

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
November 13th, 2025**

GBE approved 12/11/2025

1. Call to Order – A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, November 13th, 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 Yvonne Palasky, Griswold Board of Education Vice-Chair.

PRESENT Yvonne Palasky, Griswold BOE Vice-Chair, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Griswold BOE Secretary; Stuart Norman, Jr.; Cathy Waselik and Kimberly Neilson, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Erik Christensen, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus-wide Activities & Athletic Director; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Kathryn Sawaryn, Assistant Director of Student Services & Early Childhood; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; Patricia Feeney & Jessica Gillespie, GPS Directors of the TLI Department.

ABSENT Mary Beth Malin, Griswold BOE Chair; and Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant Principal.

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

MOTION By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To add agenda item 8C – Review, Discussion and Possible Action to appoint one interim BOE representative to the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To add agenda item 8D – Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to appoint two interim BOE representatives to the Town of Griswold, School Building Committee.
Motion unanimously carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Regular Meeting – October 23rd, 2025

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To approve the regular meeting minutes of October 23rd, 2025, as presented.

Ayes – Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Stuart Norman, Jr., and Cathy Waselik.

Nays –

Abstain – Kimberly Neilson.

Motion carried.

4. Communications

A. November 4th, 2025, Testimonial to Mr. Norman Gileau

B. November 7th, 2025, Budget Freeze Letter from Superintendent McKenna

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

5. Awards/Recognitions

A. Honoring Class M Cross Country 2025 State Champion, First Place Winner, and CIAC Boys Cross Country 2025 State Open 2nd Place Winner - Tycen LaBelle – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members were pleased to recognize and congratulate Tycen LaBelle on his extraordinary accomplishments during the cross country season this fall. Tycen won every dual meet during the regular season, he took first place at the State Class M cross country meet, breaking the course record. He came in as runner up at the ECC cross country championship. Tycen finished second in the state open cross country meet, missing first place by just .80 of one second. He placed third in the New England championships as the top Connecticut finisher. He has earned all ECC, all state, and all New England recognitions. His season is not yet over because he will be competing in the Brooks Northeast regional championships in three weeks.

B. Honoring our Griswold Forward Recipient for November, 2025 - GMS, Teacher of English, Melanie Kuhn - The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members were pleased to recognize and congratulate Melanie Kuhn, GMS teacher of English, for being chosen as the Griswold *Forward* recipient for Griswold Public Schools for the month of November 2025.

C. Thanking Donald Desrochers, Jr., for his Service to Griswold Public Schools – The Board and the Superintendent wished to take a moment this evening to thank Donald Desrochers for his service to the Griswold Public Schools as a member of the Griswold Board of Education. His service was brief but impactful and we are grateful for his service. We extend our sincerest thanks and wish him well in his future endeavors.

6. Student Representative Reports

A. GES Student Representatives - Ella Canestrari & Silas Chilcote

B. GMS Student Representatives - Delilah Munoz & Olivia Henson

C. GHS Student Representatives - Judy Lanphear & Avery Brown

The Board received an update from student representatives at GES, GMS and GHS on student activities occurring in each building.

7. Public Comment – None.

8. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to approve the 2026 Griswold Board of Education Meeting Dates to be submitted to the Griswold Town Clerk in Accordance with the Provisions of the State Statutes 1-255
– The Board approved the 2026 Griswold Board of Education meeting dates for 2026.

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To approve the 2026 Griswold Board of Education meeting dates to be submitted to the Griswold Town Clerk, as presented.

Discussion: Stuart Norman, Jr. requested, for personal reasons, that the BOE consider moving the 2026 BOE meeting dates back to Mondays. Cathy Waselik asked that calendars for other Boards be reviewed when considering the change because she currently serves on another Board on Mondays. Stuart Norman, Jr. asked that this topic be added to the December meeting for further discussion and consideration.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes – Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Cathy Waselik and Kimberly Neilson.

Nays – Stuart Norman, Jr.

Abstain -

Motion carried.

B. Gifts/Donations

1. Donation of Ten (10) - \$50 Walmart Gift Cards to GES to Support Families in Need from Mr. Roy Catullo, Parent of a Second Grade Student

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To accept, with gratitude, the generous donation of ten, \$50 Walmart gift cards to GES to support families in need from Mr. Roy Catullo, parent of a second grade student.

Motion unanimously carried.

2. Donation of \$5,000 Grant from Ascend Bank/ECSB Foundation to Support Scholarships and Social/Emotional Wellness

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To accept the donation, with gratitude, of a \$5,000 grant from Ascend Bank/ECSB Foundation to support scholarships and social/emotional wellness.

Motion unanimously carried.

3. Donation from Mr. Corey Burroughs, a GHS 2012 Alumni, who Provided a Gift of a Brand New WEN Woodworking Lathe to our GHS Manufacturing Program

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To accept the generous donation, with gratitude, of a brand new WEN woodworking lathe to our GHS manufacturing program.

Motion unanimously carried.

4. Donation from the GHS Class of 1975 of \$428.93 from Leftover Funds from their 50th Class Reunion

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To accept the generous donation, with gratitude, from the GHS Class of 1975 of \$428.93 from leftover funds from their 50th class reunion.

Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to appoint an Interim BOE representative to the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee – The Board appointed Cathy Waselik as interim BOE representative to serve on the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Stuart Norman, Jr.

To appoint Cathy Waselik as interim BOE representative to serve on the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee.

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to appoint Two, Interim BOE Representatives to the Town of Griswold, School Building Committee – The Board appointed Kimberly Neilson and Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton to serve as interim BOE representatives to the Town of Griswold, School Building Committee, in two separate motions.

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To appoint Kimberly Neilson to serve as interim BOE representative to the Town of Griswold, School Building Committee.

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded Stuart Norman, Jr.

To appoint Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton to serve as interim BOE representative to the Town of Griswold, School Building Committee.

Motion unanimously carried.

9. Old Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Board of Education Capital Committee Proposed Projects for the 2026-2027 School Year – The Board received a list of proposed capital improvement projects for review, discussion, and possible action and approved it this evening.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Stuart approve the Board of Education Capital Committee proposed projects for the 2026/2027 school year.

Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrators' Reports

- A. Food Services Semi-Annual Report - Thomas O'Connor – In the absence of Thomas O'Connor, the Griswold Food Service Director, who was not feeling well this evening, Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent, provided an update to the Board on the semi-annual reporting from the food service department.
- B. Aimsweb Testing Results & Review - Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent; Patricia Feeney & Jessica Gillespie, TLI Department Directors – Both Patricia Feeney and Jessica Gillespie provided a report to the Board on the Aimsweb testing results.
- C. Chronic Absenteeism Report - Griswold Public School Administrators – Administrators from GES, GMS, and GHS provided an update to the Board on chronic absenteeism in each school building and how they are addressing these absences.
- D. Update on Student Activity Internal Accounts - Erik Christensen, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – The Board received an update from Erik Christensen, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on student activity accounts for all schools.

11. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations/Retirements – The Board received a list of vacancies, appointments, resignations and retirements.
- B. Timely Updates
1. Recommended Special Board of Education
 2. Budget Development for 2026/2027 School Year
- The Board received an update from the Superintendent on items 1-2 above.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. DPAC Committee Update—Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on the recent DPAC committee meeting that took place with the topic on how to pay for college, presented by Elaine Taylor, GHS School Counseling Director, as the presenter.

13. Other Business that May Properly Come before This Board – The Superintendent asked if next Wednesday, November 19th, 2025, at 5:15 PM would work for BOE members to attend a special meeting to present a financial update and the Board confirmed they would be available to meet.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:19 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak