

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**October 10, 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 Tenth of October, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the rules of the Board. Pause regular Board meeting to go in the Additional Appropriation hearing.

Mr. Adduci, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice - President  
                                  Jason Jaques, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Delegations and/or Communications:** Board member Mrs. Adams said a prayer. One audience member spoke regarding an experience that he had with a teacher and Griffith Police officer when he went to vote. One audience member spoke on the set up of Wadsworth and the atmosphere is for the kids.

**2.2 Superintendent Update:** Mrs. Dumezich shared the first count was at 1,983. Mrs. Dumezich is proud of that number. Mrs. Dumezich stated this week is homecoming, homecoming parade and spirit week. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to thank the PTC for selling different items during homecoming week and thanked the PTC for all their hard work. Mrs. Dumezich stated that Grandparents day was a success at Wadsworth and that Literacy night at Wadsworth and Beiriger were both successful. Mrs. Dumezich shared that Track Or Treat is coming up for Best Buddies. Mrs. Dumezich thanked Mrs. Udchitz and the guidance department for a great turnout for the career and trades day that was held at the High School. There were over fifty-five colleges and different trades that the students were able to visit and talk with. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to share timelines of upcoming projects that will be happening throughout the district. With a start date of March 2025 and completion date of March 2026 will be the indoor athletic center, and turf on the field, With a start date of February 2025 and completion date of February 2026 the Aquatic Center. With a start date of June 2025 and a completion date of August 2026 The existing pool locker rooms and the football locker rooms and the High School HVAC.

**2.3 Panther Spotlight:** Mrs. Dumezich stated we have a large amount of students participating in extracurricular activities. Mrs. Dumezich acknowledged Coach Taylor and the Middle School Cross Country team. Mrs. Dumezich also acknowledged the Special Education Department case manager Ashley Terri, Para Mr. Carabello, SLP Robyn Milausnic, and Behaviorist Christine Castro. Mrs. Dumezich thanked them for a job well done.

**2.4 Finance:** Mrs. Chance presented the finance report for the month of September.

**2.5 Board Reports:** none

**Consent Agenda:** Mr. Jaques requested a motion to remove 3.2 professional leave from the consent agenda. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Adduci requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Conner made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. The consent agenda contains the following items: Minutes, Agreements/Contracts, and Claims for Payroll 9/13/2024-9/27/2024

the wrong year of 2024 listed that should have been listed as 2025 for the months of February, March April and May. Mr. Jaques second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

<b>PERSONNEL REPORT</b>					
<b>October 10, 2024</b>					
<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>
Olimpia Tienstra	Assistant Athletic Director	Moving From Registrar (Eliminated Position) (To Assistant AD (New Position))	9/22/24	\$62,000.00	Contract
	<b><i>Certified</i></b>				
	<b><i>Non- Certified</i></b>				
Janet Reyes	Gen/Special Ed Para Wadsworth	Long Term Sub To Para	9/25/24	\$16.00	Hourly
Christine Moore	Custodian High School	Leslie Piszcek	9/10/24	\$16.50	Hourly
Cristina Orduno	Paraprofessional Wadsworth	N/A	9/19/24	\$16.00	Hourly
Rebecca Heath	Elementary Recess Aide (Sub)	Beiriger/Wadsworth	10/14/24	\$15.00	Hourly
	<b><i>Extra-Curricular/Athletics</i></b>				
Sarah Mehisen	Pantherettes Assistant Coach	Brooke Maglish	9/13/24	\$3,872.22	Seasonal
	<b><i>Clubs</i></b>				
Joseph Ramos	Senior Sponsor	James Graff	8/19/24	\$4,010.00	Contract
Jenna Golfis	MS Spell Bowl Coach	Vacant Position	9/13/24	\$955.00	Contract
	<b><i>Separations</i></b>				
	<b><i>Other</i></b>				
Ashley Reinike	Long Term Sub	Transfer From Athletics Secretary To Log Term Sub Currently Long-Term Sub For Rachel Chavez. Will Be A Long-Term Sub As Needed.	9/23/24	\$120.00 For The First 15 days After That Pro Rate. Of \$48,000.00	Contract
Virginia Bellamy	Paraprofessional MS/HS	Transfer From Athletic Secretary To MS/HS Paraprofessional	9/23/24	\$18.00	Hourly
Rena Schueberg	Bus Driver - Non - CDL	Rena Was A Bus Aide And Passed Her Non CDL Bus Driver Class. Rena Will Drive The Minibuses.	9/16/24	\$18.50	Hourly
Jessica Morandi	Cafeteria Sub Beiriger	Jessica Will Begin As A Sub Matron. After 60 Day Evaluation Jessica Will Be Offered A Permanent Position	September-24	\$15.00	Hourly

Jacklyn Lopez	Cafeteria Sub High School	Jacklyn Will Begin As A Sub Prep/Cashier. After 60 Day Evaluation Jacklyn Will Be Offered A Permanent Position	September-24	\$15.00	Hourly
Amanda Laskarin	Cafeteria Prep	Amanda Was The Matron In The Beiriger Cafeteria. Amanda Will Move To Cafeteria Prep At Beiriger.	10/01/24	\$16.00	Hourly
Heidi Filatov	1st Grade LRE Teacher Wadsworth	Heidi Is Moving from the Social Emotional Room To 1st Grade LRE Teacher At Wadsworth.	10/23/24	\$48,000.00	Contract
Justine Ramirez	Social Emotional Teacher Wadsworth	Justine Is Moving From The 1st Grade LRE Teacher To The Social Emotional Teacher At Wadsworth.	10/23/24	\$56,000.00	Contract
* Backgrounds Pending Approval					

**4.1 Second Reading And Approval Of Policies:** Mr. Adduci. requested a motion to approve the second reading and approval of policies. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve the second reading and approval of policies. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.2 First Reading Of Policies:** Mr. Adduci. 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 Suspension Reflection:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board to approve the Suspension Reflection forms. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve Suspension Reflection forms. Mrs. Adams second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.4 Job Descriptions:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board to approve the Job Descriptions. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to approve the Job Descriptions. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.5 Summer School Dates 2025:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board to approve the 2025 Summer School Dates. Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve the 2025 Summer School Dates. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.6 Approval Of Design Criteria Developer For The 2025-2027 Project:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for the Approval Of Design Criteria Developer For The 2025-2027 Project. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the Approval Of Design Criteria Developer For The 2025-2027 Project. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.7 Appointment Of The Technical Review Board For The Design Build Project:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board to approve the Appointment Of The Technical Review Board For The Design Build Project. Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve the Appointment Of The Technical Review Board For The Design Build Project. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.


**4.8 2024 Strategic Plan:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board to approve the 2024 Strategic Plan. Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve of the 2024 Strategic Plan. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Audience Participation:** None

**Good of the Corporation:** One audience member questioned if the strategic plan was for 2024-2028. Mr. Adduci explained that the strategic plan will be completed each year. The audience member stated Mrs. Dumezich said to email any questions before the meeting. The audience member wanted to know what questions should be based on, the Budget presentation? Mr. Adduci stated that she could email any questions to the Superintendent.

**Upcoming Board Meeting:** The next Regular School Board meeting will be on November 14, 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. Adams motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



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Jesse Adduci, President



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Emily Conner, First Vice President

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Jason Jaques, Second Vice President

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Kathy Ruesken, Secretary



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Tina Adams, Assistant Secretary