

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

November 10, 2025  
HS Library

Board Members: Sheila Brown, Cindy Hall, Ashley Conley, Phyllis Frantel, John Foust, Tessah Ciardi, Scott Lambert and Jessica Wickham

Student Ex-Officio Board Members Present: Lilly Burnett and Ella Yerkes

Board Member absent: Keri Link

Administrators Present: Christopher Brown, Christopher Wickham, Sharene Benedict, Erica Hasselstrom, Staci Thibodeau, Bryan Lamb, Kayla Osika, Clay Cole, and Kevin Cousin

Administrators Excused: Paul Lahue, Jenn Taft, Courtney Vencel, Karissa Schutt, John Hicks, and Eric Pasho

Sheila Brown called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

**PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

No comments.

Motion by Phyllis Frantel, seconded by Jessica Wickham to approve the following resolution.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Yes 8 No 0 (Absent Keri Link) MC

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the October 14, 2025 Regular Meeting were accepted as submitted.

**STUDENTS CELEBRATIONS:**

Mary Coolbaugh and FFA students presented to the Board about their trip to the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS**

**Dr. Brown** congratulated everyone who was inducted into the National Honor Society, including Lilly Burnett. National Honor Society Ceremony went very well. Many family members were able to attend.

Athletic Fall season went very well. Cross Country received a sectional title. Desmond Hill continues on to state competition. Lilly placed second in butterfly and Ella Yerkes has been invited to the Eddie Meath All Star Game. Congratulations to our student athletes.

Winter sports are just getting under way. Girls' basketball has an independent schedule this year. Field band placed fourth in competition.

Dr. Brown shared current year's budget, noting areas of underestimation and overestimation. Work is underway to make corrections to the 2025–2026 budget. The district is looking at having to make potential reductions of approximately \$2 million for the 2026–2027 budget, which may include expense reductions, adjustments to class sizes, program evaluations, and possible retirements.

We will be distributing 800 meals for Thanksgiving Grab and Go. There are 35 volunteers. Lions and Leos will be helping to deliver 200 meals.

**Mr. Wickham** presented to the Board about school tax collection. It went very well. 96.4% of school taxes were received. The remaining will be going to the counties to relevy.

Motion by Ashley Conley, seconded by Tessah Ciardi to approve the following resolutions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*In an effort to expedite 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.*

*The personnel appointments are pending clearance of NYS fingerprinting requirements.*

**Substitute Teacher:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby appoint **Brianna Hershey and Madison Ryan** as Substitute Teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

**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 appoint **Brianna Hershey, Jack Cunningham, Cassandra Landon and Madison Ryan** as Substitute Teaching Assistant for the 2025-26 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 appoint **Brianna Hershey, Jack Cunningham and Cassandra Landon** as Substitute Teacher Aides for the 2025-26 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 appoint **Tyler Joslyn** as Substitute Bus Driver for the 2025-26 school year.

**Appoint Teacher Aide-Ann Marie Gannon:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Ann Marie Gannon** a full time permanent Civil Service appointment as Teacher Aide, at the rate per MW Teacher Aides, Teaching Assistant's and Clerical Association Agreement, effective November 12, 2025 with a probationary period November 12, 2025 to November 12, 2026.

**Rescind Appoint LIFT Project Coordinator:** Be it resolved that upon the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby rescind **Stephanie Bode**, as LIFT Project Coordinator.

*This was board approved 10/14/25.*

**Amend Appoint LIFT Project Coordinator:** Be it resolved that upon the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve **Wendy Ryder**, as LIFT Project Coordinator.

**Resignation-Michael Schriver:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby accept resignation from **Michael Schriver**, Bus Driver effective October 22, 2025.

**Resignation-Ashlyn Tomion:** 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 **Ashlyn Tomion**, Teacher Aide effective November 7, 2025.

**Resignation-Cassandra Landon:** 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 **Cassandra Landon**, Teacher Aide effective November 3, 2025.

**Rescind Teacher Aide Appointment-Jossie Decker:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby rescind Teacher Aide appointment-**Jossie Decker** effective August 27, 2025.

*This was board approved 8/11/2025.*

**Amend Activity Advisor:** 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 people as activity advisors for the 2025-26 school year:

Activity	Name	Base	Longevity	Stipend
Clay Target	Carl Ekdahl	\$455.72	\$450.00	\$905.72

*This was board approved 8/11/2025.*

**EPC 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 to EPC for the 2025-26 school year:

EPC Committee	Members	Stipend
Chairperson/HS Teacher	James Santonastaso IV	\$1446.68
HS Teacher	Justice Newell	\$755.78
Middle School	Brian Ayers	\$1369.32
Middle School	Jennifer Twomey	\$1261.44
Gorham Elementary	Patricia Smith	\$1245.20
Gorham Elementary	Gwen Winkler	\$954.98
Member at Large	Meredith Freida	\$894.62
Middlesex Valley Primary	Brittany Phillips	\$878.19
Middlesex Valley Primary	Amy DeForte	\$1582.02

