

GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 19, 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 nineteenth of June at the hour of 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the rules of the Board. The regular Board meeting was paused to roll into the Lease/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:

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| Present: | Tina Adams, President Kathy Ruesken, 1st Vice President Emily Conner, 2 nd Vice President Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary |
| Absent: | Jesse Adduci, Secretary Joseph C. Svetanoff, Attorney |
| Others Present: | Leah Dumezich, Superintendent Terri Chance, Chief Financial Officer Ricardo Hall, Attorney |

1.2 Moment of Silence:

Mrs. Adams paused the regular Board meeting to go into the Lease and Additional Appropriation Hearing.

2.1 Delegations and/or Communications: One audience member questioned why Mr. Sanchez was moved to Beiriger. The audience member feels that Mr. Sanchez is a great asset to the band and to Mrs. Hernandez. The audience member does not understand why support is being taken away from the High School. She stated Mr. Sanchez is great working in the High School. The audience member stated that parents are concerned about the class size in the high ability class and that parents like lower class sizes. The audience member stated that parents would like to know the numbers of each the general ed and high ability. A student in the audience spoke and gave her opinion about the high ability class size. The student stated that with large class sizes it is way too much for teachers and makes less space in the classroom. The student stated that classes should have smaller groups. The student also stated she did not understand why iPads were taken away and that could be stressful for some people. The student also stated that the new VPN is blocking research at school. Pastor Bill Jones said a prayer. One audience member wanted to know the difference between the notice of determination and notice of adoption. The audience member also stated that at the last Board meeting she feels she did not get her full three minutes to speak, and she feels that the Board is cheating when giving people three minutes to speak.

2.2 Superintendent Update: Mrs. Dumezich shared that this week is teacher appreciation week, and that she works with the best teachers who are known to be the best not only in the state but in the country. Mrs. Dumezich is thankful not only for her teachers but for the supportive staff and for everyone that works directly with our students, from cafeteria workers, transportation, or a paraprofessional. Mrs. Dumezich hopes they feel love and support. Mrs. Dumezich stated that the PTC does a phenomenal job of supporting our staff with amazing stuff from lunch served to soda bars. Mrs. Dumezich gave a shout out to the PTC and thanked them for all they do for the teachers and staff. Mrs. Dumezich had worked at Wadsworth and gave at shout out to all the teachers.

2.3 Panther Spotlight: Mrs. Dumezich Acknowledged Virginia Hernandez and the Band for all their accomplishments this school year. Mrs. Dumezich acknowledged Timberly Kinnie who spoke regarding Butterfly Dreamz and their summer program at the flourish hub. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to acknowledge Tiffany Ulman and Stephanie Copp with food service. Stephanie Copp spoke regarding how excited they are about starting to run the concession stands. Mrs. Dumezich also acknowledged and congratulated Tiffany Ulman on receiving the 2024-2025 Administrator of the year award and Stephanie Copp for receiving the 2024-2025 employee of the year award.

2.4 Finance: Mrs. Chance presented the finance report for the month of May. Sean McGill with Baker Tilley gave a presentation regarding senate Bill I.

2.5 Board Reports: Mrs. Adams shared that the park board president Tim Dimond stepped down and the new park board president is Dan Perez. Tony Terzarial is the park board vice-president. Mrs. Adams shared that their will be a high school student that will teach chess at the train Depot on Saturdays, Yoga will be in the park on Mondays, Tai cheng will be held at Woodland park on Saturdays, and story time will be held in the park at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays monthly. Mrs. Adams stated that the youth baseball field grant approval will be approved in October and that they may need school support if their season is interrupted by the projects.

Consent Agenda: Mrs. Adams requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Jaques 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 5-9-2025-6-6-2025. Accounts Payable 5-9-2025-6-9-2025 Professional Leaves, Fundraisers, Donations, and the following Personnel report:

| PERSONNEL REPORT | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| June 19, 2025 | | | | | |
| Name | Administrator | Replacing | Effective Date(s) | Pay Rate | Hourly, Daily, Seasonal, Yearly Contract |
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| | Certified | | | | |
| Amy Matthis | SEL Teacher - Beiriger | New Position | 8/11/2025 | \$59,381.00 | Contract |
| Cameron Ashley | Computer Science - Middle School/High School | Brett Jennings | 2025/2026 School Year | \$49,000.00 | Contract |
| Melissa Glosa | Intense Interventions Teacher - Beiriger | Laura Clifford | 8/11/2025 | \$58,000.00 | Contract |
| Stephanie Gayton | Case Manager - Wadsworth For Pk-2 Grade | Ashley Terry | 8/7/2025 | \$70,000.00 | Contract |
| Tina Minor | Second Grade Teacher - Wadsworth | Emma Loomis | 8/11/2025 | \$53,500.00 | Contract |
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| | Non- Certified | | | | |
| Alexandria Cuellar | Paraprofessional - Wadsworth | New Hire | 8/13/2025 | \$15.50 | Hourly |
| Alondra Ayala | Recess Aide - Wadsworth | Samantha Ramirez | 8/13/2025 | \$15.00 | Hourly |
| Cynthia Gurney | Custodian - High School | Tim Frankovich | 6/3/2025 | \$17.00 | Hourly |
| Megan Macomber | Special Education Paraprofessional - Wadsworth | Alexis Williams | 8/25/2025 | \$16.00 | Hourly |
| Samantha Dancer | Recess Aide - Wadsworth | Tamara Bernardy | 8/13/2025 | \$15.00 | Hourly |
| Samantha Morris | Recess Aide - Beiriger | Jaime Pondo | 9/13/2025 | \$15.00 | Hourly |
| Tim Frankovich | Substitute Custodian High School | Tim Will Be A Substitute Custodian For The Upcoming 2025-2026 School Year. | 8/10/2025 | \$16.00 | Hourly |
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| | Extra-Curricular/Athletics | | | | |
| Christine Harder | First Grade-Grade Level Lead Teacher - Wadsworth | Kristina Kostides | 8/8/2025 | \$1,800.00 | Contract |

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| Dana Luyster | Co-Math Bowl Sponsor - Beiriger | Replacing Kit McGuire Co-Sponsor With Michele Brown | 8/11/2025 | \$955.00 | Contract |
| Jodi Barham | Girls 8th Grade Head Basketball Coach | Oscar Beecham | 6/20/2025 | \$3,820.00 | Contract |
| Michele Duffala | Robotics Club Sponsor - Beiriger | Courtney Kurtz | 8/13/2025 | \$1,525.00 | Contract |
| Robert Turek | Varsity Co-Ed Cross Country Assistant Coach | Matthew Thomas | 6/23/2025 | \$4,200.00 | Contract |
| Roman Garcia | Boys Varsity Head Soccer Coach | Dave Lopez | 2025-2026 Season | \$6,490.00 | Contract |
| Shannon Hassel | Varsity Head Girls Golf Coach | Brian Jennings | 6/23/2025 | \$4,580.00 | Contract |
| Natalie Halley | MS Co-Ed Cheerleading Head Coach | Leah Scartozzi | 6/20/2025 | \$3,055.00 | Contract |
| | | | | | |
| | <i>Clubs</i> | | | | |
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| | <i>Separations</i> | | | | |
| Alexis Williams | Paraprofessional - Wadsworth | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$16.00 | Hourly |
| Amor Cielo Monjes | 5th Grade Teacher - Beiriger | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$63,500.00 | Contract |
| Brandon Stacks | Custodian - Wadsworth | Resignation | 6/6/2025 | \$15.55 | Hourly |
| Brianne Ward | Bus Aide | Resignation | 6/6/2025 | \$16.50 | Hourly |
| Christine Moore | Custodian Middle School/High School | Resignation | 6/6/25 | \$16.50 | Hourly |
| Courtney Kurtz | 3rd Grade Teacher - Beiriger | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$48,750.00 | Contract |
| Emma Loomis | 2nd Grade Teacher - Wadsworth | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$48,000.00 | Contract |
| Eric Klocek | Head JV Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach | Resignation | 6/17/2025 | \$6,490.00 | Contract |
| George Tucker | High School Freshman Basketball Coach | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$5,725.00 | Contract |
| Ingrid Jobe | Bus Driver | Resignation | 5/16/2025 | \$22.00 | Hourly |
| Jodie Barham | 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach | Resignation | 6/12/2025 | \$2,670.00 | Contract |
| Julian Camp | 3rd Grade Paraprofessional - Beiriger | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$16.00 | Hourly |
| Justine Ramirez | Social Emotional Teacher - Wadsworth | Resignation | 6/9/2025 | \$56,000.00 | Contract |
| Kashmere Reeves | High School Assistant Cheer Coach | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$2,290.00 | Contract |
| Kathleen McGuire | Art Teacher Grades 3-5 - Beiriger | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$76,946.94 | Contract |
| Kathleen McGuire | Math Bowl - Beiriger | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$447.50 | Contract |
| Kathleen McGuire | Bookworms - Beiriger | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$761.50 | Contract |

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| Kelly Koval-Patterson | Case Manager - Beiriger | Reduction In Force | 5/30/2025 | \$68,500.00 | Contract |
| Kristina Kostides | First Grade Team Lead - Wadsworth | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$618.87 | Contract |
| Krystle Kalk | LRE Teacher - High School | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$48,000.00 | Contract |
| Laura Clifford | Spanish Teach - Middle School/High School | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$66,000.00 | Contract |
| Lauren Homola | Kindergarten Teacher - Wadsworth | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$59,181.00 | Contract |
| Maria Contreras | Special Education Secretary | Reduction In Force | 6/6/2025 | \$19.50 | Hourly |
| Odeh Issa | 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach | Resignation | 6/12/2025 | \$2,670.00 | Contract |
| Oscar Beechem | 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach | Resignation | 6/12/2025 | \$3,820.00 | Contract |
| Oscar Beechem | 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach | Resignation | 6/12/2025 | \$3,820.00 | Contract |
| Samantha Zaragoza Ramirez | Recess Aide Wadsworth | Resignation | 6/6/2025 | \$15.00 | Hourly |
| Sara Jongsma | FACS Teacher MS/HS | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$59,788.25 | Contract |
| Sara Jongsma | FCCLA Sponsor | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$955.00 | Contract |
| Sara Jongsma | Freshman Sponsor | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$1,720.00 | Contract |
| Tammy Bernardy | Recess Aide - Wadsworth | Resignation | End Of 2024-2025 School Year | \$16.00 | Hourly |
| Tim Frankovich | Custodian - MS/HS | Resignation | 6/6/2025 | \$16.50 | Hourly |
| | | | | | |
| | <i>Other</i> | | | | |
| Alexandria Ochoa | Bookkeeper | Changing From A 260-Day Position To A 10 Month Clerical Position With Secretarial Benefits. | 7/1/2025 | \$18.50 | Hourly |
| Amanda Hudson | Psych | Changing From 197 To 192 Contracted Days. | 7/1/2025 | \$75,240.61 | Contract |
| Amanda Madison | Intense Teacher - Middle School | Amanda Will Be Transferring From Intense Teacher At Beiriger To Intense Teacher At The Middle School. | 8/11/2025 | \$74,136.27 | Contract |
| Amanda Perkins | Case Manager | Changing From 197 To 195 Contracted Days. | 7/1/2025 | \$71,295.97 | Contract |
| Amy Trezek | Summer School Sub Teacher - MS/HS | N/A | 6/16/2025 | \$50.00 | Hourly |

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| Ciara Carter | 3rd Grade Teacher - Beiriger | Internal Transfer. Replacing Michelle Brown. | 8/11/2025 | \$59,833.79 | Contract |
| Elise Sintes | Counselor - MS/HS | Changing From 207 To 202 Contracted Days. | 7/1/2025 | \$66,102.65 | Contract |
| Janet Reyes | Special Education Paraprofessional - Wadsworth | Internal Transfer From Kindergarten General Education Para To Special Education Paraprofessional. | 8/8/2025 | \$16.00 | Hourly |
| Jenna Mason | Psych - MS/HS | Changing From 197 TO 192 Contracted Days. | 7/1/2025 | \$73,925.17 | Contract |
| Julie Burk | Summer School Sub Teacher - Wadsworth | N/A | 6/16/2025 | \$50.00 | Hourly |
| Julie Marszalek | Intense Special Education Classroom Teacher - Wadsworth | Internal Transfer From LRE Push-In Teacher To Intense Special Education Classroom Teacher. | 8/18/2025 | \$58,200.00 | Contract |
| Julie Martoccio | Counselor - Middle School | Changing From 207 To 202 Contracted Days. | 7/1/2025 | \$91,322.93 | Contract |
| Julie Mills | 5th Grade Teacher - Beiriger | Internal Transfer. Replacing Amore-Cielo Monjes | 8/11/2025 | \$53,000.00 | Contract |
| Karen Hudson | First Grade Teacher - Wadsworth | Internal Transfer From 2nd Grade To First Grade Wadsworth. | 8/8/2025 | \$88,974.37 | Contract |
| Kristina Kostides | New Position - K-3 Resource Teacher Special Education - Wadsworth | Roxanne Luptak | 8/11/2025 | \$57,864.20 | Contract |
| Kristina Taylor | 6th Grade Writing Lab - Middle School | Internal Transfer From Instructional Coach. | 8/11/2025 | \$58,606.61 | Contract |
| Lauren Andree | 4th Grade Teacher - Beiriger | Internal Transfer. Replacing Julie Mills | 8/11/2025 | \$50,000.00 | Contract |
| Michelle Brown | 3rd Grade Teacher - Beiriger | Internal Transfer. Replacing Kit McGuire | 8/11/2025 | \$60,935.35 | Contract |
| Michelle Duffala | STEM Teacher - Beiriger | Rescind Her Transfer To The Middle School/High School Replacing Brett Jennings. | 8/11/2025 | \$77,963.59 | Contract |
| Nancy Finnen | Bus Aide - Transportation | Internal Transfer From PT Bus Aide PM Only To Bus Aide Am& PM. She Will Be Replacing Brianne Ward. | 8/11/2025 | \$16.00 | Hourly |
| Selene Giron | Counselor - MS/HS | Changing From 207 To 202 Contracted Days. | 7/1/2025 | \$75,905.72 | Contract |

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------|----------|
| Shannon Hassel | FACS Middle School/High School | Internal Transfer From Alternative Education To FACS | 2025/2025 School Year | \$56,000.00 | Contract |
| Shelley Zahorsky | Student Support Advisor - Wadsworth | Internal Transfer From Art Teacher At Wadsworth To a 205 Contracted Position. | 7/1/2025 | \$85,000.00 | Contract |
| * Backgrounds Pending Approval | | | | | |
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4.1 Approval Of First Reading Of Policies And Rescind Policies: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the first reading of policies and rescind policies. Mr. Ruesken made a motion to approve the first reading of policies and rescind policies. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.2 Approval Of The 2025-2026 Student/Parent Handbook: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the 2025-2026 Student/Parent Handbook. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the 2025-2026 student/parent handbook. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.3 Approval Of The 2025-2026 Kindergarten Jumpstart: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the 2025-2026 kindergarten jumpstart. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the 2025-2026 kindergarten jumpstart Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.4 Approval Of The Region Virtual Academy Handbook: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the region virtual academy handbook. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of the region virtual academy handbook. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.5 Approval Of The Region Virtual Academy Flyer: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the region virtual academy flyer. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the region virtual academy flyer. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.6 Approval Of The Region Virtual Academy 2025-2026 School Calendar: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the region virtual academy 2025-226 school calendar. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of the region virtual academy 2025-2026 school calendar. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.7 Approval Of The Updated 2025-2026 School Calendar: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the updated 2025-2026 school calendar. Mrs. Conner made a motion for the approval of the updated 2025-2026 school calendar. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.8 Approval Of Updates To Employee Handbook July 1, 2025: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the updates to the employee handbook July 1, 2025. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the updates to the employee handbook July 1, 2025. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.9 Approval Of The Concession Stand Application For Employment: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the concession stand application for employment. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of the concession stand application for employment. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.10 Approval Of Resolution # 2025-24 Establish Concession Worker Temporary Rates: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of resolution # 2025-24 establish concession worker temporary rates. Ms. Conner made a motion for the approval of resolution # 2025-24 establish concession worker temporary rates. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.11 Approval Of The 2025-2026 Meet The Teacher Night: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the 2025-2026 meet the teacher night. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the 2025-2026 meet the teacher night. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.12 Approval Of New Course Description: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the new course description. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of the new course description. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4.13 Approval Of The 2025 Proposed Title II Stipends: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the 2025 proposed Title II stipends. Ms. conner made a motion for the approval of the 2025 proposed title II stipends. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Ms. Conner and Mrs. Ruesken were in favor while Mr. Jaques was opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

4.14 Approval Of The 2025 Proposed July 1 Classified Hourly Salary Ranges And Classified Hourly Increases: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the 2025 proposed July 1 Classified hourly salary ranges and classified hourly increases. Ms. Conner made a motion for the approval of the proposed July 1 classified hourly salary ranges and classified hourly increase. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4.15 Approval Of The 2025 Proposed Administration Salary Increases: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the 2025 proposed administration salary increase. Ms. Conner made a motion for the approval of the 2025 proposed administration salary increase. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Ms. Conner and Mrs. Ruesken were in favor while Mr. Jaques was opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

Audience Participation: One audience member wanted to know if Sean was on the agenda yes, or no? The audience member wanted to know the difference between the operation and construction referendum. As in the time you're allowed and the rates of interest that get charged. The audience member wanted to know the current interest in bonds. The audience member stated that we do a lot of construction as bonds and not as a construction referendum. Mrs. Dumezich stated that she will email the audience member with the questions to her answers.

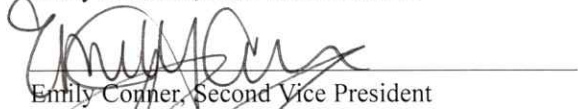
Good Of The Corporation: Mrs. Dumezich shared that the special needs dance is this Saturday. Mrs. Ruesken asked if anyone would like to be in the 4th of July parade to contact her. The audience member stated that we do a lot of construction.

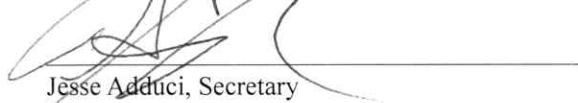
Upcoming Board Meeting: The next Regular School Board meeting will be on August 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the LGI room at the High School.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Ruesken motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.


Tina Adams, President


Kathy Ruesken, First Vice President


Emily Conner, Second Vice President


Jesse Adduci, Secretary

Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary