

**REGULAR MEETING  
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
February 26, 2018**

**GBE approved March 12, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education took place on Monday, February 26, 2018, in the GMS Library Media Center, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Griswold Middle School. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Vice-Chairman, Frank Everett.

**PRESENT** 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, GPS Campus Wide Activities and Athletic Director; Erin Palonen, GHS Principal; Marceline Macrino, GHS Associate Principal; Glenn LaBossiere, GMS Principal; Chris Vamvakides, GMS Assistant Principal; Joseph Bordeau, GES Principal; Jacqueline Love, GES Assistant Principal; and Jill Curioso, GPS Technology Director.

**ABSENT** Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Chairman.

**MOTION** By Dr. Theresa Madonna  
Seconded by Laurie Sorder  
To add under Unfinished Business #8, Letter B., discussion and possible action to extend the voluntary retirement incentive plan offered to certified staff to one week, which will be Friday, March 9, 2018.  
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Yvonne Palasky  
Seconded by Mary Beth Malin  
To approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/12/18, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A. GPS Parent Advisory Newsletter for February 2018 – The Board received a copy of the GPS Parent Advisory Council newsletter for February 2018.

- B. Nomination Packet for 2018 Volunteer of the Year – The Board received a copy of the *Volunteer of the Year* nomination packet for 2018.
- C. Thank you Note from Brooklyn Public Schools – The Board received a thank you note from Brooklyn Public Schools for attending the recent CAFE legislative breakfast.
- D. Thank you Note from Griswold Senior Center – The Board received a thank you note from the Griswold Senior Center for the donation of SEAT bus passes.
- E. Letter to Parents of Children Attending the Griswold Child Development Center – The Board received a copy of a letter addressed to parents of children who attend the Griswold Child Development Center.

**HEARINGS & REQUESTS**

None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Killingly Regional Agricultural Education Center Consulting Committee Update from Liaison Richard Campbell and Killingly Regional VoAg Representative, Kenneth Couture - The Board heard a presentation from Killingly VoAg Director, Mr. Kenneth Couture, and liaison, Mr. Richard Campbell, overviewing program options for students who choose to attend Killingly VoAg. A former Griswold student, Isabella Deep, attends Killingly VoAg as a sophomore this year and detailed her experience as a student at Killingly VoAg.
- B. Gifts/Donations
  - 1. Exxon Mobil Education Alliance Program on Behalf of Petromax of Griswold. 1 - \$500 donation - The Board graciously accepted a donation of \$500 on behalf of Andrew Haripaul, who nominated Griswold Public Schools, and who represents the Griswold Petromax store, for a \$500 grant donation to be used for math and science programs.

**MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder  
 Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
 To accept, with gratitude, a donation of \$500 from the Exxon Mobil Education Alliance Program, on behalf of Andrew Haripaul, who nominated Griswold Public Schools and who represents the Griswold Petromax store.  
 Motion unanimously carried.

2. Exxon Mobil Education Alliance Program on Behalf of Chucky's Jewett City Mobil Gas Station 2 - \$500 donations - The Board graciously accepted two donations of \$500 each on behalf of Ken Coomes, who nominated Griswold Public Schools and who represents the Chucky's Jewett City Mobil Station and Chucky's Lisbon Mobil Gas Station.

**MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To accept, with gratitude, two donations of \$500 from the Exxon Mobil Education Alliance Program, on behalf of Ken Coomes, who nominated Griswold Public Schools and who represents the Chucky's Jewett City and Chucky's Lisbon gas stations, to promote further development of math and science programs.

Motion unanimously carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Continuation of Budget Deliberations for School Year 2018/19 – The Board continued deliberating on the 2018/19 budget. Mr. Glenn LaBossiere, GMS Principal, provided data, at the request of the Board, on how a proposed cut to a Spanish teacher would impact GMS and students who currently take Spanish in the middle school. The Board is expected to present the school budget to the Board of Finance on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The next BOE meeting is scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>. There was an offer on the table to schedule a special meeting if the Board felt they needed more time for budget deliberations.
- B. Discussion and Possible Action to Extend the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan Offered to Certified Staff to One Week, which will be Friday, March 9, 2018 – The Board approved an extension of the deadline for certified staff to submit their voluntary retirement incentive offers from Friday, March 2, 2018 to Friday, March 9, 2018 at 12 PM.

**MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder

Seconded by Mary Beth Malin

To extend the deadline for the voluntary retirement incentive plan for certified staff by one week with a new deadline of March 9, 2018 at 12 noon.

Motion unanimously carried.

**ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS**

- A. Financial Update, 2017-18 – GPS Business Manager, Michele Demicco, presented an update to the Board on the current financial status of the 2017/18 budget.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Vacancies/Appointment/Resignations – The Board approved the appointments of the following new staff members: Charles Cole, GPS Technology Aide, full-time, Cherish Sheehan, GPS Instructional Assistant, part-time; and Tyler Elliott, GPS custodian, full-time.

### **MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To approve the appointment of Charles Cole, GPS Technology Aide, full-time, effective February 26, 2018.  
Ayes – L. Sorder, Y. Palasky, M. Malin, and J. Norman  
Nays – T. Madonna  
Abstain –  
Motion carried.

### **MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To approve the appointment of Cherish Sheehan, GPS part-time Instructional Assistant, effective February 26, 2018.  
Motion unanimously carried.

### **MOTION**

By Laurie Sorder  
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky  
To approve the appointment of Tyler Elliott, GPS custodian full-time, effective February 26, 2018.  
Ayes – L. Sorder, Y. Palasky, M. Malin, and J. Norman  
Nays – T. Madonna  
Abstain –  
Motion carried.

Note: Dr. Theresa Madonna stated for the record that the reason she voted no for the appointments of Charles Cole and Tyler Elliott was because she did not feel we should appoint people to these positions at this time due to the very difficult financial status with our current budget and our budget for 2018/19.

- B. Discussion on District Response to March 14<sup>th</sup> – Due to the tragic event that unfolded last week in Florida, the Superintendent reported that the district is looking at ways to address and respond to the March 14<sup>th</sup> *March for our Lives and National School Walkout*. He will report back to the Board at the March 12<sup>th</sup>, BOE meeting, on what the administration will recommend.
- C. Update on Roundtable Meeting with State Representative Kevin Skulczyck and Area Superintendents Scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> - The Superintendent updated the Board on a roundtable meeting that is scheduled for Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Griswold Public Schools, with state representatives, area superintendents and local police, in attendance and the discussion will pertain to school safety. Superintendent McKenna noted that the focus of

the meeting originally was to discuss ECS funding, however, there will now be a focus on schools safety due to the recent tragic event in Florida.

### **COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS**

- A. Public Relations Subcommittee Update – Jennifer Norman, Chair of the Public Relations subcommittee, updated the Board on the outcome of their recent meeting that took place on February 15, 2018.
- B. Academic Subcommittee Update – Jennifer Norman was appointed as the Chair of the Academic subcommittee at the meeting at 5 PM today prior to the 6 PM BOE meeting. As the new chair, she was pleased to report on the outcome of the Academic subcommittee meeting this evening.
- C. Municipal Gas Line Project Update – Frank Everett provided an update to the Board on the results of the recent Eversource committee meeting that occurred.

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

Superintendent Sean McKenna shared with the Board that he provided written testimony to the appropriations committee. He will email a copy of that testimony to the Board.

Dr. Theresa Madonna reported that she had the distinct pleasure of speaking at the recent DPAC committee on behalf of Mary Beth Malin, who was on vacation, and she encouraged everyone to be a part of the budget process. She noted that it was nice to see some of those people at the BOE meeting this evening and thanked them for attending and for being a part of the budget process.

Jen Norman thanked the Board for being able to attend this year's *CABE A Day on the Hill* event with Superintendent McKenna and BOE members Stuart Norman, Jr. and Laurie Sorder. As a BOE representative, she feels it is a deep privilege to represent the Board and to be able to attend.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **MOTION**

By Dr. Theresa Madonna  
Seconded by Mary Beth Malin  
To adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes prepared by: Robin Drobiak