

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
May 23, 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 Twenty-Third of May, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the rules of the Board.

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:

Emily Conner, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
Jason Jaques, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Kathy Ruesken, Secretary

Absent:

Jesse Adduci, President  
Tina Adams, Assistant Secretary

Others Present:

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

**1.2 Moment of Silence:**

**2.1 Delegations and/or Communications:** One Board member signed up to speak and said a prayer. One audience participant wanted to ask the Board to consider an Assistant band director position. She also requested to make the drop off sign bigger by door N by tearing out the grass and writing drop off and pick up on the concrete. The last audience participant had questions regarding the Bond and the WJOB interview. The audience participant stated that the information should be in more detail because it seems misleading.

**2.2 Superintendent Update:** Mrs. Dumezich wanted to congratulate the seniors and stated that this will be the 100<sup>th</sup> graduating class and she thanked the Griffith historical society for putting together information regarding the 100th year. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to thank the PTC for always doing an amazing job.

**2.3 Panther Spotlight:** Mr. Dumezich had three people to spotlight. Mrs. Dragomer who put together the Beiriger Bike to school, Mrs. Dragomer will be bringing bike to school back next school year. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to thank Mrs. Georgia Smith and her department for moving the furniture and the pods. This is a busy time of the year for her department. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to congratulate Mr. Jim Graff and Ms. Diane Zurawski on their retirement.

**2.4 Finance:** Ms. Chance presented the finance report.

**2.5 Board Reports:** None.

**Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Conner requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Ruesken motioned to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda contains the following items: Minutes, Agreements/Contracts, and Claims for 4.12.24-5.23.24, Fundraisers, Professional Leave, Donations, Overnight Request, and the following personnel report:

PERSONNEL REPORT					
May 23, 2024					
<i>Name</i>	<i>Administrator</i>	<i>Replacing</i>	<i>Effective Date(s)</i>	<i>Pay Rate</i>	<i>Hourly, Daily, Seasonal, Yearly Contract</i>
Celia Padilla	Director Of Special Education	Natalie Stork	7/1/24	\$90,000.00	Contract
	<i>Certified</i>				
Morgan Tinsley-Childs	5th Grade Teacher Beiriger	Cheryl Bozetarnik	2024-2025 School Year	\$50,000.00	Contract
Sierra Vanhorenbeck	4th Grade Teacher Beiriger	Ciara Carter	2024-2025 School Year	\$48,000.00	Contract
Justine Ramirez	LRE Teacher Wadsworth	New Position	2024-2025 School Year	\$56,000.00	Contract
Monica Bega	1st Grade Teacher	Michelle Moore	2024-2025 School Year	\$51,500.00	Contract
Renee Whelan	MS/HS Art Teacher	Ian Vassar	2024-2025 School Year	\$60,000.00	Contract
Leah Scartozzi	MS/HS Math Teacher	New Position	2024-2025 School Year	\$48,500.00	Contract
Lisa Mendoza	K-12 ELL Teacher Wadsworth, Beiriger, MS/HS	New Position	2024-2025 School Year	\$75,000.00	Contract
Julie Mills	4th Grade Teacher Beiriger	Crystal Martin	2024-2025 School Year	\$53,000.00	Contract
Amy Trezak	Intense Special Education Teacher High School	New Position Panther Adult Program Teacher/Job Coach	2024-2025 School Year	\$74,000.00	Contract
Olivia Maass	1st Grade Teacher Wadsworth	Sylvia Fish	2024-2025 School Year	\$48,000.00	Contract
Camille Schafer	LRE 3rd Grade Teacher	Jessica Jones	2024-2025 School Year	\$48,000.00	Contract
Tiffany Mosley	English Teacher MS/HS	Ben Jacobs (Long Term Sub)	2024-2025 School Year	\$54,500.00	Contract
Robyn Milasnic	Speech Pathologist District Wide	Alexandra Danielides	2024-2025 School Year	\$83,000.00	Contract
Delores Estrada	Maternity Position Beiriger	Maternity Position for Julie Porras	Start Of The 2024-2025 School Year	Sub Rate For The First 15 Days Then The Remainder At \$48,000.00	Contract
	<i>Non Certified</i>				
Sandra Tinoco	Employment Specialist Central Office	Maria Contreras	4/29/24	\$50,000.00	Hourly
	<i>Extra - Curricular/Athletics</i>				
Amy Skura	8th Grade Volleyball Coach	Abigail McCampbell	5/24/24	\$3,435.00	Seasonal

Ciara Carter	Spell Bowl Co-Sponsor	Dana Luyster	8/19/24	\$477.50	Contract
Lyndsay Kleffman	Spell Bowl Co-Sponsor	Dana Luyster	8/19/24	\$477.50	Contract
Demetri Blanco	6 & 7th Grade Football Coach	Was Approved For Wrong Position In March. He Is Replacing Mike Andree	Spring Of 2024	\$3,435.00	Seasonal
Kristen Arras	Grils Head Varsity Soccer Coach	Jon Vasalik	Fall Of 2024	\$6,490.00	Contract
	<i>Clubs</i>				
	<i>Separations</i>				
Armida Alvarez	10 Month Custodian	Resignation	4/30/24	\$16.00	Hourly
Alex Danielides	Speech-Language Pathologist District	Resignation	3/2/24	\$53,200.00	Contract
Riley Hendron	Co-Sponsor Best Buddies Beiriger	Resignation	Starting The 2024-2025 School Year	\$762.50	Contract
Pamela Robinson	Cafeteria Sub District	Resignation	4/22/24	\$16.00	Hourly
Ashley McDonald	Bus Driver Transportation	Resignation	4/12/24	\$23.50	Hourly
Catena Anderson	Girls Volleyball Coach High School	Resignation	4/23/24	\$3,820.00	Seasonal
Natalie Stork	Director Of Special Education	Resignation	6/30/24	\$85,250.00	Contract
Dana Luyster	Spell Bowl Beiriger	Resignation	5/5/24	\$955.00	Contract
Ciara Carter	4th Grade Team Lead Beiriger	Resignation	5/9/24	\$1,800.00	Contract
Wendy Brown	MS Temp Teacher - Long Term Sub	Resignation	End Of 2023-2024 School Year	\$23,614.97	Contract
Jessica Jones	Mild Intervention Teacher - Beiriger	Resignation	End Of 2023-2024 School Year	\$61,000.00	Contract
Oliver Doppler	Maintenance Technician District	Resignation	5/14/24	\$25.00	Hourly
Virginia Bellamy	Girls Golf Coach	Resignation	5/14/24	\$4,580.00	Seasonal
Anthony Zarndt	Head Varsity Boy's Track Coach	Resignation	6/2/24	\$6,870.00	Seasonal
Ashley Morales	Elementary Para Beiriger	Resignation	End Of 2023-2024 School Year	\$17.00	Hourly
Sierra Cortez	Cafeteria Worker - Beiriger	Resignation	End Of 2023-2024 School Year	\$15.00	Hourly
Jill Watterson	EL Para District	Resignation	End Of 2023-2024 School Year	\$17.50	Hourly
Julie Grzywana	8th Grade English Middle School Teacher	Resignation	End Of 2023-2024 School Year	\$52,727.32	Contract



Kristen Mitcheltree	6th -8th Grade Study Skills Middle School Teacher	Resignation	End Of 2023-2024 School Year	\$53,652.41	Contract
Steven Crain	English/Credit Recovery High School Teacher	Resignation	End Of 2023-2024 School Year	\$48,000.00	Contract
Samuel Kessler	MS PE Teacher	Resignation	End Of 2023-2024 School Year	\$48,000.00	Contract
Samuel Kessler	JV Assistant Football Coach	Resignation	7/31/24	\$6,110.00	Seasonal
Leslie Piszczek	MS/HS Building Supervisor	Termination	5/20/24	\$18.50	Hourly
Demetri Blanco	8th Grade Middle School Football Coach	Resignation	5/22/24	\$3,435.00	Seasonal
	<b>Other</b>				
Lisa Robertson	Cafeteria Sub	Reassignment From Full Time Cafeteria Worker To A Cafeteria Sub	4/22/2024	\$16.00	Hourly
Nicole Kinder	Summer School Nurse	Nurse During Summer School	6/10/24	\$31.00	Hourly
Mike Kepchar	Summer School Support District	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Bonnie Griffee	Homebound/After School Tutoring	N/A	5/30/24	\$28.00	Hourly
Lauren Skvorak	Summer School High School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Julie Larson	Summer School High School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Ellen Purkey	Summer School High School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Jenna Berzy	Summer School High School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Maureen Chavez-Reda	Summer School High School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Melissa Dickelman	Summer School High School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Amanda Purkey	Summer School MS/HS	N/A	5/8/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Laura Clifford	Summer School MS/HS	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Steve Crain	Summer School Middle School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Marty Jamula	Summer School Middle School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Shane Cooper	Summer School Middle School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly

Brittani Hedrick	Summer School Middle School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Tiffany Mosely	Summer School Middle School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Leah Scartozzi	Summer School Middle School	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Julie Burk	Summer School 1st Grade Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Olivia Maass	Summer School 1st Grade Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Camille Schafer	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Stephanie Cortez	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Kalie Ostapchuk	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Laura Christopherson	Summer Schools Beiriger	5 Weeks Splitting With Hailey Minor	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Hailey Minor	Summer School Beiriger	One Week Spliting With Laura Christopherson	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Ashley Terry	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Analyssa Valdez	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Tessa Trueblood	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Emma Loomis	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Amanda Madison	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Ciara Carter	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Melonee Widelski	Summer School Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Kylie Duhamell	Summer School Beiriger	Will Split With Rachel Wajvoda	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Rachel Wajvoda	Summer School Beiriger	Will Split With Kylie Duhamell	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Lydnsay Kleffman	Summer School Beiriger	She Will Work The First Week Of Summer School For Melonee Widelski	6/10/24	\$50.00	Hourly
Marcelina Melendez	Summer School Para Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$17.00	Hourly

