

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
January 10, 2011**

GBE approved 1/24/11

A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Monday, January 10, 2011 at the Griswold High School Board of Education meeting room, 1st floor. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman, Elizabeth Dorff.

PRESENT Elizabeth Dorff, BOE Chairman; Stuart Norman Jr., BOE Vice Chairman; Kimberly Brunelle, BOE Secretary; Laurie Sorder, Dr. Theresa Madonna and Frank Everett, BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Paul Freeman, Superintendent of Schools; Madeline Illinger, Director of Special Education & Services; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Susan Rourke, GES Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Assistant Principal; Thanh Nguyen, GMS Principal; Sarah Cary, GMS Assistant Principal and Griswold Alternative School Principal; Matthew Peel, GHS Associate Principal; Craig Goyette & Parents; Maranda Viens & Parents; Valerie Grills & Yvonne Palasky, PAC Committee members; GHS Girls Cross Team & Parents; Glenn LaBossiere, Athletic Director; Sharon Briggs; GHS PE Teacher; and Erin Palonen, GHS Teacher.

ABSENT Dr. John DiIorio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Dr. Mark Frizzell, GHS Principal; and Ken Fitzgerald; BOE Member.

Board of Education Chairman Elizabeth Dorff reported that this is the Board's first meeting since the tragic car accident that took the lives of four of our high school students: Sativa Cornell, Dylan Clifford, John Clapper and Steven Szklarz. She asked the audience to take a moment of silence in memory of those students who lost their lives and to remember Joel Gallup, the student who still continues to recover from the accident.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Laurie Sorder
To approve the regular meeting minutes of November 22, 2010, as presented.
Ayes – Elizabeth Dorff, Stuart Norman, Jr., Laurie Sorder and Frank Everett
Nays –
Abstain – Kimberly Brunelle and Dr. Theresa Madonna
Motion carried.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Frank Everett
To approve the special meeting minutes of January 3, 2011,
as presented.
Ayes – Elizabeth Dorff, Stuart Norman, Jr., Kimberly
Brunelle, Laurie Sorder and Frank Everett
Nays –
Abstain – Dr. Theresa Madonna
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Thank you Card from the Family of Stanley Drobiak – BOE Chairman Elizabeth Dorff shared a note from the family of Stanley Drobiak thanking the Board for the flowers sent in his memory.
- B. Thank you Letter to Surrell’s Family Pizza & Pub – BOE Chairman Elizabeth Dorff reviewed a letter sent to Surrell’s Family Pizza & Pub from Special Education Director, Madeline Illinger, thanking them for the monetary gift of \$2,500 to support our children with Autism who attend GPS.
- C. 2010-11 School Year Certification Verification Survey from the CT State Dept. of Education – BOE Chairman Elizabeth Dorff reviewed a letter from the Connecticut State Department of Education indicating that the Griswold School district is in full compliance with CGS, Sec. 10-145 (a), noting that all teachers, supervisors, administrators, special service staff members and the school superintendent are appropriately certified.
- D. A Letter from the Chariho Regional School District Committee Chairman – BOE Chairman Elizabeth Dorff shared a communication from the BOE Chairman of the Chariho Regional School District who sent their deepest condolences for the loss of our high school students in a recent car accident. Mrs. Dorff responded back to the Chariho District thanking them for their letter.

HEARINGS AND REQUESTS

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. CAPSS Student Awards – The Board recognized two student recipients for this year’s CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) awards. These awards are based on community service and service to others, academic prowess and leadership service to the school community. Recognized as this year’s recipients by Superintendent Dr. Paul Freeman, Associate Principal Matthew Peel, and the Board are: Maranda Viens and Craig Goyette. Congratulations!

- B. GHS Girls Cross Country State Champions – The Board recognized the girls cross country team who won both the ECC’s and Class “SS” state championships this year. Mr. Glenn LaBossiere, GHS Athletic Director, shared in speaking on behalf of the champions. A token gift was presented to the following athletes: Stephanie Messier, Courtney Magario, Kendall McGrath, Krystn LaRose, Magen Faxlanger, Alyssa Brehler, Jenna Bromley, Alyssa Moore, Taylor Dixon, and Coach Mike Flynn. Congratulations!

- C. Professional Service Award Recognition – Sharon Briggs – The Board, along with Superintendent Dr. Paul Freeman and Athletic Director Glenn LaBossiere, recognized Sharon Briggs, GHS Teacher, as the recipient of a Professional Service award in the field of Physical Education by the Connecticut Association for Health, PE, Recreation and Dance. Sharon was the former president of the CAHPERD. She was presented with a plaque and a bouquet of flowers. Congratulations Mrs. Briggs!

- D. Griswold Youth Basketball Fee Waiver Request – The Griswold Youth Basketball program has come before the Board to request that the Sunday fees charged for use of facilities be charged at the Saturday rates.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
 Seconded by Dr. Theresa Madonna
 To approve the request from the Griswold Youth Basketball program to charge Saturday rates for Sunday use of facility fees.
 Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Battleship Cove Trip Approval – GES Principal Susan Rourke presented details of the annual trip request to Battleship Cove, Massachusetts, requested by Gifted and Talented Teacher, Russ Salvador.

MOTION

By Frank Everett
 Seconded by Stuart Norman, Jr.
 To approve the annual trip to Battleship Cove, as presented.
 Motion unanimously carried.

- F. 2011-2012 Budget Overview – Districtwide – Superintendent Paul Freeman indicated that this is the first presentation to kick off the 2011-12 budget season. Dr. Freeman presented the administrative portion of the 2011-12 budget. Included in the presentation were the following items: GPS mission, GPS goals for 2010-11, budget priorities, a district-wide overview, four year comparison of the budget figures, what is driving the 4.34 increase, staffing proposals and reductions and efficiencies.
- G. 2011-2012 Budget Overview – Special Education – Director of Special Education & Services Madeline Illinger presented the Special Education portion of the 2011-12 budget proposal. Including in her presentation were the following items: Special Education mission, special education past/current enrollment comparisons and notable increases/decreases to the budget.
- H. Letters to Senator Andrew Maynard and State Representative Steve Mikutel – The Superintendent encouraged the Board to accept a letter written to our local state senator and representative advising them of the importance of the ECS grant to Griswold Public Schools and requesting their support of fully funding the ECS grant. A draft of the letters was provided to each BOE member for review. The Board accepted the letters as written and signed them, which will be forwarded to our representatives.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 2011 Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee Board Approval – The following individuals have been nominated to serve on this year’s 2011 Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee: Matthew Peel, Doug Craig, Sandy Grabowski, Julie Groene, Karen Porzio and Laurie Sorder. The Board took action to approve this year’s committee.

MOTION

By Frank Everett
Seconded by Dr. Theresa Madonna
To approve the Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship committee, as presented, for 2011.
Motion unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

- A. 2011-2011 Out of District Summary Report – Director of Special Education & Services Madeline Illinger presented an out-of-district summary report to the Board. The report detailed the number of students placed out of district, tuition rates, transportation costs, whether students were placed by Griswold Public Schools or outside agencies, tuition costs for each student and excess cost based on a conservative 50% reimbursement rate.

- B. Individuals w/Disabilities Education Act Fiscal Compliance Report – Director of Special Education & Services Madeline Illinger reported that the federal government is requiring the state of CT to conduct a fiscal desk audit on the IDEA grant and they are starting with two regions in the state. EASTCONN, our RESC, is one of the two regions to be audited. The desk audit is being conducted to ensure that IDEA grant monies are being used correctly. Mrs. Illinger met with EASTCONN and area special education directors recently. She reported that Shipman and Goodwin drafted procedures addressing this desk audit. Mrs. Illinger took the procedures and made a few adjustments and would like to use these procedures and make them a part of Griswold’s special education procedural manual. The Superintendent reported that no action is necessary from the BOE but it should be noted in the minutes that this document was presented to the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Superintendent reported on the resignations of Jennifer Przekop, F/T instructional assistant; Rachel Hargraves, F/T custodian; and Kevin Trahan, GHS baseball coach.

MOTION

Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Kimberly Brunelle
To accept the resignations of Jennifer Przekop, Rachel Hargraves, and Kevin Trahan, as presented, with regret.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Superintendent reported on the appointments of Dawn Ceil-Brostek, GES part-time instructional assistant; Jon Zielinski, GHS JV girls basketball coach and Lori Kurasz, GES Child Associate for the IDOLS Program.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Kimberly Brunelle
To approve the appointments of Dawn Ceil-Brostek, Jon Zielinski, and Lori Kurasz, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. ECS Grant Update – Dr. Freeman updated the Board on the efforts being made in and out of district to support the full funding of the ECS grant.

COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

- A. Building Committee – Frank Everett gave an update on the progress of the building project.

OTHER

Associate Principal Matthew Peel wanted to share a lesson he learned in December following the accident that claimed the lives of four GHS students and critically injured a fifth student. Mr. Peel reported that Dr. Frizzell knew right from the very beginning to take a stance, to take charge, to put people in positions to make good decisions. He worked closely with Dr. Freeman and the administration. He directed faculty, staff and students during the weeks following the accident. He became the father of the entire school during this time. Mr. Peel noted that there is no award that we can give him but acknowledge what he did in this time of crisis. Our school would not have gotten through this without Dr. Frizzell.

Dr. Freeman added that nobody could have handled this situation better than Dr. Frizzell did. He handled it with grace and with strength. Thank you Dr. Frizzell.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Dr. Theresa Madonna
To adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak