

**GBE approved with Revision 2/22/24**

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 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; 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 Bordeau, GES Principal; Jackie Love, GES Assistant Principal; and Pat Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, GPS Coordinators of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation.

**ABSENT** Stuart Norman, Jr; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; 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.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**MOTION** By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
To approve the regular meeting minutes of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

B. Special Meeting – January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 4:30 PM

**MOTION** By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
To approve the special meeting minutes of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 4:30 PM, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

C. Special Meeting – January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 5 PM

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

To approve the special meeting minutes of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5 PM, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications

A. Kindergarten New Age Requirement Flyer

B. CABE Liaison Newsletter, February 2024

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

5. Recognitions

A. Kiley Flynn, Griswold Forward Recipient

B. Kayla Hedman, Griswold Forward Recipient

C. Melissa Wooten, Next Generational Personal Finance Distinguished Educator Award

Two staff members from Griswold Public Schools were honored and recognized for their hard work in moving Griswold Forward, a new recognition program for the 2023/2024 school year. The two staff members recognized were Kiley Flynn and Kayla Hedman.

A third staff member, Melissa Wooten, was recognized for her recent award as a Next Gen Personal Finance Distinguished Educator.

6. Student Representative Reports

A. GES Student Representative Report: Lucy Bonchuk, Seth Houle, & Carter Lalumiere – Lucy Bonchuk and Carter Lalumiere, who are students at Griswold Elementary School, provided an update to the Board on student activities happening at GES.

B. GMS Student Representative Report: Samiah Vincent & Amanda Sawyer – Both Amanda Sawyer and Samiah Vincent, who are students at Griswold Middle School, provided an update to the Board on student activities happening at GMS.

C. GHS Student Representative Report: Amelia Stearnes – Griswold High School student, Amelia Stearnes, provided an update to the Board on student activities happening at GHS.

7. Public Comments - None.

8. Consent Agenda (All routine items can be approved with one motion and without discussion. Points of clarification and discussion requests can be allowed.) – There Board approved one policy and two Bylaws during this portion of the Board of Education meeting.

A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Policy #1110.2 – Community Relations – Media of Communication – Parent Involvement - Student Information System Acceptable Use and Safety Policy, Second Reading

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Bylaw #9323 – Bylaws of the Board – Construction of the Agenda, Second Reading
- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Bylaw #9324 – Bylaws of the Board – Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials, Second Reading

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
To approve the consent agenda, as presented.

Discussion: Cathy Waselik requested a correction to be made to Bylaw 9324 with replacing the word copies to the word request in the last paragraph. Yvonne Palasky rescinded her motion and revised it as follows:

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
To approve the consent agenda, with a correction to Bylaw 9324, as presented, by Cathy Waselik.  
Motion unanimously carried.

9. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Recommend Tuition & Program Rate Increases for the 2024-2025 School Year\* - The Board approved the recommended tuition and program rate increases for the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.

**MOTION**

By Jennifer Norman  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To approve the tuition and program rate increases for the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Recommend Tuition Increases for Children of Faculty and Staff for the 2024-2025 School Year\* - The Board set the tuition rate for children of faculty and staff for the 2024/2025 school year.

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To set the tuition rate for children of faculty and staff members for the 2024/2025 school year at 30% of the tuition rates.  
Motion unanimously carried.

C. Gifts and Donations:

- 1. Lions Club Lisbon--\$876.67 for Teachers’ “Wish List”

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
Seconded by Jennifer Norman  
To accept the donation from the Lions Club – Lisbon, in the amount of \$876.67 for the Teacher’s Wish List.  
Motion unanimously carried.

2. BioRidge Pharma—16 Epipens

**MOTION**

By Jennifer Norman  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To accept the donation from BioRidge Pharma for 16 Epipens, with gratitude.  
Motion unanimously carried.

3. Exxon Mobil Station at Preston Road—\$500 Donation to GMS

**MOTION**

By Jennifer Norman  
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
To accept the donation from Exxon Mobil Station at Preston Road, with gratitude, in the amount of \$500.00 for Griswold Middle School.  
Motion unanimously carried.

4. Gift Card Donation—Griswold Youth Center/Ryan Aubin-\$1325 to GHS

**MOTION**

Jennifer Norman  
Seconded by Cathy Waselik  
To accept the gift card donations from the Griswold Youth Center and Ryan Aubin totaling \$1,325 to GHS, with gratitude.  
Motion unanimously carried.

10. Unfinished Business

- A. Review and Discussion on Fixed Costs Budget for SY 2024/2025 – The Board and the administrators continued review of the budget proposal being developed for the 2024/2025 school year and focused on the fixed cost portions of the budget during this evening’s meeting.

Yvonne Palasky asked for the record that an additional district security guard to be added/included in next year’s budget.

11. Administrator’s Reports

- A. Building Internal Accounts, 2023/2024 School Year – Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – The Board received an update on the building internal accounts for all schools from Deb Martin, our Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services.

B. Updates from the Assistant Superintendent—Glenn LaBossiere

1. New Educator Evaluation – The Board received an update on the new educator evaluation plan that is in a preliminary development stage, however, administrators are awaiting more specific guidance from the state. Once a draft plan is complete and has been reviewed by all certified educators, that plan will be brought forward to the full Board for review and approval.
  2. Professional Learning Day, 2/16 – The Board was updated on the Professional Development Day plan for February 16<sup>th</sup>. The administrators will share the finalized plan at the next BOE meeting.
  3. Science Curriculum - The Board received an update on the work that started on the K-12 Science curriculum at the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year. The Board was informed that all curriculum documents are anticipated to be complete by the end of the 2024/2025 school year.
- C. Winter Aimsweb Assessment Data Report—Glenn LaBossiere, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Gillespie & Patricia Feeney, Coordinators for Teaching, Learning and Innovation; Joseph Bourdeau, Principal, Griswold Elementary School; Louis Zubek, Principal, Griswold Middle School; and Erin Palonen, Principal, Griswold High School - The Board received an update from administrators at GES, GMS, and GHS on the AIMSWEB winter testing results.
- D. District Health, Safety & Wellness Update —Jeffrey Parkinson, Assistant Principal, Griswold Middle School – An update was provided by Superintendent, Sean McKenna, to the Board on the recent meeting that took place with the District’s Health, Safety and Wellness Committee.

12. Superintendent’s Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations/Retirements – The Board received an update on recent vacancies, appointments, and resignations and retirements.
- B. Superintendent’s Timely Updates
1. School AI Update
  2. Student/Administrator Future Focused Group Update
  3. Griswold Soule Street Academy Plan Update
  4. Increasing Educator Diversity Plan Update

The Board received timely updates from the Superintendent on the topics listed above, items 1-4.

13. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Negotiations Committee—Mary Beth Malin – The Board received an update from Mary Beth Malin on the recent Negotiations subcommittee meeting that took place on January 31, 2024.
- B. DPAC (District Partnership Advisory Council)—Yvonne Palasky - The Board received an update from Yvonne Palasky on the recent District Parent Advisory Council meeting that took place on

14. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – BOE Member, Jennifer Norman, asked if the Policy subcommittee could review policy #6163.2 regarding live animals in the classroom.

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Cathy Waselik  
To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:43 PM.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak