

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
May 14th, 2026**

GBE approved May 28, 2026

1. Call to Order - A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 14th, 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., BOE Chair.

PRESENT

Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Chair; Terry Cholewa, BOE Vice Chair (entered at 6:30 PM); Kimberly Neilson, BOE Secretary; Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, and Eileen Ego, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT

Sean McKenna, Griswold Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Katy Sawaryn, GPS Assistant Director of Student Services; 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, GPS Director of TLI; and Jaselyn Caviness, GPS Director of Wolverine Before/After School Program.

ABSENT

Cathy Waselik, Griswold BOE Member; 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. Special Minutes-April 20th, 2026

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To approve the special meeting minutes of April 20th, 2026, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Special Minutes – April 29, 2026

MOTION

By Eileen Ego

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To approve the special meeting minutes of April 29, 2026, as presented.

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

Nays –

Abstain – Yvonne Palasky and Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton.

Motion 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, GMS and GHS provided an update to the Board on student activities occurring in each school building on campus.

5. Awards/Recognitions

A. Recognizing and Thanking our GPS Student Representatives for their Reporting and Updates on Student Activities during the 2025/2026 School Year

B. Recognizing GES Student Emmett Michaud for Winning a \$5,000 School Technology Prize for his Outstanding Achievement in the CHET Dream Big! Competition

C. Recognizing our CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Student Leadership Award Recipients for GMS - Veronika Chupakhina and Natalie Gomez

D. Recognizing our CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) Middle Level Scholar Leaders for GMS - Kennedy Collier and Delilah Munoz

E. Recognizing our CABE (Connecticut Association of Board of Education) Student Leadership Award Recipients for GHS - Emma Martin and Ethan Blanchette

F. Recognizing our CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) Scholar Athletes for GHS - Breanne Harraka and Kolby Mills

G. Recognizing our CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) Performing Arts Award Recipient for GHS - Sydney Churchill

H. Recognizing our CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) Visual Arts Award Recipient for GHS - Ashlynn O'Connor

The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized several students listed above from A-H from GES, GMS, and GHS for their outstanding accomplishments, including recognition of CABE student leaders, CAS award recipients, and student representatives for their service to the Board of Education. The Board also recognized a grade 2 student for winning a contest that awarded a \$5,000 technology grant to his school.

The Board recessed at 6:15 PM.

The Board re-convened at 6: 20 PM.

Terry Cholewa, Griswold BOE Member, entered at 6:20 PM.

7. Public Comment – During the Public Comment section of the Board of Education meeting this evening, Matthew Danieluk, of 12 Tyler Terrace in Griswold, a resident of Griswold and employee of the Griswold Public Schools, shared some concerns. As a written copy of the comments was not provided, the complete statement may be heard by accessing the Board of Education recording posted to the Griswold Public Schools' website.

8. New Business

A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve a Griswold High School Trip Proposal to Disney, Florida, during the 2026/2027 School Year

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To approve the GHS trip proposal to Disney Florida, during the 2026/2027 school year, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

B. Update from the Athletic Booster Club – Members of the Griswold Athletic Booster Club provided a presentation to the Griswold Board of Education highlighting the many ways the organization supports student athletes and athletic programs throughout the district. The presentation emphasized the positive impact the Booster Club has on strengthening school spirit, student opportunities, and the Griswold community as a whole.

C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Authorize the Filing of FCC Form 471, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Program Services Ordered for Fiscal Year, 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027

MOTION

By Eileen Ego

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To authorize the filing of FCC Form 471, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Program Services ordered for the fiscal year 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027.

Motion unanimously carried.

D. Gifts/Donations

1. Griswold Youth & Family Services Donation of \$1,010 in Walmart Gift Cards to Griswold Middle School

MOTION

By Terry Cholewa

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To accept the generous donation of \$1,010.00 in Walmart Gift cards to Griswold Middle School on behalf of Griswold Youth and Family Services.

2. Griswold Youth & Family Services Donation of \$985.00 in Walmart Gift Cards to Griswold High School

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To accept the generous donation of \$985 in Walmart Gift cards to Griswold High School on behalf of Griswold Youth and Family Services.

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 Yvonne Palasky

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 Kimberly Neilson

Seconded by Terry Cholewa

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. Wolverine Forward Before/After School Program Report/Update – Jaselyn Caviness – GPS Director of the Wolverine Before/After School Program, Jaselyn Caviness, provided an update to the Board on the before and after school program. Some of the highlights of her presentation included the following: They have had the highest enrollment numbers since the program opened, the program is completely self-funded through parent/tuition fees and it is supplemented by a CSDE after school grant, and new of a new grant award in the amount of \$232,600 over two years and how that grant money will be used to supplement the program.

11. Superintendent's Report

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

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Facilities Subcommittee Update – Kimberly Neilson provided an update to the Board on the outcome of the recent Facilities meeting that took place.
- B. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance – The Superintendent provided an update on the outcome of the recent Town of Griswold, Board of Finance meeting that took place.

13. Other Business that May Properly Come before the Board – Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Griswold BOE Member, shared her concern for abiding by our Bylaws when discussing matters related to personnel.

Kimberly Neilson inquired about whether the BOE could obtain copies of resignation letters from our staff members.

Terry Cholewa shared her perspective on what a great job Miss Harris did with the first grade choral concert that occurred this evening.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To adjourn the regular BOE meeting at 7:28 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak