

GBE approved 10/26/2023

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, 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, Chair of the Griswold Board of Education.

PRESENT Mary Beth Malin, Griswold BOE Chair; Yvonne Palasky, BOE Vice-Chairman; Joyce Rice, Griswold BOE Secretary; Stuart Norman, Jr.; Martin Osga, and Scott Freyer, BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Director, Teaching, Learning, and Innovation; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Katy Sawaryn, GPS Special Services & Family Engagement Coordinator; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; and Jackie Love, GES Assistant Principal.

ABSENT Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, BOE Member; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; and Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director.

Pledge of Allegiance -The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting- August 31, 2023

MOTION By Joyce Rice
Seconded by Martin Osga
To approve the regular meeting minutes of August 31, 2023, as presented.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Joyce Rice, Stuart Norman, Jr., and Martin Osga.
Nays –
Abstain – Yvonne Palasky and Scott Freyer
Motion carried.

B. Regular Meeting – September 28, 2023

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Joyce Rice
To approve the regular meeting minutes of September 28, 2023, as presented.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Joyce Rice, Stuart Norman, Jr., Martin Osga.
Nays –
Abstain – Scott Freyer
Motion carried.

3. Communications

- A. October, 2023, Sending Partner Tuition Town Communication on Meeting Dates
- B. October 1st, 2023, Thank You card from Superintendent Sean McKenna

The Board received a copy of the communications listed above for A and B.

4. Recognitions

- A. Honoring Griswold High School Students who Earned National Merit Scholarship “Commended Scholar” Designation
 - 1. AZ Green
 - 2. Isiah Johnson

Both AZ (Aislinn) Green and Isaiah Johnson were recognized by the Griswold Board of Education, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members, for achieving the designation of “Commended Scholar” on the PSAT/NMSQT testing. These students were recognized for scoring in the top 3 - 4% of PSAT/NMSQT test-takers in their state and received commendation for such an outstanding performance.

- B. Honoring Griswold Forward Recipient, GES Teacher, Marissa Fontaine- The Griswold Board of Education, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members were pleased to honor Marissa Fontaine, GES grade 1 elementary teacher, as the Griswold Forward recipient for the month of October, 2023.

5. Student Representative Reports

- A. GES Student Representative Report: Lucy Bonchuk, Seth Houle, & Carter Lalumiere
- B. GMS Student Representative Report: Amanda Sawyer & Samiah Vincent
- C. GHS Student Representative Report: Amelia Sterns & Max Brown

The students listed above from GES, GMS, and GHS, provided updates to the Board on the student activities happening in each building.

6. Public Comments – There were no public comments offered at this evening’s meeting.

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 October 1st, 2023, Enrollment Numbers – The Superintendent shared the official October 1 enrollment numbers for all GPS schools and noted that we are up in student enrollment if we compare it to October 1, 2022. The enrollment information provided to the BOE was broken down by grade levels and by schools.

- B. Review and Discussion on October 1st, 2023, Tuition Revenue Projection - The Superintendent reviewed a report on tuition revenue projections based on our October 1, 2023, enrollment totals. He was pleased to share that these preliminary numbers surpassed the 3 million dollar estimate that was established last spring and reported to the Town of Griswold's, Board of Finance Committee, for projected revenues.
- C. Review and Discussion on New Policy 5123.3—Student—Graduation Ceremonies—First Reading – The Board had a first reading on new policy 5123.3 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and possible action to approve.
- D. Review and Discussion on New Policy 6115.111—Instruction—Graduation Exercises—First Reading – The Board had a first reading on new policy 6115.111 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and possible action to approve.
- E. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 4121—Personnel—Substitute Teachers—First Reading – The Board had a first reading on revised policy 4121 and will revisit at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.
- F. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 7230.2—New Construction—Indoor Air Quality—First Reading – The Board had a first reading on revised policy 7230.2 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.
- G. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 5145.15—Students—Directory Information—First Reading – The Board had a first reading of revised policy 5145.15 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.
- H. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 5145.53—Students—Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth—First Reading – The Board had a first reading on revised policy 5145.15 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.
- I. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 6159—Instruction—Instruction—Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program—First Reading – The Board had a first reading on revised policy 6159 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.
- J. Review and Discussion on New Policy 5112.3—Students—Dropouts—First Reading – The Board had a first reading on new policy 5112.3 and will revisit this policy at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.
- K. Review and Discussion on Revised Regulation 5118.111—Students—Tuition for Children and Staff—First Reading – The Board had a first reading on revised regulation 5118.111 and will revisit this regulation at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.

