

GORHAM-MIDDLESEX CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 2026
HS Library

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

Ex-Officio Student Board Members Present: Devyn Bond and Lilly Burnett

Administrators Present: Christopher Brown, Robert Berson, Sharene Benedict, Eric Pasho, Mike Gorton, Staci Thibodeau, Erica Hasselstrom, Karissa Schutt, Kayla Osika, Clay Cole, Kevin Cousin, Katrina Sykes, John Hicks and Bryan Lamb

Administrators excused: Courtney Venc

There was a public hearing on Professional Development Plan 6:00pm to 6:16pm.

Sheila Brown called the meeting to order at 6:16pm.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mabel Deal, Stanley: She wished everyone a successful school year. Sheila Brown thanked her for attending the meeting.

Motion by Tessah Ciardi, seconded by Jessica Wickham to approve the following resolutions:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Yes 9 No 0 MC

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Minutes of August 4, 2026, Regular Meeting were accepted as submitted.

ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to end of year audit Treasurer reports will be attached to the October agenda.

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS:

Dr. Brown shared we had a great opening of School. Transportation used Parent Square to communicate with families about bus pick up and drop off times. This went very well. Congratulations to Michaela Prater on receiving Tenure.

Mike Gorton presented to the Board updates and process for Athletic Placement. This process is for our student athletes in seventh or eighth grade who are recommended by a coach to possibly move to JV/Varsity team.

Robert Berson and Bryan Lamb presented to the board about using E-rate funds to update infrastructure and safety needs. SMART Bond funds to modernize network infrastructure and update instructional devices.

Motion by Phyllis Frantel, seconded by John Foust to approve the following resolutions:

CONSENT AGENDA

The following appointments are pending clearance of NYS fingerprinting requirements:

Substitutes: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby re-appoint the submitted list of Substitutes at the approved rates.

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 **Kelly Judd** as Substitute Bus Driver for the 2026-27 school year.

Substitute Cleaner: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby appoint **Gary Santee** as Substitute Cleaner for the 2026-27 school year.

Resignation-Shianna Commisso: 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 from **Shianna Commisso**, as Bus Monitor, effective August 20, 2026.

Appoint Bus Driver-Jenna McGregor: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Jenna McGregor** a full-time probationary Civil Service appointment as Bus Driver, at an hourly rate per contract, effective September 1, 2026, with a probationary period from September 1, 2026 to September 1, 2027.

Appoint Bus Driver-Tammy Hurlbutt: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Tammy Hurlbutt** a full time probationary Civil Service appointment as Bus Driver, at an hourly rate per contract, effective September 1, 2026, with a probationary period from September 1, 2026 to September 1, 2027.

Appoint Bus Monitor-Tawnee Badger: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Tawnee Badger** a full time probationary Civil Service appointment as Bus Monitor, at an hourly rate per contract, effective September 8, 2026, with a probationary period from September 8, 2026 to September 8, 2027.

Appoint Teacher Aide-Mary Rippey: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Mary Rippey** a full-time probationary Civil Service appointment as Teacher Aide, at an hourly rate per contract, effective September 1, 2026, with a probationary period from September 1, 2026 to September 1, 2027.

Appoint Building Maintenance Worker-Justin Englin: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Justin Englin** a full time probationary Civil Service appointment as Building Maintenance Worker, at an hourly rate per contract, effective September 10, 2026, with a probationary period from September 10, 2026 to September 10, 2027.

Resignation-Taylor Meade: 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 **Taylor Meade**, Bus Driver, effective August 3, 2026.

Rescind 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 rescind **Gwendalyn Robinson** as Substitute Teacher Aide for the 2026-27 school year. *This was approved on August 4 board meeting.*

Appoint Teacher Aide-Gwendalyn 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 **Gwendalyn Robinson** a full-time probationary Civil Service appointment as

Teacher Aide, at an hourly rate per contract, effective September 1, 2026, with a probationary period from September 1, 2026, to September 1, 2027.

Appoint Teacher Aide-Summer Smith: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Summer Smith** a full time probationary Civil Service appointment as Teacher Aide, at an hourly rate per contract, effective September 1, 2026, with a probationary period from September 1, 2026, to September 1, 2027.

Resignation-Heidi Welsh: 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 **Heidi Welsh**, Cook, effective August 31, 2026.

Termination-Autumn Fairman: 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 termination of **Autumn Fairman**, Food Service Helper, due to job abandonment effective September 1, 2026.

Appoint Food Service Helper-Sarah Glover: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant **Sarah Glover** a full time probationary Civil Service appointment as Food Service Helper, at an hourly rate per contract, effective September 17, 2026, with a probationary period from September 17, 2026 to September 17, 2027.

Resignation-Theresa Hamman: 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 **Theresa Hamman**, Teacher Aide, effective August 31, 2026.

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 **Theresa Hamman** as Substitute Teacher for the 2026-27 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 **Theresa Hamman** as Substitute Teaching Assistant for the 2026-27 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 **Theresa Hamman** as Substitute Teacher Aide for the 2026-27 school year.

Resignation-Amelia Rasmussen: 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 **Amelia Rasmussen**, Teacher Aide, effective September 4, 2026.

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 **Amelia Rasmussen**, HS/MS Yearly Building Per Diem Substitutes for the 2026-27 school year.

Department Chairperson: 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 department chairpersons for the 2026-27 school year:

Department Chairperson	Name	Stipend
Dept. Chairperson for Arts in Education (3-5)	Polly Simmons	\$956.50
Dept. Chairperson for Arts in Education (6-12)	Corrine DeRue	\$1913

Mentors: 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 for the 2026-27 school year:

Mentor	Mentee	Year	Stipend
Laura Schindler	Logan Babcock	1	\$600
Caitlin Foley	Melissa Galindo	1	\$600
Bonnie Prendergast	Emily Campese	1	\$600
Jen Drogan	Kelsey Phillips	1	\$600
Wendy Warters	Janice Crawford	1	\$600
Lori Weissinger	Ethan Dramer	1	\$600
Eric Pasho	Mike Gorton	1	\$600
Karissa Schutt	Kayla Osika	1	\$600
Kayla Osika	Kristina Sykes	1	\$600
Bryan Law	Joe Urlacher	2	\$300
Jim Santonastaso	Chase Boggs	2	\$300
Mary Coolbaugh	Brennan Dailey	2	\$300
Jen Twomey	Alyssa Veloski	2	\$300

Appoint McKinney-Vento Case Managers: 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 case managers for the 2026-27 school year:

Middlesex Valley	Kerri Mitchell-DePorter	\$45 per hour
Gorham Elementary	Michael Salotto	\$45 per hour
Middle School	Jennifer Twomey	\$45 per hour
High School	Jessica Frank	\$45 per hour

Approve Teaching Assistant-Computer Lab/Library Media Center Assignment Stipends: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Marcus Whitman Central School District does hereby approve the following Teaching Assistants-Computer Lab/Library Media Center Assignments for the 2026-27 school year:

Name	Level	Stipend
Brendan Bode	Level I	\$800
Marsha Lazarus	Level II	\$900

Rescind Coach Appointment: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby rescind the following coach appointment:

Team	Coach	Salary	Longevity	Stipend
Girls Varsity Tennis	Justice Newell	\$3,322	\$50	\$3,372

This was board approved on July 13.

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 coach appointments:

Team	Coach	Salary	Longevity	Stipend
Modified Wrestling	Jacob Clark	\$3,322	\$150	\$3,472
Modified Swimming	Mike Smith	\$3,020	\$1,690	\$4,710
Boys Modified Basketball	Todd Cunningham	\$2,416	\$300	\$2,716
Boys JV Basketball	Chad Hunt	\$4,832	\$100	\$4,932
Girls JV Basketball	Felicia Cotroneo	\$4,832	\$100	\$4,932
Unified Bowling - Asst.	Ethan Eschler	\$1,510	\$50	\$1,560
Modified Winter Track	Jessica Frank	\$2,718	\$50	\$2,768

Appoint Lifeguards: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby appoint **Ava DeBiaere and Lesli Curtis**, Lifeguards at \$20 per hour for boys and girls swim meets effective September 15, 2026 to January 31, 2027.

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 2026 fall semester:

Western Governors University
Karen Clark Early Clinical
Joanne Emerson

Duration: November 12, 2026 to March 12, 2027

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 from **Budding Readers** donating two books to each UPK-First grade student for the 2026-27 school year.

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 2026-27 school year.

Amend Probationary Appointment Assistant Principal-Kristina Sykes: Be it resolved that upon part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, does hereby appoint **Kristina Sykes**, who holds an Initial Certificate School Building Leader to an Assistant Principal position in the tenure area of Assistant Principal, for a three year probationary appointment commencing on August 24, 2026 and ending on August 23, 2029, contingent on the Administrator receiving a rating of Effective or Highly Effective on two of the three years preceding the tenure recommendation; pro-rated salary starting at \$82,000 of the current Marcus Whitman Administrators contract. *This was board approved August 4.*

Long Term Substitute English Teacher-Ethan Dramer: 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 30-1.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby appoint Ethan Dramer, as a 1.0 FTE long term substitute English teacher position beginning August 12, 2026 to June 30, 2027, at Step 1, of the current teacher contract.

Termination: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and after review of this matter, the employment of **Jessica Rhodes** as a probationary teacher in the tenure area of Music is hereby terminated and discontinued, which termination is to be effective on October 15, 2026.

Update and Confirmation of Probationary Period-Shawna Turco: -WHEREAS teacher Shauna Turco is dually certified to instruct students in Social Studies and General Special Education; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Turco has served in both the "Special Education – General" and "Social Studies 7-12" tenure areas while employed at the District; and

WHEREAS, when Ms. Turco initially began service in the "Special Education – General" tenure area, she was appointed to a four-year probationary period because she had not yet acquired tenure in any tenure area;

WHEREAS Ms. Turco was tenured by this District in the "Social Studies 7-12" tenure area in August 2023; and

WHEREAS as of June 30, 2026, Ms. Turco has served two years in a probationary period in the "Special Education – General" tenure area; and

WHEREAS because Ms. Turco has acquired tenure in one tenure area ("Social Studies 7-12"), she is entitled to a reduced probationary period in her second tenure area ("Special Education – General"), meaning that her probationary period in the "Special Education – General" tenure area is now three years and not four years; and

WHEREAS Ms. Turco is assigned as a full-time teacher in the "Special Education – General" tenure area for the 2026-2027 school year;

NOW, therefore, the Board acknowledges that during the 2026-2027 school year, Ms. Turco is serving in her third and final year of a reduced probationary period in the "Special Education – General" tenure area, and that her new tenure date in the "Special Education – General" tenure area is August 29, 2027.

Tenure Approval-Michaela Prater: 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, **Michaela Prater**, a probationary Reading Teacher appointed August 20, 2022, be appointed to tenure to the position of Reading Teacher tenure area. It having been shown that **Michaela Prater**, holds a valid New York State Professional Certificate Literacy B-6, Professional Certificate Literacy Grades 5-12 and Professional Certificate Childhood 1-6 in the aforesaid tenure area; and it further having been shown that the probationary period of **Michaela Prater** to be a Reading Teacher in the district expires on September 26, 2026; the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby grant tenure to and appoint to tenure **Michaela Prater** effective September 27, 2026 to the position of Reading Teacher.

Approve Service Agreement-Thomas Gallagher: 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 Thomas Gallagher for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve Service Agreement-Spark Learning Pals (Exceptional Steps, LLC): 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 Spark Learning Pals (Exceptional Steps, LLC) for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve Service Agreement-Achievements, PLLC: 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 Achievements, PLLC for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve Service Agreement-Muddy Sneakers Physical Therapy, PLLC: 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 Muddy Sneakers Physical Therapy, PLLC for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve SmartBond Act 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 SmartBond Act Plan.

Approve Professional Development 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 the Professional Development Plan.

Approve Consulting Services Agreement-Joseph Reilly: 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 consulting services agreement with Joseph Reilly regarding SmartBond for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve Consulting Services Agreement-E-Rate Partners Consulting, LLC: 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 consulting services agreement with E-Rate Partners Consulting, LLC regarding E-rate funding for 9/1/2026 to 9/30/2028.

Accept Marching Band Trailer Agreement: Be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Gorham-Middlesex Central School District does hereby accept Marching Band Trailer Agreement with **Derek Carlson and Brandon Ahlbrandt** for the 2026-27 school year.

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 Bus Driver's Association regarding individual assignments consisting of seven students or less on an as needed basis.

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 Bus Driver's Association regarding to remove swim shuttles as extra assignments to be treated as other assignments assigned.

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 and Marcus Whitman Teacher Aides, Teaching Assistants and Clerical Employees Association regarding a certified employee to fill in for an elementary teacher position.

Long Term Substitute Elementary Teacher-Kellie Gorton: 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 30-1.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby appoint Kellie Gorton, as a 1.0 FTE long term substitute Elementary teacher position beginning September 1, 2026 to approximately June 30, 2027, at Step 1, of the current teacher contract.

Approve Change Order: 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 change order:
City Hill Construction in the amount of \$63,375

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 CSE/CPSE recommendations as submitted and filed in the minute file.
Yes 9 No 0 MC

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE BOARD

No comments.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

Audit Committee Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 29 5pm

NYSSBA Annual Convention/Education Expo-October 22-24

Buffalo Convention Center

Some board members shared “paws”itives about transportation, sub nurse, student doing very well and Class of 1976 toured the building.

Friday, October 9 Homecoming

Thursday, 10/15 Pumpkin Walk

Wednesday, November 18 Thanksgiving Grab and Go

Wednesday, April 14 All Staff Day

Break 7:00pm

Executive Session motion by Cindy Hall, seconded by Phyllis Frantel at 7:10pm for the Board to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

Motion by Ashley Conley, seconded by Jessica Wickham to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharene Benedict
District Clerk