

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
March 12, 2026**

GBE approved March 26, 2026

1. Call to Order - A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 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, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Cathy Waselik and Eileen Ego, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT

Sean McKenna, Griswold Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; and Patricia Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, GPS Directors of Teaching, Learning and Innovation.

ABSENT

Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus-Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Erik Christensen, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; and Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Board, administration and audience members performed the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Regular Minutes-February 26th, 2026

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To approve the regular meeting minutes of February 26th, 2026, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications

- A. Regional Letter Signed by Stuart R. Norman, Jr., Chair, & Sean McKenna, Superintendent and Submitted to State of Connecticut Legislature – The Board received a copy of the regional letter signed by Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Chair, and Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Schools, regarding the growing and unsustainable impact of special education costs on local school budgets, particularly for small and rural communities.

5. Student Representative Report

- 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 from GES, GMS, and GHS on activities occurring in their school buildings.

6. Awards/Recognitions

- A. Recognizing our *Griswold Forward* Recipient - Kristen Butremovic – The Board, the superintendent, administrators, and audience members recognized Kristen Butremovic, GMS Health teacher, as the *Griswold Forward* recipient for the month of March, 2026.

- B. Recognizing our *Griswold Outstanding Employees of the Third Quarter* - Tom Verville, Mike Millovitsch, John Henn, Marc Cote, Gary Buffin, and Shirley Wade – The Board, the superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized members of our custodial, buildings & grounds staff who worked tirelessly this winter with snow removal after the recent blizzard that occurred. These staff members removed snow and prepared our roads, sidewalks, and parking areas to allow our district to re-open the doors. We are pleased to recognize Tom Verville, Mike Millovitsch, John Henn, Marc Cote, Gary Buffin, and Shirley Wade as Griswold’s choice for outstanding employees for the third quarter of the 2025/2026 school year.

- C. Recognizing the Griswold Board of Education for “Board of Education Appreciation Month” – The District recognized member of our Griswold Board of Education during the meeting in honor of Boards of Education Appreciation Month. Administration expressed appreciation for the Board’s ongoing leadership, dedication, and commitment to the students, staff, and community of Griswold Public Schools. Board members were thanked for the time and effort they devote to supporting the mission and success of the district.

The Board recessed at 6:20 PM for refreshments.

The Board re-convened at 6:29 PM.

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

8. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve a Griswold High School Field Trip Proposal to Philadelphia from November 20 - 22, 2026 – The Board approved a field trip proposal to Philadelphia from November 13 – 15, 2026, as presented. The trip dates were adjusted from the original date of November 20-22, 2026 to November 13 – 15, 2026.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To approve the GHS field trip proposal to Philadelphia from November 13 – 15, 2026, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

B. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Vote for Participation in the Healthy Food Option of the Healthy Food Certification Program

MOTION

By Eileen Ego

Seconded by Terry Cholewa

That pursuant to CGS 10-215f, the Griswold Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the CT Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the CT nutrition standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Motion unanimously carried.

C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Food Exemptions to the Healthy Food Certification Program

MOTION

By Eileen Ego

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

That the Griswold Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 1-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in Connecticut with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

9. Old Business

A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Initial Budget Proposal for the 2026/2027 School Year

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

That we table this item at this time until the conclusion of the budget development season.

Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Update the Board of Education Capital Committee Proposed Projects for the 2026-2027 School Year - The Superintendent reported that priority item #5 on the list of capital committee projects for the 2026/2027 school year can be reduced by \$10,000 because of a donation offered by the GPS Music department. The number will reduce from \$29,100 to \$19,100. The Superintendent will provide this adjustment information to the Capital Committee through the Town of Griswold so that the cost for priority item #5 can be reduced.

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To approve the \$10,000 contribution from the Music Department to adjust the cost on capital item priority #5.

Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrators' Reports

- A. Semi-Annual Technology Report - Kyle Gunderman – The Board received a semi-annual update from Kyle Gunderman, GPS Director of Technology, regarding the work of the Technology Department throughout the school year.
- B. Update/Report on AimsWeb Data - TLI Department – The Board received an update from TLI Department Directors, Patricia Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, on student assessment data from AimsWeb testing.

11. Superintendent's Report

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

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance – There Board recently received an update from Sean McKenna, Griswold Superintendent of Schools, on the recent Town of Griswold, Board of Finance meeting that took place with nothing more to update at this time. Cathy Waselik made mention that the capital committee did revise the list of priority items.

13. Other Business that May Properly Come before the Board – The Superintendent asked Board members for their preference regarding receiving meeting packets in hard copy or electronically for future meetings. It was noted that hard copies would continue to be provided during the budget season.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To adjourn the regular BOE meeting at 7:15 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak