

**GBE approved May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

1. A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 25<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. (entered at 6:01 PM), Martin Osga, Jennifer Norman and Cathy Waselik, Griswold BOE Members.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Assistant Superintendent; Deborah Martin, GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services; Steve Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Louis Zubek, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jaselyn Caviness, GPS Director of Wolverine Before/After School Program; and Katy Sawaryn, GPS Special Services & Family Engagement Coordinator.

**ABSENT**

Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal; and Art 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 – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
To approve the regular meeting minutes of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

4. Communications

- A. Staffing Document Requested by the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance, at its Meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 – The Board received a copy of a staffing document that was requested from the Griswold Board of Finance. The Superintendent confirmed that it was submitted to them on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

Stuart Norman, Jr. entered at 6:01 PM.

5. Recognitions

- A. Griswold Forward Recipients: Cathy Howley, Colleen Tules, Hannah Iacoi and Jessica Copeland, Griswold Elementary School - “The Science of Reading Team” – The Board, the Superintendent, administrators and audience members celebrated Cathy Howley, Colleen Tules, Hannah Iacoi and

Jessica Copeland, GES teachers, as the Griswold Forward recipients for their work as “the Science of Reading Team.”

6. Public Comments – There were no requests for public comment this evening.
7. 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 this evening.
8. New Business
  - A. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 5142.41—Students—Armed Security Guard, First Reading – Yvonne Palasky, who Chairs the Policy subcommittee, requested that this policy 5142.41 be referred back to the Policy subcommittee for further review before the full Board takes action.
  - B. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 4118.22—Personnel—Code of Ethics, First Reading – The Board had a first reading on revised policy 4118.22 and will bring it forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion, and action to approve.
  - C. Review and Discussion on Revised Policy 5141.5—Students—Suicide Prevention and Intervention, First Reading - The Board had a first reading on revised policy 5141.5 and will bring it forward to the next BOE meeting for review, discussion and action to approve.
  - D. Donation--\$2,800 Donation from Power Together3, Community Group – The Board accepted a donation of \$2,800 from Power Together3 Community Group, with gratitude.

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To accept the generous donation from the Power Together3 Community Group, with gratitude.  
Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Authorize the Filing of FCC Form 471 Schools and Libraries and Universal Service Program Services Ordered for the Fiscal Year 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025 – The Board authorized the Filing of FCC Form 471 Schools and Libraries and Universal Service Program Services Ordered for the Fiscal Year 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025.

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
That be it resolved that the governing board for Griswold Public Schools:  
1. Authorizes the filing of FCC Form 471, Schools and Libraries Universal Services Program Services ordered for the fiscal year 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025 and;

2. Authorizes payment of the applicant's share subject to the following conditions: (1) Approval of funding of the discounted portion by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) and (2) receipt of services during the fiscal year 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025.  
Motion unanimously carried.

9. Unfinished Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the Initial Budget Proposal for the 2024/2025 School Year – The Superintendent reviewed a list of possible cuts to the initial budget proposal for the 2024/2025 school year. This is based on a reduction amount of \$385,000, which was proposed by the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance. This was only a discussion at this point and time and no further action was taken.
- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the BOE-Approved Capital Committee Plan for the 2024/2025 School Year – There was no discussion and there was no action taken on this topic this evening.
- C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Recommend a Revised Tuition Revenue Maker for the 2024-2025 Budget based on Updated Data – The Superintendent recommended that the Board take action to increase the tuition revenue projection for the 2024/2025 school year from 3.5 million dollars to 3.75 million dollars based on closely monitoring new registrations at Griswold High School for next school year from our tuition partner towns.

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Cathy Waselik

To recommend that the Griswold Board of Education increase the tuition revenue marker from 3.5 million dollars to 3.75 million dollars for the 2024/2025 budget.

Motion unanimously carried.

10. Administrator's Reports

- A. Update on Building Goals for the 2023/2024 School Year—Joe Bordeau, Principal of Griswold Elementary School; Louis Zubek, Principal of Griswold Middle School; and Erin Palonen, Principal of Griswold High School – The Board received an update from GPS Principals on the progress made with building goals for the 2023/2024 school year.
- B. Financial Forecast for the 2023/2024 School Year – Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – The Board received an update from Deb Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, on the current financial status with the 2023/2024 school budget.

- C. Update on Facilities—Tom Verville, Director of Facilities & Grounds – The Board received an update from Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Schools, in the absence of Tom Verville, Director of Facilities & Grounds, on progress made towards building and ground projects this year.
- D. Wolverines Forward Program Update—Jaselyn Caviness, Program Director – The Board received an update from Jaselyn Caviness, Program Director for the Griswold Wolverine Before and After School Program, which included information on year end events and plans for next year’s program. Jaselyn also reviewed responses from families on a recent survey that occurred.

11. Superintendent’s Report

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations/Retirements – The Board received an update on the vacancies, appointments, resignations, and retirements.
- B. Superintendent’s Updates – The Superintendent provided an update to the Board on the nomination process for Teacher of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and employee group recognitions. He also shared information on a “Superintendent Book Study” group he participated in on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

12. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Negotiations & Budget Subcommittee - Mary Beth Malin – The Board received an update from Mary Beth Malin on the work of the Negotiations & Budget subcommittee.
- B. Town of Griswold, Capital Committee - Martin Osga – There was nothing to report on at this time.
- C. Town of Griswold, Board of Finance - Mary Beth Malin – BOE Chair, Mary Beth Malin, reminded everyone that there is a Board of Finance annual public hearing on the budget scheduled for next Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Griswold Middle School Cafeteria and she encouraged all to attend.

13. Other Business That May Properly Come Before this Board – Jennifer Norman discussed some possibilities for Chromebook funding.

14. Adjournment

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Cathy Waselik  
To adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:14 PM.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak