

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

March 13, 2025

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 thirteenth of March at the hour of 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the rules of the Board. Followed by the First Preliminary Determination Hearing and the Lease and Additional Appropriation Hearing.

Mrs. Adams, 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: Tina Adams, President
Kathy Ruesken, 1st Vice President
Emily Conner, 2nd Vice President
Jesse Adduci, Secretary

Absent: Joseph C. Svetanoff, Attorney

Others Present: Leah Dumezich, Superintendent
Terri Chance, Chief Financial Officer
Amalia Yoder, Attorney

1.2 Moment of Silence:

2.1 Delegations and/or Communications: Pastor Bill Jones with Griffith First United Methodist church said a prayer.

2.2 Superintendent Update: Was skipped and went right into Panther Spotlight

2.3 Panther Spotlight: Mrs. Dumezich along with Mr. Pickett, Mr. Chance and Mrs. Udchitz acknowledged student Isabella Zielke for receiving the Daughters Of The American Revolution award. Mr. Pickett stated this is the third year in a row that a student from Griffith received this award. Mr. Pickett also stated that Isabella Zielke is a great student with exceptional character. Isabella participates in a lot of extracurricular activities in the district and volunteers in the community. Isabella Zielke stated she loves to be involved in the community and is grateful to receive this award. Mrs. Dumezich stated that March is disability awareness month and wanted to acknowledge the Special Education Director, Mrs. Padilla. Mrs. Padilla stated that the month of March is disability awareness and shared a slide show of activities of her students throughout the year. Mrs. Padilla had students and families present at the meeting to acknowledge. Mrs. Ruesken stated she was on the Board when the district was with NISEC. Mrs. Ruesken thanked Mrs. Padilla and Mrs. Dumezich for a wonderful job that they have done with the Special education department. Mr. Chance wanted to acknowledge the P7 group. The P7 group cleans and helps the custodians. The P7 group is led by Mr. Haney. Mr. Chance acknowledge Mr. Maloney and shared that the wrestling team went to a tournament and the wrestling team from the Indian School Of The Deaf was there. Mr. Chance stated that our school was the only school that could communicate with them. Mr. Chance congratulated Mr. Jennings on being inducted into the Indiana High School Baseball Hall Of Fame on 1/17/2025.

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

2.6 Board Reports: Mrs. Adams reported on Park Board. Mrs. Adams stated that the Park Board has lights at the Babe Rueth filed. The Park Board is still waiting for the grant reports for other baseball projects. Pickleball court

resurfacing will happen when the weather gets better. The Park Board will have the trees listed on the website that will be used for tree replacement.

Consent Agenda: Mrs. Adams requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Jaques made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. The consent agenda contains the following items: Minutes, Agreements/Contracts, and Claims for Payroll 2/14/2025-2/28/2025. Accounts Payable 2/14/2025-3/13/2025, Professional Leaves, Fundraisers, Donations, Grants, Overnight request, and the following Personnel report:

PERSONNEL REPORT					
March 13, 2025					
<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>
	<i>Certified</i>				
Rocio Ramirez	Long Term Sub For Analyssa Valdez	Analyssa Valdez Maternity Leave.	2/21/2025	\$150.00 For the First 15 days. Then \$48,000.00 Will Be Prorated.	Contract
Michael Schassburger	Long Term Sub For Brett Jennings	Long Term Sub For Brett Jennings	ASAP	\$150.00 For the First 15 days. Then \$48,000.00 Will Be Prorated.	Contract
	<i>Non-Certified</i>				
Sabrina Ray	Café Prep - Middle School/High School	Sabrina Ray Will Move From A Sub To part Time.	4/1/2025	\$16.00	Hourly
Karen Augustyn	Para - High School	Millie Morgan Retiree As Of 6/30/2025 Transferring To Para.	Start Of The 2025-2026 School Year.	\$20.00	Hourly
	<i>Extra-Curricular/Athletics</i>				
Andrew Davenport	High School Head JV Baseball Coach	N/A	3/13/2025	Split Stipend With Charles Flores	Contract
Charles Flores	High School Head JV Baseball Coach	Justin Fought	3/13/2025	Split Stipend With Andrew Davenport	Contract
Kristina Taylor	High School Head Cross Country	Shannon Brand	3/17/2025	\$6,870.00	Contract
	<i>Clubs</i>				
	<i>Separations</i>				
Karen Augustyn	Middle School - 8th Grade Science Teacher	Retirement	End Of The 2024-2025 School Year.	\$85,841.15	Contract
Laura Polise	Music Teacher - Beiriger	Retirement	End Of The 2024-2025 School Year.	\$82,749.33 + \$2,000.00 Stipend	Contract

Chris Sojka	Middle School Cross Country Coach	Resignation	2/28/2025	\$1,910.00	Contract
Kristina Taylor	Middle School Head Cross Country Coach	Resignation	2/28/2025	\$2,670.00	Contract
Rocio Ramirez	Preschool Special Education Paraprofessional - Wadsworth	Resignation	2/21/2025	\$18.50	Hourly
Marilyn Brunk	HS/MS Math Instructional Coach	Retirement - Correction from the 2/13/25 Board As Resignation	End Of The 2024-2025 School Year	\$77,855.15	Contract
Marilyn Brunk	HS Academic Superbowl Coordinator	Retirement - Correction from the 2/13/25 Board As Resignation	End Of The 2024-2025 School Year	\$3,820.00	Contract
Marilyn Brunk	HS Academic Superbowl Math Coach Position	Retirement - Correction from the 2/13/25 Board As Resignation	End Of The 2024-2025 School Year	\$3,625.00	Contract
Robby Dragomer	Director Of Technology	Retirement - Correction from the 9/12/24 Board As Resignation	6/30/2025	\$106,707.96	Contract
Roxanne Luptak	Intense Special Education Teacher - Wadsworth	Resignation	6/6/2025	\$52,700.00	Contract
Ashley Terry	Case Manager	Resignation	End Of The 2024-2025 School Year	\$73,164.48	Contract
	<i>Other</i>				
Roz Pondo	Roz Will Be Moving From A Mini Bus Driver To A Bus Driver. Roz Received His CDL.	Internal Transfer	3/1/2025	\$18.00	Hourly
Haley Smith	Haley Smith Will Be replacing Roz Pondo As A Mini Bus Driver.	Internal Transfer	3/5/2025	\$18.00	Hourly
Michelle Duffala	STEM Teacher - Middle School/High School	Internal Transfer Replacing - Brett Jennings	Start Of The 2025-2026 School Year 8/11/2025	\$77,963.59	Contract
Nicholas Sanchez	Music Teacher - Beiriger		Start Of The 2025-2026 School Year 8/11/2025	\$48,000.00	Contract
Ashly Terry	Speech & Language Pathologist Assistant	Internal Transfer	Start Of The 2025-2026 School Year.	\$71,307.51 Contracted Days Same As Teachers Daily Rate \$381.32	Contract
Lauren Flynn	Paraprofessional - Wadsworth	Internal Transfer - Lauren Is Moving From A Sub Custodian To A Para In The Pre-K Class For The Remainder Of The 2024-2025 School Year.	3/17/2025 For The Remaining Of the 2024-2025 School Year.	\$16.00	Hourly
Lindsey Gang	Paraprofessional - Beiriger	Internal Transfer - Lindsey Is A Para At The Middle School. Lindsey Will Be Placed At Beiriger For The Remainder Of The 2024-2025 School Year.	3/12/2025 For The Remaining Of The 2024-2025 School Year.	\$17.00	Hourly

Ramona Dujmovic	Secretary - Wadsworth	Internal Transfer - Ramona Is Transferring From A Paraprofessional To Secretary At Wadsworth	TBD	\$18.00	Hourly
* Backgrounds Pending Approval					

4.1 Approval Of Second Reading And Policies: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of 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 Approval Of First Reading Of Policies And Rescinded Policy: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the first reading of policies and the rescinded policy. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of the first reading of policies and the rescinded policy. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.3 Approval Of First Reading Of Policy Bypassing Second Reading: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for approval of first reading of policy and bypassing the second reading. Mrs. Adduci made a motion to approve the first reading of policy and bypassing the second reading. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.4 Approval Of Resolution #2025-6 To Declare March As Disability Awareness Month: Mrs. Adams presented and asked the Board for the approval of resolution #2025-6 to declare March as disability awareness month. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve resolution #2025-6 to declare March as disability awareness month. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.5 2025-2026 Supply List: Mrs. Adams asked for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 supply lists. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 supply lists. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

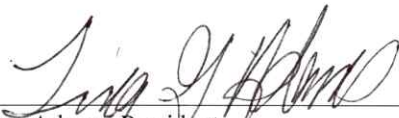
4.6 Occupational Therapist Job Description: Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for the approval of the occupational therapist job description. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to approve the occupational therapist job description. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Audience Participation: One audience member wanted to speak on behalf of the Griffith theater department and the upcoming show back to the 80s which will be held on April 25, 2025- April 27, 2025.

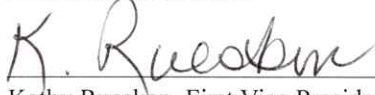
Good Of The Corporation: Mrs. Dumezich stated that STEAM night will be coming up at Wadsworth and Beiriger. The young Entrepreneurs' fair will be held at Beiriger On April 2, 2025 from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. Mrs. Dumezich shared that her and Board member Mrs. Ruesken attended a session with senators. Mrs. Dumezich that public education is the topic that still comes up. Mrs. Dumezich stated we have students with disabilities in the district. Mrs. Dumezich stated we need the state and Federal funding. Please pay attention to who you are voting for. Mrs. Dumezich asked parents to please watch what your students are exposed to. Childhood suicide is what we need to continue to talk about. Mrs. Dumezich asks parents to please engage when we invite you to things to support your kids.

Upcoming Board Meeting: The next Regular School Board meeting will be on April 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the LGI room at the High School.

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 7:05 p.m.



Tina Adams, President



Kathy Ruesken, First Vice President

Emily Conner, Second Vice President



Jesse Adduci, Secretary

Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary