

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**September 11, 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 eleventh of September at the hour of 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the rules of the Board.

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary

Absent: Jesse Adduci, 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:** Pastor Bill Jones shared a prayer.

**2.3 Panther Spotlight:** Mrs. Dumezich acknowledged High School employee Jennifer Gatlin who works in the Nurses office across from the cafeteria. Jennifer performed the Heimlich maneuver on a student who ran from the cafeteria choking on a bottle cap.

**2.2 Superintendent Update:** Mrs. Dumezich shared the ADM Counts as of today the count was at 1,913 in October of 2024 the count was 1,983 the second count in 2024 was at 1,925. Mrs. Dumezich stated that the numbers remain steady, and the next count will be in October.

Mrs. Adams requested a motion to pause the regular Board meeting to go into the Public Hearing the First Preliminary Determination. Mr. Jaques made a motion to pause the regular Board meeting to go into the Public Hearing for the First Preliminary Determination. Ms. Conner second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**2.5 Finance:** Ms. Chance presented the finance report for the month of August.

**2.6 Board Reports:** Mrs. Adams reported that the Park Bord received the DNR grant. Mrs. Adams shared that turfing and lights at the minor league field will start soon. Mrs. Adams stated that there will be a Handball tournament, and that Tri Kappa will be replacing the flowers at Woodland Park. Mrs. Adama also shared that the paving of the bike trail will take place. The next Park Board meeting will be on 10/13/25.

**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, Grants, Donations, and Claims for Payroll 8/15/25-8/29/25. Accounts Payable 8/15/25-9/11/25 Professional Leaves, Fundraisers, Settlement Agreement, and the following Personnel report:

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

**September 11, 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>
	<b><i>Certified</i></b>				
Karen Augustyn	8th Grade Science Teacher - Middle School	Rob Lukowski	8/13/2025	\$85,841.15	Contract
Laura Polise	8th Grade Science Teacher - Middle School	Karen Augustyn	10/13/2025	\$50,000.00	Contract
Jasmin Fonseca	School Counselor - Wadsworth	Mishaela Johnson	9/22/2025	\$54,000.00	Contract
Jeralyn Dravet	Art Teacher - Wadsworth	Laurie Perez	9/12/2025	\$52,500.00	Contract
	<b><i>Non- Certified</i></b>				
Christina Lopez	Bus Aide - Transportation	Currently A Sub Bus Aide, Hired To Be A Part Time Bus Aide	8/22/2025	\$16.50	Hourly
Jane Tischler	Playground Aide - Beiriger	Michelle Gutierrez	9/8/2025	\$15.00	Hourly
Jessica Saucedo	Paraprofessional - Wadsworth	New Position	9/12/2025	\$18.00	Hourly
Guadalupe Gamino	Paraprofessional - Resource Intense Wadsworth	Guadalupe Was a Sub. She Is Now Hired as A Para.	9/8/2025	\$20.00	Hourly
	<b><i>Extra-Curricular/Athletics</i></b>				
Chris Tomcsi	High School Math Academic Teach Coach	Marilyn Brunk	9/12/2025	\$3,625.00	Contract
Adam Seles	8th Grade Assistant Football Coach	Brett Kenney	9/12/2025	\$1,717.50	Contract

Bryce Hayman	Ninth Grade Head Football Coach	His resignation For This Position Was Board Approved 8/14/2025. He Was Expected to Move Out of Town but Things Changed.	9/11/2025	\$5,725.00	Contract
Kevin Ballard	High School Girls Varsity Basketball Coach	Chris Tomcsi	9/12/2025	\$10,310.00	Contract
	<i>Clubs</i>				
Renee Whelan	FCCLA Sponsor	Sara Jongsma	9/12/2025	\$955.00	Contract
	<i>Separations</i>				
Brett Kenney	8th Grade Assistant Football Coach	Resignation	8/25/2025	\$1,717.50	Contract
Vincenzo De Rosa	9th Grade Assistant Football Coach	Resignation	8/21/2025	\$3,820.00	Contract
Kyle Iwinski	JV Football Coach	Resignation	8/21/2025	\$3055.00	Contract
Christine Castro	Behavior Therapist	Resignation	9/5/2025	\$67,000.00	Contract
Michelle Gutierrez	Playground Aide	Rescinded Position	8/22/2025	\$15.50	Hourly
Kristen Arras	JV Girls Basketball Coach	Resignation	9/1/2025	\$6,490.00	Contract
Laurie Perez	Art Teacher - Wadsworth	Laurie Passed Away	Aug-25	\$59,681.00	Contract
	<i>Other</i>				
Marianna Moschos	Technology Coach	Reduction In Number of Contracted Days By 5 From 197 Days To 192 Days. Daily Rate Of \$370.69 Remains the Same.	8/13/2025	\$71,173.48	Contract

Bonnie Griffie	Technology Coach	Reduction In Number of Contracted Days By 5 From 197 Days To 192 Days. Daily Rate Of \$321.40 Remains the Same.	8/13/2025	\$61,708.51	Contract
Karen Augustyn	Para Middle School/High School	Returning To Her Para Position From 8th Grade Science.	10/13/2025	\$20.00	Hourly
Jaime Pondo	Bus Aide Substitute	Jaime Will Be a Substitute Bus Aide Only When She Is Not Subbing in A Classroom.	9/15/2025	\$16.00	Hourly
* Backgrounds Pending Approval					

**4.1 Approval of Second Reading and Adoption of Policies:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval and adoption of the second reading of policies. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of policies. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.2 Approval of First Reading of Policies:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the first reading of policies. Ms. Conner made a motion for the approval of the first reading of policies. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.3 Approval of Adoption of Resolution #2025-30 Travel Meal Reimbursement Allowances:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval of adoption of resolution #2025-30 travel meal reimbursement allowances. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the adoption of resolution #2025-30 travel meal reimbursement allowances. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.4 Approval of Teacher Evaluation Rubric:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval of the teacher evaluation rubric. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of the teacher evaluation rubric. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.5 Approval of the 2025-2026 Fringe Benefit Package:** Ms. Chance presented and asked the Board for approval of the 2025-2026 fringe benefit package. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the 2025-2026 fringe benefit package. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.6 Approval of Proposed New Student Club:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the proposed new student club. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the proposed new student club. Mr. Conner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.7 Approval of Final Cell Tower Offer:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval of the final cell tower offer. Ms. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of the final cell tower offer. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. Roll call vote was 3 to 1. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.8 Approval of Indiana Appeal on Wheels:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the Indiana appeal on wheels. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the Indiana appeal on wheels. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.9 Approval of the PSI Installation Contract:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the PSI installation contract. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the PSI installation contract. Mrs. Ruesken second the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed unanimously.

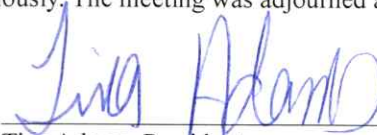
**4.10 Approval of Adoption of Resolution # 2025-31 Update the Authorized Scale and Methods for Game-Day:** Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval and adoption of resolution # 2025-31 update the authorized scale and methods for game-day. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval and adoption of resolution 32025-31 update the authorized scale and methods for game-day. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. Roll call vote was three to one Mr. Jaques sustained. Motion passed unanimously.

**Audience Participation:** One audience member wanted to know if they would be able to know the amount received from the Cell Tower settlement.


**Good of the Corporation** Mrs. Domezich shared that the elementary PTC will be having a Lallapaloosa fest on the football field. Mrs. Adams wanted to thank you to Pastor Bill Jones for providing pins to the Board that state you make a difference. Mrs. Adams thank Pastor Bill Jones and told him that he makes a difference and that we appreciate him. Mr. Jaques shared that the marching band will be at Handover on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Upcoming Board Meeting:** The next Regular School Board meeting will be on October 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the LGI room at the High School.

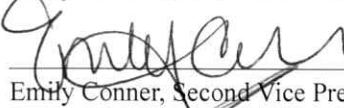
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Jaques motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



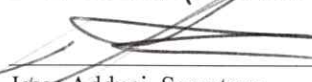
Tina Adams, President



Kathy Ruesken, First Vice President



Emily Conner, Second Vice President



Jesse Adduci, Secretary



Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary