

GRIFFIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #324

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Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89265209014> - Meeting ID: 892 6520 9014

Joint Work Session Meeting w/Squaxin Island Tribe Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 05:15 PM

1. Call to order

Chair Osterberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance followed.

Present

- o Board: Julie Osterberg, Blair Baker, Tesa Frevert and Emma Rose. Director Gregory was excused.
- o Leadership: Kirsten Rue, Kim Ferra, Kelli Anderson, Erin Hagen, Rebekah Keiser, Tawnya White,
- o Squaxin Island Tribal Members: Julie Youngs, Joshua Whitener, Niki Ho, Kris Peters, and Jim Peters.
- o Staff: Katy Hardy, Scott Sagerser, Amy Morgan, Griz Kelly,
- o Members of the Community:

2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

(Action)

Director Baker moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Director Frevert, the motion carried four to zero.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Director Frevert read the land acknowledgement.

4. Welcome & Appreciation

Everyone in attendance took a moment to introduce themselves and share their roles within their respective organizations. Art Teacher Eric Flemming introduced himself noting that he would like to present tribal members with some artwork created by students. Griffin students created a piece of art that reflects a wandering path through trees. The word "hawatubs" meaning thank you was incorporated into the art work. Framed pieces were presented to tribal members.

5. Strategic Plan

Superintendent Rue presented information about the strategic planning process. She shared a document called "Strategic Plan Phase 1 Proposal" with the board. Ms. Rue shared a draft of the newly developed vision, mission, core values and commitments noting this is phase one of the teams' work. A survey was sent out to all staff and to community members. Students also participated in the survey. Survey results were then compiled using an AI software program called Student Sory AI. This software synthesized the data and pulled key themes from the survey results. The key themes were then reviewed and discussed by Strategic Planning team members. This process started with the strategic planning team, went through the AI process and then ended with team members finalizing the document presented to the board as phase one of the strategic planning process. The document is for the board's review tonight. The next steps in this process will include moving forward with the four commitments identified in phase one of the planning process. Several cafe style meetings are planned, one for the community, one for students and a staff cafe meeting as well. Superintendent Rue is looking forward to working with groups to focus on what the strategic planning commitments might look like in the final document.

6. Outdoor Partnership Opportunities

Superintendent Rue shared that several teachers are in attendance at the meeting to discuss outdoor education partnership opportunities. She introduced Katy Hardy, sixth grade teacher who spoke about this year's outdoor education program. Mrs. Hardy shared that students will have the opportunity to attend a day camp at Panhandle Lake at the end of May. Students will get to participate in several activities including a challenge course similar to the "Ropes" course conducted at Cispus in the past. Panhandle Lake has limited indoor sleeping arrangements but does have some open air cabins.

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Discussion ensued on how the Squaxin Island Tribe can partner with Griffin for outdoor education opportunities the Panhandle Lake outdoor education trip, creek restoration projects, tree planting, and the PTO pollinator garden. Tribal members had some contacts that may be interested in helping with the pollinator garden, traditional uses and planting seeds offered by the tribe. Also discussed were topics like fish management education for Griffin students, Camas Prairie education/restoration projects, nettles and food preparation, along with homesteading, tribal art and other activities.

7. Choice Transfer Process for Enrollment at Griffin

a. Griffin's Process

Superintendent Rue noted that she wanted to make sure the Tribe has information about the Choice Transfer Process for students who want to attend school at Griffin but don't live in the Griffin attendance area. She shared a letter to Squaxin that shares the process including round one of the early bird applications. For the best opportunity to transfer into Griffin, families will want to get their requests in by April 18th to be considered in the first round of reviews. If families wait until the last minute to submit their requests, it will be hard to get into Griffin. Classes are getting full and grade levels are also growing. A review of overall enrollment numbers will be considered when reviewing transfer requests for next school year. The letter includes a QR code for Tribal families so they can scan the code and it takes them right to the transfer request portal. Tribal members will share this with their members and add it to their website as well. Discussion ensued on the number of tribal students attending Griffin, and how to get that information to parents. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) funding is still being discussed in the legislature. It is highly likely that we may only have one section of TK in the 2025-26 school year.

b. Indian Student Eligibility Certification (ED 506 Form)

The Indian Student Eligibility Certification Form was included in the meeting packet as a topic of discussion. Superintendent Rue shared that in the past, Griffin has not processed these forms for native students. This form (the ED 506 Form) will enhance Griffin's opportunity to receive grant funding to help our ability to serve native students and all students as a whole. Griffin staff will encourage tribal families to fill out this form when they enroll at Griffin. Tribal leaders will help with the implementation and explanation of the form to families.

c. Child Find

Griffin's Child Find event is scheduled for March 27th. Mrs. Keiser shared that she visited Griffin's Preschool Program this morning. She wanted to get a feel for what the program looks like and to spread the word about the upcoming Child Find Event. Ms. Keiser shared that traditionally, Griffin has a Kindergarten Roundup in the spring. This year, staff combined the Child Find Event and the TK/Kindergarten Round Up into one Child Find event on March 27th. Child Find is for birth to five year old students, any student. Families who attend can meet Griffin's Speech and Language Pathologist and participate in early screenings that will help determine if they need extra supports. Out of District students will need to submit a choice transfer and parents will also need to enroll their students. TK and Kindergarten teachers will be in attendance to help parents and students with paperwork, etc. Discussion about funding services for students that need them. Griffin does partnership with the ESD Special Education Cooperative and they may have some funding opportunities.

8. Transportation

There is a need for transportation assistance for tribal students. A possible partnership with transportation was discussed. The tribe is working to find funding to purchase a larger bus to transport their students. Currently the tribe has two buses that transport students however, one of the buses is not operational. They are having to make two trips to get students home from school in the afternoon. Griffin staff have been supervising the students to help out with this situation. More access to clubs before and after school was also discussed in reference to whether students have access to transportation if they wanted to participate in after school programs. Griffin will work with the Tribe to help strengthen and collaborate on transportation services.

9. 1% Charitable Contributions

Griffin staff wanted to hear more about the Tribe's 1% Grant Program. Mr. Whitener shared that this program allows the Tribe to take 1% of their gaming proceeds and set them aside for charitable donations. Community members and education staff can apply for these funds. Amounts vary and grants can be applied for just about anything but require a statement of how the grant funds will benefit the community. For example, the Shelton School District receives funds to help with an event they do annually. The grant applications are open quarterly and people can apply more than once during the year.

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10. Upcoming Events & Communication

Griffin Board Members and Tribal leaders discussed ways to improve communication between the two entities when events are being planned and held. What is the best way to exchange information back and forth. The tribe plans many events and the school also plans many events. Discussion ensued on sharing calendars to avoid conflicts, sharing information with the education department, etc. Tribal staff will help share out the information to their members in various different ways including web page, face book and also through newsletters like the Griffin newsletters and the tribe's newsletter. Discussion about calendar events could also be included in the tribal outreach monthly meetings. Tribal members shared information about the upcoming Tribal Consultation meeting set for May 6th. Several school districts are planning to attend this meeting and Griffin is invited. Kirs Peters will be speaking about the history of the tribe, Indian Education, etc. Some basic statistics will be shared and in the later part of the day, small groups will meet together and begin discussing common themes, goals and objectives and how districts and tribal leaders can work together on priorities.

Tribal members were thanked Griffin Board members for hosting a joint meeting and appreciates the partnership with Griffin school District. Kris Peters shared that this partnership is so meaningful to the tribe and tribal students. It's meaningful for them to know they are in a welcoming and vibrant environment at Griffin School. Diversity is important and this partnership is for the the health of our entire community.

11. Policy Review

a. Policy 2162 Education of Students w/Disabilities under Section 504 - Existing Policy - 1st Reading

Superintendent Rue noted that Policy 2162 is currently out of date. Ms. Rue presented the current version of policy 2162 and the proposed updated version of the same policy for a first review by the board.

b. Policy 3141 Non-Resident Students - Existing Policy - 1st Reading

Superintendent Rue shared that Policy 3141 deals with the choice transfer process (non-resident students). She presented the existing version along with the updated version for the board to review as a first reading.

c. Policy 3120 Enrollment - Existing Policy - 1st Reading

Superintendent Rue presented Policy 3120 Enrollment. This is also out of date. The board has the existing version of this policy along with the proposed updated version for a first reading.

12. Other/For the Good of the Order

- o Tribal Outreach Meetings: Board members will alternate attending the tribal outreach meetings for the rest of the school year.
- o Dinner: Board members and Tribal Leaders thanked Allison Adair for catering the dinner.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION & ADJOURNMENT (RCW 42.30.110)

(Action)

No further business coming before the Board, Chair Osterberg adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Signatures

Chair: 

Vice Chair: 

Director: 

Director: 

Director: 



Secretary to the Board

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