

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 24TH, 2025**

GBE approved 5/8/2025

1. Call to Order – A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 24th, 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; Jennifer Norman, Cathy Waselik (entered at 6:05 PM), 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; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; and Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal;

ABSENT

Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Member; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; 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. Regular Meeting – April 10th, 2025

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the regular meeting minutes of April 10th, 2025, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications

- A. End-of-the-Year List of Events for Griswold High School

- B. April 15th, 2025, Letter to the United States Department of Education from Connecticut Commissioner of Education, Charlene Russell-Tucker

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

5. Public Comments – There were no public comments to be recorded this evening.

6. New Business

- A. Review and Discussion on Board of Education Subcommittee Vacancies - The Board received an updated list of Griswold Board of Education subcommittees and who will serve on each one. This list had to be updated to fill vacancies left by Martin Osga, who resigned from the Board recently.
- B. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Appoint a Board of Education member to the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee – The Board approved Mary Beth Malin to serve as the Board’s representative to the Town of Griswold’s Capital Improvement Committee. Martin Osga vacated the Griswold Board of Education and the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

To nominate Mary Beth Malin to the Town of Griswold’s Capital Committee.

At this time, Mary Beth Malin, Griswold Board of Education Chair, called for other nominations. After three calls for other nominations, she closed the vote and asked for a vote.

The Board approved the nomination of Mary Beth Malin unanimously.

- C. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Filing of FCC form 471, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Program Services Ordered for the Fiscal Year, 07/01/25 - 06/30/26

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To authorize the filing of FCC Form 471, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Program Services Ordered for the fiscal year, 07/01/25-6/30/26 and Authorize payment of the applicant’s share subject to the following conditions: (1) Approval of funding of the discounted portion by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and (2) Receipt of services during the fiscal year 07/01/25 - 06/30/26.

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Agreement between Griswold Public Schools and Sacred Heart University, 2025-2027 – The Board approved the agreement between Griswold Public Schools and Sacred Heart University from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Note: Cathy Waselik entered at 6:05 PM during discussion related to the Sacred Heart University contract.

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman

Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

To approve the agreement between Griswold Public Schools and Sacred Heart University, as presented.

Yvonne Palasky suggested that the motion should include the dates of service for the new agreement. Jennifer Norman amended her motion as follows:

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To amend her motion to approve the agreement between the Griswold Public Schools and Sacred Heart University and include dates for fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Motion unanimously carried.

E. Gifts/Donations

1. Griswold Youth Services Donation of Walmart Gift Cards Totaling \$425.00

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To accept the Griswold Youth Services donation of Walmart gift cards totaling \$425.00.

Motion unanimously carried.

7. Old Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Adjust the Tuition Revenue Amount for the 2025/2026 School Year Based on Confirmed Enrollment Data – The Board approved an increase in tuition revenue projections from 4.2 million dollars to 4.8 million dollars to be submitted to the Town of Griswold's Board of Finance.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To adjust the tuition revenue projection from 4.2 million dollars to 4.8 million dollars for the 2025/2026 school year, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, BOE Member, shared that she is pretty amazed that when she joined the Board in 2020, our tuition revenue was 2.2 million dollars. She stated we have doubled the tuition revenue in four years and that is a testament to the hard work of our administrators, our teachers and our entire school community and she wished to give kudos to all. She also thought it was important to mention again that it is crucial that we invest in our schools. She hopes that the Board of Finance can restore the previous reduced funding from the Board of Education budget and encouraged the Board of Education and the Board of Finance to work together to develop a policy that allocates a portion of this tuition revenue back to the schools so we can continue moving the district forward and meeting our student needs as the population grows and we can continue to guarantee this revenue in the future.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the Initial Budget Proposal for the 2025-2026 School Year with Proposed Adjustments

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To table this proposed topic on the initial budget proposal for the 2025/2026 school year with the proposed adjustments.

Motion unanimously carried.

C. 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 this potential capital committee projects for the 2025/2026 school year.

Motion unanimously carried.

8. Administrators' Reports

- A. Financial Forecast for the 2024-2025 School Year, Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – The Board received an update from Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on where things stand with the 2024/2025 school budget. She is optimistic that we will land in the black and close to zero at the end of the 2024/2025 school year.

BOE Member, Yvonne Palasky, asked where the line item is for attorney fees and she was informed it was on page 3 under system-wide other professional services.

BOE Member, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, requested an accounting of legal expenses related to the Board of Education and what was spent to date this school year on Board of Education matters. She said it does not have to include fees for personnel matters, student matters, and for contract negotiations. The Superintendent confirmed that he will provide that information in the Board notes.

9. Superintendent's Report

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

10. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – There was no other business that came before the Board.

11. Adjournment

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 6:18 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak