

**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 12, 2015**

The Board of School Trustees of the Griffith Public Schools met in session at the Griffith High School Auditorium, 600 N. Wiggs St. on the twelfth day of March, 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
Gerald Potacki, First Vice-President
Jennifer Dildine, Second Vice-President
Lisa Megquier, Secretary
Leah Dumezich, Assistant Secretary

Absent: None

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

Prayer: Elder Randall Haynes from Reed's Temple provided the inspirational message/prayer.

Superintendent's Remarks: None

Delegations and/or Communications: A spokesperson for the boys' basketball team thanked the Board on behalf of the players and parents for believing in the boys. She said the boys have learned from their mistakes and are better people because of the lessons they have learned.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Mr. White asked the Board to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2015 Board meeting. Mr. Potacki motioned to accept the minutes. Ms. Dumezich seconded the motion, there being no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Claims: Mr. White asked for a motion to approve Regular Claims #19648 to #19748, Professional Leaves #1223 to #1228. Mr. Potacki motioned to approve and Ms. Dumezich seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Bapst presented the monthly Treasurer's Report.

Buildings, Grounds and Transportation: Dr. Morikis introduced Ms. Sue Vauter, Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Director. According to Ms. Vauter, the maintenance and custodial department consists of 25 staff members who clean and maintain 646,212 square feet of building space. Ms. Vauter gave an overview of some improvements in the district in the past year. Some of these include the football field turf project and reworking the practice field and adding a retention pond. Her staff was instrumental in developing the area that is now known as the Spirit Shop, where students can by spirit wear before and after school. Improvements to the tennis courts which included lighting will allow the community to utilize the courts in the evening. The nets will be installed by the end of this week and on Sunday March 15, 2015 the courts will be available for community use. The lights can be utilized up until 10:00 P.M., by the push of a button. The next project for the district is the reroofing of Wadsworth school, bids will be taken soon and a recommendation should be brought to the Board at its April meeting.

Ms. Vauter said her staff has done a great job with snow removal at the middle school/high school campus. The other buildings snow removal is outsourced which has proven to be cost effective.

Ms. Vauter then introduced Ms. Tammy Anderko, Administrative Supervisor for Maintenance and Transportation. Ms. Anderko's presentation to the Board provided information for the Transportation Department. The transportation department currently consists of 10 CDL drivers, 6 aides, and 3 non-CDL drivers and 1 employee in possession of a CDL permit with the skill test scheduled for 4-15-15. The district has a total of 920 students who are eligible to ride a bus each day. Students are transported before and after to school to their respective buildings, the department also transports special education students to schools in Crown Point, Highland and Lake Ridge districts. Students who attend the Area Career Center, Band students, GAP students and elementary Robotics students are all transported by the department. The busses traveled approximately 97,000 miles during the 2014 calendar year.

Mr. Potacki asked Ms. Vauter if the baseball field poles that hold the netting have been repaired. Due to the heavy snows that the area experienced, some of the poles holding the netting bent from the weight of the snow. Ms. Vauter assured the Board that the repairs were being made this week and her staff was working with the contractor who installed the netting, to devise a procedure for next year to assure that we do not run into the problem again. The field will be ready on 3-26-15.

Dr. Morikis thanked everyone in Maintenance and Transportation for all of their hard work.

2015-2016 Meal Prices, Recommendation: Ms. Bapst presented the Board with the proposed increase for meal prices, in order to meet USDA "weighted average price" guidelines. The proposed increase is 10 cents for

elementary lunches; all other prices would remain the same. Mrs. Dildine motioned to approve the request and Ms. Dumezich seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Common School Technology Loan Application: Dr. Morikis asked the Board to approve a request to apply for a \$225,000 technology loan offered through the state with a 1% interest rate. This would be used to purchase iMacs, laptops and iPads for student use. Mr. Potacki made motion to approve the request. Ms. Dumezich seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2015-2016 Proposed New Courses: Mr. Borowiak presented Board with the 2015-2016 proposed new courses. The proposed courses are Introduction to Computer Science, Aviation Flight, Aviation Operations, Constructions Trades I and II, Mass Media, Read 180, Language Arts Lab, College Entrance Preparation, Health Science Education II: Athletic Training, Automation and Robotics I and II, and Music Theory and Composition. Music Department Chair, Mrs. Korak gave a brief overview of the theory and composition class. Mrs. Dildine motioned to approve the 2015-2016 proposed courses as presented. Mr. Potacki seconded the motion. There being no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

2015 Summer School Schedule: Dr. Morikis asked the Board to approve the 2015 Summer School Schedule as presented in the Board packet. Ms. Megquier made motion to accept the summer school schedule as presented. Mr. Potacki seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Social Studies Textbook Adoption: Mr. Borowiak introduced Mr. Jim Pickett, Social Studies Department Head, who explained to the Board the process the committee used to select the textbooks for recommendation. The committee consisted of both elementary and secondary teachers, who attended a textbook caravan in Merrillville on 1-28-15. The committee members met during Professional Learning Community meetings, they reviewed online textbooks and tools, and communicated via email. All teachers involved with the process completed the Griffith Public Schools Textbook Adoption Evaluation checklist comparing multiple textbook choices. Mr. Borowiak asked the Board to approve the committee's textbook recommendations. Mrs. Dildine motioned to accept the committee's textbook recommendations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Megquier. Ms. Dumezich asked if the same textbooks would be used in the special education resource rooms. Mr. Borowiak responded that at this time all students are in regular classrooms for social studies, but if the need arises the same textbooks would be used in the resource rooms. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Overnight Trip Requests: Dr. Morikis asked the Board to approve the overnight trip request for the Pantherette State Competition, March 13th & 14th in New Castle Indiana and the Varsity Baseball Tournament on April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in Louisville Kentucky. Mr. Potacki motioned to approve the request, Mrs. Dildine seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Assignments

Extra-Curricular

Charlotte Joseph

Elementary Robotics, 03-10-15 to 04-09-15

Separation

Extra-Curricular

Ben Geffert

Junior Varsity Football Coach, effective 2-27-15, resignation

Ms. Megquier moved for approval. Mrs. Dildine seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Audience Participation: A parent asked for clarification regarding one of the 2015-2016 new courses for high school students. He wondered if the College Entrance Preparation class will cover PSAT, SAT and ACT test preparation. Mr. Borowiak replied that yes that is something that will be covered in the class. The parent also asked if the attorney fees for the basketball team's sanctions from the IHSAA were part of the claims that were approved this evening and if so what was that amount. Dr. Morikis replied that the attorney fees in the amount of approximately \$25,000 were approved this evening. The parent said that the money could have been put to better use such as purchasing football equipment. Dr. Morikis replied that all student needs are being met.

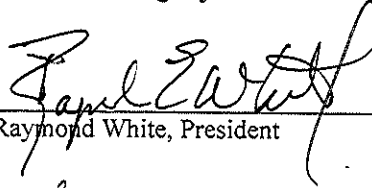
Good of the Corporation: Dr. Morikis commented that he was looking forward to our students enrolling in the 2015-2016 courses that the Board approved this evening. Ms. Dumezich thanked Ms. Planer, Ms. Durall and Mr. Howell for continuing the Wheelchair basketball game this month.

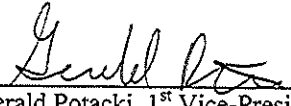
Mrs. Dildine asked Mr. Orkis to brief the Board on the College and Career Fair that was held on February 27, 2015. Mr. Orkis stated that the day was tremendous success. There ended up being 65-70 speakers representing 60 different professions and over 40 universities and trade schools were represented. Approximately 1100 of our students participated in the event. The students spent the first half of the day listening to the speakers of their choice and the second half of the day the students spoke to and received information from the colleges and trade schools.

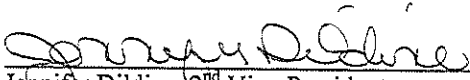
Mr. Orkis said that it was a wonderful team effort between the community members and Griffith Public Schools' staff. The community participants were very impressed with the district; they felt our facilities were top notch. The building was clean and well taken care of. The students were given accolades by the speakers for their attentiveness and interaction. Ms. Megquier was one of the presenters and she said that it was a well-organized event, that there was a good diversity of businesses represented, and that our students were well behaved. Mr. Orkis thanked Ms. Delincia Smith, Ms. Michelle Duffala and Ms. Michelle Udchitz for their time and effort in organizing the event. The students were already asking about next year's event.

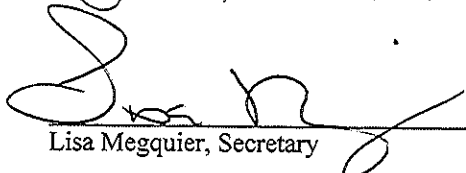
Mr. White reminded those present that March is National Disability Month, and that the 8th Annual Wheelchair Basketball game will be held on Friday March 20, 2015 in the high school gym. He shared that the High School Robotics club has been invited to present at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago the week of April 4th, 2015. Mr. White also wished the boys basketball team good luck for their upcoming regional basketball game on Saturday March 14, 2015.

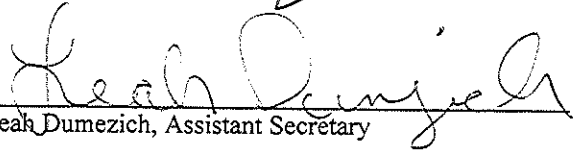
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.


Raymond White, President


Gerald Potacki, 1st Vice-President


Jennifer Dildine, 2nd Vice-President


Lisa Megquier, Secretary


Leah Dumezich, Assistant Secretary