

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
September 11, 2014**

The Board of School Trustees of the Griffith Public Schools met in regular session at Wadsworth Elementary School, 600 N. Jay Street Griffith Indiana on the eleventh day of September at the hour of 7:30 P.M. pursuant to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Raymond White, President of the Board of School Trustees. After the Pledge of Allegiance, on call of the roll, members were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Raymond White, President  
Richard Muha, First Vice-President  
Jennifer Dildine, Second Vice-President  
Gerald Potacki, Secretary

Absent: John Dudlicek, Assistant Secretary

Others Present: Dr. Peter Morikis, Superintendent  
Jeannette Bapst, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Aron Borowiak, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Rhett Tauber, School Attorney  
Kathy Carter, Secretary to the Superintendent

**Prayer:** Pastor Tim Powers of First United Methodist Church provided the inspirational message/prayer.

**Superintendent's Remarks:** In lieu of remarks, Dr. Morikis suggested to the Board that Other Business items A, Special Recognition and B, First United Methodist Church presentation to the Board be moved to this portion of the meeting due to the number of students in the audience.

The first group to be recognized was Griffith High School Cheer squad. The Cheerleaders each received a certificate from Board President, Mr. Ray White, congratulating the girls on a job well done. During the summer, the squad attended the United Cheer Association camp, received a Superior rating, and was invited to perform in parades in either London or Philadelphia.

Then the First United Methodist Church Children's Ministries Group presented the Board with school supplies that were purchased with funds raised by the Children's Missions group. The group raised \$126.55 and was able to purchase pencils, crayons, folders, and other school supplies to be distributed to our elementary schools.

**Delegations and/or Communications:** None

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Muha made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 14, 2014 Board Meeting. Mr. Potacki seconded the motion. There being no discussion motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Claims:** Mr. Muha made a motion to accept Regular Claims #18758 to #18898 and Professional Leaves #1136 to #1143 as presented in the Board packet. Mrs. Dildine seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Bapst presented the Board with the monthly Treasurer's report.

**Wadsworth Elementary Update:** Principal Michelle Lavin's presentation to the Board included an overview on how Wadsworth staff members used their time for the first Late Start Tuesday on September 9, 2014. They were able set expectations and "smart goals" as a group. The following Late Start Tuesday will be used to work in small groups by grade level. The Wadsworth staff as a whole was excited to see Late Start Tuesday implemented again.

Wadsworth is happy to welcome Mr. Eric Steiner and Mrs. Jennifer Conlon, the new elementary data coaches. Both data coaches have been in all the elementary buildings getting teachers and students up and running on a number of different software programs that will be used for students to increase their abilities in math and reading.

Mrs. Lavin also explained the use of the data wall for students. The data wall keeps track of students' reading levels. This data wall is in a separate workroom that is only accessible to staff. Each grade level has a data wall and each student is evaluated and assigned a color. Green is reading above grade level, yellow at grade level and red is below grade level. Those students who are at risk are receiving extra help in reading. This program is being used in all of our elementary schools, and plans are in place to evaluate students' math abilities and implement the same type of program for student improvement in math.

**2015 Budget Hearing:** Ms. Bapst opened the public hearing on the 2015 budget. She presented the Board with an overview of the 8 funds and their total appropriations in the amount of \$24,801,191. Following discussion, Ms. Bapst closed the public hearing. Adoption by the Board of the 2015 budget is scheduled for October 9, 2014.

**Board Policies Second Reading:** Dr. Morikis asked the Board to approve the second reading of the Board policies as listed on Appendix A. Mrs. Dildine made a motion to approve the Second Reading of the Board Policies and Mr. Potakcki seconded the motion. There being no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

**Personnel Action:** Mr. Borowiak presented the revised Personnel Report, recommending the following personnel items:

Assignments

Certified

Daphane Pantazis Temporary GAP/English Remediation Teacher, effective 8-20-14 to 11-18-14

Classified

Tammy Anderko Administrative Supervisor, reassigned from Maintenance/Transportation secretary effective 9-1-14  
Jason Belcher Systems Supervisor Class IIIA, reassigned from Class III Custodian, effective 9-15-14  
Jeanne Dolatowski Cafeteria Matron MS/HS, effective 9-9-14  
Christina Edwards Class III Custodian, effective 9-5-14  
Georgina Hernandez Class 1 Custodian, effective 9-2-14  
Lori Jacobs Foodservice worker, effective 9-9-14  
Trisa Johnsen Interventionist Beiriger Elementary, effective 9-3-14 to 6-8-15  
Sheleice Miller Playground Supervisor Ready, effective 9-10-14  
Kevin Parker Interventionist GMS/GHS English, effective 8-21-14 to 6-8-15  
Minnie Phillips Interventionist Ready Elementary, effective 8-21-14 to 6-8-15  
Samantha Ramirez Bus Aide, effective 9-2-14  
Julie Winston Interventionist Wadsworth Elementary, effective 8-21-14 to 6-8-15

Extra-Curricular

Katrina Bolger Grade 7 & 8 Academic Bowl Coordinator, effective 2014-2015 school year  
Ellison Cullen Freshman Cheerleading Sponsor, effective 9-4-14 to 6-30-15, 50% split with Julie Martoccio  
Kymberli Daniels Girls Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach, effective 10-27-14 to 3-7-15  
Jeff Kawa Grade 7 & 8 Student Council Sponsor, effective 2014-2015 school year  
Julie Martoccio Freshman Cheerleading Sponsor, effective 9/4/1 to 6-30-15, 50% split with Ellison Cullen  
Theresa McLoughlin Assistant Varsity Swim Coach, effective 11-10-14 to 2-28-14.  
Maggie Rivera Senior High Art Club Sponsor, effective 2014-2015 school year  
Shannon Scheidel Freshman Class Sponsor, effective 2014-2015 school year  
Don Whittemore Senior High Academic Competition Coordinator, effective 2014-2015 school year  
Don Whittemore Senior High Science Academic Super Bowl Coach, effective 2014-2015 school year  
Anthony Zarndt Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach, effective 11-3-14 to 2-21-15, 50% split with Andre Hernandez

Separations

Certified

Daphane Pantazis Temporary GAP/English Remediation Teacher, effective 8-29-14, resignation

Classified

Sheryl K. Bechtold Custodian, effective 9-26-14, resignation  
Christina Edwards MS/HS Foodservice Matron, effective 8-27-14, resignation  
Georgina Hernandez Foodservice worker, effective 8-29-14, resignation  
Kari Olsen Bus Aide, effective 8-1-14, resignation  
Dennis Santay Systems Manager, effective 8-29-14, retirement  
Casandra Varady Custodian, effective 8-19-14, resignation  
Florence Williams Custodian, effective 9-3-14, resignation

Extra-Curricular

Jenna Berzy Grade 7 & 8 Student Council Sponsor, effective 8-21-14, resignation  
Julie Wencloff SADD Sponsor, effective 8-21-14, resignation

Other


Revised Salary Schedule, custodial and maintenance

Mr. Muha motioned to accept the personnel report and Mr. White seconded the motion. There being no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

**Audience Participation (Agenda Items):** One audience member asked Mrs. Lavin how students are being identified on the data boards. Mrs. Lavin responded that only teachers see student's names.

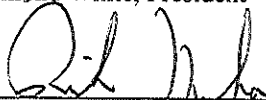
Good of the Corporation: Mr. Potacki asked Griffith Middle School Principal Dustin Nelson, for an update/progress report on the advocacy classes. Mr. Nelson commented that the classes recently got underway and for the most part things are working really well. There have been a few bumps in the road, but that is to be expected when dealing with 1100 students. Communication is the key to success.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.




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Raymond White, President



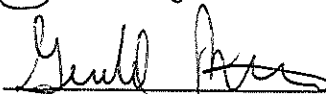
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Richard Muha, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President



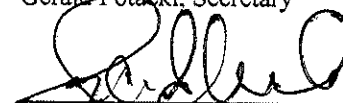
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Jennifer Dildine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President



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Gerald Potacki, Secretary



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John Dudlicek, Assistant Secretary