

**SPECIAL MEETING &
PUBLIC HEARING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Griswold Middle School Cafeteria, First Floor
211 Slater Avenue
Griswold, Connecticut 06351**

**THURSDAY,
February 29th, 2024
6:00 PM**

THIS MEETING WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON OUR DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Hearing on the Initial Budget Proposal for the 2024-2025 School Year
4. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Regular Meeting, February 22nd, 2024—Minutes
5. Communications
 - A. February 22nd, 2024, Letter from Commissioner of Education, Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
6. Unfinished Business
 - A. Continuation of Review and Discussion on Griswold Board of Education Initial Budget Proposal for SY 2024/2025
7. Adjournment

*The Board may go into executive session on these items per Connecticut State Statute § 1-200 (6).

DRAFT

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, February 22nd, 2024, 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, Griswold Board of Education Chair.

PRESENT

Mary Beth Malin, Griswold BOE Chair; Yvonne Palasky, Griswold BOE Vice-Chair, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Griswold BOE Secretary; Stuart Norman, Jr., Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman and Cathy Waselik, Griswold BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT

Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeaux, GES Principal; and Kyle Gunderman, GPS Director of Technology.

ABSENT

Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal; and Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal.

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

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To add under agenda item 8B, review, discussion and possible action on the Griswold Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan.
Motion unanimously carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting – February 8th, 2024

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To approve the regular meeting minutes of February 8th, 2024, with amendment to include a request from Yvonne Palasky to add another security card for the district to next year’s budget proposal.
Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Yvonne Palasky, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman, and Cathy Waselik
Nays -
Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr.
Motion carried.

B. Special Meeting – February 15th, 2024

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Martin Osga

To approve the special meeting minutes of February 15th, 2024, as presented.

Ayes – Mary Beth Malin, Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Martin Osga, and Jennifer Norman

Nays –

Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr., Yvonne Palasky, and Cathy Waselik

Motion carried.

4. Communications

A. February 15th, 2024, Letter to First Selectwoman, Tina Falck, Regarding 2nd Quarter Financial Report

B. February 15th, 2024, Letter to Scott Davis, Chair of the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance, with Three Timely Updates for the February 24th, 2024, Meeting

The Board received a copy of communications listed above A & B.

5. Public Comments - None.

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 on the consent agenda to take action on this evening.

7. New Business

A. Review and Discussion on New Policy #5142.5 – Students/Student Safety/Student Identification Badge System, First Reading – The Board had a first reading on new policy #5142.5 and will revisit this at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.

B. Review, Discussion, and Action to Waive 2nd Reading of Revised Policy #4111.3/4211.3 – Personnel – Certified/Non Certified – Increasing Educator Diversity

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

To waive the second meeting requirement for revised policy

#4111.3/4211.3 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Increasing Educator Diversity.

Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review, Discussion, and Action to Approve Revised Policy #4111.3/4211.3 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Increasing Educator Diversity

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
To approve revised policy # 4111.3/4211.3 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Increasing Educator Diversity.
Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review, Discussion, and Action to Waive 2nd Reading of New Regulation #4111.3/4211.3 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Increasing Educator Diversity

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To waive the second meeting requirement for new regulation #4111.3/4211.3 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Increasing Educator Diversity.
Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Review, Discussion, and Action to Approve New Regulation #4111.3/4211.3 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Increasing Educator Diversity

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To approve new regulation # 4111.3/4211.3 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Increasing Educator Diversity.
Motion unanimously carried.

- F. Review and Discussion of Revised Policy #4117.6/4217.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified/Exit Interviews, First Reading – The Board had a first reading of revised policy #4117.6/4217.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Exit Interviews, and will bring it forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.

- G. Review and Discussion of Revised Regulation #4117.6/4217.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified/Exit Interviews, First Reading – The Board had a first reading on revised regulation #4117.6/4217.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified/Exit Interview, and will bring it forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.

H. Gifts/Donations

1. Donation of Two Chairs to the Student Services Department on Behalf of Griswold Board of Education Member, Jennifer Norman

MOTION

By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
To accept the very generous donation of two chairs to the Student Services Department on behalf of Griswold Board of Education Member, Jennifer Norman, with gratitude.
Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business

- A. Continuation of Review and Discussion on Griswold Board of Education Initial Budget Proposal for SY 2024/2025 – The Board, the Superintendent, and administrators continued review of the proposed 2024/2025 school budget. No action was taken on the budget at this time.
- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the Griswold Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan – The Board received an update from Martin Osga on the recent meeting of the Capital Improvement Committee.

9. Administrator's Reports

- A. Financial Update, 2023/2024 SY – Deborah Martin – The Board received an update from Deb Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the current status of the 2023/2024 school budget.
- B. Technology Department Update – Kyle Gunderman, Glenn LaBossiere, and Sean McKenna – The Board received a Technology update from Kyle Gunderman, GPS Director of Technology.

10. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations/Retirements – The Board received an update on recent vacancies, appointments, resignations, and retirements.
- B. Superintendent's Timely Updates
 - 1. Regional Meeting with State Senator, Heather Somers
 - 2. Griswold Middle School Expo & GHS Senior Showcase

The Board received timely updates from the Superintendent on the topics listed above, items 1 and 2.

11. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance Update – Mary Beth Malin – The Board received an update on the recent Town of Griswold, Board of Finance meeting that took place on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 from Mary Beth Malin.
- B. Policy Subcommittee Update – Yvonne Palasky – Yvonne Palasky updated the Board on the work of the Policy subcommittee.

- C. Athletic Subcommittee Update—Martin Osga – Martin Osga updated the Board on the work of the Athletic subcommittee.

- 12. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – The Superintendent informed the Board of the plan to hold a Public Hearing on the budget next Thursday, February 29th, 2024.

Jennifer Norman, BOE Member, read a letter, which included several requests for information.

MOTION

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton
Seconded by Cathy Waselik
To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:15 PM.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



February 22, 2024

Sean McKenna, Superintendent
Griswold Public Schools
211 Slater Avenue
Griswold, CT 06351

Dear Superintendent McKenna,

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2023. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) also deeply values our partnership in supporting Connecticut students, educators, and families. In this spirit of cooperation and responsiveness, the CSDE appreciates meeting with your district on December 20, 2023, to address your questions regarding your 2022 Application Requesting a Waiver of Connecticut Approved K-3 Reading Curriculum Models or Programs (Waiver). The Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success (Center) worked with Jessica Gillespie throughout October 2023 to successfully complete the ARPA Right to Read Grant. It is evident by your adoption of AimswebPlus, a Connecticut approved reading assessment for grades Kindergarten through grade three (K-3), that your district is making a commitment to supporting and building the literacy skills of your students.

Notwithstanding the above, this letter is in response to your request that the CSDE reconsider the determination of your application for a waiver of Connecticut General Statute (C.G.S.) §10-14hh's requirement that school districts implement one of the reading curriculum models or programs approved pursuant to C.G.S. §10-14ii. Please note that neither the Right to Read legislation nor any other statutory authority provides for such reconsideration. It is our understanding that you were advised to submit your request within fifteen days of receipt of the outcome of your district's waiver application, which would suggest a belief that the reconsideration provisions of C.G.S. §4-181a are applicable. However, C.G.S. §4-181a is expressly limited to contested administrative hearings conducted under Connecticut's Administrative Procedures Act.

As you know, C.G.S. §10-14hh requires all local and regional boards of education that have not been granted a waiver must begin partial implementation of a Connecticut approved K-3 reading curriculum model or program by July 1, 2024, and for the school year commencing July 1, 2025, must fully implement a Connecticut approved K-3 reading curriculum model or program. To that end, your implementation of Great Minds Geodes, Literacy Resources, LLC's Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum, and Wilson Foundations confirms your commitment to this process.

CSDE will continue to make available professional learning opportunities to support the science of reading and the implementation of the approved comprehensive Connecticut approved K-3 reading curriculum models or programs. We hope that your district will continue to take advantage of these no cost opportunities. Your district's continued outreach and participation in the ARPA Right to Read Professional Learning Series are appreciated.

Pursuant to Public Act 23-167, §24 the Center, in consultation with the Reading Leadership Implementation Council, shall be reviewing the provision of technical assistance to those local and regional boards of education that have been denied a waiver, including working collaboratively with districts to craft the next steps on the path toward full implementation. The Center looks forward to continuing to work with and support you as Griswold engages in the review and implementation process.

If you need further technical assistance, please contact Candice LaConti at Candice.LaConti@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education

cc: Dr. Charles Hewes, Deputy Commissioner
Laura Stefon, Chief of Staff and Legislative Liaison
Michael P. McKeon, Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs
Irene E. Parisi, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Melissa Wlodarczyk Hickey, Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success

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