

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

December 8, 2025

HS Library

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

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

Administrators Present: Christopher Brown, Christopher Wickham, Erica Hasselstrom, Eric Pasho, Karissa Schutt, Paul Lahue, Jen Taft, Bryan Lamb, Clay Cole, and Kevin Cousin

Excused: Sharene Benedict

Public Hearing on District Safety Plan addendum 6pm to 6:08pm

Sheila Brown called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

**Public Access to the Board of Education**

No comments.

Motion by Keri Link, seconded by Jessica Wickham to approve the following resolution.

**Clerk Pro Tem-Dr. Brown:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby appoint Dr. Brown as clerk pro tem.

Yes 9 No 0 MC

Motion by Tessah Ciardi, seconded by Phyllis Frantel to approve the following resolution.

**Approval of Agenda**

Yes 9 No 0 MC

**Acceptance of Minutes**

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

Minutes of the November 17, 2025 Special Meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Acceptance of Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer reports were accepted as submitted.

**Students/Staff Celebrations**

Cross Country, Cheer, Tennis, Football, Girls Swimming, Girls Soccer, Unified Bowling and Golf student Athletes were recognized.

**Lilly Burnett and Hailey Higgins** presented to the Board about participating in the *Elevating Student Voices Leadership Conference*. They shared key takeaways from the event, focusing on how the conference empowered students to develop leadership skills, collaborate with peers from other districts, and engage in meaningful discussions about school culture.

**Administrators' Reports**

**Dr. Brown** gave an overview of the ongoing work to prepare the 2025–26 district budget, including current planning timelines, areas under review, and anticipated factors that may impact next year's financial outlook. The Superintendent noted that work will continue in the coming weeks as departments refine projections and identify priorities.

He also gave a recap of this year's Thanksgiving Grab and Go event, including participation numbers and appreciation for the staff and volunteers who helped make the event successful. The Superintendent highlighted the community engagement and positive feedback received.

**Mr. Wickham** presented to the Board outlining the district's current reserve funds and their intended purposes. The overview included a summary of each reserve, year-end balances, and how the reserves support long-term financial stability. The presentation also explained how reserves help the district manage unexpected costs, maintain programs during economic fluctuations, and plan for future capital needs.

**Ms. Taft and Mrs. DePorter** presented on the district's Trauma, Illness, and Grief (TIG) response program. The presentation outlined the purpose of TIG, the support it provides to students and staff, and how the team assists schools during difficult situations involving trauma, serious illness, or loss.

Motion by Keri Link, seconded by Ashley Conley 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 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 **Dana Jolly** 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 **Dana Jolly** as Substitute Teaching Assistant for the 2025-26 school year.

**Resignation-Emilie Jewell:** 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 resignation, **Emilie Jewell**, Teacher Aide, effective end of workday October 27, 2025.

**Resignation-Donald Kinney:** 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 resignation, **Donald Kinney**, Bus Driver, effective end of workday December 5, 2025.

**Resignation-Darlene Taylor:** 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 resignation, **Darlene Taylor**, Teacher Aide, effective end of workday November 30, 2025.

**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 **Darlene Taylor** as Substitute Teacher Aide for the 2025-26 school year.

**Appoint Teacher Aide-Iris Pellegata:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Iris Pellegata** a full time probationary Civil Service appointment as Teacher Aide, at an hourly rate per contract, effective December 8, 2025 with a probationary period from December 8, 2025 to December 8, 2026.

**Appoint Teacher Aide-Lisa Thompson:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Lisa Thompson** a full time probationary Civil Service appointment as Teacher Aide, at an hourly rate per contract, effective November 25, 2025 with a probationary period from November 25, 2025 to November 25, 2026.

**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
Modified Winter Track	Jessica Frank	\$2605	\$0	\$2605
Assistant Varsity Boys Swim	Robert Smith	\$4053	\$0	\$4053

**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 2025 Spring Semester:

**SUNY Brockport**

**Madeline James** Student Teacher **Meredith Freida**  
 Duration: March 23, 2026 to May 14, 2026

**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 initial proposal of FFA State Leaders Experience February 2-3, 2026 Hilton of Albany, Albany, NY.

**Long Term Special Education Substitute Teacher-Marris Eck:** Be it resolved that 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 **Marris Eck**, as a 1.0FTE Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher from January 2, 2026 to June 30, 2026 at Step 4, of the current teacher contract.

**Tenure-Rodney Ellerstein:** 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, **Rodney Ellerstein**, a probationary Special Education Teacher appointed January 20, 2023, be appointed to tenure to the position of Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions-General Special Education tenure area. It having been shown that **Rodney Ellerstein**, holds a valid New York State Professional Certificate Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) and a Professional Certificate Literacy (B-6)in Childhood Education Grades 1-6 in the aforesaid tenure area; and it further having been shown that the probationary period of **Rodney Ellerstein** to be a Special Education Teacher in the district expires on January 19, 2026; the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant tenure to and appoint to tenure **Rodney Ellerstein** effective January 19, 2026 to the position of Special Education Teacher.

**Accept Bid:** Whereas, sealed bids for the 2025 Capital Outlay Project-Sewage Ejector Work were solicited by the Marcus Whitman Central School District and,

Whereas, sealed bids for the 2025 Capital Outlay Project-Sewage Ejector Work were opened in the High School at 3:00PM on November 5, 2025

and, Be it further resolved that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign contract for the following low bids, once all bidding requirements are met:

Contract Name	Contractor Name	Base Bid	Alternates	Total Award
General Construction	Kuehne Construction, Inc.	\$93,250	\$0	\$93,250

**Approve Cardiac Emergency Response Plan Addendum to District Safety Plan:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-

Middlesex Central School District does hereby approve **Cardiac Emergency Response Plan Addendum to District Safety Plan.**

**Accept Memorandum of Agreement:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Marcus Whitman Central School District does hereby approve a memorandum of agreement with the Marcus Whitman Teachers' Association addressing **Varsity Track Assistant Coach.**

**Accept Memorandum of Agreement:** Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Marcus Whitman Central School District does hereby approve a memorandum of agreement with the Marcus Whitman Teacher Aides, Teaching Assistants and Clerical Employee Association addressing **HSA Contributions prorated based on employment start date.**

**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 9 No 0 MC

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

**Mabel Deal, Stanley:** Mrs. Deal thanked everyone for their time making Thanksgiving Grab and Go a success. She wished everyone a safe Holiday Season.

#### **Board Member Items**

##### **Audit Committee Minutes**

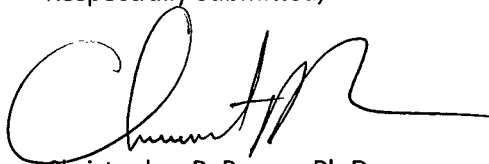
Sheila gave a summary of the meeting that was held before board meeting. Next meeting will be Jan. 27.

##### **Important Dates:**

All Staff Appreciation Wednesday, April 8

Motion by Keri Link, seconded by John Foust to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher R. Brown, Ph.D.,  
Superintendent/Clerk Pro Tem