

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
September 28th, 2023**

GBE approved 10/12/2023

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 28, 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; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeaux, GES Principal; Thomas O'Connor, Dawn Bouchard, and Colleen Sweet, GPS Food Service Staff; and Marc Cote, GPS Head Custodian.

ABSENT

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

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

2. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting- September 14th, 2023

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Joyce Rice

To approve the regular meeting minutes of September 14th, 2023, as presented.

Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Joyce Rice, Stuart Norman, Jr., Martin Osga, and Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Nays –

Abstain – Yvonne Palasky

Motion carried.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To add a recognition this evening to the BOE meeting agenda.

Motion unanimously carried.

3. Communications

A. September 14th, 2023, Letter from Commissioner of Education, Charlene Russell-Tucker on the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support 2023

B. September 21st, 2023, MEMO from Superintendent Sean McKenna on Student Data Privacy

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

4. Recognitions

- A. Honoring Griswold Public Schools' Employees of the Quarter: Kyle Gunderman & Lisa Sawyer – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators, and audience members were pleased to recognize two employees from the Technology Department as our Outstanding Employees for the first quarter of the 2023/2024 school year. Those honored were Kyle Gunderman and Lisa Sawyer.
- B. Second Recognition of the Evening – The Board, administrators, members of the Food Service Department, and audience members were pleased to surprise and recognize Superintendent Sean McKenna as the recipient of a recognition this evening for all of his hard work and dedication to the Griswold Public Schools. It is worth noting that this recognition was requested by members of the Food Service Department; specifically Dawn Bouchard, Colleen Sweet, and Tom O'Connor.

The Board of Education Chair, Mary Beth Malin, requested a short recess at 6:12 PM for refreshments.

The meeting re-convened at 6:30 PM.

5. Public Comments – Dr. Jennifer Norman of 257 Norman Road, Griswold, CT, shared questions related to Capital funding for Chromebooks and where things stand on upgrades to the GMS playground.
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 consent agenda items to review this evening.
7. New Business
- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Capital Committee Proposals for the 2024-2025 School Year – The Superintendent shared and reviewed a list of capital committee proposals to be considered for the 2024/2025 school year. The Chair of the Capital Improvement Committee requested submission of these items for their October meeting.

MOTION

By Martin Osga

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To put forward the twelve items on the capital list for the 2024/2025 school year.

Discussion: After the motion was made and seconded, the BOE Chair opened this topic up for discussion. Yvonne Palasky requested moving smart board purchases up to priority item #2 on the list. Joyce Rice agreed with this request. After final discussion by the Board, they revised the motion to read as follows:

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By Martin Osga

Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

To revise the motion and change the smart boards on the list to priority #2 and revisit this preliminary list at the next BOE meeting.

Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the “Vote” Sticker Proposal Submitted by the Registrar of Voters – The Board approved the “Vote” sticker proposal submitted by the Registrar of Voters.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.

Seconded by Martin Osga

To approve the “Vote” sticker proposal submitted by the Registrar of Voters.

Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Board of Education Goals – The Superintendent shared the Board of Education goals for the 2023/2024 school year and the Board adopted them as presented.

MOTION

Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Joyce Rice

To adopt the Griswold Forward Board of Education goals for the 2023/2024 school, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the Tuition Student Request* - This item was referred to executive session following the regular business portion of this meeting for discussion and action.

E. Gifts and Donations

1. \$2,500 Donation from Surrell's to the GHS Transition Academy - The Board accepted a very generous donation, with gratitude, from Surrell's Family restaurant in the amount of \$2,500 to be earmarked for the GHS Transition Academy.

MOTION

By Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Joyce Rice

To accept the very generous gift from the Surrell's in the amount of \$2,500 for the GHS Transition Academy.

Motion unanimously carried.

8. Unfinished Business

- A. Review and Discussion on Alternative School Project Updates & Funding – The Board received an update from Sean McKenna, Martin Osga, Glenn LaBossiere, and Christopher Champlin on the progress of the new alternative school building project. They were pleased to report that this building project may be completed sooner than expected.

9. Administrator's Reports

- A. Financial Forecast for the 2023-2024 School Year—Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – The Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, Mrs. Deb Martin, provided an update to the Board on where things currently stand with the financial status for this year's budget. She did want the Board to be aware that this is a very preliminary report. She did wish to raise concern about the MERF retirement line for non-certified staff in regards to their retirement program. She is projecting that this line item will be over for this fiscal year. Deb has agreed to contact Eric Christensen to discuss this matter further.
- B. Fall Athletics Presentation—Steve Cravinho, Director of Athletics & Campus-Wide Activities – An update on fall athletics was provided by Director of Athletics & Campus-Wide Activities, Mr. Steve Cravinho. The update provided team participation numbers for fall sports, the number of tuition students participating in fall sports, and the onboarding of a full-time Athletic Trainer. Steve also updated the Board on a new Griswold Mobile Sports App, which provides information on athletic program happenings.

10. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received an update on recent vacancies, appointments, and resignations.
- B. Timely Updates
- i. Right to Read Grant – The Board received an update from Superintendent, Sean McKenna, on the Right to Read grant, which is an entitlement grant in the amount of \$74,000.
- ii. Behavioral Health Pilot Grant - The Board received an update on the Behavioral Health Pilot grant. Griswold was one of seven schools in the State of Connecticut to receive this grant in the amount of \$212,020.00.
- C. Superintendent's Goals for the 2023-2024 School Year* - This item was referred to executive session following the regular business portion of this meeting for discussion.

11. Committee/Board Reports

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

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- B. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance—Mary Beth Malin – The Board received an update from Mary Beth Malin, on the recent Board of Finance meeting that took place.
- C. Town of Griswold Capital Committee—Martin Osga – The Board received an update from Martin Osga on the recent Capital Committee meeting that took place.

12. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – There was no other business discussed.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To move into executive session to discuss items 7D and 10C at 7:19 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:40 PM.

Item 7D

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Joyce Rice
To waive policy 5118.111, as discussed, with the intention to approve the student tuition request.
Motion unanimously carried.

Item 10C was reviewed and no action was taken.

13. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:41 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WAS A MALFUNCTION WITH THE TAPE RECORDING SO THE ENTIRE MEETING WAS NOT RECORDED. HOWEVER, THE ENTIRE MEETING CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE AT THE GRISWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEBSITE.