

**SPECIAL MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
MARCH 13th, 2023**

GBE approved 3/21/2023

1. A special meeting of the Griswold Board of Education took place on Monday, March 13th, 2023, in the Griswold Middle School Cafeteria, located on the first floor, 211 Slater Avenue, Griswold, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Mary Beth Malin, Chair of the Griswold Board of Education.

PRESENT Mary Beth Malin; BOE Chair; Yvonne Palasky, BOE Vice-Chair; Joyce Rice, BOE Secretary; Stuart Norman, Jr., Martin Osga, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, 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 and Griswold Alternative School; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal and Personnel Services; Katy Sawaryn, GPS Special Services & Family Engagement Coordinator; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Art Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jessica Gillespie & Pat Feeny, GPS Coordinators of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation.

ABSENT Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; and Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal.

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

2. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. March 2nd, 2023, Special Meeting

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Joyce Rice
To approve the special meeting minutes for March 2nd, 2023, as presented.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Joyce Rice, Marty Osga, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, and Scott Freyer
Nays –
Abstain – S. Norman, Jr.
Motion carried.

B. March 6th, 2023, Special Meeting

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Joyce Rice

To approve the special meeting minutes for March 6th, 2023, as presented.

Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Joyce Rice, Marty Osga, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, and Scott Freyer

Nays –

Abstain – S. Norman, Jr.

Motion carried.

3. Communications

A. Thank you Note from Tom Palasky – The Board received a thank you note from Tom Palasky.

B. March 8th, 2023, Letter from Superintendent Sean McKenna to First Selectman Bennett on Building Transfer – The Superintendent provided the BOE with a letter he wrote to first selectman, Dana Bennett, regarding the Griswold Senior Center, which will become the new site for the Griswold Alternative School.

4. Recognitions

A. Honoring the Griswold Board of Education for Board of Education Appreciation Month – The Board was honored and recognized for their volunteer service to the Griswold Public Schools during “Boards of Education” appreciation month, which occurs annually in the month of March.

B. Employee of the Quarter, Jaselyn Caviness – The Board, the Superintendents, administrators and audience members recognized Jaselyn Caviness as the “Outstanding Employee for Griswold Public Schools” for the 2nd quarter of the 2022/2023 school year.

5. Student Representative Report

A. GES Student Representative Report: Brayden Hustus, Nora Sabolesky, and Autumn Eagle – GES students, Autumn Eagle, Nora Sabolesky, and Brayden Hustus, provided an update to the Board on student activities at GES.

B. GMS Student Representative Report: Natasha Ali & Amanda Sawyer – Amanda Sawyer provided updates to the Board on student activities at GMS. Natasha Ali was unable to attend the BOE meeting so Amanda solely presented.

- C. GHS Student Representative Report: Laila Bakhshalizadeh – In the absence of Laila Bakhshalizadeh who presents monthly to the BOE on student activities occurring at GHS, Kendall Larkin filled in and provided an update to the Board.

The Board recessed at 5:20 PM to enjoy some refreshments offered to the Board of Education as we celebrate “Board of Education Appreciation Month”.

The Board re-convened at 5:27 PM.

- 6. Consent Agenda (All routine items can be approved with one motion and without discussion. Points of clarification and discussion requests can be allowed.)
 - A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Revised Bylaw—9325—Bylaws of the Board, Meeting Conduct—Second Reading – Due to an error that was noticed on this revised Bylaw 9325, it was decided that it would be sent back to the Policy subcommittee for further discussion and action.
 - B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on New Policy 5145.54—Students—Civility—Second Reading – The BOE approved new policy 5145.54 – Students – Civility, as presented.

MOTION

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

Note: Yvonne Palasky withdrew her last motion and revised it after realizing that 6A will not be approved this evening because it is being referred back to the Policy subcommittee for further review, discussion, and action.

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Joyce Rice
To approve new policy 5145.54 – Students – Civility, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

7. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Authorize the Griswold Public Schools Administration to collaborate with TVCCA on the Planning and Installation of a New Early Childhood Playground - The Board approved for TVCCA to start the project for the planning and installation of a new playground at GES.

MOTION

By Joyce Rice
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To authorize the Griswold Public Schools administration to collaborate with TVCCA on the planning and installation of a new early childhood playground.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Schedule the Dates and Times of the GHS Graduation Ceremony and the GMS 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony – The Board set the date for 8th grade promotion on June 9th, 2023, at 5:30 PM and GHS graduation on June 10th, 2023, at 10 AM.

