

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
May 8TH, 2025**

GBE approved 5/22/2025

1. Call to Order – A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 8th, 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; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; and Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal.

ABSENT

Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; and 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. Regular Meeting – April 24th, 2025

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To approve the regular meeting minutes of April 24th, 2025, as presented.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton; Jennifer Norman, Cathy Waselik and Donald Desrochers.
Nays –
Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr.
Motion carried.

4. Communications
 - A. Completed List of Board of Education Subcommittees approved at the April 24th, 2025, Board of Education Meeting
 - B. April 30th, 2025, Letter to Town of Griswold, Town Clerk regarding Appointment of Mary Beth Malin to the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee
 - C. Revised List of Griswold High School, Upcoming Events/Activities
The Board received a copy of communications A-C listed above.

5. Awards/Recognitions

- A. Recognizing GHS Student, Zachary McVeigh, who earned the Rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 74, Based in Voluntown, Connecticut – The Superintendent, along with the Griswold Board of Education, the administrators, and audience members, took a moment to formally recognize Zachary McVeigh, who is a 9th grade student at GHS. Zachary recently earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 74, based in Voluntown, CT and this is the highest achievement attainable in the Boy Scouts of America.
- B. Recognizing Kim Neilson, as Griswold Public Schools’ “Volunteer of the Year” for the 2024/2025 School Year – The Griswold Board of Education, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members formally recognized Kim Neilson as the 2024/2025 Volunteer of the Year. The Superintendent expressed his sincere appreciation for Kim’s commitment to our school district and the many years she served as a volunteer to the Griswold Public Schools.

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

Student representatives from GES, GMS, and GHS gave their final updates on student activities occurring in each building for the 2024/2025 school year. Each student was thanked for serving as student representatives to the Griswold Board of Education and they were given a certificate of thanks. The high school representatives received a warm thank you from the Board as they will be moving forward with graduation from GHS soon and heading off to college.

The Board took a short recess at 6:18 PM.

The Board re-convened at 6:26 PM.

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

8. New Business

A. Gifts/Donations

- 1. Global Partners, in Collaboration with the Exxon-Mobil Education Alliance Program Grant, provided a donation in the amount of \$500, to Griswold Middle School

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To accept the generous donation from Global Partners, in Collaboration with the Exxon-Mobil Education Alliance Program grant, in the amount of \$500 to Griswold Middle School, with gratitude.

Motion unanimously carried.

- 2. Donation of the Several School Supplies Building Blocks to Mrs. Jenna Motta’s Classroom from the Non-Profit Organization DonorsChoose

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To accept the generous donation of school supplies on behalf of the non-profit organization DonorsChoose and GES teacher, Jenna Motta.

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

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To table the topic on the initial budget proposal for the 2025/2026 school year.

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 the agenda item 7B - potential capital committee projects for the 2025/2026 school year - until the next regular meeting.

Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrators’ Reports – There were no administrator reports.

11. Superintendent’s Report

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

B. Timely Updates

1. Interim Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – The Superintendent shared with the Board that Erik Christensen has been named Interim Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, effective May 2nd, 2025. This will be a temporary position given Deb Martin’s departure at the end of May. He shared some transition detail plans.
2. Change in Date of Underclassmen Awards – The Superintendent shared the latest information on “end of the year” events that Board members may be interested in attending.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee Update--Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky, Chair of the Policy subcommittee, on the recent work of the subcommittee. She noted that their next meeting is scheduled for June 4th, 2025.
- B. Facilities Subcommittee Update--Mary Beth Malin – The Board received an update from Mary Beth Malin on the recent work of the subcommittee.
- C. Negotiations Subcommittee Update – Mary Beth Malin – The Board received an update from Mary Beth Malin, Chair of the Negotiations subcommittee, on the recent work of the subcommittee.

13. Other Business That May Formerly Come Before this Board – None.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 6:35 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak