

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 12th, 2024**

GBE approved 1/9/2025

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 12th, 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; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Art Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; and Thomas O'Connor, Griswold Food Service Director.

ABSENT

Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant Principal.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Special Meeting—November 13th, 2024

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the special meeting minutes of November 13th, 2024, as presented.

Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Stuart Norman, Jr., Martin Osga, and Jennifer Norman.

Nays –

Abstain – Cathy Waselik

Motion carried.

4. Communications
 - A. November 14th, 2024, Letter from Superintendent Sean McKenna to Scott Davis, Chair, Griswold Board of Finance
 - B. November 18th, 2024, Letter from Superintendent Sean McKenna to Griswold Public Schools Administration, regarding Budget Freeze
 - C. November 27th, 2024, Letter from Northeast Early Childhood Council, to Governor Ned Lamont
The Board received a copy of all communications above, items A – C.
5. Recognitions
 - A. Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendent (CAPSS) Student Award Recipients, GHS's Sydney Churchill and Sophia Wooten – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members honored two seniors at Griswold High School, Sydney Churchill and Sophia Wooten, for being chosen as the recipients for the CAPSS Superintendent awards.

- B. New England School Development Council Award Recipients, GHS's Kaylin Stockwell & Ayumi Margulies – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members honored two students at Griswold High School, Kaylin Stockwell and Ayumi Margulies, as the recipients for the New England School Development Council awards.
 - C. GPS Griswold Forward Recipient, Alyssa Hancock, GES School Social Worker – BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, and Superintendent, Sean McKenna, gave a shout out to Alyssa Hancock, who received the award for Griswold Forward last month. Unfortunately, Alyssa was unable to attend the meeting this evening to be recognized for this honor.
 - D. GPS Employee of the 2nd Quarter, Jill Long, GHS Special Education Teacher – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members honored Mrs. Jill Long, GHS Special Education teacher, as the GPS outstanding employee for the 2nd quarter of the 2024/2025 school year.
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 a monthly update from student representatives from GES, GMS, and GHS on student activities occurring in each school.

BOE Member, Jennifer Norman, excused herself from the BOE meeting at 6:23 PM.

7. Public Comments – There were no public comments 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 Policy 5144.12—Students—Challenging Behavior Prevention: Restorative Practices—Second Reading
 - B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on New Regulation 5144.12—Students—Challenging Behavior Prevention: Restorative Practices—Second Reading
 - C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Revise Policy 6172—Instruction—Alternative Education Program— Second Reading

MOTION

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

9. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Griswold Public Schools' Proposed School Calendar for 2025/2026 SY – The Board approved the proposed school calendar for the 2025/2026 school year.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To approve the proposed Griswold Public Schools' proposed school alendar for 2025/2026, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Appoint a Griswold Board of Education Member to Serve on the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee – Yvonne Palasky nominated Cathy Waselik to represent the Board on the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee. There were no other nominations. The Board took action to appoint Cathy Waselik to serve on this scholarship committee for the 2024/2025 school year.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To appoint Cathy Waselik as the Griswold Board of Education member to serve on the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee.

Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to approve the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee for the 2024/2025 School Year – The Board approved the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee for the 2024/2025 school year as a whole. The committee will consist of the following individuals: Erin Palonen, GHS Principal, Elaine Taylor, GHS School Counselor Director, Kiley Flynn, GHS School Counselor, Andrew Meislitzer and Kelsey Tobler, GHS teachers, and BOE representative Cathy Waselik.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Foundation Committee for the 2024/2025 school year.

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Phase out the Transportation to Grasso Tech and to authorize the Superintendent to Inform the Community of this Change – The Superintendent discussed a request/recommendation to phase out transportation to Grasso Tech over the next three years as part of a cost savings measure to the district. Board members had several questions/comments regarding this topic and decided to table this item for this evening. This will be brought back to a future BOE meeting with more information requested by Board members.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To table this topic at this time.

Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Review and Discussion on the Fixed Costs/Obligated Expenses Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year – The Superintendent began the start of the budget development process for the 2025/2026 school year this evening with the Board. He stated that this would be considered the first introduction and iteration of the budget, and includes the fixed costs/obligated expenses.

Jennifer Norman returned to the BOE meeting at this time – 6:47 PM.

10. Old Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Potential Capital Committee Projects for the 2025-2026 School Year – There was no discussion on this topic this evening.

11. Administrators' Reports

- A. Department of Food Services Report —Tom O'Connor, Director of Food Services – The Board received an

update from Tom O'Connor, Food Service Director, on the current status and developments in the Food Service Department.

- B. Financial Forecast for the 2024-2025 School Year—Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal and Personnel Services – The Board received their monthly update from Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the status of the 2024/2025 school budget.

- C. Assistant Superintendent's Report—Glenn LaBossiere, Assistant Superintendent

1. Math Curriculum
2. TLI Committee Update
3. District Safety, Health, and Wellness Update
4. Winter Sports Update

The Board received an update from Assistant Superintendent, Glenn LaBossiere, on the topics listed above, C 1-4.

12. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations - The Board received a list of vacancies, appointments, and resignations.

- B. Superintendent's Timely Updates

1. GMS Playground
2. Central Registration
3. School Readiness Council
4. CAPSS Report on ARP ESSER Funding—Griswold Public Schools

The Board received an update from Superintendent, Sean McKenna, on the topics listed above B 1-4.

13. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee Update—Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Policy Subcommittee Chair, Yvonne Palasky, on the recent work of the committee.

- B. Athletic Subcommittee Update—Martin Osga – The Board received an update from Athletic Subcommittee Chair, Martin Osga, on the recent work of the committee.

14. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – Superintendent, Sean McKenna, took a moment to thank the PTO and community for the Holiday Bizarre that took place at Griswold High School and noted that he attended with his daughter and it was a great event.

Jennifer Norman asked that it be noted for the record to keep things clean that she is employed by the CT Technical Education system and currently assigned to Grasso Technical High School in Groton so to avoid the appearance of any ethical concerns that may arise, she plans to recuse herself from any future discussions and actions the Board as a whole will have regarding transportation to Grasso Tech. She also wished to mention she was conveniently absent during the discussion this evening as she had to go to the middle school for her daughter's concert.

15. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To adjourn the regular meeting at 7:08 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

*The Board may go into executive session on these items per Connecticut State Statute § 1-200 (6).