

**REGULAR MEETING  
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
December 11, 2017**

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education took place on Monday, December 11, 2017, in the Library Media Center, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Griswold Middle School. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman, Stuart Norman, Jr.

**PRESENT** Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Chairman; Frank Everett, BOE Vice-Chairman; Laurie Sorder, BOE Secretary; Yvonne Palasky; Mary Beth Malin; Dr. Theresa Madonna; and Jennifer Norman, BOE Members.

**ALSO PRESENT** Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Schools; Susan Rourke, GPS Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Christopher Champlin, GPS Director of Special Education & Pupil Services; Michele Demicco, GPS Business Manager; Stephen Cravinho, Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Marceline Macrino, GHS Associate Principal; Glenn LaBossiere, GMS Principal; Chris Vamvakides, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; and Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal.

**ABSENT**

**MOTION** By Laurie Sorder  
Seconded by Dr. Theresa Madonna  
To add under New Business, G, Gifts/Donations, #3 – VFW Flag donation.  
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Laurie Sorder  
To approve the BOE minutes of 11/27/17, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Dr. Theresa Madonna  
To approve the special meeting minutes of 12/4/17, as presented.  
Ayes – Stuart Norman, Jr., Laurie Sorder, Yvonne Palasky, Dr. Theresa Madonna, and Jennifer Norman  
Nays –  
Abstain – Frank Everett and Mary Beth Malin  
Motion carried.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. GPS Newsletter for December 2017 – The Board received a copy of the GPS newsletter for December 2017.
- B. Special Education Newsletter for December, 2017 – The Board received a copy of the special education newsletter for December 2017.
- C. Board of Education Subcommittees for 2017-2019 – The Board received a copy of the newly appointed 2017-19 Board of Education subcommittees of the Griswold Board of Education.
- D. GMS Select Choir to Perform at Providence Bruins Hockey Game – The Board received information on the GMS Select Choir, who were chosen to perform at the Providence Bruins Hockey game, which is scheduled for Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 PM.
- E. GMS Winter Concert Schedule – The Board received a copy of the GMS upcoming winter concert schedule.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Review and Approval of Griswold Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2018 – The Board approved the 2018 meeting dates for the Griswold Board of Education.

### **MOTION**

Dr. Theresa Madonna  
Seconded by Frank Everett  
To approve the BOE meeting dates for 2018, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Review and Action on appointment of Board of Education Member to Serve on the Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee for 2017/18 – The Board appointed Yvonne Palasky to serve as the BOE representative on the Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee for the 2017/18 school year.

### **MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder  
Seconded by Jennifer Norman  
To appoint Yvonne Palasky to serve as the BOE representative on the Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship committee for 2017/18.  
Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review and Action on Proposed Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship Committee for 2017-18 – The Board approved the proposed Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship

committee, as presented, with the addition of Yvonne Palasky, who will serve as the BOE representative on the committee.

**MOTION**

By Frank Everett

Seconded by Dr. Theresa Madonna

To approve the 2017/18 proposed Gerard and Wanda Brunet Scholarship committee, with the addition of BOE member Yvonne Palasky, as presented.

Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review and Action on Filing for Primary Mental Health (PMHP) Grant – The Board voted to approve the filing of the Primary Mental Health grant, if and when it becomes available to do so, and they have authorized the Superintendent or his designee to file the grant.

**MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder

Seconded by Dr. Theresa Madonna

To approve the filing of the Primary Mental Health grant application, if and when it becomes available, and to authorize the Superintendent and/or his designee to file the grant application.

Motion unanimously carried.

- E. Review and Action on Fundraising Event Proposed by the Griswold Youth Center – Ryan Aubin, Director of Griswold Park and Recreation Department, requested approval for use of GPS facilities for a proposed Wrestling fundraising event, which will raise funds for a new splash pad being proposed for the town of Griswold. The Board discussed their concerns for this event in light of all of our current budget issues with the state and Ryan understood their concerns. No action was taken to approve his request.

- F. Quarterly Review of Student Internal Accounts for GES, GMS and GHS – The Board was provided with a copy of the balances for the internal accounts for GES, GMS, and GHS. Dr. Theresa Madonna questioned if we could use any of these funds to offset the cuts to our budget proposed by the State of Connecticut. The Superintendent responded with explanations on why certain accounts could not be reduced. The Superintendent and administrators will be reviewing these accounts in further detail to see if there are any funds, which could be used to offset the cuts that will have to be made.

G. Gifts/Donations

1. United Services – Center for Autism – The Board accepted a generous donation from United Services – Center of Autism – for friendship bracelets and hand clappers.

**MOTION**

By Frank Everett

Seconded by Laurie Sorder

To accept the generous donation from United Services, Center for Autism, with gratitude, for friendship bracelets and hand clappers.

2. Jewett City Electric Light Plant – The Board accepted a very generous donation from the Jewett City Electric Light Plant for a waiver on lease payments for a GHS retrofit project.

**MOTION**

By Frank Everett

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To accept the extremely generous gift from the Jewett City Electric Light Plant in the amount of approximately \$20,000 beginning in February 2018.

Motion unanimously carried.

3. Jewett City VFW – The Board accepted a donation of a flag from the Jewett City VFW, and Mrs. Cindy Martin, who participates on the women’s auxiliary.

**MOTION**

By Frank Everett

Seconded by Laurie Sorder

To accept the very generous donation from the Ladies Auxiliary and VFW for a flag donation to GMS.

Motion unanimously carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. \*Review and Possible Action on 2017/18 Budget and Adjustments in Personnel – The Board discussed some of our current budget issues and referred further discussion in executive session at the end of the regular meeting.

**ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS**

- A. Report on District Improvement Plan Progress – The Superintendent and GPS administrators provided an update to the Board on the progress with our District Improvement Plan.
- B. Financial Update, 2017/18 – Business Manager, Michele Demicco, provided an update to the Board on the current status of the 2017/18 budget.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Board accepted the resignations of the following individuals: Peter Rodrigues, GHS History/Social Studies teacher; and Brian Bindas, GES custodian, with regret.

**MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder  
Seconded by Frank Everett  
To accept the resignations of Peter Rodrigues, GHS History/Social Studies teacher; and Brian Bindas, GES custodian, with regret.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder  
Seconded by Frank Everett  
To accept the retirements of Terri Towle, GES Special Education teacher; Cynthia Boling, GES grade 2 teacher; and Kevin Prendergast, GAHS Special Education teacher, with regret, as presented, and effective June 30, 2018.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS**

A. Athletic Subcommittee Update – L. Sorder –Laurie Sorder thanked the Athletic subcommittee for appointing her as chair at their meeting prior to this evening’s BOE meeting. Mrs. Sorder provided the Board with an update on the Athletic subcommittee meeting that occurred at 5 PM.

**OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MOTION**

By Frank Everett  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To move into executive session at 7:45 PM for the purpose of review and possible action on 2017/18 budget and adjustments in personnel, inviting Susan Rourke, GPS Curriculum Director, and Michele Demicco, GPS Business Manager.  
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:28 PM with no action taken.

**MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder  
Seconded by Jennifer Norman  
To adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak