APPROVED

Griffin School District #324

Minutes

Griffin School Board Study Session

Date and Time
Wednesday November 4, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location
Griffin School District - *Library*
6530 33rd Avenue NW
Olympia, WA 98502

Zoom Link

Directors Present
Blair Baker, Emma Rose, Julie Osterberg, Tesa Frevert, Trish Hefton

Directors Absent
None

Guests Present
Allison Adair, Amy Morgan (remote), Asher Strumski, Grace Nixon, Kirsten Rue, Traci Johnson (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Trish Hefton called a meeting of the board of directors of Griffin School District #324 to order on Wednesday Nov 4, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Land Acknowledgement

Read by Grace Nixon in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

E. Approval of Agenda

Julie Osterberg made a motion to approve the agenda.
Blair Baker seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
Superintendent Rue shared Cheddar Bay Cornbread Drop Biscuits with the attendees, prepared by Food Service Supervisor Tawnya White. To help fund the district's scratch-cooking program, Ms. White is offering holiday baked goods for purchase, including biscuits ($5 for 4) and cookies ($6 per dozen) during November and December.

II. New Business

A. School Board Student Representative Introductions

The Board formally welcomed the new student representatives, Grace Nixon and Asher Strumsky.

Board members and district staff introduced themselves, detailing their individual roles (e.g., Legislative Representative, Tribal Liaison, Community Liaison, Vice Chair financial/evaluative duties).

Superintendent Kirsten provided background on school board governance, explaining that the five elected directors direct the Superintendent's work.

Student reps shared their backgrounds:

- **Grace Nixon:** Active in ASB, dance, singing, and acting.
- **Asher Strumsky:** Active in athletics, ASB, and eager to step into student leadership.

B. Legislative Priorities

Emma Rose presented the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session:

1. **Support Every Student with Effective Learning Programs:** Priority focus on restoring Transition to Kindergarten (TK) funding, supporting highly capable

programming, and school-based mental health. Included a push for clear, student-centered AI policies and data privacy safeguards.

2. **Relieve Unfunded Mandates:** Addressing non-fully funded state mandates. Key focus items include changing bond voting requirements from a 60% supermajority to a simple majority and rebasing regionalization/funding formulas.
3. **Address Basic Education's True Costs:** Advocating for sustainable funding, transportation, M&S, and addressing levy lid restrictions that cap the district from collecting fully voter-approved EP&O levies.
4. **Strengthen Local Governance:** Preserving local decision-making power, enhancing local funding flexibility, and addressing school board member compensation.

The Board emphasized the critical impact of TK funding cuts on enrollment pipelines and staffing.

Board members agreed to coordinate with Business Manager Kyler Mower, and DA Davidson (financial advisor) prior to February to prepare data-driven local stories and talking points regarding EP&O levy lid gaps.

III. Old Business

A. WSSDA Survey Topic Follow-Up

Board Director Blair Baker presented information regarding Standard 4 and the district accountability for meeting student learning expectations.

The Board reviewed key points in the following policies:

- **Policy 2004 (Performance Improvement Goals):** Requires annual adoption of district-wide goals under the Washington School Improvement Framework (WSIF).
- **Policy 2005 (School Improvement Plans):** Mandates annual principal reporting on School Improvement Plans (SIP) during spring/fall cycles.
- **Policy 2090:** Outlines monitoring and reporting mechanisms tied to student data.

Board Assignments for Remaining Survey Topics to be presented at later Study Sessions:

- *Standard 3 (Staff Development & Retention):* Julie Osterberg, scheduled for January.
- *New Board Member Orientation:* Tesa Frevert, scheduled for February.
- *Long-Term Facilities Plan (Construction & Maintenance):* Trish Hefton, scheduled for March.
- *Achievement Gap Data & Analysis:* Emma Rose (scheduled for April, aligning with student data releases)

B. Board & Superintendent Operating Agreement

The Board reviewed requested edits to the operating agreement:

Superintendent Rue confirmed the Legislative Representative serves a 2-year term.

Explicitly aligned committee responsibilities with board roles (Chair = Policy/Facilities; Vice Chair = Personnel/Budget).

Item H (Board School Visits): Adjusted language regarding annual board classroom visits. The Board agreed to remove the strict "yearly" phrasing to allow for planned, informal, and less intrusive visits, acknowledging student feedback on classroom disruption.

IV. Policy Updates

A. 2190 Highly Capable Programs

Updated to incorporate universal screening requirements at two grade levels.

The Board amended language in the identification section to prioritize equitable identification across **race, ethnicity, and income** (broadening beyond low-income alone).

B. 2220 School Calendar

Minor update allowing for multiple calendars to accommodate potential modified schedules or Alternative Learning Experiences.

C. 2333 Flag Exercises

Clarified that students have the legal right to remain seated during flag exercises while maintaining respectful silence.

D. 2420 Grading and Progress Reports

Reviewed secondary grading breakdowns (currently structured around an 80/20 assessment-to-coursework ratio). Confirmed attendance/participation grading rules.

E. 3115 Students Experiencing Homelessness

Streamlined policy language by referencing applicable state/federal legal definitions directly.

F. 3120 Enrollment

Updated residency proof requirements from specific phone/water bills to general utility bills, lease agreements, or title company documents.

G. 3205 Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited

Consolidated definitions to mirror state/federal law.

Confirmed required annual reporting by the Superintendent to the Board will be added to the regular annual board calendar.

V. Policy Review

A. 2165 Home or Hospital Instruction

Reviewed existing policy last updated in 2000.

Approved changing opening language from "parent or adult student" to "parent or guardian".

This policy will be placed under the Updated Policies section for Board action at the next regular meeting.

VI. Student Representative Report

A. September & October Student Update

Grace Nixon (Sept/Oct Updates):

- ASB Monster Mash Dance raised $1,503 (highest turnout in 7 years).
- Fall Festival involvement with NJHS (Bingo), ASB (Carnival), and Band (Haunted Hallway).
- **Fall Athletics:**
  - Boys Soccer finished season with 5 wins, 2 losses.
  - 8th Grade Volleyball finished with 5 wins, 2 losses.
  - 7th Grade Volleyball finished with 6 wins, 3 losses.

B. Upcoming Student Events

Asher Strumsky (Upcoming Events):

- NJHS Tree Lighting and ongoing ASB Wreath Fundraiser.
- Upcoming Winter Dance scheduled for Jan/Feb.
- Current/Upcoming Activities: Girls Basketball, Archery (starting January), and the school musical (January).

VII. Superintendent Updates

A. Superintendent Kirsten Rue

Olympia School District Non-High Fee Negotiation:

- Kirsten and Business Manager Kyler Mower met with Olympia School District leadership regarding outdated 2003 non-high fee agreements.
- Our District is scrutinizing line-item billing (including capital tech staff salaries) to establish clear cost-sharing boundaries.
- Due to internal staffing transitions, OSD failed to bill Griffin for capital project non-high fees over the past three years and now plans to back-bill the district. Griffin intends to negotiate a payment schedule.
- Noted that OSD plans a major bond in February 2028, which will require capital fund planning. Griffin currently sends ~255 students (~20%) to OSD high schools (primarily Capital High School).

VIII. Closing Items

A. For the Good of the Order

Board Director Tesa Frevert highlighted the successful recent Band Concert.

Upcoming Veterans Day Assembly scheduled for November 10 at 10:00 AM.

Superintendent Rue discussed Native American Heritage Month activities, including weekly land acknowledgement readings on school announcements and ongoing integration of Since Time Immemorial (STI) curriculum.

Addressed brief district phone line/internet outages, confirming staff protocols to route public communications through alternative channels (email).

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish Hefton

"Where students thrive, feel valued, and shape a better world."