- L. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the 2024 Schedule of Meetings to be sent to Town of Griswold, Town Clerk – The Superintendent provided a list of 2024 meeting dates for the Griswold Board of Education to be sent to the Town of Griswold, Town Clerk's office, as required by state statute. The Board approved these meeting dates for 2024.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To approve the 2024, Griswold Board of Education schedule of meetings, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

- M. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve a DCF Satellite Office at Griswold High School – The Superintendent provided an update to the Board that the Department of Children and Families approached GPS for office space in the district for one of their social workers. Currently, there is a room at GHS to accommodate this request and this topic was also discussed at the Facilities subcommittee meeting on September 28th, 2023. In the past, GPS offered a satellite office for DCF at Griswold Middle School so there is precedent.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Scott Freyer

To approve a DCF satellite office at Griswold High School.

Motion unanimously carried.

N. Gifts and Donations

A. The United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, Donation of School Supplies

MOTION

By Scott Freyer

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To accept the generous donation of school supplies from United Way of Southeastern Connecticut.

Motion unanimously carried.

B. Cindy Martin, Donation of Backpacks

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Scott Freyer

To approve the generous donation from Cindy Martin for 2 back packs.

Motion unanimously carried.

- O. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Proposed Job Description Revision* - This item was referred to executive session following the regular business portion of this meeting for review, discussion, and possible action.

9. Unfinished Business

- A. Review and Discussion on Alternative School Project Updates – The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on the Alternative School project and where things currently stand. He and BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, offered tours of the newly renovated space to Board members should they like to see the new school.

10. Administrator's Reports

- A. Student Performance Data Presentation: GES Administration, GMS Administration, & GHS Administration – The Board was provided with a presentation by school administrators at each building on results from the standardized testing that took place in the district last spring.
- B. 10/6, Professional Learning Program Review: Glenn LaBossiere, Director, Teaching, Learning & Innovation – The Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation, Mr. Glenn LaBossiere, provided an update to the Board on the recent and exciting professional development activities that occurred for our certified staff members on October 6th, 2023.
- C. District Safety, Health and Wellness Committee Update: Jeffrey Parkinson, Assistant Principal, Griswold Middle School – GMS Assistant Principal, Mr. Jeffrey Parkinson, provided an update to the Board on the most recent meeting of the District's Safety, Health, and Wellness committee.

11. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations/Retirements – The Board received an update on recent vacancies, appointments, resignations and retirements.
- B. Timely Updates
- i. Safety Grant
 - ii. HVAC Grant
 - iii. Tuition Town Meeting Schedule
 - iv. District Future-Focused Think Tank

The Board received some timely updates from the Superintendent on the topics listed above, items i. through iv.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Policy Committee: Yvonne Palasky – The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on the recent Policy subcommittee meeting that took place.

B. School Building Committee: Martin Osga - The Board received an update from Martin Osga on the recent School Building Committee meeting that took place.

13. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – The Superintendent reminded BOE members of the upcoming CAFE/CAPSS Convention, taking place on November 17th and 18th, and asked that they contact his assistant, Robin Drobiak, if they would like to register and attend this year's convention.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Scott Freyer
To move into executive session to discuss items 8O at 7:20 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:31 PM.

Item 8O

MOTION

By Scott Freyer
Seconded by Stuart Norman, Jr.
To change the title of Director of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation to Assistant Superintendent for Mr. Glenn LaBossiere.
Motion unanimously carried.

Item 10C was reviewed and no action was taken.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Martin Osga
Seconded by Stuart Norman, Jr.
To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:32 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak/Sean McKenna