

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 9, 2020**

The Board of School Trustees of the Griffith Public Schools met in regular session at the Griffith High School LGI Room, 600 N. Wiggs St. on the ninth of July, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the rules of the Board.

Kathy Ruesken, President of the Board of School Trustees, called the meeting to order. After the Pledge of Allegiance, on call of the roll, members were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Kathy Ruesken, President
Jennifer Dildine, Vice-President
John Dudlicek, Second Vice-President
Richard Leber, Secretary
Donald McCarter, Assistant Secretary

Absent: None

Others Present: Michele Riise, Superintendent
Meghan Damron, Director of Business Services
Joseph C. Svetanoff, Attorney

Delegations and/or Communications: A parent shared concerns regarding the career pathways.

Superintendent Update: Mrs. Riise shared the following with the Board:

First, Lake Co. Superintendents worked on creating a re-entry plan for our school districts. Tonight, the board will approve this plan. I will highlight the vital pieces to the plan for our parents during other business along with Neil Dimos, our Athletic Director, who will be sharing the athletic plan for the district. As with any plan, there has been many sleepless nights and various discussions held with not only Lake Co. Superintendents, but also Lake Co. Health Department, Porter Co. Superintendents, our teacher's union, etc. Griffith Public Schools approached the 2020-21 school year in a positive and deliberate manner to ensure that our students would receive the best education from us so that learning gaps would be held at a minimal as we continue with this pandemic. It is essential for our community and parents to continue to work together to prevent the introduction and speed of COVID-19. As shared by Gov. Holcomb on July 1st:

1. Our state is not entering Stage 5 at this time.
2. He clarified that schools should plan to attend school in the fall and provide in-person instruction.
3. He also feels strongly that children can go back to school on schedule and not endanger other groups.
4. He requests that everyone wears face masks when out in public and has organized a campaign entitled "Mask Up Hoosiers" to inform the public on the importance of wearing masks.

This is even more vital as students and staff return in the fall. As you will hear later, the Lake Co. Superintendents felt that this plan will not only ensure the safety and health of our students and staff, but still provide a quality educational program for Griffith Public Schools students.

After tonight, parents, students, and staff will be asked to complete a survey as we prepare for the return of all in the fall. We know that there are many questions about how the school year will look like and our district has created a plan that will invite all students to return for in-person classes. There may be additional guidelines from the Indiana Department of Education, Lake County Board of Health, and Center for Disease Control agencies that impact our decisions as we prepare and begin school. With this plan in mind, we are asking all to take a few minutes to answer some questions. We thank you for your participation so that we know how this plan affects our Panther families. Your continued partnership makes our district stronger!

Just a reminder about the YMCA's upcoming meeting with the Zoning commission on the 3rd Monday in July beginning at 6pm in Town Hall. If you support the Y and can't attend in person, please feel free to send your letter of support to Jay Buckmaster at Crossroads YMCA.

I also have Mrs. Brenner here to discuss some information regarding GHS course completion data.

One thing I would like to clarify after my initial registration communication that went out this week families whose students attend multiple campuses are being asked to complete the registration process for all children in household at the oldest child's building.

If you should have any questions about the start of school and Griffith's plan, please feel free to contact me.

Finance Report: Mrs. Damron gave a financial update for the month of March. For the month of June our revenues were higher than our expenditures by \$2.5 million. We received our property tax revenues this month. We still have a bond payment of 1.1 million that was paid July 1st.

Some of you may be aware, but for those who are not June 17th Governor Holcomb did announce full funding for school corporations for FY21. With the threat from the pandemic and decrease in state revenues, he was happy to report that there would be no cuts to K-12 funding. He emphasized that education continues to be an important priority for the Governor's office and the General Assembly.

Board Reports: Mr. Dudlicek shared that on Labor Day weekend there will be a ribbon cutting and pickle ball tournament at the new pickle ball courts @ Wadsworth.

Consent Agenda: Mrs. Ruesken requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Dildine motioned to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Dudlicek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda contains the following items: Minutes from the 6/11/2020 meeting, Paid Accounts Payable by Fund Summary 6/12/20 to 7/9/20, Paid Accounts Payable by Vendor 6/12/20 to 7/9/20, Open Accounts Payable by Fund Totals 6/12/20 to 7/9/20, Open Accounts Payable by Vendor 6/12/20 to 7/9/20, Payroll Summary Reports 7/19/19 to 6/30/20, Payroll Summary Report 7/3/202, Agreements # 2020-18 to #2020-20, and the following personnel report:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Certified</i>	<i>Replacing</i>	<i>Effective Date(s)</i>	<i>Pay Rate</i>	<i>Hourly, Daily, Seasonal, Yearly</i>
Susan Cramer	Non-Pub teacher and IEP facilitator	New Position 2020-2021	8/11/20	\$22,800.00	Contract
	<i>Non-Certified</i>				
Regina Abernathy	Playground Supervisor - BES		8/12/02	\$12.82	Hourly
Nancy Finnen	Playground Supervisor - BES		8/12/02	\$12.82	
Michael Kepchar	Student Support Advisor	New Position 2020-2021	8/10/20	\$68,500	Contract
Yolanda Welch	Para Maternity Leave		Sept - Nov 2020 Dates to be determined		Hourly
	<i>Extra-Curricular/Athletics</i>				
Melissa Ballenger	Girls Varsity Volleyball Coach	Cynthia Wilson	8/15/220 to 10/12/20	\$5,090.40	Contract
Marcelino Gonzalez	Boys Ass't Varsity Soccer Coach	Ron Knestrict	8/15/220 to 10/04/20	\$3,181.50	Contract
Henry Harris	Freshman Football Coach	Ryan Hill	8/21/20 to 10/22/20	\$4,454.10	Contract
Ryan Hill	Junior Varsity Football Coach	Christopher Dietz	8/21/20 to 10/22/20	\$4,772.25	Contract
Patrick Janke	Assistant Varsity Football Coach	Brad Johnson	8/21/20 to 10/22/20	\$5,090.40	Contract

Ronald Knestrict	Boys Varsity Soccer Coach	Castulo Perez	8/15/20 to 10/12/20	\$5,090.40	Contract
Julieanne Long	Senior High School Cheerleading Sponsor	Leslie Salisbury	8/03/20 to 3/17/20	\$3,181.50	Contract
Scott Oman	Assistant Varsity Football Coach	Anthony Zarndt	8/21/20 to 10/22/20	\$5,090.40	Contract
Sarah Payne	Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach	Melissa Ballenger	8/15/220 to 10/12/20	\$3,181.50	Contract
Caleb Raby	Grade 8 Football Coach	Greg Phelps	8/21/20 to 10/22/20	\$4,135.95	Contract
Steve Sammons	Freshman Ass't Football Coach	Mark Hill	8/21/20 to 10/22/20	\$2,863.35	Contract
Anthony Zarndt	Junior Varsity Football Coach	Patrick Janke	8/21/20 to 10/22/20	\$4,772.25	Contract
	<i>Separations</i>				
Patricia Goff	Playground Supervisor - WES	termination job elimination	6/15/20	\$13.65	Hourly
Grayling Gordon	GHS Dean of Students	termination job elimination	6/30/20	\$60,520.27	Contract
Heather Haley	High School Library Assistant	termination job elimination	6/15/20	\$14.16	Hourly
Katrina Harnew	Grade 7 English	resignation	6/24/20	\$59,856.45	Contract
Katrina Harnew	Grade 7/8 Academic Competition Coordinator	resignation	6/24/20	\$2,227.05	Contract
Linda Karlstedt	Playground Supervisor - RES	resignation	6/22/20	\$12.82	Hourly
Nancy Magrath	Playground Supervisor - WES	termination job elimination	6/15/20	\$13.65	Hourly

Dustin Nelson	Girls Varsity Basketball Coach	resignation	6/24/20	\$8,271.90	Contract
Castulo Perez	Secondary Spanish Teacher	resignation	7/8/20	\$48,361.20	Contract
Lisa Prunty	Part Time Secretary - BES	termination job elimination	6/15/20	\$15.20	Hourly
Sharon Schnoor	Food Service worker MS/HS	resignation	7/6/20	\$11.12	Hourly
Amy Wilhite	Secondary Math Teacher	resignation	6/25/20	\$59,974.68	Contract
Amy Wilhite	HS Academic/Math Coordinator	resignation	6/25/20	\$1,431.68	Contract
	<i>Contract Extension</i>				
Michael Vode	Contract Extension	NA	7/1/20 - 6/30/21	\$74,000.00	Contract
<i>**Pending Screenings</i>					

Resolution #689 – Transfer from Education Fund to Operation Fund: Mrs. Damron asked the Board to approve Resolution #689. This is the monthly transfer from Education to Operations. We were able to keep to the 15% guidance amount to transfer for this month.

Mr. Leber made a motion to approve with a second from Mr. Dudlicek. Motion passed unanimously.

2021 Budget Calendar: Mrs. Damron asked the Board to approve the Budget Calendar for processing and approving the Budget for 2021. Mr. McCarter motioned to approve with a second from Mrs. Dildine. Motion passed unanimously.

New Food Service Assistant Director Job Description: Mrs. Riise asked the Board for approval for a new food service assistant director job description:

With the closing of Ready the other three schools will have an influx of students. This new position will help with the adjustment of those extra students. This person will assist with the transition into our new way of serving due to covid-19. This person will float between buildings as an extra employee when needed. This person would also take over for managers when off sick or on vacation. This person would also assist with food sales (food demos and taste testing's). Lastly I have a manager that may be retiring soon so this person will take over for any open manager position. Rate of pay \$16.00/Hour. Mr. Dudlicek motioned to approve with a second from Mr. Leber. Motion passed unanimously.

Food Sharing and No Cash Back Policies (Food Service): Mrs. Riise asked the Board to approve the food sharing and no cash back policies as presented. Mr. Leber motioned to approve with a second from Mr. Dudlicek. Motion passed unanimously.

Griffith Public Schools Return to Learn Plan for 2020-2021 School Year – Resolution #690 2020 Return to Learn Plan: Mrs. Riise shared the Return to Learn plan with the Board. Mr. Dimos also shared the Athletic Department's return plan. Mr. Dudlicek motioned to approve with a second from Mr. McCarter. Motion passed unanimously.

Griffith Public Schools 2020-2021 Start and End Times: Mrs. Riise shared the following with the Board:

Tonight, I present the following as Start and End times for 2020-21 school year. These are the same start and end times as indicated on our FAQ:

MS/HS:

MS/HS Drop Off: 7:25am (Breakfast)

MS/HS Start Time: 7:45am

MS/HS End Time: 2:45pm

Beiriger Elementary School:

Grades 3 – 5 Drop Off: 7:30am (Breakfast)

Grades 3 – 5 Start Time: 8:00am

Grades 3 – 5 End Time: 2:30pm

Wadsworth Elementary School:

Grades K – 2 Drop Off: 7:45am (Breakfast)

Grades K – 2 Start Time: 8:15am

Grades K – 2 End Time: 2:15pm

Mr. Leber motioned for approval with a second from Mr. McCarter. Motion passed unanimously.

Griffith Public Schools Transportation Update and Approval: Mrs. Riise asked the Board to approve the GPS Transportation Update:

With the approved start and end times, this will eliminate the issue of all students in Grades K-12 riding the same bus as well as allow parents who will be dropping off and picking up students time to travel amongst the various building. With this plan, MS/HS students won't be riding the bus with elementary students. Mr. Dudlicek made the motion to approve with a second from Mrs. Dildine. Motion passed unanimously.

Griffith Public Schools 2020-2021 Textbook Fees: Mrs. Riise asked the Board to approve the 2020-2021 Textbook Fees as presented. Mr. McCarter made the motion to approve with a second from Mrs. Dildine. Motioned passed unanimously.

Griffith Public Schools 2020-2021 Student Handbook: Mrs. Riise shared with the Board:

As we finalized the Griffith Promise Plan, as well as created our re-entry plan for the fall, there had to be changes/updates to our student handbook. These are reflected in yellow for the Board to review. I ask the Board to approve the student handbook for 2020-2021 with the proposed changes. Mr. Dudlicek motioned for approval with a second from Mr. Leber. Motioned passed unanimously.

Audience Participation: Several members of the audience asked questions or had comments regarding various things from the agenda.

Good of the Corporation: Mrs. Ruesken shared her thoughts regarding the plans and concerns over Covid and e-learning, and that GPS will be pushed in the direction that we need to go. We will not remain complacent.

Upcoming Board Meeting: The next Regular School Board meeting will be on August 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the LGI room at the High School.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dudlicek motioned to adjourn the meeting Mr. McCarter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Kathy Ruesken, President

Jennifer Dildine, First Vice President

John Dudlicek, Second Vice President

Richard Leber, Secretary

Donald McCarter, Assistant Secretary