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Griffin suddenly resigns maintenance chief post

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For the third time in three years, Reading is without a maintenance director for school and municipal buildings.

A little more than a year after assuming the reins of the schools' maintenance and custodial services, Jeff Griffin abruptly resigned last Thursday with little explanation for his departure.

"We're all curious why he left," said Dominic Caputi, the assistant maintenance director. "We don't know why he left."

In a phone interview Tuesday, Griffin declined to elaborate on the reasons for his sudden resignation, only that it was his choice. He is now working for a construction firm.

Griffin joined the Reading School Department about a year ago, coming Lynnfield where he was the assistant director of the Department of Public Works. He succeeded Skip Bandini, who took a job with the Bedford School Department after only nine months on the job in Reading.

Caputi said Griffin gave no indication that he was looking to leave and there were no warning

signs of an imminent departure.

School Superintendent Dr. Harry Harutunian declined to comment on the situation, only to confirm Griffin is no longer employed by the Reading schools and that Caputi is now overseeing the maintenance department as the interim director.

The schools and town consolidated custodial and maintenance functions several years ago, but are only now in the process of implementing the recommendations of a consultant to make the department more efficient.

Even with Griffin's sudden departure, town officials believe the void in the maintenance department will have a minimal impact.

"I'm concerned that we need a building maintenance supervisor, but I'm confident that our people will carry on well until we find a replacement."