

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 11, 2024**

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 eleventh of January, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the rules of the Board. Followed by the Public Hearing and Board of Finance meeting.

Emily Conner, 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: Jesse Adduci, President
 Emily Conner, 1st Vice-President
 Jason Jaques, 2nd Vice-President
 Kathy Ruesken, Secretary
 Tina Adams, Assistant Secretary

Absent:

Others Present: Leah Dumezich, Superintendent
 Terri Chance, Chief Financial Officer
 Joseph C. Svetanoff, Attorney

1.2 Moment of Silence:

2.1 Reorganization of Board & Committee Assignment of Board Members: Mrs. Conner requested a motion for president. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to nominate Mr. Adduci as president. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Conner requested a motion for First Vice-President. Mr. Jaques made a motion to nominate himself. Motion failed. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to nominate Mrs. Conner for First Vice-President. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 2 Mr. Jaques abstained. Mrs. Conner request a motion for Second Vice-President. Mr. Adduci made a motion to nominate Mr. Jaques. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 1 Mr. Jaques abstained. Mrs. Conner requested a motion for Secretary. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to nominate herself. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 2. Mrs. Conner requested a motion for Assistant Secretary. Mr. Jaques made a motion to nominate Mrs. Adams. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Conner requested a motion for the Griffith Park Board Representative. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to nominate Mrs. Adams. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Conner requested a motion for a School Board Delegate/Legislative Liaison. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to nominate herself. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Conner requested a motion for the Board Negotiation. Mr. Jaques made a motion to nominate himself. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Conner made a motion for the Town Redevelopment Committee. Mr. Jaques made a motion to nominate Mrs. Conner. Motion failed. Mrs. Adams made a motion to nominate Mr. Adduci for the Town Redevelopment Committee. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2.2 Appointment of School Treasurer and School Attorneys: Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board to approve the appointment of Ms. Chance as the School Treasurer, Dave Dickson as the school labor attorney, Joe Svetanoff as the board attorney, and Monica Connrad as the special education attorney. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve the appointment of the school treasurer and school attorneys. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2.3 Delegations and/or Communications: One audience participant questioned how the bomb threat was handled. Mrs. Dumezich stated that she will speak to that in the Superintendent Update.

2.4 Superintendent Update: Mrs. Dumezich explained why the buildings were not evacuated during the bomb threat. She stated that during a threat you do not want to release many students outside in case the threat is waiting outside. Mrs. Dumezich explained that other districts across the country received the same threat. Mrs. Dumezich shared that this was turned over to the Griffith PD. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to remind everyone that report cards come out tomorrow. Mrs. Dumezich would like to recognize two amazing people. High School principal Jon Chance and Middle School principal Alana Anderson. The high school is at 80% C- or higher and the Middle

school is at 82% C- or higher. Mrs. Dumezich stated she does not like to call off school during bad weather and is asking for everyone to check Schoology for any message regarding school closures due to bad weather.

2.5 Panther Spotlight: Mrs. Dumezich wanted to acknowledge two sixth graders who had a positive impact. Ella Maciszak and Claire Peterson. Ella and Claire explained how they made bracelets and sold them at a craft fair. They raised over \$1000.00 and donated the funds to the Griffith animal shelter. They also picked all the animals' names off the angel tree at the shelter and donated all the items that were needed. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to acknowledge the bowling teams for having a great season. The girls bowling team took 3rd place and the boys bowling team took 4th place. Mrs. Dumezich would like to acknowledge the Board on National Board Day. Mrs. Dumezich thanked them for allowing the district to do their jobs with their support.

2.6 Finance: Ms. Chance presented the finance report for the month of December.

2.7 Board Reports: None

Consent Agenda: Mr. Adduci requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Jaques motioned to accept the consent agenda. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda contains the following items: Minutes, Account Payable from 11.10.23-12.11.2023 & 12.12.23-1.8.2024, Payroll, Fundraisers, Professional Leave, Donations, Overnight Request, and the following personnel report:

PERSONNEL REPORT					
January 11, 2024					
Name	Administrator	Replacing	Effective Date(s)	Pay Rate	Hourly, Daily, Seasonal, Yearly Contract
	<i>Certified</i>				
	<i>Non-Certified</i>				
• Luke Haney	Paraprofessional Beiriger	Jacomien VanVurren	1/8/24	\$16.00	Hourly
	<i>Extra - Curricular/Athletics</i>				
	<i>Clubs</i>				
	<i>Separations</i>				
Emily White	Cafeteria Worker	Board Approved on 12/14/2023. No Response From Her After She Was Hired.	12/19/23	\$15.00	Hourly
Christina Shelton	Bus Aide	Did Not Meet District Requirements.	1/3/24	\$16.00	Hourly
Melissa Harty	Paraprofessional Wadsworth	Board Approved on 11/9/2023. No Response From Her After She Was Hired.	1/3/24	\$16.00	Hourly
Jacomien Van Vuuren	Paraprofessional Beiriger	Resignation	11/28/23	\$16.00	Hourly
	<i>Other</i>				
Jessica Lichtenfeld	High Ability Lead Teacher Elementary	N/A	11/9/23	\$1,800 + 2 Days At A Daily Prorated Rate.	Contract
* Backgrounds Pending Approval					

4.1 Resolution #769 Transfer 2024 Interest Income to Rainey Day Fund: Mrs. Chance presented and asked the board for a motion to approve Resolution #769 to transfer the 2024 interest income to the Rainy- Day Fund. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to approve Resolution #769 to transfer the 2024 interest income to the Rainy-Day Fund. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.2 Resolution #770 Transfer 2023 Interest Income to Rainey Day Fund: Mrs. Chance presented and asked the board for a motion to approve Resolution #770 to transfer the 2023 interest income to the Rainy- Day Fund. Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve Resolution #770 to transfer the 2023 interest income to the Rainy-Day Fund. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Audience Participation: One audience participant asked if we will be able to direct the Rainy-Day fund in a high yield or savings account fund. The audience members also questioned if the school must follow the same protocol to send the cancel checks down state for unclaimed property. Ms. Chance explained the money will be put back in

accounts that it came out of and that she will follow policy. One audience participant questioned if it has ever been thought about to come up with procedures for what parents should do when there is a threat to the school. Mrs. Dumezich stated that was a great question. Mrs. Dumezich stated that the number one thing parents need to do is sign up for Schoology to receive all messages. Mrs. Dumezich stated that Ms. Sarver is working with Schoology for messages just go out to parents when a message is sent out during any type of threat or emergency.


Good of the Corporation: Mrs. Dumezich wanted to congratulate the girls' senior basketball players on senior night. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to say thank you to Chief Mance, The Griffith police department, Griffith SRO's

administrators, teachers, and everyone for a great job on Monday keeping our kids safe. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to share that Best Night special Olympics will be hosting a movie night in the auditorium on February 9, 2024. Mr. Jaques wanted to thank who ever came out and helped with the active shooter training. Mrs. Dumezich also thanked them as well. Lorie Rose wanted to share that the PTC will hold a Cram the Closet fundraiser from January 22, 2024 – February 9, 2024 for items needed for the Panther closet.

Upcoming Board Meeting: The next Regular School Board meeting will be on March 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the LGI room at the High School.

Feb. 8, 2024

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Jaques motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Jesse Adduci, President

Emily Conner, First Vice President

Jason Jaques, Second Vice President

Kathy Ruesken, Secretary

Tina Adams, Assistant Secretary