

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
March 27th, 2025**

GBE approved with Correction 4/10/2025

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 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., and Cathy Waselik, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; 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; and Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal.

ABSENT Jennifer Norman, Griswold Board of Education Member; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant Principal; 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 move agenda item 8A – Review, discussion and action to Reset Tuition Revenue for the 2025/2026 school year, given there is a Board of Finance meeting at the same time as our Board of Education meeting.
Motion unanimously carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Regular Meeting— March 13th, 2025

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill Eaton
To approve the regular meeting minutes of March 13th, 2025, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications
 - A. Communication to Town of Griswold, Board of Finance, from Superintendent McKenna – The Board received a copy of the communication to the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance.

5. Recognitions

- A. Abby Matheson, GHS Senior from Voluntown, Scored 1000 Points in her Basketball Career at GHS
- B. Tycen LaBelle Class S State Champion Indoor Track 3200 Meter Race - Broke the State Meet Record - Coach Kelsey Tobler

The Board, the superintendent, administrators, and audience members were pleased to honor GHS 12th grade student, Abby Matheson, who earned her career 1000 points as a member of the GHS girls basketball team. Tycen LaBelle, GHS sophomore, was also recognized as he recently won the Class S state championship Indoor Track 3200 meter race and he broke the overall record.

6. Public Comments – Jay Alvarez, who resides at 504 River Road in Lisbon, CT, addressed the Board with concerns regarding his high school student. He suggested there were several incidents of bathroom wall writings targeting his child. He also had concerns for the lack of any action taken by administration to handle this situation.

7. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Appoint a New Member to the Griswold Board of Education based on Bylaw 9221 – Griswold Board Chair, Mary Beth Malin, called for nominations for a new Board of Education Member.

MOTION

Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To nominate Donald Desrosiers to fill the Board vacancy.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman Jr.
To appoint Terry Cholewa to fill the Board vacancy.
The BOE Chair called for a second three times.
The motion did not receive a second and therefore failed.

BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, then closed nominations and asked for the Board to vote on the nomination of Donald Desrosiers.

MOTION

Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To nominate Donald Desrosiers to fill the Board vacancy.
Ayes – Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Cathy Waselik and Mary Beth Malin
Nays – Stuart Norman, Jr.
Abstain –
Motion carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Set GMS Promotion Date on Thursday, June 12th, 2025 – The Board took action and approved the GMS promotion date for Thursday, June 12th, 2025.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the GMS promotion date for Thursday, June 12th, 2025.

Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Set GHS Graduation Date on Friday, June 13th, 2025 – The Board took action and approved the GHS graduation date for Friday, June 13th, 2025.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the GHS graduation date for Friday, June 13th, 2025 at 6 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Vote for Participation in the Healthy Food Option of the Healthy Food Certification Program – The Board took action to approve participation in the Health Food Option of the Healthy Food Certification program.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

I motion that, pursuant to C.G.S. 10-215f, the Griswold Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs. And any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Food Exemptions to the Healthy Food Certification Program – The Board took action on Food Exemptions to the Healthy Food Certification Program.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

I motion that the Griswold Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes

providing that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.
Motion unanimously carried.

F. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Accept the Following Gifts and Donations

1. GMS, \$300 gift to Learning Commons from Centreville Bank/All Paws on Deck Animal Essay Contest

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To accept the generous donation of \$300 to the GMS Learning Commons from Centreville Bank/All Paws on Deck Animal Essay Contest, with gratitude.

Motion unanimously carried.

8. Old Business

A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Reset Tuition Revenue for the 2025-2026 School Year – The Board revised the projected tuition revenue to the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance, from the prior approval of 3.8 million dollars to a new projected tuition amount of 4.2 million dollars.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

To reset the tuition revenue for the 2025/2026 school year from 3.8 million dollars to 4.2 million dollars.

Motion unanimously carried.

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

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

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.

C. 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.

9. Administrators' Reports

A. Assistant Superintendent Report

1. Brief update on Math Curriculum Progress - The Board received an update from Superintendent, Sean McKenna, in the absence of Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, who attended a Griswold Board of Finance meeting, which was scheduled for the same time as our Board of Education meeting this evening. The Superintendent reported on where things currently stand with the revisions to the new Math curriculum.
2. Brief Overview on ELL Services/ # of Students – The Board received an update from Superintendent, Sean McKenna, in the absence of Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, who attended a Griswold Board of Finance meeting, which was scheduled at the same time as our Board of Education meeting. The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on the number of students in each school building in the Griswold Public Schools who fall under the definition of MLL (Multi-Language Learners) and how our district is supporting these students.

B. Semi-Annual Update from Student Services/Special Education - Chris Champlin – The Board received an update from Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services/Special Education, on a recent training for Paraeducators, a grant we were fortunate enough to be chosen for and the purpose of the grant and how it will be used. His student services review also included some unexpected costs to the special education budget, and he reported on some celebrations for special education students who participated in Unified Sports.

C. Financial Forecast for the 2024/2025 School Year - Deb Martin – The Board received an update from Deb Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the current status of this year's 2024/2025 school budget.

D. Internal Accounts Update - Deb Martin – The Board received an update from Deb Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the current balances for the student activity internal accounts for GES, GMS and GHS.

10. Superintendent's Report

A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations/Retirements – The Board received an update on the current vacancies/appointments/resignations/retirements.

B. Superintendent's Timely Updates

1. Griswold Pride Recognition
2. District Meetings
3. End of the Year Ceremonies
4. Upcoming List of Town Meetings

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

11. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Facilities Subcommittee Update--Mary Beth Malin – The Board received an update from Mary Beth Malin on the Facilities subcommittee meeting that took place on March 13th, 2025. She shared that the scoreboard for the high school baseball field is not operating at this time. She and Superintendent McKenna wished to publicly thank the Booster Club for supporting a temporary scoreboard to be used until they can come up with a solution for the repair or replacement.
- B. Policy Subcommittee Update--Yvonne Palasky – Chair of the Policy subcommittee, Yvonne Palasky, confirmed that the Policy subcommittee will need to change the times for their Policy subcommittee meetings due to scheduling conflicts with some members of the committee. They will change their meetings from Tuesdays to Wednesdays at 5 PM starting on April 9th, 2025.
- C. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance--Mary Beth Malin – BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, provided an update to the Board on the last meeting of the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance.

12. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – There was no other business discussed this evening.

13. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To adjourn the regular meeting at 6:40 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.