

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
December 14th, 2023**

GBE approved 1/25/2024

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 14th, 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, 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; 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; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeaux, GES Principal; Jackie Love, GES Assistant Principal; Patricia Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, GPS TLI Coordinators; and Katy Sawaryn, GPS Special Services & Family Engagement Coordinator.

ABSENT

Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; 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 - November 30th, 2023

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To approve the regular meeting minutes of November 30, 2023, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications
 - A. December 1, 2023, Letter from the Commissioner of Education to Superintendent Sean McKenna, Informing Griswold on Status of Application Requesting a Waiver of Connecticut Approved K-3 Reading Curriculum
 - B. Connecticut State Department of Education List of Districts & Reading Waiver Status
 - C. List of Board of Education Subcommittees
The Board received a copy of all communications listed above A-C.
5. Recognitions
 - A. Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), Student Award Recognition Program
 1. Ava Mehrens
 2. Owen Pappas

Both Ava Mehrens and Owen Pappas, GHS students, were recognized as the recipients of the CAPSS Superintendent's awards for the 2023/2024 school year.

B. New England School Development Council (NESDEC)/National School Development Council Recognition for Academic Growth & Student Leadership in Learning

1. Amelia Stearnes
2. Alicia Fonseca Morales

Both Amelia Stearnes and Alicia Fonseca Morales were recognized as the recipients of the New England School Development recognition for academic growth and student leadership in learning.

C. Recognition of Griswold Public Schools' Recent Retirees

1. Jill Curioso, Director of Technology – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members honored Jill Curioso as a distinguished retiree for the Griswold Public Schools. Although Jill was unable to attend this Board of Education meeting, the Superintendent recognized her as a mid-year retiree and noted her accomplishments during her tenure as the Technology Director for Griswold Public Schools.
2. Susan Boland, Paraeducator – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members took time to recognize and honor Susan Boland, who will be retiring mid-year, as a full-time Paraeducator at Griswold Elementary School.

D. Recognition of New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) Exemplary Service Award

1. Erin Palonen, Principal of Griswold High School – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized Erin Palonen, GHS Principal. She was recently recognized by NEASC for her exemplary service to the association over the past several years. Erin participated and chaired many NEASC visits for the purpose of evaluating educational institutions, including high schools, throughout New England.

E. Recognition of GPS Employee of the Quarter

1. Christine Peer, Financial Assistant, Department of Fiscal and Personnel Services – Although Christine Peer was unable to attend this evening's Board of Education meeting, the Superintendent was pleased to recognize Christine, who has been a stabilizing presence in the Office of Fiscal & Personnel Services. She was recently the payroll coordinator and is now the Financial Assistant to the Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services.

6. Student Representative Reports

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

Students from GES, GMS and GHS provided an update to the Board on student activities in each school building.

7. Public Comments - None.
8. 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.
9. New Business
 - A. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Proposed Out-of-State Field Trip for the Griswold High School Cheerleaders - The Board approved an out-of-state field trip for the GHS cheerleaders.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To approve the proposed out-of-state field trip for the GHS cheerleaders.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Calendar for the School Year, 2024-2025 – The Board approved the GPS school calendar for the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To approve the calendar for school year 2024/2025, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Naming Committee for the Alternative School Program per Policy 7551 – The Board approved the naming of a committee for the Alternative School Program.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To approve the naming of a committee for the Alternative School Program, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Waive Placing a Notice in the Newspaper Regarding the Name Change for the Alternative School – The Board approved action to waive placing a notice in the newspaper regarding a name change for the Alternative School.

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To waive placing notice in the newspaper regarding a name change for the alternative school.
Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Nominate (and then appoint) a Member of the Griswold Board of Education to the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee – The Board nominated and then appointed Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton to service as the Griswold Board of Education member on the Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee.

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To appoint Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton as a member of the Griswold Board of Education to serve on the Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee.
Motion unanimously carried.

- F. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee for the 2023/24 School Year - The Board reviewed and then approved the Gerard & Wanda Brunet Scholarship committee to include the newly appointed BOE member, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton.

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To approve the Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee for the 2023/2024 school year, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

- G. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Waive a Public Hearing on the Retirement of the 201 Alternative School Location (1553 Glasgo Road, Griswold, CT 06351) Per Policy 7113.1 – The Board approved the waiving of a public hearing on the retirement of the 201 alternative school location.

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Jennifer Norman
To waive a public hearing on the retirement of the 201 Alternative School location of 1553 Glasgo Road, Griswold, CT 06351, per policy 7113.1.
Ayes – Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman, and Cathy Waselik
Nays – Stuart Norman, Jr.
Abstain –
Motion carried.

- H. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Turn Over the 201 Alternative School Property (1553 Glasgo Road, Griswold CT 06351) to the Town of Griswold – The Board voted to turn over the 201 Alternative School property to the Town of Griswold.

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To turn over the 201 Alternative School Property (1553 Glasgo Road) to the Town of Griswold.
Motion unanimously carried.

10. Unfinished Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve Version 7.0 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan - The Board approved Version 7.0 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, as presented.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jennifer Norman
To approve Version 7.0 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

11. Administrator's Reports

- A. District Accountability Index: Glenn LaBossiere, Assistant Superintendent – The Board received an update from Assistant Superintendent, Glenn LaBossiere, and members of the TLI Department, Pat Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, on the district's accountability report.
- B. Progress Update on Building Goals
1. Griswold Elementary School—Joseph Bordeau, Principal & Jackie Love, Assistant Principal
 2. Griswold Middle School—Louis Zubek, Principal & Jeff Parkinson, Assistant Principal
 3. Griswold High School---Erin Palonen, Principal & Art Howe, Associate Principal

The Board received an update from building administration from GES, GMS and GHS on progress being made towards their 2023/2024 goals.

- C. Kindergarten Age Requirement: Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Katy Sawaryn; Student Services and Family Engagement Coordinator; and Jenna Motta, Teacher of Kindergarten, GES – The Board received an update from members of the Steering Committee on the work being put forward to implement the new age requirement for kindergarten.

12. 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. District Committee Reports
 - a. District Safety, Health & Wellness
 - b. Teaching, Learning, & Innovation
 - c. Ensuring Equity
 3. Search & Selection Process for the Director of Technology

The Board received some timely updates from the Superintendent and administrators on the topics listed above, items 1-3.

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13. Committee/Board Reports

None.

14. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – Mary Beth Malin asked BOE members their availability to attend a special BOE meeting on December 21st at 5 PM for the purpose of interviewing and appointing a new Technology Director for Griswold Public Schools.

Mrs. Malin also reported that she will be cancelling the first BOE meeting in January (the 11th of January, 2024), and then setting a special BOE meeting for the purpose of a Board retreat on January 23rd, 2024, starting at 5 PM. The second meeting in January, (1/25/24), will continue to take place as usual.

15. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at
7:52 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak