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## Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School Board of Education

Regular Meeting

13 September 2023

Board Room

Members present at the start of the meeting were President, Jeremy Pain, Vice-President, Jed Barnes, Brenda Friedel, Whitney Talbot, Christopher Ostrander and seven guest.

Members Sarah Green and Sean Barrows were absent.

Others present were Superintendent Annette Hammond, District Clerk Jarrin Hayen, District Treasurer Dorothy Iannello and Principal Heather Wilcox.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by President Pain who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORDER

The board acknowledged a thank you card from Kendra Hammond, 2023 graduate and recipient of the Board of Education Scholarship.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Principal and Superintendent provided the following Positive Highlights:

POSITIVE  
HIGHLIGHTS

- Thank you to our new teachers and staff for their dedication and time. They were welcomed and introduced themselves to the board.
- Teachers and staff engaged in 2<sup>nd</sup> level training from Zach Pugh on September 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Open House was on September 5<sup>th</sup>, lots of smiling faces ad positive comments. We were able to provide dinner.

No topics raised from the floor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gretchen Jones, ONC BOCES reported to the board on Restorative Justice Practices.

REPORTS, Restorative  
Justice Practices

Superintendent Hammond informed the board of how many new registered students are currently enrolled at GMU for the 2023-2024 school year. We have 21 new students and 19 students who left the district. We have approximately 350 students (including outside placements) currently enrolled.

INFORMATION FOR  
MEMBERS

Minutes from the 16 August 2023 regular meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Talbot, seconded by Ostrander. For the motion five, opposed none. Motion carried.

MINUTES

The proposed 13 September 2023 Regular Consent Agenda was unanimously adopted as amended on a motion by Ostrander, seconded by Friedel. For the motion five, opposed none. Motion carried.

AGENDA

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Board Member Barnes made the motion, seconded by Board Member Ostrander, RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept/approve the 14 September 2032 CSE/CPSE Consent Agenda. The meeting dates include August 16, 2023. For the motion five, opposed none. Motion carried.

CSE/CPSE CONSENT  
AGENDA

Board Member Ostrander made the motion, seconded by Board Member Talbot, RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept/approve the 13 September 2023, Financial Consent Agenda as amended. For the motion five, opposed none. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL  
CONSENT AGENDA

### **Financial Reports**

To accept the financial reports for August 2023.

### **Amend Substitute Bus Driver Rate**

To amend the substitute bus driver rate from \$25/run to \$30/run, effective September 1, 2023.

### **Surplus**

To approve certain bus parts as surplus to be sold.

### **External Audit**

To approve the external audit, year ending June 30, 2023.

### **Corrective Action Plan**

To approve the Corrective Action Plan – Extraclassroom Activity Fund for year ending June 30, 2023.

### **School Meals**

To approve the School Meal and Snack Pricing for the 2023-2024 school year:

Breakfast PreK -12	\$2.00 (1 free per day through CEP program)
Lunch PreK - 12	\$3.25 (1 free per day through CEP program)
Student Main Extra	\$2.00
Milk	\$.55
Snacks	\$1.00-\$1.75
Adult Breakfast	\$3.25
Adult Lunch	\$5.50

Board Member Talbot made the motion, seconded by Board Member Ostrander, RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept/approve the 13 September 2023, Personnel Proposal Consent Agenda. For the motion five, opposed none. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL  
PROPOSAL AGENDA

### **Create Lights and Sound Technician Position**

To approve creating a Lights and Sound Technician position, effective September 1, 2023.

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PERSONNEL  
CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Talbot made the motion, seconded by Board Member Ostrander, RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept/approve the 13 September 2023, Personnel Consent Agenda as amended. For the motion five, opposed none. Motion carried.

**Resignation**

To accept the resignation of Pamela Welch as an Aide, effective August 16, 2023.

**Aide**

To appoint Kendra Harris as an Aide, effective September 1, 2023.

**Resignation**

To accept the resignation of Jarrin Hayen as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/District Clerk, Records Management Officer and Student Accounts, effective September 30, 2023.

**Lights and Sound Technician**

To appoint Gerrit Bakhuizen as Lights and Sound Technician for the 2023-2024 school year, effective September 1, 2023.

**Substitutes**

To appoint the following non-certified teacher and aide substitute for the 2023-2024 school year, effective September 1, 2023:

Mychele Cotton, Emily Hammond, Lisa Dibble and Pamala Welch

To appoint the following **certified** teacher and aide substitute for the 2023-2024 school year, effective September 1, 2023:

Marge Johnson

**Substitute**

To appoint Katherine Becker as a **certified teacher and aide** substitute for the 2023-2024 school year, effective September 1, 2023.

**Annual Position**

To appoint the following as paid annual positions/advisors:

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>
<b>Drama Club Director</b>	Allison Zimmerman

**Resignation**

To accept the resignation of Malcolm Newell, Cleaner, effective September 7, 2023.

**Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent/District Clerk**

To appoint Donna Dean as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/District Clerk, effective October 16, 2023.

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### **Records Management**

To approve Donna Dean as the Records Management Officer for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, effective October 16, 2023.

### **Student Accounts**

To appoint Donna Dean as Student Accounts for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, effective October 16, 2023.

### **CSE Chairpersons**

To approve the following as CSE Chairpersons for the 2023-2024 school year:

Larisa Waghorn and Lori Heggenstaller (both paid)

### **Substitute Bus Monitor/Aide**

To approve Jessica Palmatier as a substitute bus monitor/aide, effective September 14, 2023.

### **Substitute**

To appoint Jessica Palmatier as a **non-certified** substitute teacher and **aide** substitute for the 2023-2024 school year, effective September 1, 2023.

Board Member Barnes made the motion, seconded by Board Member Ostrander, RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept/approve the 13 September 2023 New Items Consent Agenda as amended. For the motion five, opposed none. Motion carried.

NEW ITEMS  
CONSENT AGENDA

### **Fire Inspection**

To approve the fire inspection effective 01 October 2023 through 01 October 2024.

### **BOCES Classroom Rental Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, the District is the owner of real property located at 693 State Highway 51, Gilbertsville, NY 13776 (the “Premises”); and

**WHEREAS**, the DCMO Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) wishes to lease a portion of the Premises from the District in order to facilitate BOCES’ provision of educational services; and

**WHEREAS**, such portion of the Premises is currently not needed for School District purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the District and BOCES desire to enter into a lease agreement for such portion of the Premises for a term commencing on September 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2024 (the “Lease Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has determined that the Lease Agreement is in the best interest of the District; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved as follows:

1. The Board determines that so much of the Premises as being leased to BOCES pursuant to the Lease Agreement is currently not needed for School District purposes and it is in the best interest of the District to lease such property to BOCES for an amount not less than fair market value.
2. The Lease Agreement between BOCES and the District is contingent upon the terms set forth in the agreement.
3. The Lease Agreement is hereby approved and the Superintendent is authorized to execute the same on behalf of the District in substantially the form presented to the Board at this meeting.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

#### **Authorizing Litigation against Social Media Companies**

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has issued an Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health which:

- “calls attention to the growing concerns about the effects of social media on youth mental health;”
- Emphasizes that “now is the time to act swiftly and decisively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;”
- “[t]he onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be places solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;” and
- “[t]echnology companies play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility in designing a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risks associated with social media.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United State Public Health Services has further concluded that:

- “Social media use by youth is nearly universal. Up to 95% of youth ages 13-17 report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use social media almost constantly.”
- “nearly 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media;”
- “in early adolescence... brain development is especially susceptible to social pressures, peer inions, and peer comparison;”
- “[s]ocial media may... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and

- low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;”
- “[i]n a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel “addicted” to a social media platform;”
  - “[o]ver half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up on social media;” and
  - [t]here is a consistent relationship between excessive social media use “depression among youth.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has specifically urged that it is “urgent that we take action.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that students, “[m]ore than ever, were glued to [their cellphones] during class.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that “a growing number of educators... find themselves on the front lines of a fight to change how students use social media” and “there was been a push for more schools to... develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media.”

WHEREAS, the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District (the “School District”) has and continues to experience significant problems with student use of social media, which use, among other things: (i) has created a substantial and ongoing interruption of and disturbance to its educational mission; (ii) has resulted in the diversion of substantial resources in an attempt to abate and prevent such use and its results harms; and (iii) poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of its students; and

WHEREAS, the School District is a leader in education excellence whose faculty and administrators care deeply about the education and well-being of its students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

That the Board of Education authorizes the law firm of Wagstaff & Cartnell, LLP and Ferrara Fiorenza PC to initiate litigation and file suit against any appropriate parties to seek compensation to the School District for damages suffered by the School District and its students as a result of the development, operation, and marketing of social media platforms, and to seek any other appropriate relief. The School District hereby authorizes its Superintendent of Schools or their designee to sign all appropriate documents and fee agreements on behalf of the School District.

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**Memorandum of Agreement**

To approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School and the CSEA regarding transportation runs, effective September 13, 2023-June 30, 2024.

No topics raised from the floor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. on a motion by Barnes, seconded by Talbot, and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT