

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
December 11th, 2025**

GBE approved 1/8/2026

1. Call to Order – A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 11th, 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 Sean McKenna, Griswold Superintendent of Schools.

PRESENT Stuart Norman, Jr., Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Cathy Waselik Terry Cholewa, Kimberly Neilson and Eileen Ego, 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; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; Patricia Feeney & Jessica Gillespie, GPS Directors of the TLI Department.

ABSENT Joseph Bordeau, GES 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-November 13th, 2025

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To approve the regular meeting minutes of November 13th, 2025, as presented.
Ayes – Stuart Norman, Jr., Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Cathy Waselik, Kimberly Neilson, and Eileen Ego.
Nays –
Abstain –Terry Cholewa
Motion carried.

B. Special Meeting - November 19th, 2025

MOTION By Kimberly Neilson
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To approve the special meeting minutes of November 19th, 2025, as presented.

Ayes – Stuart Norman, Jr., Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Terry Cholewa, Kimberly Neilson and Eileen Ego.

Nays –

Abstain – Cathy Waselik

Motion carried.

4. Communications

A. Letter to First Selectwoman, Tina Falck, on First Quarter Financial Report for FY ‘26

B. Letter to First Selectwoman, Tina Falck, on Interim Appointment to the Town of Griswold Capital Committee

The Board received a copy of communications above, 4 A & B.

5. Awards/Recognitions

A. Honoring our CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Award Recipients - GHS Juniors - Madelyn Hopkins, Micah Hamel – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized Madelyn Hopkins and Micah Hamel for being chosen to receive the CAPSS Superintendent awards.

B. Honoring our NSDC (New England School Development Council) Award Recipients - GHS Seniors - Breanne Harraka and Naiya Patel - The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized Breanne Harraka and Naiya Patel for being chosen to receive the NSDC awards.

C. Honoring and Recognizing our Griswold Outstanding Employee of the 2nd Quarter for the 2025-2026 School Year - Briana Neeley - The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized Briana Neeley, who was chosen as the GPS *Outstanding Employee* for the 2nd quarter of the 2025/2026 school year.

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

GPS student representatives from GES, GMS, and GHS provided an update on the student activities occurring in each building.

7. Public Comment – There were no public comments this evening.

8. New Business

A. Call for Nominations for the Officers of the Board: Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Elect Griswold Board of Education Officers – The Superintendent shared that he will oversee the election of the Board Chair and, once the person is elected, he will then turn the floor over to the new Board Chair.

1. **Griswold BOE Chair** – The Superintendent called out for nominations for Board of Education Chair.

MOTION

By Eileen Ego
Seconded by Kimberly Neilson
To nominate Stuart Norman, Jr. as Chair of the Griswold Board of Education.

The Superintendent called for other nominations for Board of Education Chair.

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To nominate Yvonne Palasky to serve as Chair of the Griswold Board of Education.

The Superintendent asked if there were any further nominations for Griswold Board of Education Chair. There were no further nominations and the Superintendent closed the floor at this time.

The vote was as follows:

Nomination for Stuart Norman, Jr:

Ayes – Eileen Ego, Terry Cholewa, Kimberly Neilson, and Stuart Norman, Jr.

Nays – Cathy Waselik, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton and Yvonne Palasky

Abstain – None

Stuart Norman, Jr. prevailed as Chair of the Griswold Board of Education.

Discussion: Yvonne Palasky took a moment to share her feelings on the importance of the job of Board Chair and the Board as a whole and explained her reasoning. She congratulated Stuart Norman, Jr. for being chosen as Board Chair.

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To withdraw the motion to appoint Yvonne Palasky as Chair.
Motion unanimously carried.

At this time, the Superintendent turned the meeting over to Stuart Norman, Jr., newly elected Board Chair, to continue on with the remainder of the meeting.

- 2. **Griswold BOE Vice Chair** - Mr. Norman, Jr., newly elected Board Chair to thank the Board and thanked Yvonne Palasky for congratulating him on prevailing as Chair. Stuart Norman, Jr. then opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chair.

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To nominate Yvonne Palasky for Griswold Board of Education Vice-Chair.

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson
Seconded by Eileen Ego
To nominate Terry Cholewa as Griswold Board of Education Vice Chair.

Stuart Norman, Jr. asked if there were other nominations for Griswold Board of Education Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations and he closed the floor at this time.

Stuart Norman, Jr. asked for any discussion at this time.

Discussion: Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton took a moment to say that she is in favor of Yvonne Palasky as Vice-Chair of the Griswold Board of Education and shared her reasons why.

After no further discussion, the vote was as follows:

The vote for nomination of Terry Cholewa for Vice-Chair:
Ayes – Eileen Ego, Terry Cholewa, Kimberly Neilson, and Stuart Norman, Jr.
Nays – Cathy Waselik, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton and Yvonne Palasky
Abstain – None
Terry Cholewa prevailed as Vice-Chair of the Griswold Board of Education.

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To withdraw the motion to nominate Yvonne Palasky for Vice-Chair.
Motion unanimously carried.

3. Griswold BOE Secretary

Stuart Norman, Jr. opened the floor for nominations of Griswold Board of Education Secretary.

MOTION

By Terry Cholewa
Seconded by Eileen Ego
To nominate Kimberly Neilson for Griswold Board of Education Secretary.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To nominate Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton for Griswold Board of Education Secretary.

Mr. Norman, Jr. called for any other nominations for BOE Secretary and there were no other nominations and he closed the floor at this time.

MOTION

By Terry Cholewa
Seconded by Eileen Ego
To nominate Kimberly Neilson as Griswold Board of Education Secretary.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To appoint Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton as Griswold Board of Education Secretary.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

The vote for nomination of Kimberly Neilson for Griswold Board of Education Secretary:

Ayes – Eileen Ego, Terry Cholewa, Kimberly Neilson, and Stuart Norman, Jr.

Nays – Cathy Waselik, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton and Yvonne Palasky

Abstain – None

Kimberly Neilson prevailed as Secretary of the Griswold Board of Education.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To withdraw the motion to nominate Jaimee-O’Neill-Eaton as Griswold Board of Education Secretary.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Set the New Griswold Board of Education Subcommittees – The Superintendent discussed the need to set the new Griswold Board of Education subcommittees and Board members were asked to provide their choices for serving on subcommittees to the new Board Chair. The Superintendent stated that it is hopeful that the new subcommittees will be set quickly. Stuart Norman, Jr. asked if BOE members would submit their choices for subcommittees by tomorrow if possible.
- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Draft Copy of the Proposed 2026/2027 School Calendar – The Board approved the proposed draft copy of the 2026/2027 school calendar, as presented.

MOTION

By Terry Cholewa
Seconded by Kimberly Neilson
To approve the proposed draft copy of the 2026/2027 GPS school calendar, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Action to Approve a Griswold BOE Member to serve on the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee for the 2025/2026 School Year – The Board chose Kimberly Neilson as the Griswold Board of Education member to serve on this year’s Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee.

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik
Seconded by Eileen Ego
To nominate Kimberly Neilson as the Griswold Board of Education member to serve on the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee.
Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee as a Whole with the Newly Appointed Board Member – The Board voted to approve the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee as a whole with the newly appointed Board member.

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To approve the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee as a whole with the newly appointed Board Member.
Motion unanimously carried.

- F. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Regular Board of Education Meeting Dates – Board Chair, Stuart Norman, Jr. inquired whether the Board would consider changing its regular meeting dates from Thursdays to Mondays. After a poll, most people wished to keep the BOE meetings on Thursday evenings and Stuart Norman, Jr. was fine with the decision.

- G. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Appoint a Permanent Member of the Griswold Board of Education to the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee – The Board voted to appoint Cathy Waselik to the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee.

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To appoint Cathy Waselik to the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee.
Motion unanimously carried.

- H. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Appoint 2 Permanent Members of the Griswold Board of Education to the Town of Griswold, School Building Committee - The Board voted to appoint Kimberly Neilson and Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton to the Town of Griswold, School Building Committee.

MOTION

By Terry Cholewa
Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To appoint Kimberly Neilson and Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton to the Town of Griswold, School Building Committee.

Motion unanimously carried.

- I. Review and Discussion of Fixed Costs Budget for 2026/2027 – The Superintendent reported that this is the first session in the budget review process for the 2026-2027 school year, beginning with a review of the district’s fixed costs.
- J. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 6159—Instruction—Individualized Education Program, First Reading – This was a first reading for policy 6159 and it will be brought forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.
- K. Review and Discussion on Revised Regulation 6159 - Instruction - Individualized Education Program, First Reading - This was a first reading for regulation 6159 and it will be brought forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.
- L. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 6146—Instruction—Graduation Requirements, First Reading - This was a first reading for revised policy 6146 and it will be brought forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.

9. Old Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Update the Board of Education Capital Committee Proposed Projects for the 2026-2027 School Year - The Board had no discussion this evening for capital projects and voted to table any discussion or action.

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To table any action on the capital committee proposed projects for the 2026/2027 school year.

Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrators’ Reports

- A. Update on Financial Forecast for the 2025/2026 School Year - Erik Christensen – The Board received an update from Erik Christensen, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the current status of the 2025/2026 school budget.
- B. Assistant Superintendent’s Report
 - 1. Data Matters Web Site
 - 2. Social Studies Curriculum Development
 - 3. School Climate Improvement Plans

Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, updated the Board on topics 1-3 above pertaining to a new Data Matters web site, the development of the social studies curriculum, and a new approach to school climate.

- C. Next Generation Accountability Report - Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, Patricia Feeney & Jessica Gillespie, GPS Directors of TLI Department – Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, and Patricia Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, GPS Directors of the TLI Department, offered a presentation to the Griswold Board of Education on the Next Generation accountability index, which relates to those of surrounding districts and compare 23-24 data to our previous 22-23 data. This accountability report tells how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers and life and provides a multifactor perspective of district and school performance.

11. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received a list of vacancies/appointments/resignations.
- B. Insurance Broker's Report – The Board received an update from the Superintendent on our Insurance Broker's Report, which highlighted updates from Brown & Brown, our insurance broker. It included budgetary implications for the 2026/2027 school year and it previews challenges with group health insurance and escalating costs.
- C. Timely Updates:
1. Budget Development for 2026-2027 School Year
 2. Digital Incident Report
 3. Holiday Break Hours
- The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on the budget development process for the 2026/2027 school year, a review of a digital incident report, and holiday break hours for the district offices.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee Update --Yvonne Palasky –The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on the recent Policy subcommittee meeting that took place.
- B. Town of Griswold, Capital Committee Update--Cathy Waselik – The Board received an update from Cathy Waselik, who attended the recent Town of Griswold, Capital Committee.
13. Other Business that May Properly Come before This Board – The Superintendent gave a shout out to all of our PTO's and parents for jobs well done with the recent holiday bizarre at GHS, to parents at GES who made the school shine and to the GMS PTO for all of their support.

Terry Cholewa provided an update on the recent CABE/CAPSS Convention that she and Kimberly Neilson attended. She and Kim were proud of our students who attended the convention.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To adjourn the regular meeting at 7:39 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.