MOTION

By Joyce Rice
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To set the 8th grade promotion ceremony on June 9th, 2023, at 5:30 PM; and to set the GHS graduation on June 10th, 2023, at 10:00 AM.
Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Accept the 211 Soule Street Building in Jewett City (former Senior Center Building) as the New Site to Renovate for the Future New Location of the Griswold Alternative School

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Scott Freyer
That the Board accept the Soule Street building as the new site to renovate for the future new location of the Griswold Alternative School.
Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Participation in the Healthy Food Option

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
That Pursuant to C.G.S. 10-215f, the Griswold Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the CT Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all

sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any funding activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion unanimously carried.

E. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Whether to Allow Food and Beverage Exemptions

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

That the Griswold Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Motion unanimously carried.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the 2023-2024 Initial Budget Proposal - The Board decided to wait on making any decision with the 2023-2024 initial budget proposal as they may have future questions to present. BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, polled the Board and they all agreed it was okay not to take action at this time.

B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Appoint a BOE Member to the Community Multi-Purpose Field Building Committee – The Board had a lengthy discussion on the new Town Building Committee being proposed to be associated with the community multi-purpose field project instead of a School Building Committee. The First Selectman has requested that the Griswold Board of Education take action to appoint a BOE member to

this newly formed committee. As this project was recently approved by the residents of Griswold, the BOE is struggling to understand why this new committee is being formed to operate instead of the School Building Committee. After much deliberation, Stuart Norman, Jr. motioned to appoint a BOE member.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
There was no second by a BOE member.
That the Griswold Board of Education give the BOE chair the authority to appoint Marty Osga to the Town Building Committee once we receive the legal opinion from our BOE attorney.
Motion failed.

After more discussion on this topic, Stuart Norman, Jr. made a motion again to appoint a BOE member to the new Town Building Committee.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Martin Osga
That the Griswold Board of Education give the BOE chair the authority to appoint Marty Osga to the Town Building Committee once we receive the legal opinion from our Board attorney.
Ayes – Stuart Norman, Jr. and Martin Osga
Nays – Yvonne Palasky and Scott Freyer
Abstain – Joyce Rice and Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Mary Beth Malin did not vote and noted that this motion failed.

The Board revisited this topic further and Stuart Norman, Jr. recommended that the BOE Chair request rather quickly a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education on this matter. BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, said that she would try to make this happen quickly. After further discussion, another motion was offered by Scott Freyer.

MOTION

By Scott Freyer
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To table action to appoint a BOE member to the Town Building Committee until we receive clarification from our Board attorney.
Ayes – Yvonne Palasky, Joyce Rice, Marty Osga, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton and Scott Freyer.
Nays –
Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr.
Motion carried.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Recommend a Tuition Revenue Amount for the 2023-2024 School Year for Budgeting Purposes to the Town of Griswold – The Board tabled any action on this topic this evening.

9. Administrators' Reports

- A. Winter Student Performance Data Update - Glenn LaBossiere, Director of Teaching, Learning and Innovation; Jessica Gillespie & Patricia Feeney, Coordinators, Teaching, Learning, and Innovation Department – The Board received an update from the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation on the winter student performance data. Those reporting were Glenn LaBossiere, Jessica Gillespie, and Pat Feeney.
- B. District Safety, Health and Wellness District Committee Update - Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal and Chair of the Committee - The Board received an update from Jeff Parkinson, who chairs the district Safety, Health and Wellness district committee.
- C. Ensuring Equity District Committee Update—Chris Champlin, Director, Student Services and Chair of the Committee – The Board received an update from Chris Champlin, who chairs the Ensuring Equity district committee.

10. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received a copy of all vacancies, appointments, and resignations.
- B. Superintendent's Timely Updates:
 - 1. Alternative School Renovation Facilities Project
 - 2. Community Multi-Purpose Field Project
 - 3. Meeting on Heritage River Project

The Board received an update from the Superintendent on items 1-3 above under 10B.

- C. *Pending Claims and Litigation – This item will be discussed in executive session following the regular business portion of this meeting.

11. Committee/Board Reports

- A. School Building Committee – Martin Osga – The Board received an update from Marty Osga on the work of the School Building committee. There was not much to cover because there was a lot of discussion on this topic earlier this evening.

MOTION

By Joyce Rice
Seconded by jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To move into executive session at 6:38 PM for the purpose of discussing item 10C, inviting Glenn LaBossiere and Deborah Martin into executive session.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:50 PM and no action was taken.

12. Adjournment

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Scott Freyer
To adjourn the special BOE meeting at 6:50 PM.
Motion was unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak