

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
January 25th, 2024**

GBE approved 2/8/2024

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 25th, 2024, in the Griswold Middle School Cafeteria, located on the first floor, 211 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mary Beth Malin, Griswold Board of Education Chair.

PRESENT

Mary Beth Malin, Griswold BOE Chair; Yvonne Palasky, Griswold BOE Vice-Chair, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Griswold BOE Secretary (attended the meeting virtually); Stuart Norman, Jr., Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman and Cathy Waselik, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT

Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; and Katy Sawaryn, GPS Special Services & Family Engagement Coordinator.

ABSENT

Jackie Love, GES Assistant Principal; Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal; and Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal.

2. Pledge of Allegiance -The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting – December 14th, 2023

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Martin Osga
To approve the regular meeting minutes of December 14th, 2023, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

B. Special Meeting – December 21st, 2023

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Martin Osga
To approve the special meeting minutes of December 21st, 2023, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

C. Special Meeting – January 2nd, 2024

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Martin Osga

To approve the special meeting minutes of January 2nd, 2024, as presented.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman and Cathy Waselik
Nays –
Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr.
Motion carried.

4. Communications

- A. December 2023, Thank You Note to Griswold BOE from Erin Palonen
- B. December 15th, 2023, Letter to the Commissioner of Education
- C. December 21st, 2023, Letter to First Selectwoman – Tina Falck
- D. December 21st, 2023, Letter to Superintendents on Annual Reporting Form for Indoor Air Quality & 5-Year Reporting From Michelle Gilman

The Board received a copy of all communications listed above A-D.

5. Recognitions

A. Recognition of GPS Employee of the Quarter

- 1. Christine Peer, Financial Assistant, Department of Fiscal and Personnel Services – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members took a moment to recognize Christine Peer, GPS Financial Assistant to the Office of Fiscal & Personnel Services, as Griswold’s Outstanding Employee for the second quarter of the 2023/2024 school year.

6. Public Comments - None.

7. Consent Agenda (All routine items can be approved with one motion and without discussion. Points of clarification and discussion requests can be allowed.) – There were no consent agenda items to review this evening.

8. New Business

- A. Review and Discussion on Policy #1110.2 – Community Relations – Media of Communication – Student Information System Acceptable Use and Safety Policy, First Reading – The Board had a first reading of Policy #1110.2 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for action to approve.
- B. Review and Discussion on Policy #9323 – Bylaws of the Board – Construction of the Agenda, First Reading - The Board had a first reading of Policy #9323 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for action to approve.
- C. Review and Discussion on Policy #9324 – Bylaws of the Board – Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials, First Reading - The Board had a first reading of Policy #9324 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for action to approve.

- D. Review and Discussion on the NESDEC Enrollment Study for Griswold Public Schools – The Superintendent shared a recent report from the New England School Development Education Council (NESDEC), which included enrollment projections and these projections are used and considered when building next year’s school budget.
- E. Review and Discussion on Fixed Costs for Budget SY 2024/2025 – The Superintendent began the first review of the newly created 2024/2025 school budget, which includes the fixed costs. These fix costs include contractual increases in areas of salaries, utilities, insurance, legal expenses, and vendor contracts. The Board will continue to review the 2024/2025 school budget over the next several upcoming BOE meetings before setting and approving a school budget to move forward to the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance.

9. Unfinished Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Renaming of the New Soule Street Alternative School Location – The Board approved the renaming of the Griswold Alternative School to the Griswold Soule Street Academy.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To approve the renaming of the new Soule Street Alternative School to the Griswold Soule Street Academy, as discussed.

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Kindergarten New Age Requirement: Unveiling the Plan – Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Schools; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; and Katy Sawaryn; GPS Student Services and Family Engagement Coordinator – The Board approved the Kindergarten new age requirement plan.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To approve the Kindergarten New Age Requirement Plan for the 2024/2025 school year.

Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrator’s Reports

- A. Financial Forecast, 2023/2024 School Year – Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – The Board received an update from Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the current status of the 2023/2024 school budget.
- B. Winter Sports Participation Data—Glenn LaBossiere, Assistant Superintendent – The Board received an update from Steve Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director, on student participation in winter sports. The report also outlined the number of students from tuition towns participating in winter sports.

11. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received an update on recent vacancies, appointments, and resignations.
- B. Superintendent's Timely Updates
 - 1. Reading Waiver & Next Steps
 - 2. SchoolAI
 - 3. Facilities Checklists
 - 4. Increasing Educator Diversity Plan

The Board received timely updates from the Superintendent on the topics listed above, items 1-4.

- C. *Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation Review - This item was referred to executive session following the regular business portion of this meeting for discussion.
- D. *Pending Claims and Litigation – This item was referred to executive session following the regular business portion of this meeting for discussion.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Town of Griswold, Capital Committee Update – Martin Osga – The Board received an update from Martin Osga on the recent Town of Griswold, Capital Committee meeting that took place.
- B. Athletic Subcommittee – Martin Osga – The Board received an update from Martin Osga on the Athletic subcommittee meeting that took place prior to this evening's BOE meeting,
- C. Policy Subcommittee – Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on the work of the Policy subcommittee and noted that their next meeting will take place on February 6th at 5 PM.
- D. Public Relations Subcommittee – Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton – The Board received an update from Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton on the recent Public Relations subcommittee meeting that took place.

12. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – Jennifer Norman requested an update on the new Teacher Evaluation system.

Mary Beth Malin wished to remind the Board of two upcoming meetings. One is a special meeting on Tuesday, January 30th at 4:30 PM followed by a BOE Retreat at 5 PM.

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To move into executive session at 7:03 PM for the purpose of discussing items 11C and 11D.

Motion unanimously carried.

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The Board came out of executive session at 7:23 PM with no action taken.

13. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at
7:23 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak