

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
January 9th, 2025**

GBE approved January 27th, 2025

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 9th, 2025, 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; 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; 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; and Kathryn Sawaryn, Special Services & Family Engagement Coordinator.

ABSENT Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Member; and Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance. BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, requested a moment of silence on the passing of former President, Jimmy Carter.

MOTION By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To make the following change to the agenda this evening to remove item 9C under Superintendent’s Report.
Motion unanimously carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes
A. Regular Meeting—December 12th, 2025

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To approve the regular meeting minutes of December 12th, 2024, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

4. 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.

5. Public Comments – Justin Blades, of 514 Roode Road in Griswold, Connecticut, shared concerns that his son and other student athletes on the Indoor Track Team are not being coached, he believes, in a manner that is meeting their needs and he asked the Board to do what is necessary to meet the needs of these athletes.

6. New Business

A. Review and Discussion to Approve Revised Policy 6148 – Instruction – FAFSA Completion Program, First Reading – The Board reviewed revised policy 6148 as a first reading this evening and will bring it forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.

B. Gifts/Donations

1. GHS Music Uniforms from Woodstock Academy

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Martin Osga

To accept the generous donation of eighteen gowns from the Woodstock Academy, with gratitude, to be used in the musical.

Motion unanimously carried.

7. Old Business

A. Review and Discussion on Improvement Requests Budget for the 2025/2026 School Year – The Board was introduced to this second version in the budget development process, which included improvement requests.

B. 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.

8. Administrators' Reports

A. Update on Annual Audit, Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal Services – The Board received an update from Deb Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the annual audit.

B. Accountability Report/Update on Goals – GPS Administrators – Glenn LaBossiere, Joseph Bordeau, Louis Zubek, Erin Palonen – The principals and assistant principals from each building provided an update on the mid-year progress made towards their building goals, which first included a review of the accountability index with Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent.

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

1. Early Childhood/School Readiness Update, with Jaselyn Caviness – Mr. LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, provided an overview of the change to the School Readiness funding for the 2025/2026 school year.

9. Superintendent's Report

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

B. Superintendent's Timely Updates

1. Facilities Project Updates

a. GMS Playground

b. Trees near Central Office

2. State Personnel Grant, Cohort 2

3. Grasso Tech Option – Update

4. NESDEC Enrollment Projections

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

C. Personnel Matter as it Relates to the Director of Athletics* - This topic was removed from this evening's agenda at the start of the meeting.

10. Committee/Board Reports

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

B. Negotiations Subcommittee Update—Mary Beth Malin – Mary Beth Malin shared with the Board that the Secretaries will begin negotiations for a new contract in the spring of 2025. She also reported that there will be a need to arrange for a Negotiations subcommittee meeting in the near future to set tuition rates for next year.

11. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton asked to mention that in regards to Grasso Tech conversations at the last meeting, following that meeting, it came to her attention that some Board members had received information that addressed a lot of the questions that we asked during that initial conversation, from, I guess, another Board Member. She wanted to state that it was not appropriate that some Board members got information, especially that may be used in their decision making, and other Board members did not receive this information. Additionally, she felt that the information should be requested through the proper channels by the Superintendent and then distributed by him to all Board members.

The Superintendent reported that it will be necessary to make some adjustments to the budget development dates. A special meeting next Thursday was going to be planned and they are not prepared to meet. There are three BOE members who cannot meet on January 23rd. Due to the importance of these budget meetings, the Superintendent recommended canceling that meeting. The Superintendent proposed that a special meeting for the budget be scheduled on Monday, January 27th, 2025, at 6 PM and Board Members confirmed they could attend on that date.

Mary Beth Malin reported that the Public Relations subcommittee meeting scheduled for January 23rd will also be canceled. Two members are unable to attend.

The Superintendent missed a report from the Policy subcommittee on the agenda this evening. He mentioned that they met on Tuesday and shared that there will be a few policies moving forward at the next BOE meeting for a first reading.

12. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To adjourn the regular meeting at 7:05 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

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