

**SPECIAL MEETING  
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**GBE approved 3/13/2023**

1. A special meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, 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, Chair of the Griswold Board of Education.

**PRESENT**

Mary Beth Malin, Griswold BOE Chair; Yvonne Palasky, Griswold BOE Vice-Chairman; Joyce Rice, Griswold BOE Secretary; Martin Osga; Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton; and Scott Freyer, Griswold BOE Members.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Sean McKenna, GPS Superintendent of Schools; Glenn LaBossiere, GPS Director, Teaching, Learning, and Innovation; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Student Services and Griswold Alternative School; 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; Jill Curioso, GPS Director of Technology; and Thomas O’Connor, GPS Director of Food Service.

**ABSENT**

Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Member; Stephen Cravinho, GPS Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Arthur Howe, GHS Associate Principal; and Jeff Parkinson, GMS Assistant Principal.

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

2. Approval of the Minutes

- A. February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Meeting

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Joyce Rice

To approve the regular meeting minutes of February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

3. Communications

- A. February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Letter to State Senator Heather Somers
- B. February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Letter to State Representative Brian Lanoue
- C. February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Letter from First Selectman, Dana Bennett
- D. February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Letter to Town of Griswold, Town Selectmen

The BOE received copies of all communications from A-D, listed above.

4. New Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Appoint a BOE Member to the Community Multi-Purpose Field Building Committee – The Griswold Board of Education had a lengthy discussion on the request from the Griswold Board of Selectman, who met on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and directed the Griswold Board of Education to appoint one member to serve on a newly formed Multi-Purpose Field Building Committee. This request was communicated in a letter to the Board of Education, dated February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Board expressed their concerns for why this committee is being formed when we already have a School Building Committee in place. This newly formed committee would replace the School Building Committee for the upcoming Multi-Purpose field project. The BOE felt that the School Building Committee has handled multiple building projects over the years and they are questioning why this process is now changing. The Board voted to table this topic until their next regular meeting, which is scheduled for March 13, 2023. The Board also voted to forward an FOI request to the Board of Selectman and the First Selectman requesting communications between the First Selectman and Legal Counsel regarding this topic.

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To table this topic until the next meeting of the Griswold Board of Education, which is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION**

By Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton

Seconded by Scott Freyer

That the Griswold Board of Education forward a formal Freedom of Information Request to the Griswold Board of Selectman and the First Selectman’s office, requesting correspondence between the First Selectman and the Town Attorney and the Bond Attorney pertaining to the Multi-Purpose Field and Track Project and pertaining to the Town’s Building Committee and any ordinance(s) pertaining to those two topics.

Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to Recommend a Tuition Revenue Amount for the 2023-2024 School Year for Budgeting Purposes – The Superintendent reviewed his recommendation to forward a 2.7 million dollar tuition revenue marker for the budget for next year to the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance. The Board did not take action and decided to table this topic until there is further discussion and plans to approve the 2023/2024 school budget.

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky

Seconded by Joyce Rice

To table this topic until further discussion and plans to approve the 2023/2024 school budget.

Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review and Discussion on Revised Bylaw—9325—Bylaws of the Board, Meeting Conduct—First Reading – The Board had a first reading of revised Bylaw 9325 and will bring it forward to the next BOE meeting for a second reading and to take action to approve.
- D. Review and Discussion on New Policy 5145.54—Students—Civility—First Reading - The Board had a first reading of new policy 5145.54 and will bring it forward to the next BOE meeting for a second reading and to take action to approve.

5. Unfinished Business

- A. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the 2023-2024 Initial Budget Proposal – The Superintendent provided a third iteration of the proposed 2023/2024 school budget as they are moving forward during budget season. Because possible action was listed on this agenda item, the Board motioned to take no action at this time.

**MOTION**

By Joyce Rice

Seconded by Scott Freyer

To table the initial action on the 2023/2024 budget proposal and bring forward to the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BOE meeting.

Motion unanimously carried.

6. Administrator’s Report

- A. Financial Update on the 2022-23 BOE Budget—Deborah Martin, Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services – GPS Director of Fiscal & Personnel Services, Deb Martin, provided an update to the Board on the current status of the 2022/2023 school budget.

7. Superintendent’s Report

A. Superintendent’s Timely Updates

1. New Budget Schedule: This Includes Potential Dates to Present to the Town of Griswold, Board of Finance
2. Project Update: Alternative School Re-location & Renovation
3. Project Update: Community Multi-Purpose Field
4. Grant Update: Update on Grant Applications
5. Reading Waiver Application

The Superintendent provided updates to the BOE on all topics listed above 1-5.

8. Committee/Board Reports

- A. Facilities Subcommittee Update - Martin Osga – An updated was provided by Marty Osga, Chair of the Facilities Subcommittee, on their recent work.
- B. Policy Subcommittee – The Board received an update on the cancellation of the recent Policy subcommittee meeting due to inclement weather by Chair, Yvonne Palasky.

9. Adjournment

**MOTION**

By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton  
To adjourn the special meeting at 7:08 PM.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak