

**GORHAM-MIDDLESEX CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

April 8, 2025

HS Library

Board Members Present: Sheila Brown, Cindy Hall, Phyllis Frantel, Keri Link, John Foust, Scott Lambert, Tessah Ciardi and Jessica Wickham

Board Members absent: Ashley Conley

Administrators Present: Dr. Christopher Brown, Christopher Wickham, Sharene Benedict, Erica Hasselstrom, Staci Thibodeau, Scott Robinson, Paul Lahue and Eric Pasho

Administrators Excused: Jenn Taft, Clay Cole, Bryan Lamb, Kayla Osika, Karissa Schutt, John Hicks, Courtney Vencel and Kevin Cousin

Sheila Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Mr. Lahue recognized our Girls Varsity Basketball Team.

**Public Access to the Board of Education**

**Mabel Deal, Stanley:** She wished everyone a happy spring break and Happy Easter. A moment of silence for Karen Shoemaker and family.

Motion by Keri Link, seconded by Cindy Hall to approve the following resolution.

**Approval of Agenda**

Yes 8 (absent: Ashley Conley) No 0 MC

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes of the March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting were accepted as submitted.

Minutes of the March 31, 2025 Special Meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Acceptance of Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted.

**Administrators' Reports**

Dr. Brown asked for a moment of silence for Karen Shoemaker and family. He shared the play Harry Potter and the Cursed Child was very successful. The students did a great job. Students and staff put in a lot of effort into this play.

Congratulations to Winterguard for receiving First place. They will be recognized at our next meeting.

A parent engagement night was held last week Understanding Dyslexia. Dr. Brown thanked Erica Hasselstrom and Staci Thibodeau for coordinating this event.

Spring sports are under way. Thank you to FLTCC for letting us use their turf fields when we need to.

NYS Testing began today. The program shut down on our students. Some got to finish, some started it but couldn't finish and some couldn't start. Dr. Brown spoke with Director of Testing and hopefully tomorrow will go much smoother for our students and staff.

The District has received two challenges. The first book challenge is 19 books/one multiple story reading passage and the second challenge is three books. In the presentation that was shared with the Board, Dr. Brown gave a review of Policy 1420 Objection to Curricula or Instructional Materials. There will be a review committee (Administrator, two faculty members

and a parent of a student in the District). The committee needs to read all the books. A single book challenge takes 60 days to complete. It will take 3.5 years for the committee to go through the process for each book.

Motion by Keri Link, seconded by Phyllis Frantel to approve the following resolutions.

**Consent Agenda**

*In an effort to expediate the business of the Board of Education, but in no way meant to diminish the importance of each item, a Consent Agenda has been developed.*

**Substitute Teaching Assistant:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve **Misti Chambry and Brianna Murphy** as Substitute Teaching Assistant for the 2024-25 school year.

**Substitute Teacher Aide:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve **Misti Chambry and Brianna Murphy** as Substitute Teacher Aide for the 2024-25 school year.

**Substitute Bus Driver:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve **Kevin Neale** as Substitute Bus Driver for the 2024-25 school year.

**Appoint Teacher Aide-Tracy Schrader:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Tracy Schrader** a probationary Civil Service appointment as Teacher Aide, at an hourly rate per contract, effective April 24, 2025 to April 24, 2026.

**Appoint Teacher Aide-Melissa Robinson:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Melissa Robinson** a probationary Civil Service appointment as Teacher Aide, at an hourly rate per contract, effective April 21, 2025 to April 21, 2026.

**Appoint Teacher Aide-Ashley Drennen:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Ashley Drennen** a probationary Civil Service appointment as Teacher Aide, at an hourly rate per contract, effective April 21, 2025 to April 21, 2026.

**Appoint Food Service Helper-Cynthia Bliss:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Cynthia Bliss** a probationary Civil Service appointment as Food Service Helper, at an hourly rate per contract, effective April 21, 2025 to April 21, 2026.

**Resignation-Tammy Speers:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby accept the resignation of **Tammy Speers**, Bus Monitor and Food Service Helper effective March 21, 2025.

**Resignation-Margaret Davison:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby accept the resignation of **Margaret Davison**, Substitute Teacher effective March 21, 2025.

**Yearly Building Per Diem Substitute:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby appoint the following:

<b>Matt Bond</b>	Middle School Per Diem Yearly Substitute
<b>Emma Hausauer</b>	Middlesex Valley Per Diem Yearly Substitute

**Marching Band Appointments:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby appoint the following:

Marching Band Asst. Director	Austin Kephart	\$2810.01
Color Guard Director	Jennifer Hubbard	\$1177.72
Marching Band Percussion	Ian VanDerLinden	\$1177.72

**Mentor:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby appoint the following mentors:

Mentor	Mentee	Year	Stipend
Michael Salotto	Ian Ellis		\$180
Marcy Adams	Marris Eck	2	\$300

**College Student Placement:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve the following for the Fall semester:

**Keuka College**

Kaitlyn Pickner                  Student Teaching                  Kristin Tomion  
Duration: September 2, 2025 to October 17, 2025

Brittany Ploof                  Shadowing                  Abby Finley  
Duration: March 17, 2025 to March 28, 2025

**Field Trip-FFA State Convention:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby acknowledge the final proposal of FFA going to NYS FFA Convention Syracuse Fairgrounds, Syracuse NY May 7, 2025 to May 9, 2025.

**Volunteers:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve the submitted list of volunteers for the 2024-25 school year.

**Resignation-Kristine Cameron:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby accept the resignation of **Kristine Cameron**, Long Term Substitute Assistant Principal effective April 25, 2025.

**Resignation-Brian Ellis:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby accept the resignation of **Brian Ellis**, English Teacher effective April 18, 2025.  
*Took a position at another district.*

**Amend Probationary Teaching Assistant-Joylette Aaron:** Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Marcus Whitman Central School District, pursuant to section 3012 of the Education Law and in compliance with part 30-1.8 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of Superintendent, does hereby appoint **Joylette Aaron**, who holds a Level I Teaching Assistant Certificate, to a Teaching Assistant position in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant for a two year probationary appointment commencing November 6, 2023 and ending on November 5, 2025, salary per Teacher Aides, Teaching Assistants and Clerical Employees Association for the 2023-24 school year.

**Amend Probationary Teaching Assistant-Alicia Williamson:** Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Marcus Whitman Central School District, pursuant to section 3012 of the Education Law and in compliance with part 30-1.8 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of Superintendent, does hereby appoint **Alicia Williamson**, who holds a Level I Teaching Assistant Certificate, to a Teaching Assistant position in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant for a two year probationary appointment commencing August 31, 2023 and

ending on August 30, 2025, salary per Teacher Aides, Teaching Assistants and Clerical Employees Association for the 2023-24 school year.

**Long Term Substitute Counselor-Alyssa Veloski:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District, pursuant to section 3012 of the Education Law and in compliance with part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby appoint **Alyssa Veloski**, as a 1.0FTE Long Term Substitute Counselor, at step 5 of the current teacher contract, effective April 21, 2025.

**Application of Herbicide:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby authorize the emergency application of Broadleaf Herbicide, by June 30, 2025 to maintain the quality of turf.

**Board of Education Gorham-Middlesex Central School District Resolution:**

**WHEREAS**, the annual meeting and election of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District (the "District") is scheduled for May 20, 2025 (the "Annual Meeting"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the District (the "Board") seeks to approve voter propositions for the Annual Meeting;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board resolves as follows:

The following propositions shall appear on the ballot for qualified voters to consider at the 2025 Annual Meeting, with the final budget number inserted after the approval by the Board of Education:

**PROPOSITION NO. 1 – 2025-2026 Budget**

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$40,894,612 as a general fund appropriation for the 2025-2026 school year and to levy the necessary tax, therefore.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN, that voters at the annual meeting shall vote by machine unless machines are not available, on the election of Board of Education Members, and on the following propositions, and on such other propositions as are authorized by law and the rules of this Board to be voted on at said time:

**PROPOSITION NO. 2 – Buses**

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

Be it RESOLVED, to authorize the purchase of motor vehicles for use in the transportation program of the District, including two (2) 64 Passenger (64-84 pupils Conventional Diesel Type C) school buses, one (1) 30 Passenger (28-45 Pupils Conventional Diesel) Type C school bus, at a maximum estimated cost of \$522,966, expend therefore an aggregate sum not to exceed \$522,966, and be it further RESOLVED, that the sum of \$522,966 being the aggregate of the aforesaid maximum estimated amounts, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be appropriated from the existing School Bus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, the unassigned fund balance or raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property in the District and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law, and in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District shall be issued; and be it further RESOLVED that the District shall be authorized to enter into one or more purchase contracts on terms satisfactory to the Board of Education, with respect to one or more of the vehicles hereby authorized to be acquired.

**PROPOSITION NO. 3- Gorham Free Library Funding**

Shall the proposition be approved authorizing the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District to levy taxes annually in the amount of \$132,700 (which is an increase of

\$4,200 from the amount in effect currently of the sum of \$128,500) and to pay over such money to the trustees of the Gorham Free Library.

**PROPOSITION NO. 4- Middlesex Reading Center Funding**

Shall the proposition be approved authorizing the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District to levy taxes annually in the amount of \$57,174 (which is an increase of \$10,140 from the amount in effect currently of the sum of \$47,034) and to pay over such money to the Town of Middlesex for disbursement to the Middlesex Reading Center.

**PROPOSITION NO. 5- Rushville Reading Center Funding**

Shall the proposition be approved authorizing the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District to levy taxes annually in the amount of \$52,318 (which is an increase of \$2,012 from the amount in effect currently of the sum of \$50,306) and to pay over such money to the Village of Rushville for disbursement to the Rushville Reading Center.

**Approve Memorandum of Agreement:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve the memorandum of agreement for Marcus Whitman Teacher Association regarding Workforce Development Coordinator.

**Appoint Coordinator Workforce Development-Wendy Ryder:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby appoint **Wendy Ryder**, Workforce Development Coordinator for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Approve Policies:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve the first reading and waive the second reading of amended **Policy 2245 Ex-Officio Student Member to Board of Education and Policy 8113 Maximum Temperatures in school Buildings/Facilities.**

**Accept Settlement Agreement with Ambulance Company:**

WHEREAS, a District bus was involved in an accident and an ambulance from Stanley Hall Gorham Ambulance Service, Inc. responded to the scene; and

WHEREAS, the families of the students on the bus were billed by the ambulance company related to its response; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to avoid the time and expense of litigating the charges charged to the families by the ambulance company,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that

1. The terms of the Settlement Agreement to settle the above-referenced matter are hereby approved; and
2. The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education and the District.

**Approve Contract with the Marcus Whitman Custodial, Maintenance and Food Service Employees Association:**

**Whereas:** the Superintendent and the Marcus Whitman Custodial, Maintenance and Food Service Employees Association have been negotiating the terms of a successor collective bargaining agreement; and

**Whereas:** on March 19, 2025 the Superintendent and the Association have entered into a Tentative Agreement covering terms and conditions of employment for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028; and

**Whereas:** the Association has ratified the terms and conditions of employment in this successor Agreement on March 25, 2025; and

**Whereas:** the Superintendent affirmatively recommends that the Board of Education take up this Tentative Agreement and that the Board approve the necessary funds for the implementation of the successor Agreement;

**Now, Therefore,** it is Resolved: That upon the affirmative recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education does hereby approve this successor 2025-2028 Agreement and, further that the Board approves the necessary funding for this Agreement.

**Further,** the Board authorizes the Superintendent to sign the Agreement to signify its approval.

**Approve Contract with the Marcus Whitman Bus Drivers' Association:**

**Whereas:** the Superintendent and the Marcus Whitman Bus Drivers' Association have been negotiating the terms of a successor collective bargaining agreement; and

**Whereas:** on March 19, 2025 the Superintendent and the Association have entered into a Tentative Agreement covering terms and conditions of employment for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028; and

**Whereas:** the Association has ratified the terms and conditions of employment in this successor Agreement on March 28, 2025; and

**Whereas:** the Superintendent affirmatively recommends that the Board of Education take up this Tentative Agreement and that the Board approve the necessary funds for the implementation of the successor Agreement;

**Now, Therefore,** it is Resolved: That upon the affirmative recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education does hereby approve this successor 2025-2028 Agreement and, further that the Board approves the necessary funding for this Agreement.

**Further,** the Board authorizes the Superintendent to sign the Agreement to signify its approval.

**Accept General Resolution for The Purpose of Participating in a Cooperative Bid Coordinated by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties for**

**Various Commodities and/or Services**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education, Gorham-Middlesex Central School District of New York State desires to participate in a Cooperative Bidding Program conducted by The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties from year to year or, until this Resolution is rescinded, for the purchase of Various Commodities and/or Services. And...

WHEREAS, The Board of Education, Gorham-Middlesex Central School District of New York State is desirous of participating with The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties in the joint bid of the commodities and/or services mentioned below as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o... And...

WHEREAS, The Board of Education, Gorham-Middlesex Central School District of New York State has appointed The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties as representative to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, reporting the results to the Board of Education, Gorham-Middlesex Central School District of New York State and making recommendations thereon...

THEREFORE...

BE IT RESOLVED, That The Board of Education, Gorham-Middlesex Central School District of New York State and The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties hereby accepts the appointment of The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties to represent it in all matters related above... And...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That The Board of Education, Gorham-Middlesex Central School District of New York State authorizes the above-mentioned Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties to represent it in all matters regarding the entering into contract for the purchase of the below-mentioned commodities and/or services... And...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That The Board of Education, Gorham-Middlesex Central School District of New York State agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs incurred as a result of the cooperative bidding... And...

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties on behalf of the Board of Education, Gorham-Middlesex Central School District of New York State hereby is authorized to participate in cooperative bidding conducted by The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties for various commodities and/or services and if requested to furnish The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties an estimated minimum number of units that will be purchased by The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties. The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties is hereby authorized to award cooperative bids to the bidder deemed to be the lowest responsive and responsible meeting the bid specifications and otherwise complying with Article 5-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York relating to public bids and contracts.

#### **Accept Amending Contract for Capital Construction Project**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of Marcus Whitman Central School (Gorham-Middlesex Central School District) (the "Board of Education") solicited bids from prime contractors for construction services in conjunction with its 2022 Capital Improvement Project Phase 1 (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, as the result of the bid solicitation process contracts were awarded to Landry Mechanical Contractors, Inc., ("Landry") for work to be done at the Gorham Elementary School and the Middlesex Valley Primary School; and

**WHEREAS**, contracts were entered into by the Board of Education effective December 10, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project Architect and Construction Manager have advised that it would be more efficient and would yield cost savings to consolidate the contracts and administer the work as a single contract with Landry encompassing all of the work covered by the original two (2) contracts without changing the scope of the work or the fees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Project Architect and Construction Manager and determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to combine the two (2) contracts into a single contract as set forth herein;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of Education hereby resolves as follows:

1. To combine the two (2) prior contracts with Landry for the Project into a single contract.
2. The Board hereby authorizes its President or the Superintendent of Schools to execute a revised combined contract and related documents in compliance with this Resolution and comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders relating to the revised combined contract or the Project, and do all other acts as may be necessary, or in the opinion of the District's legal counsel, desirable or proper to effectuate the purposes of the foregoing Resolution.

3. Upon approval by the Board of Education, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Yes 8 (absent: Ashley Conley) No 0 MC

Motion by Keri Link, seconded by Tessah Ciardi to approve the following resolution.

**Approve CSE and CPSE Recommendations:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve the CPSE/CSE recommendations as submitted and filed in the minute file.

Yes 8 (absent: Ashley Conley) No 0 MC

#### **Public Access to the Board**

No comment.

#### **Board Member Items**

Monday, April 21 Board Petition Packets due by 5pm

Wednesday, April 23 Special Board Meeting 7:30am

Thursday, April 24 All Staff Appreciation Day

#### **May**

Monday, May 12 Public Hearing -Board meeting immediately following

Tuesday, May 20 Budget Vote Noon to 8pm

Friday, May 30 Special Olympics

#### **Roundtable discussions:**

Sharene will send out a zoom link to the board for the Special Meeting on April 23.

Sheila and Sharene attended a virtual NYSSBA workshop on Parliamentary procedures.


Sharene and Staci Thibodeau will send an email to the Board for volunteer sign up to help with Special Olympics.

6:44pm Break

Motion by Keri Link seconded by Phyllis Frantel at 7:00pm to enter in executive session to discuss the employment history of particular person and collective negotiations with Teacher Aides, Teaching Assistants and Clerical Employee Association.

Motion by Scott Lambert, seconded by Keri Link to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sharene Benedict

District Clerk