

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**October 9, 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 ninth of October 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  
Jesse Adduci, Secretary  
Jason Jaques, 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:** One audience member stated that there will not be any more homestead exemptions. The audience member also recommended that we look into house bill 1427. Pastor Bill Jones shared a prayer.

Mrs. Adams paused the regular Board meeting to go into the Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget and the Public Hearing for the project and second preliminary Determination Hearing.

**2.2 Panther Spotlight:** Mrs. Anderson acknowledged Mrs. Hogan for receiving the Indiana Council Social Studies Distinguished teacher award. This award is the highest award that you could receive. Mrs. Dumezich recognized Ambre Cain principal at Beiriger for all the work she does in the district she makes the administrative team better; Mrs. Cain is good for our kids and supports her teachers.

**2.3 Superintendent Update:** Mrs. Dumezich shared information on the Education fund and the state formula. We are doing good in the education fund. Because we kept enrollment study. Looking out in the next few years to 2031 opening the Budget. Mrs. Dumezich explained and talked about how the referendum and tax rate works. Mrs. Dumezich stated that we will have to keep looking at reductions each year due to the tax rate.

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

**2.5 Board Reports:** None

**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 9/12/2025-9/26/2025. Accounts Payable 9/12/2025-10/9/2025. Professional Leaves, Fundraisers, Donations, Contract, Grants, and the following Personnel report.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

**10/9/225**

<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>
Meredith Dainton	Interim Assistant A.D.	Olimpia Tienstra	10/1/2025	\$58,500.00	Contract
	<b><i>Certified</i></b>				
Chloe Hanchar	Behavior Specialist	Christine Castro	11/3/2025	\$55.00	Contract
	<b><i>Non- Certified</i></b>				
Felicia Newsome	Recess Aide - Wadsworth	Samantha Dancer	10/10/2025	\$15.50	Hourly
	<b><i>Extra-Curricular/Athletics</i></b>				
Jodie Barham	Girls' 8th Grade Head Basketball Coach	Oscar Beecham	10/10/2025	\$3,820.00	Contract
Jodie Barham	Boys' 7th Grade Head Basketball Coach	Issa Odeh	10/10/2025	\$2,670.00	Contract
Antwan Pipkins	Boys' 8th Grade Head Basketball Coach	Oscar Beecham	10/10/2025	\$3,820.00	Contract
Cornell Hampton	Boys Freshman Head Basketball Coach	George Tucker	10/10/2025	\$5,725.00	Contract
Oscar Beechem	Girls Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach	Sherri Terrell-Mishler	10/10/2025	\$6,490.00	Contract
Michael Godbolt	Boys Junior Varsity Head Baseball Coach	Andrew Davenport/Charles Flores Will Split Position with Alan Hunter	10/10/2025	\$1,910.00	Contract
Alan Hunter	Boys Junior Varsity Head Baseball Coach	Andrew Davenport/Charles Flores Will Split Position with Michael Godbolt	10/10/2025	\$1,910.00	Contract

Yashion Boswell	Boys Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach	Elias Carasballa-Will Split Position with Michael Feliciano	10/10/2025	\$2,100.00	Contract
Michael Feliciano	Boys Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach	Elias Carasballa-Will Split Position with Yashion Bowell	10/10/2025	\$2,100.00	Contract
	<b>Clubs</b>				
	<b>Separations</b>				
Georgia Smith	Director Of Building and Grounds - District	Retirement	6/30/2027	\$80,000.00	Contract
Michelle Udchitz	Director Of Guidance - Jr/Sr High School	Retirement	6/30/2026	\$103,000.00	Contract
Bob Turek	Girls Track & Field Assistant Varsity Coach	Resignation	9/29/2025	\$4,580.00	Contract
Elias Caraballo	Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach	Resignation	9/16/2025	\$4,200.00	Contract
Towina Nightingale	Café Worker - Wadsworth	Resignation	10/2/2025	\$17.00	Hourly
Shannon Hassel	Girls Golf Head Coach	Resignation	10/7/2025	\$4,580.00	Contract
Sherri Terrell-Mishler	Girls Varsity Basketball Assistant Coach	Resignation	10/9/2025	\$6,490.00	Contract
	<b>Other</b>				
Amy Skura	Tutor - MS/HS	N/A	10/13/2025	\$50.00	Hourly
Ellen Purkey	Tutor -MS/HS	N/A	10/13/2025	\$50.00	Hourly
Lauren Skvorak	Tutor - MS/HS	N/A	10/13/2025	\$50.00	Hourly
Lisa Driscoll	Tutor - MS/HS	N/A	10/13/2025	\$50.00	Hourly
Camille Schafer	Tutor - Beiriger	N/A	10/27/2025	\$50.00	Hourly
Kylie Duhamell	Tutor - Beiriger	N/A	10/27/2025	\$50.00	Hourly

Marisa Specht	Tutor - Beiriger	N/A	10/27/2025	\$50.00	Hourly
Rachel Wajvoda	Tutor - Beiriger	N/A	10/27/2025	\$50.00	Hourly
Christopher Camarena	Special Education Para HS/PAP	N/A	10/27/2025	\$18.00	Hourly
* Background s 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. Mr. Adduci 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:** Mr. Jaques made a motion to pull po2430.001 and ag2430 from first reading and approve them. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Mrs. Dumezich explained that parents have to November 1<sup>st</sup> to pay athletic fees. Mr. Jaques stated that he is all for students playing sports, but he stated that it is important to pay the fees. Mrs. Adams agrees that parents are responsible to pay the fees, but students need to learn accountability and that there are ways to fundraise. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the first reading of the remaining of the policies. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve the first reading of the remaining of the policies. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.3 Approval of The Receipt of Special Education Documents and Correspondence Electronically Form:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval of the receipt of special education documents and correspondence electronically form. Ms. Conner made a motion for the approval of the receipt of special education documents and correspondence electronically form. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.4 UFLY Curriculum Funded by The Education Foundation:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval of the UFLY curriculum funded by the education foundation. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the UFLY curriculum funded by the education foundation. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**4.5 Art Curriculum Funded by The Education Foundation:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval of the Art curriculum funded by the education foundation. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of the Art curriculum funded by the Education Foundation. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

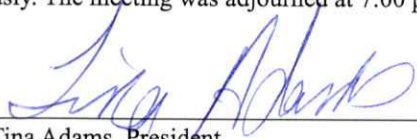
**4.6 Identifying Emotions and Behavior Support Curriculum Funded by The Education Foundation:** Mrs. Dumezich presented and requested a motion for the approval identifying emotions and behavior support curriculum funded by the education foundation. Mr. Jaques made a motion for the approval of identifying emotions and behavior support curriculum funded by the education foundation. Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

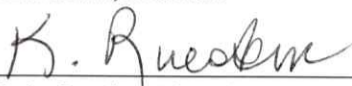
**Audience Participation:** One audience member wanted to confirm that 70% of whom voted is how the referendum passed. The audience member wanted to know if a projection was completed to show what 2031 would look like.

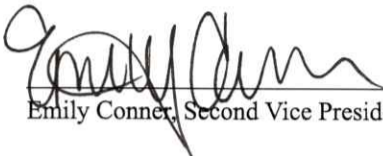
**Good of the Corporation:** Mrs. Dumezich wanted to remind everyone that the PTC will host the Fallapaloza tomorrow on the football field. From 5:00-8:00. Mrs. Dumezich also stated that the band and choir did amazing performing. The Band and Choir also performed at the Senior Center while we provided a light lunch for them. Mrs. Dumezich shared that Soccer is in Sectionals. Mr. Jaques shared that the marching band placed gold at Isma. Mr. Jaques stated the choir concert was good and that the choir is the biggest as it has ever been in 20 years.

**Upcoming Board Meeting:** The next Regular School Board meeting will be on November 13, 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 Mr. Adduci seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

  
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Tina Adams, President

  
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Kathy Ruesken, First Vice President

  
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Emily Conner, Second Vice President

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Jesse Adduci, Secretary

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Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary