

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

November 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 November 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 nd Vice President
Absent:	Jesse Adduci, Secretary Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary
Others Present:	Leah Dumezich, Superintendent Terri Chance, Chief Financial Officer Joseph C. Svetanoff, Attorney

1.2 Moment of Silence:

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

2.1 Delegations and/or Communications: Pastor Bill Jones with Griffith First Methodist church shared that his congregation donated crayons, notebooks, band-aids, Kleenex, pencils, glue sticks and other school supplies to Wadsworth. Pastor Bill Jones also said a prayer. One audience member apologized that she did not email her information since last Board meeting. The audience member also stated that after she was researching, she came across that in June 2024 a bond of 14.775 million dollars was issued for the school natatorium. And that in January another bond was issued for the natatorium aquatic center. The audience member wanted to know how this is not a capital control project.

2.2 Panther Spotlight: Mrs. Dumezich acknowledged Mrs. Kinnie who oversees the Natural Helpers. Mrs. Dumezich shared her experience on how 10 students with the Natural Helpers group came in her office to help her pack 58 buddy backpacks for students in need to take home over the weekend. Mrs. Dumezich also shared that the Natural Helpers group traveled to the senior center for the Friendsgiving dinner that Mrs. Kinne also oversees with the group. Mrs. Dumezich stated that this is a good group of kids and that she is proud of these students.

2.3 Superintendent Update: Mrs. Dumezich was hoping that everyone was able to see the drama play Clue. Mrs. Dumezich said it was hilarious and great acting. Mrs. Dumezich shared that she is working with a community member on a book and gift bus. Mrs. Dumezich said they will be making four stops, and information will be given closer to the date. Mrs. Dumezich stated she is working with Tina and operation care and that she turned in twenty-two families to receive help. Operation care provides gifts for families in need. Mrs. Dumezich thanked Kim Watkins she is the one who got the buddy backpacks going. Mrs. Dumezich stated she has sixty backpacks going out on Friday. Mrs. Dumezich thanked all the community members who provided food. Mrs. Kostides and the Greek Church in Merriville will provide Thanksgiving dinners for twenty-five families. Mrs. Dumezich wanted to let everyone know if they donated a check to sponsor a Thanksgiving dinner, she is going to hang on to the check to see if we exceed the twenty-five.

2.4 Finance: Ms. Chance talked about the Panther closet and if you need anything to contact Central office. Ms. Chance stated that November and December are the lowest cash balance months in both the operations and referendum fund. This is when we are waiting for property tax distribution. To manage the cash flow, we requested

an early tax drawl. Ms. Chance stated sometimes we get it and sometimes we do not. Ms. Chance gave the finance report for the month of October.

2.5 Board Reports: Mrs. Adams reported that the park Board is decorating the town for Christmas they are looking for volunteers. Contractors meeting regarding the youth baseball field grant projects are on track with the bidding process. Bids will be taken for the bike path. Mrs. Adams shared the park supervisor position is now full time. Rich Powel will be filling that position. Mrs. Adams stated nothing has changed with the position and that Rich already works full time hours.

Consent Agenda: Mrs. Adams requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. The consent agenda contains the following items: Minutes, Agreements/Contracts, Donations, and Claims for Payroll 10/10/2025-10/24/2025. Accounts Payable 10/10/2025-11/13/2025. Professional Leaves, Fundraisers, Donations, and the following Personnel report.

PERSONNEL REPORT					
November 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>				
	<i>Non- Certified</i>				
Kenyatta Terrell	District - Custodian	Hired As a Substitute Custodian	Will Be Used as Needed	\$16.00	Hourly
	<i>Extra-Curricular/Athletics</i>				
	<i>Clubs</i>				
	<i>Separations</i>				
Karen Hudson	First Grade Teacher- Wadsworth	Retirement	12/31/2025	\$90,753.86	Contract
Shaune Getty	Third Grade Teacher- Beiriger	Retirement	End Of The 2025-2026 School Year	\$85,706.73	Contract
Susan Guy	First Grade Teacher - Wadsworth	Retirement	End Of The 2025-2026 School Year	\$90,895.40	Contract
Pier Smith	First Grade Teacher - Wadsworth	Retirement	End Of The 2025-2026 School Year	\$84,723.84	Contract
Barbara Lail	English Teacher - High School	Retirement	End Of The 2025-2026 School Year	\$77,390.90	Contract

Robert Robinson	MS Boys Assistant Track Coach	Resignation	10/16/2025	\$2,290.00	Contract
Thomas Ehrlich	Assistant Wrestling Coach	Resignation	10/16/2025	\$2,865.00	Contract
	<i>Other</i>				
Wanda Wyatt	Transportation	Leave Of Absence Starting November 19, 2025, For 12 Weeks.	11/12/2025	\$20.40	Hourly
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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. Ms. Conner made a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of policies. Mrs. Ruesken 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. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to approve the first reading of policies. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4.3 Approval of the 7/1/2025-6/30/2027 Teacher Contract: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the 7/1/2025-6/30/2027 Teacher contract. Ms. Conner made a motion for the approval of the 7/1/2025-6/30/2027 Teacher contract. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4.4 Approval of Changes to The Teachers RUBRIC: Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval of the changes to the teachers RUBRIC. Ms. Conner made a motion for the approval of the changes to the teachers RUBRIC. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4.5 Approval to Create a New Student Club: Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval to create a new student club. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval to create a new student club. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4.6 Approval of Changes in the 2025-2026 Student/Parent Handbook: Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval of the changes in the 2025-2026 student/parent handbook. Ms. Conner made a motion for the approval of the 2025-2026 student/parent handbook. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4.7 Approval of The Book Club 2025-2026 Books: Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for the approval of the book club 2025-2026 books. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of the book club 2025-2026 books. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4.8 Approval of the 2026 Summer Learning Dates: Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for approval of the 2026 summer learning dates. Ms. Conner made a motion for the approval of the 2026 Summer learning dates. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4.9 Approval of the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 And 2027-2028 School Calendars: Mrs. Dumezich presented and asked the Board for the approval of the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and the 2027-2028 school calendars. Mrs. Conner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4.10 Approval of The Middle School Student Council Little Free Library: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of the middle School student council little free library, Ms. Conner. made a motion for the approval of

the Middle school student council little free library. Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

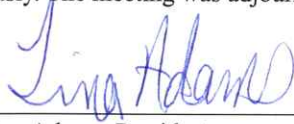
4.11 Approval of Resolution # 2025-39 The 2026 Board of School Trustees Regular Meeting Dates: Mrs. Adams requested a motion for the approval of resolution # 2025-39 the 2026 Board of School Trustees regular dates. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion for the approval of resolution # 2025-39 the 2026 Board of school trustees regular meeting dates. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Audience Participation: None

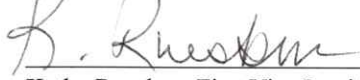
Good of the Corporation: Mrs. Dumezich shared that the little library at Wadsworth has been filled up with books and food. Mrs. Dumezich is happy that people are utilizing it and that we will be doing that throughout the holidays.

Upcoming Board Meeting: The next Regular School Board meeting will be on December 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the LGI room at the High School.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Conner motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Tina Adams, President



Kathy Ruesken, First Vice President



Emily Conner, Second Vice President



Jesse Adduci, Secretary



Jason Jaques, Assistant Secretary