

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
May 22nd, 2025**

GBE approved 6/10/2025

1. Call to Order – A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 22nd, 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; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; and Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal.

ABSENT

Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; 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 – May 8th, 2025

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the regular meeting minutes of May 8th, 2025, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications – There were no communications to share.
5. Awards/Recognitions
 - A. Recognizing CABE Student Leadership Award Recipients - GMS - Anna Jagielo, Claire Norman
 - B. Recognizing CABE Student Leadership Award Recipients - GHS - Alanna Sutherland, Micah Hamel
 - C. Recognizing Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Middle Level Scholar Leadership Award Recipients - GMS - Shreya Patel, Emily Tessier
 - D. Recognizing Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Scholar Athlete Award Recipients - GHS - Abigail Matheson, Tyler Silva

- E. Recognizing Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Visual Arts Award Recipient - GHS - Ayumi Margulies
- F. Recognizing Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Performing Arts Award Recipient - GHS - Natalie Obuchowski

The Board, the Superintendent, administration and audience members took time to recognize several of our students from Griswold Middle School and Griswold High School who were chosen as CABA (CT Association of Boards of Education) student leaders and CAS (CT Association of Schools) award recipients in the areas of middle level scholar leaders, scholar athletes, and visual and performing arts recipients.

- G. Honoring Griswold Public Schools' Retirees – The Board took time to recognize Griswold Public School employees who plan to retire at the conclusion of the 2024/2025 school year. Those in attendance who were recognized were: Kevin Kinsall, GES Music teacher, Renee Normandie, GMS School Nurse and District Coordinator, and Donald Butremovic, GHS custodian. Those who are retiring and could not attend this evening's meeting include: Jacqueline Bill, GES Kindergarten teacher; Tammy Henn, GHS Café Manager, and Jo-Ann Pedersen, GES Café Service Provider.

The Board took a short recess at 6:25 PM.

The Board re-convened at 6:35 PM.

Mary Beth Malin asked that it be noted for the record that Jennifer Norman left the Griswold Board of Education meeting at 6:35 PM.

- 6. Public Comments – Wayne Malin of 11 Pequot Trail in Griswold shared that he recently attended a VFW event and there were students there from GHS along with GHS teacher, Cole Bocciarelli, and an alumni from GHS, Katarina Bromkamp. The students discussed topics related to artificial intelligence and what is real and what is fake news. Mr. Malin thought it was great to see young adults participating in conversations and taking an interest in politics.

7. New Business

- A. Review and Discussion to Approve New Policy #5131.911 – Students – Connecticut School Climate Policy – Policy Statement, First Reading – The Board had a first reading of new policy #5131.911 and will bring it back to the next BOE meeting for action to approve.
- B. Review and Discussion to Approve New Regulation #5131.911 – Students – Connecticut School Climate, First Reading – The Board had a first reading on new regulation #5131.911 and will bring it back to the next BOE meeting for action to approve.
- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Waive the Second Readings of Policy and Regulation of 6142.101 – Instruction – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Policy) – The Board waived the 2nd readings for policy and regulation #6142.101.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To waive the 2nd meeting requirement for policy and regulation #6142.101 – Instruction – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Policy).

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve Revised Policy 6142.101 – Instruction – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Policy), First Reading

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve revised policy #6142.101 – Instruction – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Policy).

Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Regulation #6142.101 – Instruction – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Regulation), First Reading

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve revised regulation #6142.101 – Instruction – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Regulation).

Motion unanimously carried.

- F. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve Job Description for Math Interventionist (PK-12)

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve job description for Math Interventionist (PK-12), as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

- G. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve Job Description for Integrated Instruction Mentor

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the job description for Integrated Instruction Mentor, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

- H. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Reschedule the Annual Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools to a Board meeting in June

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To reschedule the annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools to a Board meeting in June.

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 topic of the potential capital committee projects for the 2025/2026 school year.

Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrators' Reports

A. Assistant Superintendent

1. Professional Development – Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, shared details of the professional development schedule for Friday, May 23rd. This will be the final professional development session for certified faculty and staff for the 2024/2025 school year.
2. Teacher of the Year Selection Process – Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, shared details on the process for selecting the *Teacher of the Year* for Griswold Public Schools. He reported that the *Teacher of the Year* Selection Committee met today and the choice for Griswold *Teacher of the Year* will be announced within the next couple of weeks.
3. School Climate Surveys – Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, shared details on the upcoming school climate survey that will be made available to students. He also noted that faculty and staff will also be expected to complete the surveys and the results will be reviewed and shared with the Board at the start of the 2025/2026 school year.

11. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received a list of vacancies, appointments, and resignations.
- B. Timely Updates – The Superintendent reported on the next financial update to the Board, the recent audit with the Food Service department, building checklists and spring athletic participation numbers.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Public Relations Subcommittee Update—Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton – The Public Relations subcommittee meeting for this evening was canceled and there is no report for this evening.
- B. 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 – Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton requested that the following be read into the record for this evening's Board of Education meeting:

Madam Chair, I would like to bring forward a matter that I believe is critical to the integrity and functionality of this board. As you are aware, there is currently a legal matter pending involving a claimant who is also a sitting member of this board. Despite their role as a claimant in this matter, they have continued to participate in board discussions involving our legal counsel and the superintendent. This raises a serious concern. The continued presence of the claimant in these discussions impedes the board's ability to engage in open, candid communication with our legal counsel. It creates an environment where board members may feel constrained or intimidated, whether directly or indirectly, in discussing legal strategy or expressing their views freely. For the sake of transparency, fairness, and to preserve the integrity of our decision-making process, I believe it is in the board's best interest to consider forming an Ad-Hoc Committee for legal matters. This committee would be composed of board members excluding both the claimant and any named respondents. Its purpose would be to provide a forum where the board can have unencumbered discussions about pending legal matters and receive legal guidance without concerns about conflict or undue influence. With that in mind, I respectfully request that the Chair poll the board to determine whether there is support for the creation of such a committee.

At this time, the Board chair polled each Board member on their support for the formation of an AdHoc committee, and the results were as follows:

Ayes – Cathy Waselik, Yvonne Palasky, Donald Desrochers, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Nays – Stuart Norman, Jr.

Abstain –

The ayes prevailed.

Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton requested that a special Board of Education meeting be arranged within the next week to develop and vote on this Ad hoc committee. BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, reported that she would meet with the Superintendent to make the arrangement for a special Board of Education meeting and notify the Board. Mrs. Malin also shared that she will have Attorney Dan Murphy weigh in on this matter.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 6:54 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak