

**REGULAR MEETING  
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,  
August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

**GBE approved September 14, 2023**

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 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; Joyce Rice, Griswold BOE Secretary; Stuart Norman, Jr. (entered at 6:15 PM); 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; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jackie Love, GES Assistant Principal; Katy Sawaryn, GPS Special Services & Family Engagement Coordinator; and Thomas Verville, GPS Facilities Director.

**ABSENT** Yvonne Palasky, BOE Vice-Chairman; Scott Freyer, Griswold BOE Member; and Louis Zubek, GMS Principal.

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

2. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting- August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**MOTION** By Joyce Rice  
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton  
To approve the regular meeting minutes of August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as presented.  
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Joyce Rice, Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton  
Nays –  
Abstain – Martin Osga  
Motion carried.

3. Communications

- A. August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Community Welcome Back Letter from the Superintendent

- B. August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, Letter on the Community Multipurpose Field Complex

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

4. Recognitions

- A. Honoring Griswold Public Schools' Teacher of the Year, Wendy Davis – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized Wendy Davis, Griswold Elementary grade 3 teacher, as Griswold's choice for *Teacher of the Year* for 2024.

- B. Honoring Griswold Public Schools' Para-educator of the Year, Cheryl Chapados – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members recognized and honored Cheryl Chapados, Para-educator at Griswold Middle School, as Griswold's choice for *Para-educator of the Year* for the 2022/2023 school year.
- C. Honoring Griswold Public Schools' Custodial Staff – The Superintendent invited members of the GPS custodial team to this evening's BOE meeting to publicly thank them for their commitment, hard work, and efforts over the summer to make the forthcoming 2023-2024 school year a success for all.

At 6:09 PM, the Board took a short recess for refreshments and to congratulate our Teacher of the Year, Paraeducator of the Year, and our Custodians.

The Board re-convened at 6:19 PM.

5. Public Comments – Glenn Norman of 257 Norman Road in Griswold, CT informed the BOE that he has a photo of the Brewster School House Circa 1910 as a 3X3 photo and, if the BOE is interested, he would be happy to drop it off sometime. He also mentioned that the 100<sup>th</sup> graduating class of Griswold High School will be approaching in the near future and wished to bring it to the Board's attention should they wish to do something special.
6. 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 items to review this evening.
7. New Business
- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Authorize the Superintendent to Approve the Athletic Booster Club "Naming Competition" of the Concession Stand near the Football Field

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Martin Osga

To authorize the Superintendent to approve the Athletic Booster Club naming competition to Grizzly Grub for the concession stand near the football field.

Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Music Trip Proposal for Second Semester, 2024

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Joyce Rice

To approve the proposed Music trip to Burlington, Vermont for the second semester of 2024.

Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review and Discussion on Convocation and New Faculty and Staff - GPS Administration – The Superintendent and the administrators reviewed all of the new faculty and staff who started with Griswold Public Schools for the 2023/2024 school year.
  - D. Professional Learning Days - Glenn LaBossiere, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation - Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation, provided an overview of the professional development days that occurred on August 24, 25, and 28, 2023 with our certified staff.
  - E. Review and Discussion on Griswold Elementary School Focus School Status - Joseph Bordeau, Principal of Griswold Elementary School; and Jackie Love, Assistant Principal of Griswold Elementary School – Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal, and Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal, gave a presentation to the Griswold Board of Education on their status as a Focus School.
8. Unfinished Business – None.
9. Administrator's Reports
- A. Facilities Report - Tom Verville, Director of Facilities – The Board received an update on the facilities projects that took place over the summer and the upcoming projects to be addressed.
  - B. Beginning of the School Year, Student and Family Engagement - Joseph Bordeau, Principal of GES; Louis Zubek, Principal of GMS; and Erin Palonen, Principal of GHS – GPS administrators Joseph Bordeau, Jeffrey Parkinson, and Erin Palonen, provided an update to the Board on the activities that were planned for students and families for the opening of school.
  - C. Audit 2022 Update - Deborah Martin, Director of Fiscal and Personnel Services – GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, Deborah Martin, provided an update to the Board on where things stand with last year's audit.
  - D. Community Multipurpose Field Complex 9/8 Grand Opening Celebration - Glenn LaBossiere, Director of Teaching, Learning and Innovation – GPS Director of Teaching, Learning and Innovation, Glenn LaBossiere, provided an update to the Board on the plan for the September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, grand opening celebration of the new community multi-purpose field complex.
10. Superintendent's Report
- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received an update on recent vacancies/appointments/resignations.
  - B. Timely Updates
    - i. Community Multi-Purpose Field Project
    - ii. Alternative School ProjectThe Board received an update from the Superintendent on the topics listed above: i & ii.

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**11. Committee/Board Reports**

- A. Facilities Committee—Martin Osga – The Board received an update from Martin Osga on the work of the Facilities subcommittee.

**12. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board** - The Superintendent wanted to remind the Policy subcommittee members that the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, has been canceled. The Superintendent also shared that a new law now requires us to post the agenda and all documents associated with the agenda on our website with the exceptions of items to be discussed in executive session.

At this time, the Griswold Board of Education made a motion to move into executive session to discuss item 10C under Superintendent's Report.

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Joyce Rice

To move into executive session at 7:09 PM for the purpose of discussing Superintendent's Report – 10C - Pending Claims & Litigation\*.

Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:17 PM with no action taken.

**13. Adjournment**

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Stuart Norman, Jr.

To adjourn the Griswold BOE meeting at 7:17 PM.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak/Sean McKenna