

GBE approved 10/24/2024

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 10th, 2024, in the Griswold Middle School Cafeteria, located on the first floor, 211 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mary Beth Malin, Griswold Board of Education Chair.

PRESENT

Mary Beth Malin, Griswold BOE Chair; Yvonne Palasky, Griswold BOE Vice-Chair, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Griswold BOE Secretary; Stuart Norman, Jr., Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman, and Cathy Waselik, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT

Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Art Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; Patricia Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, TLI Directors; Katy Sawaryn, GPS Assistant Director of Student Services & Early Childhood; and Thomas Verville, GPS Director of Facilities.

ABSENT

Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services.

2. Pledge of Allegiance -The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To add agenda item 5C – Introduction to our new Assistant Principal at Griswold Middle School, Mr. Steven Bourque.

Motion unanimously carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting—September 26th, 2024

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To approve the regular meeting minutes of September 26th, 2024, with correction to note that Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton abstained from the vote on item 8A – Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the “Senior Paint Day” fundraiser proposal, as she is the parent of a Griswold Senior.

Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications

A. Connecticut State Department of Education, “Supporting Your Child’s Health and Well-Being During the School Year” - The Board received a copy of a communication from the State of Connecticut,

Department of Education, outlining how families can support their child's health and well-being during the school year, how to prepare families for cold and flu season, and how to protect our youth: a community approach to suicide prevention. These topics will be offered to families virtually

5. Recognitions

- A. GPS Griswold Forward Recipient, GMS's Shae Crosby
- B. GPS Employee of the Quarter, GHS's Stacy Jewell

The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members took time to recognize and honor two of our employees. Shae Crosby, who is a teacher at Griswold Middle School, was chosen as the Griswold Forward recipient for the month of October 2024. Stacy Jewell, a Special Education teacher at Griswold High School, was chosen as the GPS Employee of the 1st quarter for the 2024/2025 school year.

- 5C. Introduction to our New Assistant Principal at Griswold Middle School, Mr. Steven Bourque – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members had the opportunity to officially meet our newly appointed Assistant Principal, Mr. Steven Bourque.

6. Student Representative Reports

- A. GES Student Representatives: Briseis Carignan & Angel Nieves
- B. GMS Student Representatives: Samiah Vincent & Delilah Munoz
- C. GHS Student Representatives: Ava Mehrens & Andrew Hardin

The Board received updates from student representative Angel Nieves from GES, Samiah Vincent and Delilah Munoz from GMS and Ava Mehrens & Andrew Hardin from GHS, which outlined student activities occurring in each school.

7. Public Comments – There were no requests for public comment this evening.
8. Consent Agenda - (All routine items can be approved with one motion and without discussion. Points of clarification and discussion requests can be allowed)
- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on New Bylaw of the Board 9325.5—Requests for Information by Board Members—Second Reading
 - B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on New Policy 0100—Mission-Goals-Objectives—Mission Statement—Second Reading
 - C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on New Policy 0050—Mission-Goals-Objectives—Code of Ethics—Second Reading
 - D. Review, Discussion, and Possible on New Policy 0521.2—Mission-Goals-Objectives—Nondiscrimination—Commitment to Religious Neutrality (Prayer in Schools--Second Reading

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the consent agenda, as presented.

Discussion: Stuart Norman, Jr. asked if new Bylaw #9325.5 could be separated from the approval of the consent agenda as he has a number of questions and concerns. BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, asked both Yvonne Palasky and Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton to rescind their motion and Mary Beth Malin stated that they would take up item 8A separately.

Yvonne Palasky and Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton rescinded their motion and their second to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the consent agenda, excluding item 8A and including item 8B, C, D, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To approve New Bylaw of the Board 9325.5—Requests for Information by Board Members—Second Reading

Discussion: Jennifer Norman addressed the Board and reported that she was the BOE member who asked for this policy to be reviewed. She stated that the policy was changed from the sample policy that was provided by CABE and she shared a number of concerns she had with this revised bylaw.

Stuart Norman, Jr. also shared his concerns for the change to this Bylaw and asked that it not be voted on this evening.

Mary Beth Malin asked if Board members wished to put a motion on the floor or move it back to policy.

Superintendent, Sean McKenna, asked for a copy of the statement that was read by Jennifer Norman. BOE Chair Mary Beth Malin asked that Jennifer provide a copy to executive assistant, Robin Drobiak.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill Eaton
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To rescind the prior motion to approve Bylaw of the Board 9325.5 – Requests for Information by Board Members - and refer it back to the Policy subcommittee.
Motion unanimously carried.

9. New Business

A. Referral Topics

1. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Adding Absenteeism/Chronic Absenteeism to a Future BOE Meeting Agenda
2. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Adding the New SAT Format to a Future BOE Meeting agenda

The Superintendent asked the Board for direction on reporting on the two topics listed above and BOE members confirmed that they would like to see future presentations on both topics.

10. Old Business

- A. Review and Discussion on Non-Lapsing Account Draft Policy - This is a standing item under Old Business, however, this Non-Lapsing Account draft policy is still being reviewed by the Policy subcommittee at this time.
- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Potential Capital Committee Projects for the 2025-2026 School Year – The Board approved the potential capital committee projects for the 2025/2026 school year.

MOTION

By Martin Osga

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To put forward the Capital Committee priorities for the 2025/2026 school year, as presented.

Discussion: Board members discussed their feelings on the list of priorities presented and where they should fall in line. The Board then voted as follows:

Ayes – Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Cathy Waselik, and Martin Osga.

Nays – Stuart Norman, Jr. and Jennifer Norman.

Abstain –

Motion carried.

11. Administrator’s Reports

- A. Review and Discussion on Presentation of Student Performance Data from the 2023-2024 School Year—Building Administration
 - 1. GES: Principal Joe Bordeau & Assistant Principal Jackie Love
 - 2. GMS: Principal Louis Zubek & Assistant Principal Steve Bourque
 - 3. GHS: Principal Erin Palonen & Associate Principal Art HoweAdministrators from GES, GMS, and GHS provided a presentation to the Board on Student Performance Data from the 2023/2024 school year.
- B. Department of Technology, Semi-Annual Report—Kyle Gunderman, Director of Technology – The Board received a semi-annual presentation from GPS Technology Director, Kyle Gunderman, overviewing the work in his department.
- C. Assistant Superintendent’s Report
 - 1. Upcoming Professional Development Plan for October 11th, 2024 – Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, provided an update to the Board on the upcoming professional development plan for Friday, October 11th, 2024.
 - 2. Update on Math Curriculum – Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, provided an update to the Board on the new Math Curriculum.

3. Update on the Implementation of New Educator Evaluation Plan– Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, provided an update to the Board on the implementation of the new Educator Evaluation Plan.

12. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received a list of vacancies, appointments, and resignations.
- B. Superintendent's Timely Updates
 1. Review of October 1st, 2024, Enrollment Data and Comparative Analysis – GPS Superintendent, Sean McKenna, provided the October 1 enrollment data and comparative analysis. Each year, the enrollment data is considered official based on the October 1st date.
 2. Review of October 1st, 2024, Tuition Revenue Projections – The Board received an update on projected tuition revenues based on the official October 1 enrollment of tuition students attending Griswold Public Schools.
 3. Sending Town/Tuition Partner Meeting – The Board received an update from the Superintendent on a recent meeting that took place with our tuition partner towns.

13. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee—Yvonne Palasky – Chair of the Policy subcommittee, Yvonne Palasky, provided an update to the Board on the recent Policy meeting that took place.
- B. District Partnership Advisory Council (DPAC)—Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on the recent District Partnership Advisory Council meeting that took place.
- C. Facilities Subcommittee—Martin Osga – There was no report for Facilities subcommittee, as the meeting for October 10th at 5:15 PM was canceled.

14. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – There was no other business that came before the Board this evening.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To adjourn the regular BOE meeting at 7:59 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak