

DRAFT

1. Call to Order - A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, February 12th, 2026, in the Cafeteria located at Griswold Middle School, 211 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Stuart Norman, Jr., Griswold Board of Education Chair.

PRESENT Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Chair; Terry Cholewa, BOE Vice Chair; Kimberly Neilson, BOE Secretary; Yvonne Palasky, Cathy Waselik and Eileen Ego, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT Sean McKenna, Griswold Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Erik Christensen, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Patricia Feeney & Jessica Gillespie, GPS Directors of the TLI Department.

ABSENT Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, BOE Member; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus-Wide Activities & Athletic Director; and Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Board, administration and audience members performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION By Terry Cholewa
Seconded by Kimberly Neilson
To add agenda item 8D – Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Authorize the Chair and the Superintendent to Sign Eastern Connecticut Regional Letter Advocating for a Reconsideration of Special Education Funding from the State of Connecticut.
Motion unanimously carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Regular Minutes-January 22nd, 2026

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To approve the regular meeting minutes of January 22nd, 2026, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

B. Special Meeting - February 5th, 2026

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To approve the special meeting minutes of February 5th, 2026, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

C. Special Meeting - February 9th, 2026

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To approve the special meeting minutes of February 9th, 2026, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications

A. January 30, 2026 , Letter to First Selectwoman, Tina Falck, on 2nd Quarter Financial Report for FY '26

B. January 23, 2026, Letter to Jim Barnie, Chair of the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee, Request for Consideration of Board of Education Capital Plan Priorities

The Board received a copy of communications above, 4 A and 4b.

5. Awards/Recognitions

A. Honoring our Griswold Forward Recipient for the Month of February, 2026 - Isiah Lovell, GES PE Teacher
– The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized Isiah Lovell, GES Physical Education teacher, for his contributions through the Griswold *Forward* Recognition Program and expressed their appreciation for his dedication and service.

6. Student Representative Report

A. GES Student Representative - Silas Chilcote

B. GMS Student Representative - Delilah Munoz

C. GHS Student Representatives - Judy Lanphear & Avery Brown

Student representatives listed above provided updates to the Board on student activities occurring at GES, GMS and GHS.

7. Public Comment – There were no public comments to add to the minutes from this evening's meeting.

8. New Business

A. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 0521 - Mission-Goals-Objectives, First Reading – The Board had a first reading on revised policy 0521 and will bring it forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and possible action to approve.

- B. Review and Discussion on Revised Regulation 0521 - Mission-Goals-Objectives, First Reading - The Board had a first reading on revised regulation 0521 and will bring it forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and possible action to approve.

BOE member, Terry Cholewa, excused herself from the BOE meeting at this time.

C. Gifts/Donations

1. Tanger Kids Grant Foundation - \$500 Award to GHS Interventionist - Stephanie Rourke
2. Tanger Kids Grant Foundation - \$500 Award to GHS Special Education Teacher - Jill Long

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To approve the \$500 award to GHS Interventionist, Stephanie Rourke, from the Tanger Kids Foundation, with gratitude.

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To approve the \$500 award to GHS Special Education Teacher, Jill Long, from the Tanger Kids Foundation, with gratitude.

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Authorize the Chair and the Superintendent to Sign Eastern Connecticut Regional Letter Advocating for a Reconsideration of Special Education Funding from the State of Connecticut

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To authorize the Chair and the Superintendent to sign Eastern CT regional letter advocating for a reconsideration of special education funding from the State of Connecticut.

Motion unanimously carried.

9. Old Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Initial Budget Proposal for the 2026/2027 School Year – The Superintendent confirmed that the BOE met on Monday evening of this week for a budget workshop and deliberated extensively on the budget. They lowered the initial budget proposal from 6.98% to 4.97%. They voted on Monday evening to adopt a budget of \$34,555,848, which is \$1,634,990 over last year’s budget. This budget proposal will now move forward on Friday to the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance.
- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Update the Board of Education Capital Committee Proposed Projects for the 2026-2027 School Year - Cathy Waselik provided an update to the Board on the recent

Capital Committee meeting that took place, providing details on how capital items were prioritized on the list of improvements. The BOE Chair tabled any further discussion at this time.

10. Administrators' Reports

- A. Update on GPS Building Mid-Year Goals from GES, GMS and GHS Administrators, Joseph Bordeau, Louis Zubek, and Erin Palonen – The Board received detailed mid-year progress reports from Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal, Louis Zubek and Steven Bourque, GMS Principal & Assistant Principal, and Erin Palonen, and Arthur Howe, GHS Principal & Associate Principal, on academic initiatives, student support efforts, staff development, and other priorities aligned to district goals, along with plans for continued implementation during the second half of the year.

Terry Cholewa returned to the meeting at 6:40 PM during the GMS mid-year goals presentation.

Terry Cholewa left the meeting at 6:52 PM during the GHS mid-year goals presentation.

- B. Teaching, Learning, and Innovation Semi-Annual Report - Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, and Patricia Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, GPS Directors of Teaching, Learning and Innovation – The Board received a semi-annual update from the TLI Department, outlining the ongoing work of the department. Topics included curriculum development and alignment, instructional practices, assessment initiatives, professional learning, data review, and other areas within the department's scope of responsibility.

11. Superintendent's Report

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

B. Timely Updates:

1. Presentation to Norwich Board of Education
2. District Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee
3. Future-Focused VanGuard Group
4. Labor Relations Monthly Meeting
5. Student Shadow Day at Griswold High School

The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on timely updates 1-5 listed above.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee Update - Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky, Chair of the Policy subcommittee, on the recent work of the committee
- B. Athletic Subcommittee Update - Chair of the Athletic Subcommittee – The Board received an update from Cathy Waselik, Chair of the Athletic subcommittee, on the recent work of the committee.
- C. Facilities Subcommittee Update - Chair of the Facilities Subcommittee – The Board received an update from Kimberly Neilson, Chair of the Facilities subcommittee, on the work of the committee.

D. DPAC Committee Update - Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on the recent DPAC Committee meeting that took place.

E. Capital Committee Update – Cathy Waselik – The Board received an update from Cathy Waselik on the recent Capital Committee meeting that took place.

13. Other Business that May Properly Come before This Board – The Superintendent shared with the Board that he sent out two invitations for upcoming events.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To adjourn the regular BOE meeting at 7:10 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak