

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
May 8th, 2023**

GBE approved 5/22/23

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Monday, May 8th, 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 Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, 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 and Griswold Alternative School; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jackie Love, GES Assistant Principal; and Katy Sawaryn, GPS Special Services & Family Engagement Coordinator.

ABSENT Scott Freyer, Griswold BOE Member; 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. Special Meeting- May 1, 2023

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Joyce Rice
To approve the special meeting minutes of May 1st, 2023, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

3. Communications
 - A. Letter to Norwich Superintendent, Dr. Kristen Stringfellow, on Behalf of the Griswold BOE and Superintendent of Schools - The Board received a copy of the communication to Dr. Kristen Stringfellow.

4. Recognitions
 - A. Honoring Griswold High School/Griswold Public Schools Retirees
 1. Kathleen Caisse, Paraeducator
 2. Penny Avalos, School Social Worker

- B. Honoring Griswold Elementary School/Griswold Public Schools Retirees
 1. Audra Murphy, Paraeducator

The Board, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members honored three of our staff members who plan to retire at the end of the 2022/2023 school year. Those honored were Kathleen Caisse, Penny Avalos, and Audra Murphy.

C. Honoring our Griswold Public Schools Volunteers Who Have Been Nominated for Recognition:

1. Patricia Clark
1. Michele Demicco
2. Brenda Freyer
3. Lindsay Gladue
4. Sheri Marchand
5. Angela McVeigh
6. Elizabeth Rhoads
7. Melissa Wooten
8. Rebecca Wyzycki

The Board, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members recognized several of our volunteers who were nominated for “Volunteer of the Year” through Griswold Public Schools. They received certificates of appreciation for all that they do for our school system.

D. Honoring our Griswold Public Schools Volunteer of the Year—To be announced at the meeting - The Superintendent was pleased to report that out of all of those who were nominated for “Volunteer of the Year”, Lindsay Gladue was selected as this year’s recipient.

- E. Honoring our GMS CABA Student Leaders – Ryan Czmyr, Sean Silva
- F. Honoring our GMS CAS Middle Level Scholar Leaders –Natasha Ali, Micah Hamel
- G. Honoring our GHS CABA Student Leaders – Olivia Gasparino, Makayla Neilson
- H. Honoring our GHS CAS Scholar Athletes – Summer Milette, Daniel Sims
- I. Honoring our GHS CAS Performing Arts Recipient – Makaylah Dugas
- J. Honoring our GHS CAS Visual Arts Recipient – Mikayla Lebron

The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized several of our middle school and high school students who were chosen for CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) and CAS (Connecticut Association of School) awards.

- K. Honoring our Student Representatives to the Board for their final update for 2022/2023 SY
1. Brayden Hustus, Nora Sabolesky, and Autumn Eagle – GES Student Representatives
 2. Natasha Ali & Amanda Sawyer – GMS Student Representatives
 3. Laila Bakhshalizadeh – GHS Student Representatives

Student representatives from GES, GMS and GHS were recognized by the Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members for their service as student representatives to the Griswold Board of Education for the 2022/2023 school year. They each received a small token gift of appreciation for their service.

5. Student Representative Reports

1. Brayden Hustus, Nora Sabolesky, and Autumn Eagle – GES Student Representatives
2. Natasha Ali & Amanda Sawyer – GMS Student Representatives
3. Laila Bakhshalizadeh – GHS Student Representatives

Student representatives from GES, GMS and GHS provided their final update to the Board on recent student activities occurring in our schools and upcoming events, as well.

The Board recessed at 6:45 PM for refreshments with our retirees and our students who were honored this evening.

The Board re-convened their meeting at 6:56 PM.

6. Public Comments – Mary Beth Malin, Chair of the Griswold Board of Education, read the ground rules for the public comments section of the meeting but there were no requests for public comment.
7. Consent Agenda (All routine items can be approved with one motion and without discussion. Points of clarification and discussion requests can be allowed.)
 1. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Policy 7114.1 – New Construction – Facilities Renovation
 2. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Revised Policy 5141.3 - Students Health Assessments and Immunization, Second Reading
 3. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve Revised Regulation 5141.3 - Students Health Assessments and Immunization, Second Reading

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Joyce Rice
To approve the consent agenda, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

8. New Business – None.

9. Unfinished Business

1. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the Initial Budget Proposal – The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on a request from the Griswold Board of Finance to cut \$220,000 from the Municipal Employee Retirement Fund (MERF) budget line item and to cut \$112,136 from the proposed budget for the 2023/2024 school year after the Superintendent outlined and reviewed the recommended cuts.

MOTION

By Joyce Rice
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To reduce the MERF line by \$220,000, as directed by the Griswold Board of Finance.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Martin Osga
Seconded by Stuart Norman, Jr.
To reduce the Griswold Board of Education budget proposal by \$112,136.
Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrator's Reports – None.

11. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received a list of vacancies, appointments, and resignations.
- B. Superintendent's Timely Updates:
 - 1. Alternative School Project – The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on the Alternative School project and the recent bid opening process.
 - 2. Community Multipurpose Field Project – The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on the community multipurpose field project noting that it continues to stay on budget and on schedule at this time.
- C. Pending Claims & Litigation* - This item was referred to executive session at the end of the regular portion of this meeting for discussion.

12. Committee/Board Reports – None.

13. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – The Superintendent took a moment to publicly thank Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, for all of her hard work that went into helping to create the budget for next school year.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Joyce Rice
To move into executive session at 7:05 PM for the purpose of discussing 11C - Pending Claims & Litigation - inviting Glenn LaBossiere and Deb Martin to participate.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:14 PM with no action.

14. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Joyce Rice
To adjourn the Griswold BOE meeting at 7:14 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.
Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak/Sean McKenna