

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
February 11, 2013**

GBE approved 2/25/13

A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Monday, February 11, 2013 in the Library Media Center located on the second floor of Griswold Middle School, 211 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman, Elizabeth Dorff.

PRESENT Elizabeth Dorff, BOE Chairman; Stuart Norman, Jr., Vice Chairman; Laurie Sorder, Frank Everett, Yvonne Palasky, and Valerie Grills, BOE Members.

ALSO PRESENT Paul K. Smith, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. John DiIorio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment; Madeline Illinger, Director of Special Education & Services; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Glenn LaBossiere, Campus Wide Activities and Athletic Director; Paul Berkel, GMS Interim Principal; Sarah Cary, GMS Assistant Principal; Susan Rourke, GES Principal; and Joseph Bordeau, GES Assistant Principal.

ABSENT Kimberly Brunelle, BOE Secretary; Dr. Mark Frizzell, GHS Principal; and Matthew Peel, GHS Associate Principal.

MOTION By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Frank Everett
To add an item to the agenda under New Business, 6D, Review and discussion of the 2012-13 school calendar.
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Laurie Sorder
To approve the special meeting minutes of January 29, 2013, as presented.
Ayes – Elizabeth Dorff, Laurie Sorder, Yvonne Palasky and Valerie Grills
Nays –
Abstain – Stuart Norman, Jr. and Frank Everett
Motion carried.

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MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Valerie Grills
To approve the special meeting minutes of February 4, 2013 with a correction that Mr. Matt Dyer, who was representing GMS, advocated for a special education teacher and a reading interventionist.

Discussion: Laurie Sorder asked if paragraph two should be corrected to say world language rather than word language.

MOTION By Yvonne Palasky
Seconded by Valerie Grills
To amend the last motion and add a correction in paragraph two to say world language rather than word language.
Motion unanimously carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

HEARINGS & REQUESTS

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review and Approval of GHS Overnight Student Council Trip – Terry Cholewa, GHS staff member, reviewed details of an overnight trip to Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT for a state wide leadership conference through the Connecticut Association of Schools. This overnight trip is scheduled for March 15 and 16, 2013. Per Board policy, this trip requires Board approval because it is an overnight trip.

MOTION By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Frank Everett
To approve the overnight Student Council trip to Wesleyan University, as proposed.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Preschool Presentation on Myths and Facts of Early Childhood Programs – This item was tabled and will be added to the next BOE meeting agenda.

- C. Leave Request – Diane Ebberup– The Superintendent reported that Diane Ebberup, an

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instructional assistant at GHS, is requesting an unpaid leave of absence to attend to a family matter and he noted that administration supports her request.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Valerie Grills
To approve the request for a leave of absence for Diane Ebberup, without pay, from March 13 through 25, 2013.

Discussion: The Board was informed by Robin Drobiak and Holly McCalla that Ms. Ebberup was requesting use of four personal days in addition to the unpaid days.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Valerie Grills
To amend the previous motion to approve the leave request per the contract in which Diane Ebberup will receive her personal days paid and the rest unpaid.
Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review and Discussion of 2012-13 Calendar – The Superintendent reported that we have used three days for the hurricane in October, a snow day in January and two snow days in February, for a total of six days, which brings students to the last day of school on Friday, June 21st at this time. Rather than go in to the next week if we have more snow, the Superintendent asked the Board's permission to adjust the calendar so that we would convert the March 28th and/or the May 24th professional development days to school days, allowing students to continue being done by June 21st. The faculty would then have professional development days on June 24th, June 25th if we use one more day, and June 26th if we use two more days. The Superintendent would prefer to avoid taking away days during April vacation.

MOTION

By Frank Everett
Seconded by Stuart Norman, Jr.
To authorize the Superintendent to make adjustments to the 2012-13 school calendar, and to notify families, as needed, pending additional snow days.
Motion unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 2013-14 Budget Deliberations – The Superintendent and the Board deliberated on the 2013-14 proposed budget and decided to wait on making any decisions about the budget until after they receive more information on health insurance costs.

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- B. Energy Performance Contracting – The Superintendent and the Board discussed whether to proceed with a joint meeting of the town boards or to continue to table this item pertaining to Energy Performance contracting. The Board deliberated and decided to table this item until after the budget gets passed.

MOTION

By Valerie Grills
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To table this project until after the budget is passed.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Superintendent suggested adding this item to a July Board of Education meeting for discussion.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

None

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Superintendent reported on the resignations of the following individuals: Shirley Tondreau, GES full-time custodian; Dale Pepper, GHS part-time custodian; Angela Franke, child care aide in the Griswold Child Development Center and Patricia Comard, GHS academic academy tutor.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Frank Everett
To accept the resignations of Shirley Tondreau, Dale Pepper, Angela Franke and Patricia Comard, with regret, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Superintendent reported on the appointments of the following individuals: Patricia Atkinson, GPS part-time PPT Facilitator; Jill Skidgell, GHS Family & Consumer Science teacher; and Maria Sokola, GMS Spanish teacher.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Laurie Sorder
To approve the appointments of Patricia Atkinson, Jill Skidgell, and Maria Sokola, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Superintendent reported on the following employees who will be retiring under the terms of the *Early Separation Incentive 2013*: John Andriso, GES grade 3 teacher; Susan Baker, GES grade 3 teacher; Dianne Bartos-Dobratz, GMS PE teacher; Jan Bennett, GES Kindergarten teacher; Ron Boling, GES Technology Education teacher; Kathleen Iovino, GES School Social Worker; Vicki Kelly, GES Grade 2 teacher; Jeanette Kildea, GES Art teacher; Lesley King, GMS Language Arts and Social Studies teacher; Elizabeth Scott, GHS Health teacher; and Mary Toth, GHS Business teacher.

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MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Frank Everett
To accept the retirements, with regret, for the following teachers:
John Andriso, Susan Baker, Dianne Bartos-Dobratz, Janice Bennett,
Ronald Boling, Kathleen Iovino, Vicki Kelly, Jeanette Kildea,
Lesley King, Elizabeth Scott, and Mary Toth.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. *Personnel Matter – This item was referred to executive session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building Committee – Frank Everett updated the Board on the work of the Building Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Dyer indicated that there was a one word comment earlier regarding use of the GMS library and the answer was no and he wanted to share that it has been almost next to impossible to schedule time in the library because of the middle school schedule. It is not from a lack of effort on Carol Goulart's part to try to get kids into this library and Carol is not here to defend herself and it is part of his job as GEA president to advocate for teachers and that is what he is doing. Carol has done an excellent job as a librarian. He would love to get to the library more with the schedule he has but it has been extremely hard. It is a beautiful space and he would love to use it more. Go libraries!

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To move into executive session at 7:20 p.m. for the purpose
of discussion of a personnel matter.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:00 p.m. with no action.

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MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Valerie Grills
To offer a \$15,000 early retirement incentive to the Curriculum Director, money to be paid if the resignation is received by the Superintendent by the 15th of February, with an effective date at the end of the 2012-13 school year.
Ayes – Stuart Norman, Jr., Frank Everett, Laurie Sorder, and Yvonne Palasky
Nays – Elizabeth Dorff and Valerie Grills
Abstain –
Motion carried.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Laurie Sorder
To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak