

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
February 10, 2022**

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 February, at the hour of 6:04 p.m. pursuant to the rules of the Board.

Emily Conner, President of the Board of School Trustees, called the meeting to order. On call of the roll, members were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Emily Conner, President  
Jason Jaques, First Vice-President  
John Volkmann, Second Vice-President  
Kathy Ruesken, Secretary  
Donald McCarter, Assistant Secretary

Others Present: Leah Dumezich, Interim Superintendent  
Terri Chance, CFO  
Joseph C. Svetanoff, Attorney

Absent: Tracy Whitman, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

1.3 Delegations and/or Communications: None

**District Update**

2.1 Park Board Appointment: Mr. McCarter made a motion to appointment Mr. Volkmann Park Board Liaison with a second from Mr. Jaques and no discussion. Motion Passed.

2.2 Superintendent Update: Mrs. Dumezich shared the following with the Board:

On Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, we will go live with our transportation GPS. This will allow parents to download an app and have live GPS for their child to better determine drop off and pick up. She asked for patience as this is new and technology always has a few glitches to work out. It is my hope that this will provide a more safe, reliable way of transporting our students while assisting our parents better at bus stops, etc.

Last weekend, Mrs. Dumezich had a unique opportunity to spend time with our girls and boys swim team. She commended the parents and coaches for their role in raising and coaching such amazing individuals. While on the pool deck at Munster with the Girls' team, she learned so much about swimming. She was taken back by the positivity and support they demonstrate to one another. The bonds and friendships that have been created are very special. I know they have faced great obstacles with our pool being out of service this season, and she sincerely apologized for that. She had an opportunity to have lunch with the entire team, coaches, and Mr. Dimos. She appreciated the opportunity to share in their celebrations and accomplishments.

The administrative team are solidifying Summer School Planning, Registration for the 2022-2023 school year, Meet the Teacher night, and Kindergarten Round Up details. Parents, please know that all students in grades K-8 will be given an opportunity to participate in Summer School. Students in grades 9-12 will be invite only based on credit needs and any credit deficiencies. If your child is in grades 9-12 and are even behind by one credit, I encourage you to make sure your child obtains the credit this Summer rather than waiting. Sumer School will be free to ALL students K-12. WE submit the plan for reimbursement. All students will be provided breakfast and lunch. Students who qualify for transportation will be notified. Location of Summer School will be determined, but dates will be June 6<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Classes will be held for 12 days over the course of 3 weeks, Mon-Thurs. Summer school registration will take place starting April 11<sup>th</sup> and will close on April

Financial presentation dates are on the school website and will continue through the month of February, March, and April.

Student registration dates and times for the 2022-2023 school year are as follows: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>. Locations and times will be released in March.

Meet the teacher will take place the day before school starts for the 2022-2023 school year.

Kindergarten Round Up Dates are on the calendar for April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for times and more details.

2.3 Director of Curriculum Update: None

2.6 Panther Spotlight: Mrs. Dumezich recognized several teams and students for their achievements.

2.7 Finance Update: Ms. Chance provided the following update to the Board:

Ms. Chance stated that she is happy to be here with the Griffith family. As she is transitioning into her position it is taking a little longer to get the banks reconciled and so she had nothing to report at this time but will have everything reconciled and ready to share at the next meeting.

2.8 Board Reports: None

**3.1 – 3.9 Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Conner requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Kathy Ruesken made a motion to accept the consent agenda. John Volkmann seconded the motion. In discussion, Mrs. Dumezich commented on the Grants and funds that will be provided to GPS and shared with the Private Schools in Griffith. Motion passed.



**Other Business**

4.1 Re Amended Resolution 632: Mr. Svetanoff discussed the changes to Resolution 632 and requested the Board to approve the Resolution Amending Resolution 632 to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Submission Requirements for Submitting Bids to Perform Construction Work. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to approve the Re Amended Resolution 632 with a second from Mr. McCarter. Motion carried with one opposition from Mr. Jacques.

4.2 Nursing Staff Presentation: Megan Lounsbury, RN (K-2), Helen Ricco, RN (3-5) and Nicole Kinder, RN (6-12) and Jennifer Gatlin, Assistant (6-12) presented and discussed the services they offer, which include the following: dispense medication, specialized nursing care (i.e., Diabetes), student and staff visits, monitoring COVID cases and quarantines, vision screenings, hearing screenings and immunization record reviews.

4.3 High Ability Programming Presentation: Two videos/movies were played that provided information and awareness of the High Ability programs.


4.4 Safety and Security Presentation: Michael Vode, Director of Safety and Security and Tony Sekula, Griffith Police Officer and SRO presented an overview of their responsibilities.

Audience Participation: An audience member asked the question regarding the money that GPS must share with private schools in Griffith. Mrs. Dumezich addressed the question and discussed the different Title funds and what GPS is required to share.

Good of the Corporation: Mrs. Dumezich recognized the Guidance Department Team for School Counselor week. Mrs. Dumezich discussed that March is Disability Awareness month and had t-shirt order forms for a fundraiser that supports the HS Intensive Therapeutic program.

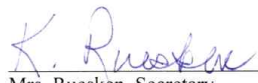
Upcoming Board Meetings: The next regular School Board meeting will be on March 10, 2022, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the LGI room at the High School.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Conner requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Mr. McCarter. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

  
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Emily Conner, President

  
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Jason Jaques, First Vice President

  
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John Volkmann, Second Vice President

  
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Mrs. Ruesken, Secretary

  
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Donald McCarter, Assistant Secretary