**Coach 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:

Team	Coach	Base	Longevity	Total Stipend
Varsity Cheerleading	Anessa Layton	\$5210	\$150	\$5360
Modified Cheerleading	Megan McVeigh	\$2605	\$100	\$2705
Varsity Winter Track	Jody McLaughlin	\$5210	\$1150	\$6360
Varsity Winter Track Asst	Seth Pritchard	\$4342	\$950	\$5292
Varsity Bowling	Matt Silco	\$4632	\$325	\$4,957

**Unpaid Leave of Absence-Joseph Rutkowski:** Be it resolved that upon the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve the unpaid leave request from Joseph Rutkowski, Bus Driver from November 17, 2025 to November 19, 2025.

**Donation:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does accept the donation of mats from Cheer Boosters for use in the Cheer program.

**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 2025-26 school year.

**Field Trip:** 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 Eighth Grade Trip May 7-9, 2026 Washington, DC.

**Field Trip:** 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 NYS Council on Leadership and Student Activities Conference November 23-25, 2025 Niagara Falls Conference Center, Niagara Falls, NY.

*Lilly Burnett shared a brochure with the board. She's going to lead a roundtable at the conference to give ideas how to gain school wide spirit with a variety of activities for all students.*

**Appoint 0.4FTE School Psychologist-Valerie Sawyko:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby appoint **Valerie Sawyko** a 0.4FTE School Psychologist position, at salary step 11 per MW Teacher's Association effective November 10, 2025.

**Probationary Appointment-Justin Devlin:** *This item was pulled from the consent agenda.*

**Tenure Approval-Kristiana Weterings-Potter:** In compliance with the provisions of 3012 of the education Law and part 30.3 of the rules of the Board of Regents, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **Kristiana Weterings-Potter**, a probationary Teaching Assistant appointed January 1, 2023, be appointed to tenure to the position of Teaching Assistant in the Teaching Assistant tenure area. It having been shown that **Kristiana Weterings-Potter**, holds a valid New York State Level I Certification in Teaching Assistant in the aforesaid tenure area; and it further having been shown that the probationary period of **Kristian Weterings-Potter** to be a Teaching Assistant in the district expires on December 31, 2025; the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant tenure to and appoint to tenure **Kristiana Weterings-Potter** effective December 31, 2025 to the position of Teaching Assistant.

**Tax Collector's Report:** 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 submitted Tax Collector's Report and does authorize the Tax Collector to forward the unpaid taxes to Ontario and Yates Counties as per the report.

**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 with Marcus Whitman Teachers Association regarding Early College Access Coordinator.

**Appoint Early College Access Coordinator-Kyle Cunningham:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve **Kyle Cunningham**, Early College Access Coordinator at a stipend \$1000 for the 2025-26 school year.

**Approve Service Agreement-Sunshine Therapy:** 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 service agreement with Sunshine Therapy.

**Approve CSE & 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 No 0 (Absent: Keri Link) MC

#### **PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE BOARD**

**Mabel Deal, Stanley:** Wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and she enjoyed the Pumpkin Walk.

Scott Lambert left the meeting at 6:25pm.

#### **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:**

Audit Committee 10/14 Minutes  
Safety Committee 10/29 Minutes  
NYSSBA Annual Meeting-Sheila

Important Dates:

Regular Meeting

November 10, 2025

- Thanksgiving Grab and Go Wed. Nov. 19
- Audit Committee Meeting 11/25
- All Staff Appreciation Day Wednesday, April 8

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Cindy Hall, seconded by John Foust at 6:41pm for the Board to enter into executive session to discuss employment history of particular employees.

Meeting was reconvened at 7:34pm.

Motion by Tessah Ciardi, seconded by Ashley Conley to approve the following resolution.

**Probationary Appointment-Justin Devlin:** This item was pulled from the consent agenda. 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, does hereby appoint:

**Justin Devlin**, who holds a Professional Mathematics Certification and a Professional Students with Disabilities Grades 7-12 Certification as a 1.0 FTE Teacher, teaching at least .4 FTE in each of the following tenure areas:

- a. Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions-General Special Education tenure area, for a three-year probationary appointment commencing July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2028, and
- b. Professional Mathematics Certification and a Professional Students with Disabilities Grades 7-12 Certification for a three-year probationary appointment commencing July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2028,

Placement for salary starting at Step 15 of the current MWTA contract. Such resolution to supersede any prior conflicting Board resolution.

Yes 7 No 0 (Absent: Keri Link and Scott Lambert) MC

Motion by John Foust, seconded by Phyllis Frantel to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharene Benedict, District Clerk