

**REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
June 9, 2014**

GBE approved 6/23/14

A regular meeting of the Griswold Board of Education took place on Monday, June 9, 2014 in the GMS Library Media Center, located on the 2nd floor of Griswold Middle School. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by BOE Chairman, Elizabeth Dorff.

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

ALSO PRESENT Paul K. Smith, Superintendent of Schools; Susan Rourke, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Erin Palonen, Director of Special Education & Services; Holly McCalla, GPS Business Manager; Dr. Mark Frizzell, GHS Principal; Matthew Peel, GHS Associate Principal; Glenn LaBossiere, Campus Wide Activities & Athletic Director; Michele Raynor, GMS Principal; Joseph Bordeaux, GES Principal; and Rita Quiles-Glover, GES Assistant Principal.

ABSENT Sarah Cary, GMS Assistant Principal.

The Board and the audience performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOE Chairman, Elizabeth Dorff, requested moving Hearings and Requests after New Business, A. Recognition of GHS Student Nicholas Mattera. Hearing no objections, they proceeded as suggested.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Valerie Grills
Seconded by Laurie Sorder
To approve the regular meeting minutes of May 27, 2014.

Discussion: The tape recorder at the May 27, 2014 BOE meeting malfunctioned so the Board had to review the motions and who seconded each motion for the following agenda items:

Laurie Sorder motioned and Valerie Grills seconded under New Business, I. Review and Action on AESOP Software for Substitute Calling for 2014/15, to move forward with using AESOP software for substitute booking for the 2014/15 school year. The vote unanimously carried.

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Frank Everett motioned and Valerie Grills seconded under Unfinished Business, Review of GPS Emergency Operations Manual, Second Reading, to approve the GPS Emergency Operations Manual, as presented. The vote unanimously carried.

Laurie Sorder motioned and Yvonne Palasky seconded under Superintendent's Report, Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations, to accept the resignation of Kathy Nine, GMS Special Education Teacher, as of June 30, 2014, with regret, as presented. The vote unanimously carried.

Laurie Sorder motioned and Yvonne Palasky seconded, under Superintendent's Report, Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations, to accept the resignation of Jessica Bruno, GMS Health Assistant, as of May 30, 2014, with regret, as presented. The vote unanimously carried.

Laurie Sorder motioned and Yvonne Palasky seconded under Superintendent's Report, Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations, to approve the appointment of Morgan Rein as the GMS Girls' Basketball Head Coach, as presented. The vote unanimously carried.

Mary Beth Malin motioned and Laurie Sorder seconded to move into executive session at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of budget cuts for 2014-15. The vote was unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:00 p.m.

Frank Everett motioned and Valerie Grills seconded to approve cuts, totaling \$198,000, to the 2014/15 school budget. The vote unanimously carried.

Mary Beth Malin motioned and Laurie Sorder seconded to adjourn the BOE meeting at 9:00 p.m. The vote unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Valerie Grills

Seconded by Laurie Sorder

To amend the motion to approve the minutes of May 27, 2014 with changes, as discussed.

Motion unanimously carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Thank you Note from Russ Salvador – The Board received a thank you note from Russ Salvador for their support with CONN TREK and for allowing students to attend a recent BOE meeting about the CONN TREK fundraiser.
- B. RISE 4th Quarter Accomplishments/GHS - The Board received a copy of a brochure listing the 4th quarter accomplishments for students at Griswold High School.

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- C. Dedication Ceremony Brochure in Honor of Alicia Pierce Pasupuleti – The Board received a copy of the program given out at the recent clock dedication ceremony on behalf of the family of Alicia Pierce Pasupuleti.
- D. Thank you Letter from Commissioner Stefan Pryor – The Board received a copy of a letter from Commissioner of Education, Stefan Pryor, thanking the district for allowing he and his colleagues the opportunity to visit the Griswold Public Schools on March 27th.

HEARINGS AND REQUESTS

Mary Strout, GES teacher, shared her concern of cuts to a Reading Interventionist position and an instructional assistant position.

Elizabeth Longacre, Griswold resident, shared her concern with cuts to after-school enrichment.

Matthew Spinelli, Student in grade 7 at Griswold Middle School, shared his concern with cuts to after-school enrichment. He is also concerned with cuts to Spanish at GMS and GHS.

Heidi Willard, a junior at Griswold High School, voiced her concern with cuts to after-school enrichment activities.

Holly Adriano, a parent of a student at GES and a Griswold High School teacher, voiced her concern for cuts to the language program in Griswold. She also stated that Griswold needs to find ways to be more competitive with NFA academically.

Francis Drake, resident of S. Main Street, Jewett City, voiced her concern about finding ways to educate the public on how things work in the school system and getting this information out in newspapers or through publications.

BOE Chairman, Elizabeth Dorff, reported that item 10B would be moved to this portion of the agenda for discussion. Board members shared questions and then deliberated on cuts to the 2014/15 budget.

The Board recessed at 7:05 p.m.
The Board came back in session at 7:12 p.m.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None

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NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recognition of GHS Student Nicholas Mattera – The Griswold Board of Education recognized Nicholas Mattera for his first place finish in a stock market game, sponsored by SIFMA (Securities, Industry and Financial Markets Association) and which was part of Ms. Bromley’s Business class at GHS. Nick placed first overall in this competition with students throughout the state of Connecticut. Congratulations!!
- B. Review and Action on Overnight Trip Request to Washington, D.C. – Mr. Doug Craig, GHS teacher, reviewed an itinerary and details of a trip proposal request to Washington, D.C. in November 2014.

MOTION

By Frank Everett
Seconded by Valerie Grills
To approve the overnight trip request to Washington, D.C from November 15 – 18, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Review and Action on Maternity Leave Request – Tara Parkinson – The Board approved a maternity leave request for Tara Parkinson, who is expecting to go out on maternity leave on or about November 12, 2014 through April vacation 2015, returning on Monday, April 20, 2015.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Laurie Sorder
To approve a maternity leave request for Tara Parkinson, as presented, in accordance with terms outlined in the GEA contract.
Motion unanimously carried.

- D. Review and Action on Healthy Good Certification for 2014/15 – Food Service Director, Thomas O’Connor, is seeking BOE approval to proceed with the Healthy Food Certification program for the 2014/15 school year. Mr. O’Connor could not be present this evening so the Board elected to table any action until the next BOE meeting on June 23, 2014 because of questions that arose this evening.

- E. Review and Action on Primary Mental Health Grant Application (IDOLS) – The Board approved the annual Primary Mental Health Grant Application.

MOTION

By Frank Everett
Seconded by Valerie Grills
To approve the Primary Mental Health Grant Application (IDOLS) for 2014/15, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

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- F. Quarterly Review of Internal Activity Accounts for GES, GMS and GHS – The Board received the quarterly copy of student activity account updates for each school building.
- G. *Interview for Interim Business Manager – This item was referred to executive session.
- H. Review and Action on Appointment of Interim Business Manager – This item will be discussed after executive session at the end of the Board of Education meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Vacancies/Appointments/Resignations – The Superintendent reported on the resignations of the following staff members: Lynda Casey, GMS Language Arts teacher; Sharon Hvizdak, GMS Social Studies teacher; Paula Mikutel, GMS Guidance Counselor; Monica Pomazon, GSH Special Education Teacher; Colleen Wilber, GHS Business Teacher; and Holly McCalla, GPS Business Manager.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Yvonne Palasky
To accept the resignations of Lynda Casey, Sharon Hvizdak, Paula Mikutel, Monica Pomazon, Colleen Wilber, and Holly McCalla with regret, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Superintendent reported on the appointment of Gregg Wilcox, GHS Football Head Coach; Bridget Armstrong, GES School Guidance Counselor; and Emma McCandless, GMS Library Media Specialist.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.
Seconded by Valerie Grills
To approve the appointments of Gregg Wilcox, Bridget Armstrong, and Emma McCandless, as presented.
Motion unanimously carried.

- B. Budget Discussion, 2014/15 – The Board approved additional cuts to the 2014/15 budget.

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MOTION

By Laurie Sorder

Seconded by Stuart Norman, Jr.

To reluctantly approve cuts to the 2014/15 budget, as presented by administration.

Motion unanimously carried.

- C. Update on Hood Issues – GHS Kitchen –The Board was given an update on the replacement of the lining of the kitchen hood at Griswold High School. The Superintendent reported that we are hoping to get this project done with the roof project. It does take a separate application to the state. We are in the process of reaching out to Fred Marzec to set up an appointment for him to come out and take a look and give us the appropriate citation so that we can inform the state of its immediate need to be replaced.
- D. GHS Roof Update – No update.
- E. Policy Update - The Superintendent reported that the Policy sub-committee is finishing up series 3000 policies and they should be ready by early summer for review by the full Board of Education.
- F. *Review of Superintendent’s Goals for 2013/14 – Board Chair, Elizabeth Dorff, tabled this item and recommended adding it to the next BOE meeting agenda.
- G. Future Agenda Items

Stuart Norman, Jr., BOE Vice Chairman, suggested that we start thinking about utilizing Channel 22 for information to be shared about our schools.

Frank Everett asked the Superintendent to speak to senior citizen director, Tina Falk, to set up an appointment to educate the seniors on the budget.

COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

- A. Building Committee Update – Frank Everett updated the Board on the soccer field and GES playground progress.

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY FORMERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Laurie Sorder, BOE member, reported that in addition to the major cuts to the Board of Education budget, the majority of the capital improvement cuts were Board of Education related.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Barney, Griswold resident, expressed concern on the cut of \$7,500 for the online learning software and hopes the Board can find a way to find \$7,500 to reinstate the software.

Norm Higgins, Griswold resident, suggested that the Board of Education place signs around town to remind people to vote and he also suggested placing an ad in the New London day reminding people to vote.

MOTION

By Mary Beth Malin

Seconded by Laurie Sorder

To move into executive session at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of interviewing the Interim Business Manager, inviting Susan Rourke and Michele Demicco.

Motion unanimously carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:40 p.m.

MOTION

By Stuart Norman, Jr.

Seconded by Yvonne Palasky

To adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes recorded by: Robin Drobiak