

**REGULAR MEETING  
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,  
May 29, 2012**

**GBE approved 6/11/12**

A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 in the Conference Room located at Griswold Middle School, 211 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 (entered @ 6:04 p.m.), BOE Members; Aija Zimmerman, Student Representative to the Board.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dr. John DiIorio, Acting Superintendent of Schools; Paul Berkel, Acting Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Glenn LaBossiere, District wide Activities and Athletic Director; Holly McCalla, GPS Business Manager; Madeline Illinger, Director of Special Education & Services; Dr. Mark Frizzell, GHS Principal; Matthew Peel, GHS Associate Principal; Sarah Cary, GMS Assistant Principal and Griswold Alternative High School Principal; Cynthia Hebert, Retiring GPS Financial Assistant; Deborah Loser, Sandra DeFilippo, Lynn Iacovelli, Sandy Grabowski, and Sharon Briggs, Retiring Teachers.

**ABSENT**

Kimberly Brunelle, BOE Secretary; Thanh Nguyen, GMS Principal; Susan Rourke, GES Principal, and Joseph Bordeau, GES Assistant Principal.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION**

By Frank Everett  
Seconded by Stuart Norman, Jr.  
To approve the regular meeting minutes of May 14, 2012, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Veteran's History Project – The BOE received an e-mail invitation from Betsy Kowal, GHS Teacher, inviting them on May 30<sup>th</sup> between 12:45 and 1:30 p.m. to watch interviews between students and 40 veterans as part of the Veterans History Project.

The Board received a thank you note from Megan Maynard, a recipient of the Tier II Wanda Brunet Scholarship, thanking everyone on the committee and the Board of Education members for choosing her as a scholarship recipient.

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**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Aija Zimmerman, student representative to the Board of Education, reported on the elections for Student Council and National Honor Society. The following students were elected to office: Monique Maynard, Christa Colter and Tyler Longolucco were elected as press officer, commentary and properties manager. For NHS, the following students were elected to office: President - Rshan Patel; Vice President - Adam Rock; Treasurer - Lexie Edge; and Secretary - Karen Walsh. Congratulations!

Aija also reported that on June 15<sup>th</sup> following exams there will be a dodge ball tournament between students and faculty.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Honoring our Retiring Staff Members – The Superintendent, Administrators and the Board of Education acknowledged and recognized eight staff members who have announced their plans to retire. Their contributions to the schools, the community and to the children of Griswold have made a difference in the lives of many, and we wish them long and happy retirements. The retirees are: Lynn Johnson, Deborah Loser, Lynn Iacovelli, Sandra DeFilippo, Leslie McRae, Sandra Grabowski, Sharon Briggs, and Cynthia Hebert. Congratulations!
- B. Announcement of 2013 Teacher of the Year – Matt Dyer, chairman for the “*Teacher of the Year*” committee reported on the work of the committee and on this year's recognitions. Betsy Kowal (GHS) has been selected as this year's "*Teacher of the Year*." Additionally, the highlighted teacher of the year chosen was John Felty (GMS). Congratulations!

The Board recessed at 6:30 p.m. for a brief reception and to attend a town meeting.

The Board re-convened at 7:15 p.m.

- C. Discussion and Approval of GPS Technology Plan for July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015 - Technology Director Jill Curioso reported that the State of Connecticut requires that each school district revise its educational technology plan every three years and file it with the state. She highlighted the revisions to the 2012-2015 Technology Plan and requested approval by the BOE.

**MOTION**

By Frank Everett  
Seconded by Laurie Sorder  
To approve the GPS Technology Plan for July 1, 2012  
through June 30, 2015, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

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- B. \*Discussion of Custodial Contract for Period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 – This item was referred to executive session and Acting Superintendent DiIorio and Business Manager Holly McCalla were invited to attend.
- C. Approval of Custodial Contract for Period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 – The Board approved the custodial contract following executive session (see below).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Superintendent Search Update – Chairman Elizabeth Dorff updated the BOE on the search for a new Superintendent. She noted that we have received 25 applications for the Superintendent's vacancy and we have a very strong pool of candidates to choose from. We are in the process of choosing those candidates to be interviewed and will plan for interviews in early June.
- B. 2012-13 Budget Update – Acting Superintendent John DiIorio reviewed the positions to be eliminated in order to bring forward the proposed budget of 1.52% as approved by the Board of Finance on May 22, 2012. He also reported that the next referendum is set for Tuesday, June 12, 2012.

**ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT**

- A. Financial Update, 2011-12 – Business Manager Holly McCalla updated the Board on the financial status of the 2011-12 budget. She indicated that we are hoping to be able to return approximately \$300K to the Town.
- B. Budget Transfer Request – Business Manager Holly McCalla requested the approval of two budget transfers: Sending account GMS teacher salaries account #1.0.18.1000.99.101 to GMS student activities advisor account #1.0.18.3200.99.324 for enrichment positions; and sending account #1.0.18.1000.99.101 GMS teacher salaries to GES student activities advisor account # 1.0.10.3200.99.324 for enrichment positions.

**MOTION**

By Stuart Norman, Jr.  
Seconded by Laurie Sorder  
To approve the budget transfer requests, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – Superintendent John DiIorio reported on the anticipated vacancies to the certified positions due to retirements; one GMS grade seven math/social studies teacher and two GMS grade 5 positions. These positions were posted internally at this time to allow certified staff members to request for transfers before posting the positions externally. Vacant positions will not be advertised until the budget

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passes.

**COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS**

Building Committee Update – Frank Everett, Building Committee Chairman, reported on the building project. He indicated that the state is planning to do the audit for the Griswold Middle School project on June 19 and 20. The state will work with the Town to complete the audit. Once the audit is complete, we hope to be able to move Central Office back on campus.

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

Yvonne Palasky reported that she had the pleasure and the honor to attend the RISE Pep Rally at GHS and was very proud of the student body for the standing ovation they gave to the Korean War veteran, Mr. Ali, who received his high school diploma. Stuart Norman, Jr. added that the students at GHS made him very proud.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MOTION**

By Stuart Norman, Jr.  
Seconded by Frank Everett  
To move into executive session at 8:10 p.m., inviting  
Business Manager Holly McCalla.  
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:37 p.m.

**MOTION**

By Stuart Norman, Jr.  
Seconded by Valerie Grills  
To approve the custodial contract for period July 1, 2012  
through June 30, 2015, as presented.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION**

By Frank Everett  
Seconded by Valerie Grills  
To adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak  
Executive session minutes recorded by: Holly McCalla