

**GBE approve March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 14<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; 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; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Katy Sawaryn, GPS Special Services & Family Engagement Coordinator; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; Patricia Feeney and Jessica Gillespie, GPS TLI Coordinators.

**ABSENT**

Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services.

2. Pledge of Allegiance -The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Minutes
  - A. Special Meeting – February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

To approve the special meeting minutes of February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as presented.

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

Nays -

Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr.

Motion carried.

4. Communications
  - A. February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Letter from First Selectwoman Tina Falck, to Superintendent Sean McKenna
  - B. February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Letter from Martin Osga, Chair of the Alternative Space Needs Committee, to First Selectwoman Tina Falck

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

**REGULAR MEETING  
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,  
March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

5. Recognitions

- A. The Griswold Board of Education for Board of Education Appreciation Month – The Superintendent, administrators, and audience members took a moment to honor and thank our Griswold Board of Education members for their volunteer service to children, families, and the faculty and staff of Griswold Public Schools as part of Board of Education Appreciation month. They were each provided with a small token gift of appreciation for all that they do in moving Griswold Forward.
- B. VFW Regional Essay Recognition, GHS's Max Brown – GHS student, Max Brown, was honored for his regional and national recognition for a VFW essay contest he entered, where he recognized the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces and who have given of themselves to make the USA a nation that honors freedom and choice.
- C. Griswold Forward Recipients: Chloe Fitzgerald and Heather Murphy, Griswold Middle School, English/LA Teachers – Two ELA teachers from Griswold Middle School, Mrs. Heather Murphy and Mrs. Chloe Fitzgerald, were recognized as Griswold Forward recipients for the month of March for their dedication to classroom instruction and student learning. They work together seamlessly to create an environment where innovation thrives.

6. Student Representative Reports

- A. GES Student Representative Report: Lucy Bonchuk, Seth Houle, & Carter Lalumiere
- B. GMS Student Representative Report: Samiah Vincent & Amanda Sawyer
- C. GHS Student Representative Report: Amelia Stearnes & Max Brown  
The Griswold Board of Education received a monthly update from GES, GMS, and GHS student representatives.

The Board took a short recess at 6:25 PM for refreshments with our Board of Education members who are being honored this evening for Board of Education Appreciation Month.

The Board re-convened at 6:32 PM.

- 7. Public Comments – There were no requests for public comment this evening.
- 8. 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 New Policy #5142.5 – Students/Student Safety/Student Identification Badge System, Second Reading
  - B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Revised Policy #4117.6/4217.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified/Exit Interviews, Second Reading
  - C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Revised Regulation #4117.6/4217.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified/Exit Interviews, Second Reading

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Cathy Waselik  
To approve the consent agenda, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

9. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the Griswold Public Schools Increasing Educator Diversity Plan

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Cathy Waselik  
To approve the Griswold Public Schools Increasing Educator Diversity Plan, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review and Discussion on New Policy 6161.1 Instruction/Evaluation of Instructional Materials to the Full Board for Review, First Reading  
C. Review and Discussion on Regulation 6161.1 Instruction/Evaluation of Instructional Materials to the Full Board for Review, First Reading  
D. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 1330 Community Relations/Community Use of School Facilities to the Full Board for Review, First Reading  
E. Review and Discussion on Revised Regulation 1330 Community Relations/Community Use of School Facilities to the Full Board for Review, First Reading

The Board had a first reading of new policies and regulations, items B-E listed above, and they will revisit them at the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.

- F. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Course Proposal: Gaming Concepts, 3.0

**MOTION**

By Jennifer Norman  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To approve the new course proposal: Gaming Concepts, 3.0, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

- G. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve New Course Proposal: Basic Drone Technology

**MOTION**

By Jennifer Norman  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To approve new course proposal: Basic Drone Technology, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

- H. Review and Discussion on the presentation “ESSER Grants: Overview & The Sun-setting of the Grants”- The Board received an update from Superintendent, Sean McKenna, on the ESSER grants and how the sun-setting of these grants have come to impact the budget proposal for the 2024/2025 SY.

10. Unfinished Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the Initial Budget Proposal for the 2024/2025 School Year – The Board received an update from Superintendent, Sean McKenna, on the adjustment detail to the initial budget proposal. Due to the timeline with the town, Chair Mary Beth Malin and Superintendent

McKenna, asked the BOE if they were ready to approve the budget proposal so it can be prepared to share with the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance. This will give the BOF two weeks to review the BOE documents, which was a request from the Board of Finance. After much discussion by the Board, the Board took the following action:

**MOTION**

By Jennifer Norman  
Cathy Waselik

To accept the initial budget proposal 2.0 for the 2024/2025 school year.  
Ayes – Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton, Stuart Norman, Jr., Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman and Cathy Waselik

Nays – Yvonne Palasky

Abstain -

Motion carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the BOE-Approved Capital Committee Plan for the 2024/2025 School Year – The Board approved the Capital Committee Plan for the 2024/2025 school year.

**MOTION**

By Jennifer Norman  
Seconded by Martin Osga

To approve the BOE Capital Committee Plan for the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.

After discussion on the wording of the motion, Jennifer Norman rescinded her motion and then revised it as follows:

**MOTION**

By Jennifer Norman  
Seconded by Martin Osga

To approve the BOE Capital Committee Plan for the 2024/2025 school year, with a recommendation to the Town of Griswold, Capital Committee, to reserve a placeholder of \$100,000 for replacement of field as it relates to anticipated future costs related to the field.

Motion unanimously carried.

**11. Administrator’s Reports**

- A. Updates from the Assistant Superintendent—Glenn LaBossiere, Assistant Superintendent

1. Professional Learning Day, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024
2. Instructional Rounds—Student Talk/Teacher Talk
3. Teaching, Learning and Innovation/PDEC Committee
4. New Educator & Leader Evaluation & Support Plan

Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent, provided an update to the Board on items 1-4 above.

- B. Ensuring Equity Committee Update—Chris Champlin, Director of Student Services – The GPS Director of Student Services, Mr. Christopher Champlin, reported that the Ensuring Equity Committee had to cancel their recent meeting, therefore, there would be no report this evening.
- C. District Health, Safety & Wellness Update—Jeffrey Parkinson, Assistant Principal, Griswold Middle School – The Board received an update from GMS Assistant Principal, Jeffrey Parkinson, on the recent meeting of the District Health, Safety, and Wellness Committee.
- D. Audit, Fiscal Year '23—Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – In the absence of our Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, Superintendent, Sean McKenna, provided an update to the Board on where things currently stand with the audit related to FY2023.

12. Superintendent's Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board received an update on recent vacancies, appointments, and resignations.
- B. Superintendent's Timely Updates
  - 1. Tuition Town Partner Meeting & Upcoming Presentations
  - 2. Tuition Numbers for the 2024/2025 School Year

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

13. Committee/Board Reports

- A. DPAC (District Partnership Advisory Council)—Yvonne Palasky – An update on the recent DPAC meeting was provided by Yvonne Palasky, who chairs this committee.
  - B. Policy Subcommittee—Yvonne Palasky – An update on the work of the Policy subcommittee was provided by Yvonne Palasky, who chairs this committee.
  - C. Public Relations Subcommittee—Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton – An update on the Public Relations subcommittee meeting that took place prior to this evening's BOE meeting was provided by Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, who chairs this committee.
  - D. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance—Mary Beth Malin – An update on the recent meeting that took place with the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance, was provided by Mary Beth Malin.
14. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – The Superintendent informed the Board that they should take a moment to see the beautiful art displays at GMS. He gave a shout out to Art teacher, Erin Wraichette, on a job well done. The Superintendent also commended Tom Verville and his team, who have been working hard to move items from the former Alternative School now that the building has been turned over to the town.

**MOTION**

By Cathy Waselik  
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:36 PM.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak