisited every 5-10 weeks. Rod Price questioned the absence policy that prohibits a child from attending an activity if he/she is not in school by 7:35 a.m. and how that relates to a medical condition that may keep the student home in the morning.

Parent Concerns over changes in instructional staffing. Sharon Gates and Karrie Koerick both spoke in favor of a departing teacher and their dissatisfaction of the change.

Board comments. Trustee Dr. William Cartwright stated that he appreciates the information shared by audience members, reminding those present that as Board members they need to know specifics, and in public forum you can't get into specifics. He stated that in the future to create a more positive morale this board is willing to look at particular concerns and act to alleviate them, saying, "We want to solve problems and work with you in a successful manner." President Ed Siebels thanked everyone for coming out and communicating their concerns, and encouraged those present to continue to contact board members with concerns.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, motion made by Trustee Lisa McGregor, and seconded by Trustee James Delity, to adjourn at 7:35 PM.

YEAS: All Trustees Present. NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:35 PM, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Ed Siebels, President