Julian Camp	Summer School Para Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$16.00	Hourly
Tracie Rivera	Summer School Para Beiriger	N/A	6/10/24	\$17.50	Hourly
Ciara Carter	Title I Teacher Beiriger	Reassignment From 4th Grade Teacher To Title I Teacher	2024-2025 School Year	\$59,833.79	Contract
Heidi Filatov	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Regina Balash	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Roxanne Luptak	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Lauren Homola	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Laura Christopherson	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/1/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Susan Reyes	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Lisa Thornton	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Sarah Mildaas	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Haley Minor	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Kalie Ostapchuk	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Christina Wagman	Jump Start Special Education Wadsworth	N/A	8/12/2024- 8/14/2024	\$50.00	Hourly
Natalie Stork	LRE Middle School Special Ed Teacher	Internal Transfer From Director Of Special Education	2024-2025 School Year	\$64,500.00	Contract
Maria Contreras	Special Education Secretary	Transfer From Central Office Secretary To Special Education Secretary Last Day Change Last Day In Central Office 5/31/2024	7/29/24	\$19.50	Hourly
Kim Sefton	MS/HS Secretary	Transfer From Wadsworth Secretary to MS/HS Secretary	7/29/24	\$18.00	Hourly
Virgina Bellamy	Athletics Secretary	Transfer From MS/HS Secretary To Athletics Secretary Last Day At MS/HS 6/6/2024	7/29/24	\$18.00	Hourly



	Study Skills	Transfer From Health & PE To MS Study Skills replacing Kristen Mitcheltree.	5/20/24	\$70,609.84	Contract
Robert Robinson * Backgrounds Pending Approval					

**4.1 Second Reading and Adoption of Policies:** Mrs. Conner requested a motion to approve the seconded reading and adoption of policies. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of policies. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.2 First Reading of Policies:** Mrs. Conner requested a motion to approve the first reading of policies. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve the first reading of policies. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.3 2024-2025 Student Parent Handbook:** Mrs. Conner requested a motion to approve the 2024-2025 student parent handbook. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 student parent handbook. Mr. Jaques second the motion passed unanimously.

**4.4 Excessive Fund Transfer:** Mrs. Dumezich acknowledged placement of the school district on the excessive fund transfer list. Ms. Chance explained in further detail. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve the excessive fund transfer. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.5 2024-2025 Textbook Adoption:** Mrs. Sarver presented and asked the Board to approve the 2024-2025 textbook adoption. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 textbook adoption. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.6 Strategic Plan:** Mr. Dumezich presented and asked the board to approve the strategic plan. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to approve the strategic plan. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.7 Sale of Laptops/IMACS Older Models to Employees:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the board to approve the sale of old Laptops/IMACS to employees. Mrs. Ruesken mad a motion to approve the Sale of the old Laptops/IMACS to employees seconded the motion. Mr. Jaques second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Audience Participation:** One audience participant stated that Georgia Smith is the grounds supervisor but we have another company do the lawn. The audience participant questioned that since the Form 9 submission was delayed will the district be off the list? Ms. Chance stated that all the information will be on the website tomorrow. The audience participant also stated that you cannot see the bus information on the website and wanted to know if it will be listed anywhere of what was completed off the strategic plan. Mrs. Conner explained that the strategic plan is a tough process and it's hard when you put work into it and invite community members and nobody shows up.

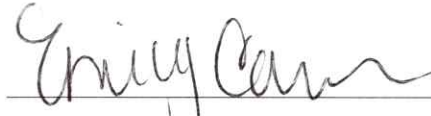
**Good of the Corporation:** Mrs. Dumezich shared that she was on WJOB. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to share for those who couldn't make the last open study session the proposal was discussed regarding the two year, three year, and four year capital project and bond needs and desires. The proposed project will include for the need of Middle School and High School HVAC and turffing on the football and Track field. The proposed desire would be for the Aquatic Center to use the practice field space since the football team does not use the green space the existing space will be for the Aquatic Center and the proposal for the current pool area would have an indoor two story athletic center with an indoor field with turf and a golf stimulators, Mrs. Dumezich also stated that she attended Camp Tecumseh with the applied skills program in the High School they went horseback riding and went down big slides. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to share that she is part of Chamber and wanted to thank them because one of our students will be receiving a scholarship from them. Mrs. Dumezich stated that there will be fireworks after graduation on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Jaques stated that he has been on the board for the last four years and that the Board had some interesting decisions to make regarding the Aquatic Center financially and responsible that would be long lasting for our students and community.

**Upcoming Board Meeting:** The next Regular School Board meeting will be on July 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the LGI room at the High School.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Ruesken motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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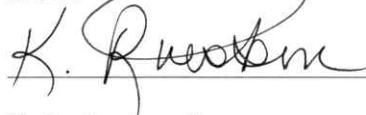
Jesse Adduci, President



Emily Conner, First Vice President



Jason Jaques, Second Vice President



Kathy Ruesken, Secretary

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Tina Adams, Assistant Secretary