

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
April 9, 2026**

GBE approved 4/20/2026

1. Call to Order - A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 9th, 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 Terry Cholewa, Griswold Board of Education Vice-Chair.

PRESENT

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; Katy Sawaryn, GPS Assistant Director of Student Services; 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; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; and Thomas O'Connor, GPS Food Service Director.

ABSENT

Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Chair; Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant 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-March 26th, 2026

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To approve the regular meeting minutes of March 26th, 2026, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications – There were no communications to discuss.
5. Student Representative Report
 - A. GES Student Representatives - Ella Canestrari & Silas Chilcote
 - B. GMS Student Representatives - Delilah Munoz & Olivia Henson
 - C. GHS Student Representative - Avery Brown

Student representatives from GES and GHS provided an update to the Board on student activities occurring in each school building on campus. Because the GMS student representatives could not attend this evening's meeting, Mr. Louis Zubek, GMS Principal, provided the update on student activities at GMS.

5. Awards/Recognitions

- A. Recognizing GHS Student Athletes – Kaiden Kazlauskas & Kolby Mills – The Board, the superintendent, administrators, and audience members were pleased to recognize Kaiden Kazlauskas and Kolby Mills for achieving the milestone status of scoring 1,000 career points during the 2025/2026 basketball season at GHS.
- B. Recognizing our *Griswold Forward* for the Month of April 2026 – Logan Tonucci, GHS – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized Logan Tonucci, GHS Social Studies teacher, for being chosen as the district's *Griswold Forward* recipient for the month of April 2026.

The Board recessed at 6:15 PM.

The Board re-convened at 6: 20 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 the Following New Course Proposals:

- 1. AP Seminar
- 2. Mathematics in Sports
- 3. UConn ECE: Introduction to Special Education
- 4. Upside Down Worlds: Dante's The Inferno & Netflix's Stranger Things

The Board approved the new course proposals for AP Seminar, Mathematics in Sports, UConn ECE: Introduction to Special Education and Upside Down Worlds: Dante's The Inferno & Netflix's Stranger Things, as proposed.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To approve the new course proposals for AP Seminar, Mathematics in Sports, UConn ECE: Introduction to Special Education and Upside Down Worlds: Dante's The Inferno & Netflix's Stranger Things, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

A. Gifts/Donations

- 1. Donation of \$591.95 to GES on Behalf of ahold delhaize USA, Parent Company of Stop & Shop, for Participation in a Partnership/Sponsorship Program with their Company

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To accept the generous donation \$591.95 to GES on Behalf of ahold delhaize USA, Parent Company of Stop & Shop, for Participation in a Partnership/Sponsorship Program with their Company, with gratitude.
Motion unanimously carried.

9. Old Business

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

MOTION

By Eileen Ego

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To table any action on the initial budget proposal for the 2026/2027 school year.
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

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To table any action on the Board of Education Capital Committee proposed projects for the 2026/2027 school year.
Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrators' Reports

- A. Semi-Annual Student Services Update – The Board received a semi-annual update from Thomas O'Connor, GPS Food Service Director, on the work of the Food Services department. He provided details on staffing numbers for the department, the number of the free & reduced participation rates for students who qualify, capital projects that are taking place for the 2025/2026 school year, and it is important to note that the department remains financially stable.

11. Superintendent's Report

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

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee Update –Yvonne Palasky reported that the Policy subcommittee did not meet this week as planned.

B. Facilities Subcommittee Update – Kimberly Neilson, Chair of the Facilities subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee did not meet this week as planned.

C. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance – No discussion on this matter at this time.

13. Other Business that May Properly Come before the Board – The Superintendent reported that he met with union representatives today to discuss the budget cuts. He also shared some great news on so many students planning for college and life beyond high school.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To adjourn the regular BOE meeting at 6:45 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak