

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
March 13th, 2025**

GBE approved 3/27/2025

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 13th, 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., 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 (entered at 6:07 PM), GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Patricia Feeney, Director of Instructional Improvement – Learner Diversity; and Jessica Gillespie, Director of Instructional Improvement – Innovation.

ABSENT

Jennifer Norman, Griswold Board of Education Member; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; and Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal.

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 – Recognizing the Griswold Board of Education as we celebrate Boards of Education Appreciation Month.
Motion unanimously carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting— February 27th, 2025

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the regular meeting minutes for February 27th, 2025, as presented.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, and Cathy Waselik.
Nays –
Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr.
Motion carried.

4. Communications

- A. Community Foundation of Eastern CT - \$500 Gift/Donation to the Paul Carpenter Athletic Scholarship Fund
- B. March 4th, 2025, Letter to Town of Griswold, Town Clerk, from Superintendent McKenna

The Board received a copy of communications A and B above.

5. Recognitions

- A. Griswold *Forward* Recipient - Mayra Gomez, GES – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized Mayra Gomez as the *Griswold Forward* recipient for the month of March 2025.
- B. Griswold *Employee of the Third Quarter* for the 2024/2025 School Year – Rebecca Rodriguez-Moore, GHS – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized Rebecca Rodriguez-Moore for being chosen as Griswold's Outstanding Employee for the third quarter of the 2025/2026 school year.
- C. Recognizing the Griswold Board of Education as we Celebrate Boards of Education Appreciation Month – The Superintendent, administrators, and audience members took a moment to recognize the Griswold Board of Education, as the month of March is always considered Boards of Education Appreciation Month.

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 an update from student representatives from GES, GMS and GHS on student activities happening in each school.

At 6:18 PM, the Board took a short recess for refreshments.

The Board re-convened their meeting at 6:27 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 Bylaw of the Board—9325.5, Requests for Information—Second Reading

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the consent agenda, as presented.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, and Cathy Waselik.
Nays – Stuart Norman, Jr.
Abstain -
Motion carried.

9. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Accept the Following Gifts and Donations
1. BioRidge Pharma EpiPens (16 Units) Donation

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To accept the generous donation from BioRidge Pharma for 16 EpiPen units.
Motion unanimously carried.

10. Old Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Potential Capital Committee Projects for the 2025-2026 School Year

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To table any action on the topic of potential capital committee projects for the 2025/2026 school year.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Initial Budget Proposal for the 2025-2026 School Year

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To table any action on the topic of the initial budget proposal for the 2025/2026 school year.
Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Enact Transportation Phase-Out Plan to Grasso Tech beginning with the 2025-2026 School Year – The Superintendent presented a phase-out option for transportation to Grasso Tech and the Board approved the plan.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To enact the transportation phase-out plan to Grasso Tech beginning with the 2025/2026 school year.

Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton and Cathy Waselik.

Nays – Stuart Norman, Jr.

Abstain -

Motion carried.

11. Administrators' Reports

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report—Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent

1. AIMSWEB Presentation – The Assistant Superintendent, Glenn LaBossiere, along with Patricia Feeney, Director of Instructional Improvement – Learner Diversity; and Jessica Gillespie, Director of Instructional Improvement – Innovation; provided an update to the Board on insights from the second round of benchmarks in the AimswebPlus system. The presentation covered recent reading and math achievement and growth data for GPS students, and steps the district is taking to support students in their growth and achievement.
2. Professional Development Plan for March 7th, 2025 – The Board received an update from Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, on the agenda and schedule for the recent professional development day that occurred on March 7th, 2025.

B. Financial Forecast for the 2024/2025 School Year – Deb Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – The Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, Deb Martin, provided an update to the Board on where things stand with the 2024/2025 school budget. She was pleased to report that the Town and the BOE are balanced through the month of February.

C. Audit Report – Deb Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – The Board received an update from the Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, Deb Martin, on the audit that took place this week with our auditing firm.

12. Superintendent's Report

A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received a copy of the most recent vacancies, appointments, and resignations.

B. Superintendent's Timely Updates

1. Special Education Math Grant – The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on Griswold Public Schools being selected by the CT State Department of Education to participate in a grant-funded program, which will increase the capacity of educators to implement evidence-based mathematics practices to students with disabilities. Training for staff members will take place over the summer and the staff members will be paid for their time training this summer.

2. Materials presented to Board of Finance – The Superintendent provided a staffing report that was recently provided to the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance, to our Board of Education members. The Superintendent also reported that the Board of Finance has requested a report on our graduation dates and that information has also been provided, as requested.

13. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Public Relations Subcommittee Update—Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton – The Board received an update from Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Chair of the Public Relations subcommittee, on the recent Public Relations meeting that took place on February 27th, 2025.
- B. DPAC Update – Yvonne Palasky – Chair of the DPAC committee, Yvonne Palasky, provided the next meeting date for the District Parent Advisory Council and the topics to be addressed for that meeting.

14. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, wanted to remind Board Members that tickets are available for the upcoming Musical “GodSpell”.

15. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To adjourn the regular meeting of March 13th, 2025 at 6:58 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak