

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
May 28th, 2026**

GBE approved 6/3/2026

1. Call to Order - A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 28th, 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; Kimberly Neilson (participated by phone), 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; Erik Christensen, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; and Patricia Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, GPS Directors of TLI.

ABSENT

Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; 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. Special Minutes-May 7th, 2026

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Terry Cholewa
To approve the special meeting minutes of May 7th, 2026, as presented.
Ayes – Stuart Norman, Jr., Terry Cholewa, Kimberly Neilson, Yvonne Palasky, and Cathy Waselik
Nay –
Abstain – Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton and Eileen Ego
Motion carried.

- B. Regular Minutes – May 14th, 2026

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Terry Cholewa
To approve the regular meeting minutes of May 14th, 2026, as presented.

Ayes – Stuart Norman, Jr., Terry Cholewa, Kimberly Neilson, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, and Eileen Ego
Nays –
Abstain – Cathy Waselik
Motion carried.

C. Special Meeting – May 26th, 2026

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To approve the special meeting minutes of May 26th, 2026, as presented.
Ayes – Terry Cholewa, Kimberly Neilson, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neal-Eaton, and Cathy Waselik
Nays –
Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr. and Eileen Ego
Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications – There were no communications to discuss.

5. Awards/Recognitions

A. Recognizing GHS Senior - Michael Capalbo - for Achieving 100 Career Wins in Wrestling at GHS – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members recognized one of our outstanding students at GHS, Michael Capalbo, for his outstanding achievement in 100 career wins in wrestling during the winter season at Griswold High School.

B. Recognizing Our GPS Distinguished Retirees for the 2025/2026 School Year

1. Raymond Churchill - GHS
2. Brenda Sanborn - GES
3. Rose Otten-Paggioli – GES

The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members took time to honor and recognize three of our distinguished retirees for their many years of service to the Griswold Public Schools. Those recognized were Raymond Churchill, GHS Music Teacher; Brenda Sanborn, GES Technology Teacher; and Rose Otten-Paggiolo, GES Health and Physical Education Teacher.

C. Recognizing our GPS Outstanding Employee for the 4th Quarter of the 2025/2026 School Year - John Cormier, Griswold High School – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members took time to recognize John Cormier, who was chosen as the district’s outstanding employee for the 4th quarter of the 2025/2026 school year. Mr. Cormier is a school psychologist at Griswold High School.

D. Recognizing Griswold Pride’s Miranda Mahoney and SERAC (Southeastern Regional Action Council) for Securing a \$10,000 Grant for Griswold Public Schools – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and

audience members took time to recognize Miranda Mahoney and SERAC for securing a \$10,000 grant for the Griswold Public Schools.

6. Public Comment - Mary Beth Malin, who resides at 11 Pequot Trail in Griswold, CT, shared her support for the town and school budgets for the 2026/2027 school year. She encouraged everyone to support the budget and asked that everyone maintain professionalism through the process.
7. New Business
 - A. Review and Discussion on New Policy 6141.3273/4118.53/4218.53--Instruction - Personnel--Certified--Non-Certified--Electronic Resources--Generative AI (first reading) – The Board had a first reading on new policies 6141.3273, 4118.53/4218.53 and they will be brought forward to the next regular Board of Education meeting for review, discussion and possible action to approve.
 - B. Review and Discussion on New Regulation 6141.3273/4118.53/4218.53--Instruction - Personnel--Certified--Non-Certified--Electronic Resources--Generative AI (first reading) – The Board had a first reading on new regulations 6141.3273 and 4118.53/4218.53 and they will be brought forward to the next regular Board of Education meeting for review, discussion, and possible action to approve.
 - C. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 2120--Administration--Organizational Chart (first reading) – The Board had a first reading on revised policy 2120 and will bring it forward to the next regular Board of Education meeting for review, discussion, and possible action to approve.
 - D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the Proposal for a Griswold Hall of Fame at Griswold High School – The Board heard a proposal from Dana Cooke, GHS Math Teacher, on creating a Griswold Hall of Fame to recognize outstanding students and athletes for their accomplishments. He shared a presentation on what this proposal will look like.

MOTION

By Terry Cholewa

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To accept the proposal for a Griswold High School Hall of Fame at Griswold High School.

Motion unanimously carried.

E. Gifts/Donations

1. SERAC Underage Nicotine Prevention Program (UNPP) Community Mini Grant in the Amount of \$10,000 on Behalf of Miranda Mahoney and Griswold Pride

MOTION

By Terry Cholewa

Seconded by Eileen Ego

To accept the generous gift/grant of \$10,000 on behalf of Miranda Mahoney and Griswold Pride for the SERAC Underage Nicotine

Prevention Program Community Mini-Grant with a special thank you to

Miranda Mahoney, Christopher Champlin and the GPS Assistant Principals for their work on this grant.

Motion unanimously carried.

8. Old Business

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

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson

Seconded by Eileen Ego

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

Motion unanimously carried.

Note: At this time, Board Chair, Stuart Norman, Jr., took a moment to thank Mary Beth Malin for sharing her support of the school budget for the 2026/2027 school year.

B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Update the Board of Education Capital Committee Proposed Projects for the 2026-2027 School Year

MOTION

By Eileen Ego

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

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

Motion unanimously carried.

9. Administrators' Reports

A. 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 status of the 2025/2026 school budget and was encouraged to share that we should finish the year in a positive position.

B. Update on Internal Accounts for GES, GMS and GHS 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 balances for the student activity internal accounts at GES, GMS and GHS.

C. Update on Building Goals for the 2025-2026 School Year--GES Principal, Joe Bordeaux; GMS Principal, Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; and Erin Palonen, GHS Principal – The Board received an update from GPS principals, Joseph Bordeaux, Louis Zubek, and Erin Palonen, on progress towards their building goals for the 2025/2026 school year.

D. Assistant Superintendent Update

1. Update on Curriculum – The Board received an update from Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, on Social Studies curriculum, which is close to being completed and will be brought forward to a future BOE meeting.

2. Update on Professional Development Day - May 22, 2026 – The Board received an update from Glen LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, on the professional development day that took place on May 22, 2026.

10. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations/Retirements – The Board received a list of vacancies, appointments, and resignations and retirements.
- B. Superintendent Updates – The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on where things stand with the new insurance plan through Connecticut Partnership Plan for the GPS district employees. He also shared that nominations for Volunteer of the Year have been announced with a call for nominations. Lastly, he updated the Board on Governor Lamont's and the Connecticut State Department of Education's focus on "Get Out and Play", which Griswold Public Schools celebrated this event on Friday, May 22nd.
- C. *End of Year Evaluation Meeting of Superintendent Sean McKenna – to be conducted in Executive Session – This item will be referred and discussed in executive session following the regular business portion of this meeting.

11. 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 meeting that took place and the work of the committee.
 - B. Public Relations Subcommittee Update – Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton – The Board received an update from Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Chair of the Public Relations subcommittee, on the recent meeting that took place and the work of the committee.
 - C. TLI Subcommittee Update – Terry Cholewa – The Board received an update from Terry Cholewa, Chair of the TLI Subcommittee, on their recent meeting that took place and the work of the committee.
 - D. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance – Superintendent, Sean McKenna, provided an update to the Board on the recent Town of Griswold, Board of Finance meeting that took place.
13. Other Business that May Properly Come before the Board – Superintendent Sean McKenna shared that marketing work will be taking place on Monday, including an updated drone photograph of the campus. He also announced that Ray Churchill will be receiving a commendation from State Representatives Heather Somers and Brian Lanoue. Lastly, the Superintendent reported that a special Board of Education meeting has been scheduled for June 3, 2026, following the town referendum, in order to make any necessary budget adjustments. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Terry Cholewa thanked the principals for sharing their updates this evening, including information related to school climate and culture. She also noted that the previous evening was a wonderful night for the district, with many activities taking place across the campuses. In addition, she expressed special appreciation to the sponsors and community members whose continued support helps create opportunities and a strong future for our students.

Kimberly Neilson shared a reminder to the public not only to vote on June 2, 2026, but that absentee ballots are an option.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

To move into executive session at 7:49 PM for the purpose of reviewing item 10C - *End of Year Self Evaluation Meeting of the Superintendent Sean McKenna, and inviting Superintendent Sean McKenna into executive session.

Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:25 PM with no action taken.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Cathy Waselik

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To adjourn the regular BOE meeting at 8:25 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak/Sean McKenna