

**SPECIAL MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
September 11th, 2025**

DRAFT

1. Call to Order: A special meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 11th, 2025, in the Griswold Middle School, Office of the Superintendent, located on the first floor, 211 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Yvonne Palasky, Griswold Board of Education Vice-Chair.

PRESENT

Mary Beth Malin, Griswold BOE Chair; Yvonne Palasky, Griswold BOE Vice-Chair; Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Griswold BOE Secretary; Stuart Norman, Jr; Cathy Waselik; Donald Desrochers; and Terry Cholewa, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT

Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Kathryn Sawaryn, GPS Assistant Director of Student Services & Preschool; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus-Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Art Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; Patricia Feeney, Director of Instructional Improvement – Learner Diversity; and Jessica Gillespie, Director of Instructional Improvement – Innovation.

ABSENT

2. Pledge of Allegiance - The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, called for a moment of silence in memory of 911.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Special Meeting - August 21, 2025

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approved the special meeting minutes of August 21st, 2025, as presented.

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

Nays –

Abstain – Terry Cholewa

Motion carried.

B. Special Meeting - August 30th, 2025 @ 9 AM

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the special meeting minutes of August 30th, 2025 at 9 AM, as presented.

Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Stuart Norman, Jr., Cathy Waselik, and Donald Desrochers

Nays –

Abstain – Terry Cholewa

Motion carried.

C. Special Meeting - August 30th, 2025 @ 9:45 AM

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

To approve the special meeting minutes of August 30th, 2025 @ 9:45 AM, as presented.

Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Cathy Waselik, and Donald Desrochers

Nays -

Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr. and Terry Cholewa

Motion carried.

4. Communications

A. August 30th, 2025, Letter to the Town Clerk on Appointment of New Board of Education Member

B. August 27th, 2025, Annual Policy Notifications Update

The Board received a copy of communications A and B above.

5. Awards/Recognitions

A. Recognizing BethAnn Gervais, GHS English Teacher, as a Distinguished Retiree from the Griswold Public Schools – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members took time to recognize and honor Beth Ann Gervais, GHS English Teacher, as one of Griswold’s distinguished retirees.

B. Recognizing Peggy Henry, GES Paraeducator, as a Distinguished Retiree from the Griswold Public Schools – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members took time to recognize and honor Peggy Henry, GES Paraeducator, as one of Griswold’s distinguished retirees.

C. Recognizing GHS Science Teacher, Nancy Coolidge, as GPS Teacher of the Year 2026 - The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members took time to recognize and honor Mrs. Nancy Coolidge, a science teacher at Griswold High School. Mrs. Coolidge was chosen as Griswold Public Schools’ “2026 Teacher of the Year”.

D. Recognizing GMS Paraeducator, Oona Cutrone, as GPS Paraeducator of the Year 2025/2026 - The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members took time to recognize and honor Ms. Oona Cutrone, GMS Paraeducator, who was chosen as the Griswold Public Schools’ Paraeducator of the Year for 2025/2026.

6. Student Representative Reports

A. GMS Student Representatives: Delilah Munoz & Olivia Henson

B. GHS Student Representatives: Judy Lanphear & Avery Brown

The Board received their first update of the school year from student representatives from Griswold Middle School and Griswold High School on student activities occurring in their respective schools.

The Board recessed at 6:45 PM to celebrate our Teacher of the Year and Paraeducator of the Year.

The Board re-convened at 6:55 PM.

7. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the GHS Music Trip to New York City from March 12, 2026 - March 14, 2026 – The Board approved a GHS Music trip to New York City for the spring of 2026.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the GHS Music trip to New York City from March 12, 2026 through March 14, 2026, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the CT SPDG Grant in the Amount of \$86,000 with the Stated Purpose of Focusing on Improving Mathematics Performance of Students with Disabilities at Griswold Elementary School - The Board approved the SPDG Grant, as presented.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To approve the CT SPDG Grant in the amount of \$86,000 with the stated purpose of focusing on improving mathematics performance of students with disabilities at Griswold Elementary School.

Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the ISTE + ASCD Grant in the Amount of \$7,500 for Digital Innovation and Wellbeing for the Stated Purpose to Develop a Comprehensive Action Plan for Healthy Digital Cultures – The Board approved the ISTE + ASCD Grant, as presented.

MOTION

Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To approve the ISTE + ASCD grant in the amount of \$7,500 for digital innovation and wellbeing for the stated purpose to develop a comprehensive action plan for healthy digital cultures.

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Proposed Standing Subcommittee Meeting Dates of the Griswold Board of Education – The Board approved the proposed standing subcommittee meeting dates of the Griswold Board of Education, as presented.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the proposed standing subcommittee meeting dates of the Griswold Board of Education, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Review and Discussion on Revised Existing Policy 6146—Instruction—Graduation Requirements, First Reading
- F. Review and Discussion on New Policy 1312.3/6161.12—Community Relations/Instruction—Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy, First Reading
- G. Review and Discussion on New Policy 1312.4/6161.13—Community Relations/Instruction—Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, First Reading
- H. Review and Discussion on New Policy 1312.5/6161.14—Community Relations/Instruction—Library Display and Program Policy, First Reading
- I. Review and Discussion on New Policy 3542.22—Business/Non-Instructional Operations—Food Service—Food Service Personnel - Code of Conduct Policy, First Reading
- J. Review and Discussion on New Policy 4117.3—Personnel Certified—Reduction in Teaching Staff Policy, First Reading
- K. Review and Discussion on New Policy 5118.2—Students—Educational Opportunities for Military Children Policy, First Reading
- L. Review and Discussion on New Policy 6161.3—Instruction-- Comparability of Services for Title I Schools Policy, First Reading

The Board had a first reading on new and revised policies listed above E – L. They will be added to the next BOE meeting agenda for review, discussion and action to approve.

8. Administrators' Reports

A. Review of 2025/2026 Yearly Goals

- 1. District - Sean McKenna
- 2. GES - Joseph Bordeau, Jacqueline Love
- 3. GMS - Louis Zubek, Steven Bourque
- 4. GHS - Erin Palonen, Art Howe

The Superintendent and GPS administrators from GES, GMS and GHS reviewed the goals for the school district and for GES, GMS and GHS for the 2025/2026 school year.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report--Glenn LaBossiere, Assistant Superintendent

- 1. Review of New Staff – Assistant Superintendent, Glenn LaBossiere, shared a video that was created and shared at convocation of new staff hired for the 2025/2026 school year.
- 2. Climate Survey Results - Glenn LaBossiere – Assistant Superintendent, Glenn LaBossiere, reviewed the results of a recent climate survey that was conducted for students and staff.
- 3. TLI Semi-Annual Report - Glenn LaBossiere, Patricia Feeney, Jessica Gillespie – The Board received an update from Pat Feeney and Jessica Gillespie of the TLI Department, which included beginning of year updates, curriculum updates, and reading legislation and grant updates.

9. Superintendent's Report

A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received an updated on vacancies/appointments/resignations.

B. Timely Updates

1. Capital Committee Projects
2. Potential Ad Hoc Committee
3. BOE Packets

The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on topics 1 – 3 above.

10. Committee/Board Reports

A. Policy Subcommittee Update - Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on the work of the Policy subcommittee.

B. Negotiations Subcommittee Update--Mary Beth Malin – The Board received an update from Mary Beth Malin, Chair of the Negotiations subcommittee, on a tentative agreement that was reached with the teachers union (GEA) and she shared the next steps to finalizing the agreement.

11. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

*The Board may go into executive session on these items per Connecticut State Statute § 1-200 (6).