

**SPECIAL MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
January 27th, 2025**

GBE approved February 27, 2025

1. A special meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Monday, January 27th, 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; 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 District Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal, and Patricia Feeney, Director of Instructional Improvement/Learning Diversity.

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 – January 2nd, 2025

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the special meeting minutes of January 2nd, 2025, as presented.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Jennifer Norman, and Cathy Waselik.
Nays –
Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr., and Martin Osga
Motion carried.

- B. Regular Meeting – January 9th, 2025

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the regular meeting minutes of January 9th, 2025, as presented.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman, and Cathy Waselik.
Nays –
Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr.
Motion carried.

4. Communications

- A. December 16th, 2024, Letter to Principal Erin Palonen, from NEASC, on the Three-Year Report of Progress and Planning – The Board received a copy of the communication to Principal Erin Palonen from NEASC.

5. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve Tuition Rates & Related Services for the 2025-2026 School Year

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To approve the tuition rates and related services for the 2025/2026 school year with a 3.5% increase.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve Pre-School Program Fees for the 2025-2026 School Year

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To approve the Preschool Program fees for the 2025/2026 school year.
Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible to Approve Program Fees for the Wolverines Program for the 2025-2026 School Year

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To table discussion on approval of program fees for the Wolverines Program.
Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review and Discussion to Approve Revised Policy 4152.6/4252.6—Personnel—Certified/Non-Certified—Personal Leaves—Family and Medical Leave Act, First Reading – The Board had a first reading of revised policy 4152.6/4252.6 and will bring it to the next BOE meeting for a second reading and to take action to approve.

- E. Review and Discussion to Approve Revised Regulation 4152.6/4252.6—Personnel—Certified/Non-Certified—Personal Leaves—Family and Medical Leave Act, First Reading - The Board had a first reading of revised regulation 4152.6/4252.6 and will bring it to the next BOE meeting for a second reading and to take action to approve.

- F. Review and Discussion to Approve New Policy 4222—Personnel—Non-Certified—Paraeducators/Title I Paraeducators, First Reading – The Board had a first reading of new policy #4222 and will bring it to the next BOE meeting for a second reading and to take action to approve.

G. Gifts/Donations

1. Protective Goggles, Gowns, Face Masks and Sanitizer donated by the Town of Griswold, Fire Department

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To accept the gifts of protective goggles, gowns, face masks, and sanitizer donated by the Town of Griswold, Fire Department.

Motion unanimously carried.

2. King Zephyr Tenor Saxophone 1006, donated by Elizabeth Osga

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To accept the donation of a King Zephyr Tenor Saxophone 1006, donated by Elizabeth Osga.

Motion unanimously carried.

6. Old Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve Revised Policy 6148 – Instruction – FAFSA Completion Program, Second Reading

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To approve revised policy #6148 – Instruction – FAFSA Completion Program, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review and Discussion on the Initial Budget Proposal for the 2025-2026 School Year – The Board received a third iteration of the initial budget proposal for the 2025/2025 school year, which was presented in detail by Superintendent, Sean McKenna. Discussion on the budget will continue at the next Board of Education meeting.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Potential Capital Committee Projects for the 2025-2026 School Year – No discussion took place on this topic this evening.

7. 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 where things stand with the upcoming annual audit.
- B. Financial Forecast for the 2024-2025 School Year, Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal Services – The Board received an update from Deb Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on where things currently stand with the 2024/2025 school budget.

C. Review of Student Activity Accounts, Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal Services – The Board received an update from Deb Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the current balances of the student activity accounts for each school building.

8. Superintendent's Report

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

B. Review and Discussion on the Superintendent's Midyear Update on Goals for the Superintendent Performance Evaluation* - This item will be discussed in executive session at the end of this special meeting.

C. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Superintendent to Engage Independent Legal Counsel for Investigatory Work on Pending Claim* - The Superintendent asked the Board for authorization to engage in Independent Legal Counsel for investigatory work and the approved this request. BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, requested each BOE vote. The results were as follows:

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To authorize the Superintendent to engage independent legal counsel for investigatory work on pending claims.

Ayes – Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Stuart Norman, Jr., Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman and Cathy Waselik.

Nays -

Abstain -

Motion carried.

Mary Beth Malin noted that, as Board Chair, she does not vote on this matter unless her vote was necessary to break a tie.

9. Committee/Board Reports

A. Policy Subcommittee—Yvonne Palasky - The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on when the Policy subcommittee will plan to meet again.

B. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance—Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton - The Board received an update from Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton on the recent meeting that took place with the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance. She shared that the Board of Education budget is to be presented to the Board of Finance at their February 24th, 2025, meeting.

MOTION

Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To move into executive session at 6:42 PM for the purpose of discussing item 8B – Review and Discussion on the Superintendent's Mid-Year Update on Goals for the Superintendent's Performance Evaluation.

Motion unanimously carried.

**SPECIAL MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
January 27th, 2025**

The Board came out of executive session at 6:57 PM with no action.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To adjourn the Special Board of Education meeting at 6:57 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak/Sean McKenna