

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**April 10, 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 tenth of April at the hour of 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the rules of the Board. Followed by the Project And Second Preliminary Determination 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 Jesse Adduci, Secretary
Absent:	Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary Emily Conner, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
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:** Pastor Bill Jones with Griffith First United Methodist church said a prayer.

**2.2 Superintendent Update:** Mrs. Dumezich shared that this is a busy time of the school year with graduation and prom coming up. Mrs. Dumezich reminded everyone that there is a lot going on with the legislation and senator bill 1. Mrs. Dumezich stated to please pay attention to the first ten bills. Today Mrs. Dumezich was able to meet with Jennifer McCormick. Jennifer McCormick would like to come to our district to speak. Mrs. Dumezich was interviewed by Aiden Nieves at the Area Career center. Mrs. Dumezich shared that Beiriger held their Steam night and that Binglew was held at the High School cafeteria by the PTC, which was a big success and a lot of fun. Mrs. Dumezich shared that the groundbreaking for the new Aquatic Center took place and that we are excited, and it was a great day and great turn out.

Mrs. Adams requested a motion to pause the regular Board meeting to roll into the Public Hearing for the Project And Second Preliminary Determination Hearing. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to pause the regular Board meeting to roll into the Public Hearing for the Project and Second Preliminary Determination Hearing. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**2.3 Panther Spotlight:** Mrs. Dumezich welcomed Casey Varady and her family. Casey and her family presented Food Service with a check in the amount of \$2,270.00 in memory of her mom Fran Evans who worked in Food Service. Ms. Varady stated the check is for any student with insecurities on their account. Mrs. Ulman, the director of food services, thanked the Evans family and spoke about how Fran Evans took Mrs. Ulman under her wing when she started in Food Service. Mrs. Ruesken stated that it is nice to see how this district pulls together. Mrs. Dumezich acknowledged Aiden Nieves for going to state for Media and Bryce Grahm for construction. Both Aiden and Bryce spoke about what they will be doing at state. Mrs. Dumezich acknowledged and thanked Erica Rios who is the school and Griffith police department social worker. Mrs. Dumezich acknowledged and thanked all the assistant principal for what they do each day since it was assistant principal week.

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

**2.6 Board Reports:** none

**Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Adduci 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 3/14/25-3/28/25. Accounts Payable 3/14/2025-4/10/2025, Professional Leaves, Fundraisers, Donations, Overnight request, and the following Personnel report:

PERSONNEL REPORT					
April 10, 2025					
Name	Administrator	Replacing	Effective Date(s)	Pay Rate	Hourly, Daily, Seasonal, Yearly Contract
	Certified				
Tina Minor	LRE 1st Grade Long Term Sub	Maternity Leave For Heidi Filatov	5/8/2025	\$150.00 First 15 days. After 15 Days Prorated Salary Of \$48,0000.00	Contract
	Non- Certified				
	Extra-Curricular/Athletics				
Jodie Barham	Middle School Assistant Track Coach	Splitting Stipend With Ellen Purkey For the Remaining Of The 2024-2025 School Year.	3/28/25	Jodie Barham And Ellen Purkey Will Both Receive \$2,290.00 For The Remainder Of The 2024-2025 School Year.	Contract
	Clubs				
	Separations				
Joshua Belluomini	Boys' Basketball Coach	Resignation	End Of The 2024-2025 School Year	\$10,310.00	Contract
Davey Lopez	Head Boys Soccer Coach	Resignation	4/1/2025	\$6,490.00	Contract
Melissa Diekelmann	Best Buddies Chapter Advisor	Resignation	End Of The 2024-2025 School Year	\$1,525.00	Contract
Shanna Gulley	Head Cheerleading Coach	Resignation	End Of The 2024-2025 Season	\$4,200.00	Contract
Ellen Purkey	Middle School Assistant Track Coach	Resignation	End Of The 2024-2025 Season	\$1,145.00	Contract
Nevenka Spehar	Cafeteria Worker MS/HS	Resignation	4/3/2025	\$16.50	Hourly
George Tucker	Head Boys Track Coach	Resignation	4/7/2025	\$4,580.00	Contract
	Other				
* Backgrounds Pending Approval					



**4.1 Approval Of Second Reading And Adoption Of Policies And Rescinded Policy:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the second reading and adoption of policies and rescinded policy. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of policies and rescinded policy. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.2 Approval Of First Reading Of Policy:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the first reading of policy. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of the first reading of policy. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.3 Food Service Request For 2025-2026 Bids:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for approval of the food service request for the 2025-2026 bids. Mrs. Adduci made a motion to approve the food service request for the 2025-2026 bids. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.4 Removal Of High School Alternative Ed Class For The 2025-2026 School Year:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for the approval of the removal of high school alternative ed class for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Adduci made a motion to approve the removal of high school alternative ed class for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.5 Approval Of Middle School Alternative Class For Starting The 2025-2026 School Year:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for the approval of the alternative middle school class starting the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Adduci made a motion to approve the middle school alternative class starting the 2025-2026 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.6 Approval Of Region Virtual Academy For The 2025-2026 School Year And Beyond:** Mr. Adduci requested a motion to table 4.6 approval of Region Virtual Academy for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond until the May 8, 2025 Board meeting. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.7 Approval Of Summer School Grades K-5 To Be Held At Wadsworth:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for the approval of summer school K-5 to be held at Wadsworth. Mr. Adduci made a motion to approve summer school grades K-5 to be held at Wadsworth. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.8 Approval Of Summer School Grades 6-12 To Be Held At The MS/HS:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for the approval of summer school grades 6-12 to be held at the middle school/high school. Mr. Adduci made a motion to approve summer school grades 6-12 to be held at the middle school/high school. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.9 Approval Of The Progressive Design Build Step 1 Recommendation For The Athletic Center:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the progressive design build step 1 for the athletic center. Mr. Ruesken made a motion to approve the progressive design build step 1 recommendation for the athletic center. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Audience Participation:** One audience member with PSI spoke and thanked Griffith. He also stated that it is nice how we spotlight our students and staff at Board meetings. He stated he works with other districts, and they do not do that and that it is nice to see.

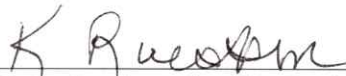
**Good Of The Corporation:** One audience member spoke on behalf of the Griffith theater department and the upcoming show back to the 80s which will be held on April 25, 2025- April 27, 2025. Mrs. Dumezich acknowledged and thanked all the sponsors that donated filled Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt held at the Griffith Football field. Elaine Jelenski spoke thanking everyone who helped with the egg hunt and stated we have over 30,000 eggs. Mrs. Jelenski lets parents know that they can start lining up at noon.

**Upcoming Board Meeting:** The next Regular School Board meeting will be on May 8, 2025 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. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

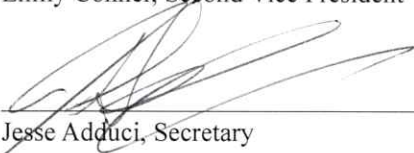


Tina Adams, President



Kathy Ruesken, First Vice President

Emily Conner, Second Vice President



Jesse Adduci, Secretary

Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary