

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 10TH, 2025**

GBE approved 4/24/2025

1. Call to Order – A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 10th, 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., Jennifer Norman, Cathy Waselik, and Donald Desrochers, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT

Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Kathryn Sawaryn, GPS Special Services and Family Engagement Coordinator; and Thomas Verville, GPS Facilities Director.

ABSENT

Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Art Howe, GHS Associate Principal; 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.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Special Meeting— March 26th, 2025

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the special meeting minutes of March 26th, 2025, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

B. Regular Meeting - March 27th, 2025

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the regular meeting minutes of March 27th, 2025, with correction, after the Pledge of Allegiance, to show that Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton was the person to second the motion – not Mary Beth Malin – on the motion to move agenda item 8A on page 1.

Ayes – Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Stuart Norman, Jr., Cathy Waselik, and Donald Desrochers.

Nays-

Abstain – Jennifer Norman

Motion carried.

4. Communications

- A. End of 2024/2025, Monthly Plan for Upcoming Events
- B. March 21, 2025, Email to Connecticut Superintendents from Commissioner Russell-Tucker
- C. March 28th, 2025, Letter to Town of Griswold, Town Clerk, from Superintendent McKenna

The Board received a copy of communications A-C listed above.

5. Recognitions

- A. Griswold Forward Recipient, Kailey Shea, GMS Music Teacher - The Board, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members, were pleased to recognize Kailey Shea, who is a Griswold Middle School teacher, as the *Griswold Forward* recipient for April 2025.
- B. Welcome new BOE Member, Donald Desrochers, Jr.! – The Board took a moment to welcome new Griswold Board of Education member, Donald Desrochers.

6. Student Representative Reports

- A. GES Student Representatives: Briseis Carignan & Angel Nieves
- B. GMS Student Representatives: Samiah Vincent
- C. GHS Student Representatives: Ava Mehrens & Andrew Hardin

The Board received an update from the student representatives from GES, GMS and GHS on activities that are occurring in each school building.

7. Public Comments – None.

8. New Business

- A. Review and Discussion about Board of Education Subcommittee Vacancies – BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, asked Board members who wish to change the subcommittees they currently serve on, to e-mail her with their interest and requests. Once she has received the requests, she will decide and assign Board members to the respective subcommittees and vacancies.
- B. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Accept the Following Gifts and Donations
 - 1. Griswold Athletic Booster Club, Donation of a Temporary Scoreboard to the Griswold High School Baseball Program

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To accept the generous donation from the Griswold Athletic Booster Club in the amount of \$3,400 to address the inoperative scoreboard for the Griswold Baseball Program, with gratitude.

Motion unanimously carried.

9. Old Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the Initial Budget Proposal for the 2025-2026 School Year with Proposed Adjustments – The Superintendent reviewed the initial budget proposal for the 2025/2026 school year with the proposed adjustments to meet the dollar amount that the Griswold Board of Finance cut from the school budget. The Board did not take action on this agenda item this evening, as the Governor’s budget has not been completed at this time. They decided to table any action this evening.

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To table the proposed budget proposal until the next session.

Motion unanimously carried.

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

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To table the approved capital committee budget for the 2025/2026 school year.

Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrators’ Reports

- A. Update on Goals for GES, GMS and GHS: “Building-Level Report: Goals, Progress Points, & the Next Phase of Work”--Joe Bordeaux, Principal, Griswold Elementary School; Louis Zubek, Principal, Griswold Middle School; and Erin Palonen, Principal, Griswold High School – The Board heard a presentation from principals from GES, GMS, and GHS on goals, progress points, and the next phase of work.

B. Assistant Superintendent Report

1. Tech Committee Update – The Board received an update from Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, on the Tech Committee meetings that have occurred over this school year to develop a comprehensive Technology Plan. This plan, when completed, will be submitted to the Board in the late summer or early fall.
2. District Safety, Health and Wellness Committee Update – The Board received an update from Kathryn Sawaryn, GPS Special Services and Family Engagement Coordinator, on the ongoing work of the District Safety, Health and Wellness Committee meeting. She reviewed details from the March 27th, 2025, meeting that took place.

11. Superintendent’s Report

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

B. Superintendent's Timely Updates

1. Emerging Facilities Issue, GMS - The Superintendent and Thomas Verville, GPS Facilities Director, provided an update to the Board on a potential facilities issue at Griswold Middle School that occurred and they shared the details on how they were able to address this issue.
2. April Break Office Hours – The Board received an update from the Superintendent on the office hours for each school building during Spring break, which will take place next week. He noted that the offices hours were also pushed out the community.
3. GHS Spring 2025 Athletic Participation Data – The Board received an update from the Superintendent on the athletic participation data for spring sports.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. District Parent Advisory Council Update--Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on the recent DPAC meeting that took place.
- B. Policy Subcommittee Update--Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky, Chair of the Policy subcommittee, on their recent meeting that took place. Their next meeting is scheduled for May 7th, 2025.
- C. Athletic Subcommittee Update--Mary Beth Malin – The Board received an update from Cathy Waselik on the recent Athletic Subcommittee meeting that took place, which she chaired this evening prior to the BOE meeting.

13. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – Jennifer Norman, Griswold Board of Education member, stated that, in recognizing the politically challenged environment around our public schools, and the actioning at the federal level, she requested that the Board of Education around diversity, equity and inclusion, the ruling that was made and how that may impact us and whether we need to make a decision moving forward.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:02 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.