REGULAR MEETING **THURSDAY,**
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION **September 25th, 2025**

GBE approved 10/9/2025

1. Call to Order – A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 25th, 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; Donald Desrochers and Terry Cholewa, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Erik Christensen, GPS Interim Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Kathryn Sawaryn, GPS Assistant Director of Student Services & Early Childhood; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; and Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal.

ABSENT Stuart Norman, Jr. and Cathy Waselik, Griswold BOE Members; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; 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. Special Meeting – September 11th, 2025

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the special meeting minutes of September 11th, 2025, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications
   A. May 30th, 2025, MEMO on Email Scams--Resent to the Community on September 19th, 2025
   B. September 19th, 2025, MEMO to GPS Employees on Employment Updates
   The Board received a copy of communications A-B listed above.

5. Awards/Recognitions
   A. Recognizing our GPS "Employee of the First Quarter" for the 2025/2026 School Year - Ms. Alyssa Rubino

The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members were pleased to recognize and honor Alyssa Rubino, GES Special Education teacher, as the GPS outstanding employee of the first quarter for the 2025/2026 school year.

6. Public Comment – None.

7. Consent Agenda - (All routine items can be approved with one motion and without discussion. Points of clarification and discussion requests can be allowed.)
   A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve Revised Existing Policy 6146—Instruction—Graduation Requirements, Second Reading
   B. Review, Discussion, and Action to Approve New Policy 1312.3/6161.12—Community Relations/Instruction—Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy, Second Reading
   C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Policy 1312.4/6161.13—Community Relations/Instruction—Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, Second Reading
   D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Policy 1312.5/6161.14—Community Relations/Instruction—Library Display and Program Policy, Second Reading
   E. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Policy 3542.22—Business/Non-Instructional Operations—Food Service—Food Service Personnel - Code of Conduct Policy, Second Reading
   F. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Policy 4117.3—Personnel Certified—Reduction in Teaching Staff Policy, Second Reading
   G. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Policy 5118.2—Students—Educational Opportunities for Military Children Policy, Second Reading
   H. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Policy 6161.3—Instruction-- Comparability of Services for Title I Schools Policy, Second Reading

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the consent agenda for items A – H, as presented.

Discussion: BOE member, Terry Cholewa, inquired about two policies – 6146 and 5118.2 – and shared her questions. The Superintendent recommended that the policies be referred back to the Policy subcommittee for further review.

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To amend the motion and approve the consent agenda, as presented, without approving policies A and G.
Motion unanimously carried.

8. New Business
   A. Review and Discussion on Board of Education Special Committee: Teaching, Learning and Innovation - The Superintendent discussed the possibility of a formation of a special committee for teaching, learning and innovation. BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, shared that there are two Board members interested in serving on this new committee. After questioning if there were other Board members interested, Mary Beth Malin appointed Yvonne Palasky, Terry Cholewa, and Donald Desrochers, to serve on this newly formed committee.

9. Old Business

A. BOE Capital Committee Requests – The Superintendent informed the Board that a list of capital improvement requests will be presented at the October 9th, 2025, Board of Education meeting for the Board to review and possibly take action.

10. Administrators' Reports

A. Financial Forecast – Erik Christensen – Interim Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, Erik Christensen, provided an update to the Board on the current status of the 2025/2026 school budget.

B. Student Services Report, Chris Champlin, Katherine Sawaryn – GPS administrator, Chris Champlin, provided an update to the Board on Student Services. The report reviewed cooperative agreements with out of district placements, as well as contracted and cooperative services. The report also included the count total for in district students and a total of those students who receive special education and/or 504 services. The report covered the number of students placed in out of district placements, total # of students experiencing homelessness and total number of students enrolled in the Griswold Soule Street Academy. Lastly, Chris reviewed a wide range of initiatives taking place throughout our school district.

C. Athletic Report for Fall Sports Participation – Stephen Cravinho – The Board received an update from Stephen Cravinho, our Campus Wide Activities and Athletic Director, on fall athletics participation data for both Griswold Middle School and Griswold High School. He also provided an update on the scorer's table, the repairs to the score board on the multi-purpose field, and the Booster Club picnic table donations.

11. Superintendent's Report

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

B. Community-Based Organizations Report

C. Workforce Development Programs Report

D. Staff Attrition Report

The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on a new state law that requires Superintendents to annually present certain information at a regularly scheduled BOE meeting between June 1 and September 30. The topics to be included in the presentation are Community Based program relationships, workforce development programs and attrition data. The Superintendent explained all three topics to be included in the report for items B-D above.

E. *Review and Discussion on Superintendent Goals for the 2025/2026 School Year – This item was referred to executive session following the regular business portion of this meeting for discussion.

12. Committee/Board Reports

A. Athletic Subcommittee Update – In the absence of Cathy Waselik who would provide a report this evening, the Board received an update earlier from Steve Cravinho on athletic participation and topics.

B. Negotiations Subcommittee Update –The Board received an update from Negotiation subcommittee Chair, Mary Beth Malin, on the work of the committee.

C. Public Relations Subcommittee Update – The Board received an update from Public Relations subcommittee chair, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, on the work of the committee.

13. Other Business that May Properly Come before This Board – The Superintendent reported that the email the Board recently received is still under review at this time.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To move into executive session at 6:37 PM for the purpose of discussing Superintendent's Report, 11 E, review and discussion on superintendent goals for the 2025/2026 school year, inviting Sean McKenna into executive session.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:58 PM with no action taken.

13. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 6:58 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak and Sean McKenna