

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 12, 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 twelfth of May, at the hour of 6:00 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, Superintendent Tracy Whitman, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Amalia Gemelas, Attorney
Absent:	Terri Chance, CFO Joseph C. Svetanoff, Attorney

1.3 Delegations and/or Communications: None

District Update

2.1 Finance Update: Mrs. Dumezich provided the following update to the Board:

We are close to being finished with the bi-annual audit by the Indiana State Board of Accounts. This has kept staff in Central Office very busy pulling data for the on-site auditors and providing information as needed. The Education and Operations expenses for April were \$1,357,969 and revenue \$1,209,032. All Funds expenses were \$2,354,477 and revenue \$1,209,033

2.2 Panther Spotlight: Mrs. Dumezich stated that the Panther Spotlight goes to our community for their SUPPORT!! Congrats to our class of 2022. This class consists of a group of young men and women that have continuously supported one another by cheering their peers on at games, attending their friends plays, recognition nights, and have genuinely been there for one another. She also gave a shout out to the young ladies of the Class of 2022. They have served as role models for how young women should be supporting other women. They are an inspiring group of young ladies. I could not be prouder of all our Class of 2022 graduates. I hope that they enjoy the last few weeks with us at the "G" and continue to make great memories.

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

Mrs. Dumezich thanked our community for their support in voting Yes for GPS. A special thank you to all our staff who volunteered, our PAC members who met at least once or twice a week for several months. Thank you to Mrs. Kulinski for telling the story and history of the town of Griffith and its desire to historically support our schools. Special thanks to Lori Rose for being our PAC leader...we could not have done it without you, my union membership and admin team, and of course our school board of trustees. May 3rd was a very significant day for GPS.

Mrs. Dumezich stated she will ask the board to approve the start and end times for the 2022-2023 school year. Please know that a few times needed to be tweaked by a few minutes to ensure efficient transportation and routing. We have been continuing to decrease the distance required to be eligible for bus service, and so that Beiriger students are not waiting most days, it needed to be tweaked.

Mrs. Dumezich addressed some behaviors specifically from our 6th-8th graders regarding destruction of school property.

In the last two weeks, two of our Panther families have suffered the loss of a child. Our deepest condolences go out to their families. We continue to pray for peace and comfort for them and their loved ones.

Last night, we had a rock star band performance in the auditorium. We hope to see a large audience this evening at 6:30 p.m. for our Choir performance. Most of you were able to get a glimpse of some of our Panther talent at the Grease production and she hopes you can see some more of that talent this evening. She also mentioned that STEAM night at Wadsworth was a great success.

See Miss. D if you would like to donate to our Best Buddies Walk which takes place this Saturday.

2.4 Director of Curriculum Update: Mrs. Whitman reported that the textbooks that were Board approved have been purchased. Next step is for teacher training on the online component of the materials.

2.5 Board Reports:

Park Board: Mr. Volkmann provided an update for the Town of Griffith Park Board. The Imagine Griffith's Town Wide Garage Sale will be May 20th, 21st, 22nd. Woodland Park's Story Walk is almost completed. Cheever Park is receiving new fencing, 2 new pickle ball courts and lighting. DNR Grant is in progress.

Plan Commission: No Report

3.1 – 3.9 Consent Agenda: Mrs. Conner requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Ruesken made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. McCarter seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The consent agenda contains the following items: Minutes from the 4-14-2022, Regular Claims: Dates 4-15-2022 through 5-12-2022, Professional Leave 2022-26 – 2022-30, Fundraisers 2022-32 to 2022-33, Donations, Agreements/Contracts, and the below Personnel Report:

**PERSONNEL REPORT
May 12, 2022**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Certified</i>	<i>Replacing</i>	<i>Effective Date(s)</i>	<i>Pay Rate</i>	<i>Hourly, Daily, Seasonal, Yearly Contract</i>
Danielle Moeglin	ECD Teacher Wadsworth	Due to resignation	2022-2023 School Year		Contract
Rachel Cervantes	Third Grade Teacher	Due to resignation	2022-2023 School Year	\$42,000.00	Contract
Sylvia Fish	First Grade Teacher Wadsworth	Due to resignation	2022-2023 School Year		Contract
Rebecca Schultz Maniel	LRE Teacher	Jasmine Valerio due to resignation	2022-2023 School Year		Contract
Jasmine Valerio	5th Grade Teacher Beiriger	Tessa Trueblood due to resignation	2022-2023 School Year		Contract
Tessa Trueblood	3rd Grade Teacher	Krystal Montes due to not having a valid teaching license	2022-2023 School Year		Contract
Sara Noles	2nd Grade Teacher Wadsworth	New Hire	2022-2023 School Year	\$42,000.00	Contract
Teresa Cooper	Secondary Science Teacher	Chris Sojka	2022-2023 School Year	\$50,500.00	Contract
Maureen Chavez-Reda	Secondary Business and Computer Technology	Nicholas Zivanovich	2022-2023 School Year	\$57,000.00	Contract
	Administrator				
	Non-Certified				
Jill Owczarzak	Moved from a 10 month to 12 month custodian	N/A	Currently Employed	\$16.50	Hourly
Tiffini McDaniel	Food Service Cook Beiriger	Mikaela Dragus	N/A	\$13.50	Hourly
	Extra-Curricular/Athletics				
Amy Skurs	Volleyball Coach 7th grade	Lauren Wise	8/1/2022-10/31/2022	\$2,545.20	Seasonal
Cantena Anderson	Volleyball Coach 8th grade	No Replacement	8/1/2022-10/31/2022	\$2,545.20	Seasonal
Tracy Olechnowicz	Middle School Assistant Cheer Coach	Kelly Larney	5/1/2022-4/30/2023	\$2,227.05	Seasonal
Shanna Gulley	Junior Varsity Cheer Coach	Returning	5/1/2022-4/30/2023	\$1,590.75	Seasonal
Lex Gardner	Freshman Cheer Coach	No Replacement	5/1/2022-2023	\$1,590.75	Seasonal
Rob Keene	Head Varsity Swim Coach	Barbara Bolda	10/1/2022-2/16/2023	\$6,999.30	Seasonal
Barbara Bolda	Asst. Varsity Swim Coach	Rob Keene	10/1/2022-2/16/2023	\$4,772.25	Seasonal
	Clubs				
	Separations				
Harland Meals	Bus Driver		4/20/22		Hourly
Iseleana Owusu	Bus Driver		4/18/22		Hourly
Roger Coan	Custodian		4/28/22		Hourly
Melissa Diekelmann	Head Girls High School Track Coach		End of 2021-2022 Season	N/A	
**Pending Screenings					
	Other				
Jenna Parker	Leave/Social Studies & Theatre Performing Arts Teacher		8/9/2022-1/6/2023	N/A	Contract

Mrs. Conner acknowledged the many donations that were received. The Drama Club received many anonymous donations for items on their Amazon Wish List. Tri Kappa made several donations to support Band, HS Choral, Art Club and MS/HS Choir. She thanked everyone for their generosity.

Other Business

4.1 Director of Guidance Update: The Guidance Team reviewed their many 2021 and 2022 goals that they completed, which included: new communication avenues for class scheduling, dual credit courses, student grants, scholarships, Collage Day, collage visits, skill trades, military. They launched a new Newsletter, Schoology Page and a Website that increase the communication of the many Guidance Center programs/updates. Mr. Jaques and Mrs. Dumezich recognized the many strides that the Guidance Team has made this year.

4.2 Athletic Presentation: Mrs. Dimos gave an update on the 2022 Winter/Spring Programs and showed a video of the 2022 Winter Programs and that highlighted their many accomplishments. He also stated that GPS offers over 25 Sports and many additional Activities. Currently 55% of Students in MS and HS participate in a Sport or Activity.

On May 18th anyone playing a sport or participating in an athletic club next year can get an On Campus Physical. More information in on the GPS website. Information for the Griffith Summer Youth Camps which include Tennis, Boys and Girls Basketball, Cheer, Boys and Girls Soccer and Volleyball is on the GPS Athletics website. Also, any Senior that would like to have their photos taken on an athletic field can contact Mr. Dimos to set up a time.

4.3 New School Times: Mrs. Dumezich requested the Board to approve the 2022-2023 School Start and End Times as presented. The new times will be posted on the website. Mrs. Conner requested a motion. Mr. Volkmann made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Start and End Times as presented with a second from Mr. Jaques. Motion passed.

4.4 Elementary Meet the Teacher 2022-2023: Mrs. Dumezich requested the Board to approve the 2022-2023 Elementary Meet the Teacher Night as presented. Meet The Teacher night will be on Tuesday, August 9th. Additional Information will be posted on the website. Mrs. Conner requested a motion. Mr. Jaques made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Elementary Meet the Teacher Night as presented with a second from Mr. Volkmann. Motion passed.

4.5 6th Grade Orientation: Mrs. Dumezich requested the Board to approve the 6th Grade Orientation Night as presented, which will be on August 8th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. additional details will be posted on the website. Mrs. Conner requested a motion. Mr. McCarter made a motion to approve move the 6th Grade Orientation Night as presented with a second from Mrs. Ruesken. Motion passed. Mrs. Dumezich stated that if you have a special needs child a private tour can be set up by contacting her.

Audience Participation: An audience member had a question regarding the percentage of athletic/activities participation, and it was explained that the 55% participation rate is for after school programs and does not include PE classes that are mandatory. He also wanted to discuss State Legislation regarding Republic Education, and he was directed to contact Mrs. Dumezich.

Good of the Corporation: Mrs. Dumezich announced that volunteers are needed for St. Mary's Western Days and encouraged anyone interested to contact Vince Galambos who is the festival Chairperson. She will be organizing the Kid Section this year! Mrs. Conner recognized the many volunteers that worked the voting polls last week and she gave special thanks to Lori Rose for all her time and support this past year!

Upcoming Board Meetings: The next regular School Board meeting will be on June 9, 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. Mr. Jaques made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Mr. Volkmann. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Emily Conner, President

Jason Jaques, First Vice President

John Volkmann, Second Vice President

Mrs. Ruesken, Secretary

Donald McCarter, Assistant Secretary