

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

October 9, 2014

The Board of School Trustees of the Griffith Public Schools met in regular session at Griffith High School, 600 N. Wiggs Street Griffith Indiana on the ninth day of October 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
John Dudlicek, Assistant Secretary

Absent: None

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: Father Mens of St. Mary's Catholic Church provided the inspirational message/prayer.

Superintendent's Remarks: Dr. Morikis commended all teachers' and administrators' hard work and effort put forth in the grades achieved through the Indiana Department of Education. The overall Corporation grade was B, Ready Elementary B, Beiriger Elementary A, Wadsworth Elementary B, Griffith High School C (missed a B by .02%) and Griffith Middle School's grade was A.

Dr. Morikis then introduced Griffith High School Principal, Mr. Brian Orkis who gave a presentation for the high school. Mr. Orkis' presentation touched on many aspect of Griffith High School, from the administrators, support staff and teachers to the good things that are happening for our students. He provided the goals that have been set for Griffith High School, a number of new courses are being offered for students including the Building Trades class that has been reinstated. There are also new clubs and activities this school year at the high school, some of those are the Poetry Club and Video Club. Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) has been reestablished.

Other accomplishments that Mr. Orkis shared are: 158 of our Junior and seniors earned 1,132 college credits over the course of the 2013-2014 school year, currently there are 111 high school students enrolled in an Advanced Placement course and 220 Advanced Placement Exams will be taken prior to the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Two of Griffith High School's teachers have been recognized by the Northwest Indiana *Times* as Teachers of the Month. Mrs. Debbie Korak, Music Department Chair and GHS Band Director, was recognized in May of 2014 and Mrs. Christine Chidichimo, Mathematics Department Chair was recognized in August of 2014.

Mr. Orkis praised the Senior Class of 2015 for not only representing Griffith High School, but the entire Griffith community with dignity and pride during the homecoming festivities this fall.

Mr. Orkis said he is proud of his students and is excited about the direction that Griffith Public Schools is headed.

Delegations and/or Communications: There were a number of parents and community members who spoke during this time. The topics ranged from test scores and Department of Education grades, athletics and community concerns.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Mr. Muha made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 11, 2014 Board Meeting. Mrs. Dildine seconded the motion. There being no discussion motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Claims: Mr. Dudlicek made a motion to accept Regular Claims #18899 to #19071 and Professional Leaves #1144 to #1164 as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Muha 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.

Griffith Police Department: Chief of Police Greg Mance shared with the Board a new partnership that has been established with his department and Griffith Public Schools. The department now has the ability to connect with the school's security cameras both at the police station and in the squad cars. This will enable an officer to assess a situation if the police are called, before they actually enter the building.

AdvancED Presentation: Leslie Ballard, State Director for AdvanED, presented Griffith Public Schools with the School System Accreditation Quality Achievement plaque. Griffith Public Schools is now one of 56 districts state wide to accomplish this accreditation.

S.E. – G.F.T.: Mr. Dudlicek made a motion to ratify the July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 teacher contract for Griffith Public Schools. Mr. Muha seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mr. White conducted a roll call vote. Mr. Dudlicek, Mr. Muha, Mrs. Dildine, Mr. Potacki, and Mr. White all voted aye. Motion for ratification passed unanimously. Mr. White thanked the teachers and administrators for working diligently on the contract.

Resolutions: Dr. Morikis next asked the Board to approve the following resolutions: #608, Adoption of 2015 Appropriations and Tax Rates, #609 Adoption of 2015-26 Bus Replacement Plan, and #610 Adoption of 2015-17 Capital Projects Plan. Mr. Dudlicek motioned to accept resolutions #608, #609 and number #610 as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Muha seconded the motion. There being no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Common School Loan Amortization: Ms. Bapst asked the Board to approve the Common School Loan Amortization. This is a 5 year \$225,000 technology loan through the State of Indiana with a 1% interest rate. Mr. Muha motioned to accept the Common School Loan Amortization. Mr. Dudlicek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding – Geminus Head Start: Dr. Morikis petitioned the Board to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with Geminus Head Start as it appeared in the Board packet. Mr. Muha motioned to accept the memorandum and Mr. Dudlicek 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

Katherine Garvey Elementary Teacher, effective 9-15-14
Jessica Lalonde Elementary Teacher, effective 8-20-14

Classified

Gary Hayes Interim Athletic Director, effective 10-3-14
Judith Pete English as a Second Language (ESL) Coordinator, effective 10-6-14
Kathy Sykes-Sanders Cafeteria Matron, Ready Elementary, effective 9-26-14
Jared Tibbs Part Time Technology Assistant, effective 9-17-14
James Wheeler High School ELA Interventionist, effective 10-6-14 to 6-9-14
Shirley Williams Class I Custodian Athletic Matron, effective 9-18-14
Tracy Wirick Part-time Foodservice Worker, Ready Elementary, effective 9-22-14

Extra-Curricular

Danielle Barenie Grade 7 & 8 Social Studies Academic Superbowl Coach, effective 10-14-14
Reginald Brooks Boys Grade 8 Basketball Coach, effective 10-27-14 to 12-20-14
Bilijana Damnjanovic Ready after school Supervisor, effective 10-1-14
Adam Garcia Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach, effective 11-3-14 to 2-21-15, split 50% with Chris Mares
Gary Hayes Boys Varsity Basketball Coach, effective 11-10-14 to 3-28-14
Chris Mares Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach, effective 11-3-14 to 2-21-14 split 50% with Adam Garcia
Kevin Parker Grade 7 & 8 Wrestling Coach, effective 11-12-14 to 12-18-14
Tom Radtke Boys Freshman Basketball Coach, effective 11-10-14 to 3-28-15
Marlena Rainey Ready Patrol Supervisor, effective 8-21-14
Luis Roldan Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Coach, effective 10-27-14 to 3-7-14
Marisa Specht Ready after school Supervisor, effective 10-1-14
Alexander Williams Boys Grade 7 Basketball Coach, effective 10-27-14 to 12-20-14 (pending screenings)

Separations

Classified


Michelle Bodley Cafeteria Matron, Ready Elementary, effective 9-15-14, termination
Lynn Podlecki Interventionist GMS/GHS Math, effective 10-17-14, resignation

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

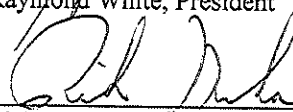
Audience Participation (Agenda Items): Mrs. Dildine stated that Mr. Orkis obviously has a true love for his job and that he gave a wonderful presentation. A parent thanked Mr. Orkis for arranging a fan bus for the soccer sectionals. Another audience member thanked Griffith Public Schools for promoting something other than college to our high school students. He said he graduated a short time ago from a local town and that his school system pushed college, and that some people like his self were not cut out for college. He was pleased to see us offering the Building Trades program among other things.

Good of the Corporation: Dr. Morikis gave kudos to the staff and students for the Indiana Department of Education grades that were earned.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.



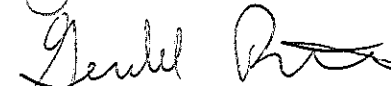
Raymond White, President



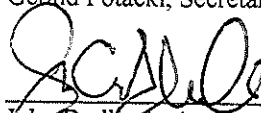
Richard Muha, 1st Vice-President



Jennifer Dildine, 2nd Vice-President



Gerald Potacki, Secretary



John Dudheek, Assistant Secretary