PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING **MONDAY,**
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION **February 5, 2018**

GBE approved 2/12/18

A public hearing/regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education took place on Monday, February 5, 2018, in the GMS auditorium, located on the 2nd floor of the Griswold Middle School. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman, Stuart Norman, Jr.

PRESENT Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Chairman; Frank Everett, BOE Vice-Chairman; Yvonne Palasky; Mary Beth Malin; Dr. Theresa Madonna (entered after roll call at 6:00 PM); and Jennifer Norman, BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Schools; Susan Rourke, GPS Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Special Education & Pupil Services; Michele Demicco, GPS Business Manager; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities and Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Glenn LaBossiere, GMS Principal; Chris Vamvakides, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; Jill Curioso, GPS Technology Director; Thomas Verville, Facilities Director; and Thomas O'Connor, GPS Food Service Director.

ABSENT Laurie Sorder, BOE Secretary; and Marceline Macrino, GHS Associate Principal.

The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing – Overview of Proposed 2018/19 Education Budget - BOE Chairman, Stuart Norman, Jr., turned the meeting over to Superintendent, Sean McKenna, and noted that, at the end of the meeting, there would be time for questions and comments. Superintendent McKenna reviewed the 2018/19 budget proposal. After he finalized his presentation, time was allowed for questions and comments from the audience.

B. Questions and Comments by the Public - Joy Smith of 82 Crary Road and a Spanish teacher at Griswold Middle School asked the Board and school administration to reconsider cutting the Spanish teaching position at Griswold Middle School.

State Representative, Kevin Skulczyck, discussed the issues in Hartford with the state budget and reported that we will be in for another difficult budget season ahead and that we should expect more cuts from the governor.

Superintendent, Sean McKenna, and Board Chairman, Stuart Norman, Jr., thanked the audience for attending the hearing.

The Board recessed at 6:41 PM in order to move to the GMS Library Media Center to continue the remainder of their regular meeting.

The Board re-convened at 6:50 PM.

C. *Review and Action on Setting Tuition Rates for 2018/19 School Year – This item was referred to executive session at the end of the regular meeting for discussion and possible action.

D. *Review and Action on Setting Tuition Rates for Children of Staff Members for 2018/19 School Year - This item was referred to executive session at the end of the regular meeting for discussion and possible action.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Mary Beth Malin
To approve the special BOE meeting minutes of 1/29/2018, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Thank you note to BOE Members and Administrators from the Family of Patricia Drobiak – The Board received a thank you card from the family of Patricia Drobiak for the donation of a floral arrangement in memory of Patricia Drobiak.

B. CABE Invitation to *A Day on the Hill* – The Board received an invitation to an upcoming CABE event called *A Day on the Hill*, which will overview the latest information on key education issues and how proposed legislation will impact school districts. Superintendent McKenna aske BOE members to RSVP to Robin Drobiak if they wish to attend so that Griswold can register those who wish to attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Possible Action on September 11th Memorial Proposal Presented by the Griswold Enrichment Program on January 29, 2018 – The Board discussed and requested more information on costs for the use of water and electricity for a proposed fountain, which would be part of a 911 *Memorial*, to be erected at Griswold Elementary School. This project is being proposed by the Griswold Enrichment Explorers. Some BOE members are not in favor of added expenses for use of water and electricity to run the fountain. The Board decided to table any action this evening on the 911 *Memorial* and invite Mr. Salvador back to present in the spring.

MOTION

By Dr. Theresa Madonna
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To table action on the 911 *Memorial* proposal at this time and invite Mr. Salvador back to a BOE meeting in the spring to present and to answer BOE questions.
Motion unanimously carried.

B. Discussion and Possible Action on Development of a Griswold Board of Education Facebook Page - The Board approved the development and activation of a Griswold Board of Education Facebook page with a request for quarterly updates to the Board.

MOTION

By Jennifer Norman
Seconded by Dr. Theresa Madonna
To grant permission for the development and activation of a Griswold Board of Education Facebook Page, with a request for quarterly reviews.
Motion unanimously carried.

C. Continuation of Budget Deliberations for School Year 2018/19 – The Board continued deliberating on the proposed 2018/19 budget.

D. Discussion and Possible Action on Revising the 2017/18 School Calendar to Change the March 9, 2018 Professional Development Day from a Full Day to a Half Day and to Create a Half Day for Students – The Board approved a change on the March 9, 2018, professional development day from a full PD day for teachers to a half PD day for teachers in the afternoon and a half day of school for students in the morning. This change was recommended because of the number of school cancellations to date. The Superintendent also reported that a survey took place with parents, faculty and staff, and an overwhelming 97% of people who answered the survey were in favor of adding March 9th as a half of a school day for students.

MOTION

By Dr. Theresa Madonna
Seconded by Frank Everett
To revise the 2017/18 calendar to change the March 9, 2018, professional development day from a full day to a half day and to create a half day for students.
Motion unanimously carried.

E. Gifts/Donations
   1. Walmart Super Center, Lisbon Store – The Board accepted, with gratitude, the donation of 25 reams of 8 ½ x 14 white copy paper from Walmart Super Center in Lisbon, CT.

MOTION By Frank Everett
Seconded by Mary Beth Malin
To graciously accept the donation of 25 reams of 8 ½ x 14 copy paper donated by Walmart Super Center.
Motion unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Vacancies/Appointment/Resignations – The Board accepted the resignation of Christopher Rourke, full-time instructional assistant at Griswold Middle School, effective February 15, 2018, with regret.

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Mary Beth Malin
To accept the resignation of Christopher Rourke, instructional assistant full-time at Griswold Middle School, effective February 15, 2018, with regret.
Motion unanimously carried.

B. *Discussion and Possible Action on Personnel Matter – This item was referred to the end of the regular Board of Education meeting for executive session discussion.

C. *Update on Superintendent Mid-Year Goals – This item was referred to the end of the regular Board of Education meeting for executive session discussion.

COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

A. Negotiation & Budget Subcommittee Report – There was no report at this time, however, the subcommittee was pleased to report that Mary Beth Malin was selected as the chair of the Negotiation & Budget subcommittee for 2018.

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MOTION

By Frank Everett
Seconded by Mary Beth Malin
To move into executive session at 7:36 PM for the purpose of discussion of 3C, 3D, 8B, and 8C and to invite GPS Business Manager, Mrs. Michele Demicco, and Director of Special Education & Pupil Services, Mr. Christopher Champlin.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:47 pm.

MOTION

By Mary Beth Malin
Seconded Jennifer Norman
To set the tuition rates for 2018/19 as follows: regular tuition rate with 1.5% increase for 2018/19, Special Education rate with 2% increase for 2018/19, and Griswold Alternative School rate with 2% increase for 2018/19.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Jennifer Norman
Nays – Frank Everett, Dr. Theresa Madonna, Yvonne Palasky.
Motion failed.

MOTION

By Frank Everett
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To set the tuition rates for 2018/19 as follows: regular tuition rate with a 1.75% increase for 2018/19, Special Education tuition rate and Griswold Alternative School tuition rate with a 2% increase for 2018/19.
Ayes – Frank Everett, Dr. Theresa Madonna, Yvonne Palasky and Jennifer Norman.
Nays – Mary Beth Malin
Abstain -
Motion carried.

MOTION

By Mary Beth Malin
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To keep the percentage rate for tuition of children of staff members at 30% of the tuition rate for the 2018/19 school year.
Ayes – Frank Everett, Yvonne Palasky, Mary Beth Malin and Jennifer Norman.
Nays – Dr. Theresa Madonna
Abstain -
Motion carried.

MOTION

By Dr. Theresa Madonna
Seconded by Frank Everett
To approve the Griswold Board of Education 2018 teacher/administrator voluntary retirement incentive plan, as presented, with one change to item D to include a maximum contribution toward the Medicare Health Care reimbursement plan of $10,000 and the upgraded language on the application.

MOTION

By Mary Beth Malin
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak