

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
October 22nd, 2026**

DRAFT

1. Call to Order - A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 8th, 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; Kimberly Neilson, BOE Secretary; Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Cathy Waselik and Eileen Ego, 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; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Patricia Feeney, GPS Director of TLI; Thomas Verville, GPS Facilities Director; Jaselyn Caviness, GPS Director of Wolverine Before/After School Program; and Kayla Hedman, GPS Community Relations & Special Projects Coordinator.

ABSENT

Terry Cholewa, BOE Vice Chair; Katy Sawaryn, GPS Assistant Director of Student Services & Early Childhood; Steven Bourque, GMS Assistant Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; and Jessica Gillespie, GPS Director of TLI.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Board, the superintendent, administration, and audience members performed the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Regular Meeting Minutes – October 8th, 2026

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Kimberly Neilson

To approve the regular meeting minutes of October 8th, 2026, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications – There were no communications this evening.
5. Awards/Recognitions
 - A. Recognizing and Honoring our Advanced Placement Scholars at Griswold High School - Tristan Austin, Ryan Czmyr, Micah Hamel, Tycen LaBelle, Sean Silva, Bianca Tedeschi - The Board, the superintendent,

administrators and audience members recognized six Griswold High School students for their achievement as Advanced Placement Scholars based on their performance on the spring 2026 AP examinations.

The Board recessed at 6:06 PM

The Board re-convened at 6:10 PM.

6. Public Comment – There were no Public Comments this evening.

7. New Business

A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Griswold Board of Education Regularly Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2027 to be forwarded to the Town Clerk's Office for the Town of Griswold per State Statute 1-255 - The Board approved the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting dates for 2027, as presented.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To approve the Griswold Board of Education Regularly Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2027 to be forwarded to the Town Clerk's Office for the Town of Griswold per State Statute 1-255, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

8. Old Business

A. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Appoint Griswold BOE Member to the EASTCONN Board – The Board tabled any action on the appointment of a Griswold Board of Education member to the Eastconn Board.

MOTION

By Kimberly Neilson

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To authorize the Superintendent to contact EASTCONN to inform them that our BOE members are not available to participate on the EASTCONN Board.

Motion unanimously carried.

9. Administrators' Reports

A. Wolverine Forward Before/After School Program Update - Jaselyn Caviness – The Board was provided with an update from Jaselyn Caviness on the Wolverine Forward Before/After School Program, highlighting program operations, student participation, grant enhancements and activities offered to students.

B. Financial Forecast Update, Including Quarter 1, 2026/2027 - Erik Christensen – The Board received an update from Erik Christensen, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the current status of the 2026/2027 school budget.

- C. Facilities Department Update - Thomas Verville – The Board received an update from Thomas Verville, GPS Director of Facilities, which included ongoing maintenance, building operations, and facility improvement projects throughout the district. The update highlighted efforts to maintain safe, clean, and functional learning environments for students and staff, as well as current and upcoming projects to address district facility needs.
- D. Communications & Marketing Update - Kayla Hedman - Kayla Hedman, Communications & Marketing Director, provided the Board with an update on the district’s communications and marketing efforts, highlighting changes and advancements made over the past five years. The presentation included an overview of marketing initiatives at Griswold High School, efforts to promote student achievements and district programs, and collaborations with school administrators, staff, and community partners to strengthen communication and increase public awareness of Griswold Public Schools. Kayla also reviewed available communication resources and shared her contact information to assist with future communications, marketing requests, and opportunities to highlight district news and accomplishments.

10. Assistant Superintendent’s Report

- A. Update on TLI/PDEC Meetings
- B. Update on Learning Access & Opportunities Meeting

The Board received an update from Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, on the TLI/PDEC upcoming meeting that will be taking place. The Board received an update from Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services, on the recent Learner Access & Opportunities meeting that took place.

11. Superintendent’s Report

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

- B. Superintendent Updates

- 1. Emergency Plan
- 2. Information Security Incident Response Plan
- 3. Thank You, First Selectman Tina Falck & Town of Griswold for Helping at Soule Street Academy
- 4. Thank You, Miranda Mahoney for her Assistance with Red Ribbon Week in Griswold

The Board received an update from Superintendent Sean McKenna, on topics 1-4 above.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. 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.

13. Other Business that May Properly Come before the Board – Stuart Norman, Jr. requested a correction to the record, clarifying that Terry Cholewa, BOE Vice-Chair, was not present in person at tonight’s meeting. He noted that he had stated at the beginning of the meeting that Terry would be participating virtually.

Stuart Norman, Jr., asked the Superintendent questions regarding the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the school system, including its use in instruction, grading, and other educational practices. He requested that the Superintendent prepare a report on AI and its implications for education to share with Board members at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Eileen Ego

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To adjourn the regular BOE meeting at 6:50 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak