

**READING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 24, 2024  
MINUTES**

President Galloway called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Reading Community Schools to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school conference room.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**Members present:** B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

**Members absent:** R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

**Others present:** Martin DuBois, Pam Bassage, Linda McDowell, Mitch Hubbard, Lisa Otterbein, Dakota Hard

**Additions/Corrects to Agenda:** A Request to add .24 Acre Parcel at Barre Field tax sale to the Board Business Action Item i.

**V. Nice Things:** Nice Things were included in the board packet and there were no additional comments.

**Comments from Guests:** None

**VII. Board Organization:**

- A. 1.** B. Kerspilo made a motion to designate Century Bank & Trust, Hillsdale County National Bank, and Michigan School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus as depositories for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- A. 2.** N. Pridgeon made a motion to authorize the appropriate signatures for the following accounts below (i. – x.) The motion was supported by B. Kerspilo.

- i. General Fund – Superintendent DuBois and/or Pamela Bassage;
- ii. Debt Funds, Land Acquisition Fund, Bond Capital Projects Fund, and Athletic Accounts – Superintendent DuBois and/or Pamela Bassage;
- iii. Athletic Officials Checking Account – Mitch Hubbard, Lisa Otterbein, Superintendent DuBois and/or Pamela Bassage in their absence;
- iv. Section 124 – Cafeteria Plan Account – Superintendent DuBois and/or Pamela Bassage;

- v. General Fund Investment Account – Superintendent DuBois and/or Pamela Bassage;
- vi. Internal Accounts –Building Principals and/or Superintendent DuBois;
- vii. Special Revenue Fund Account – Superintendent DuBois and/or Pamela Bassage;
- viii. Sinking Fund Account – Superintendent DuBois and/or Pamela Bassage;
- ix. Food Service Account – Superintendent DuBois and/or Pamela Bassage
- x. HS Activity Fund – Superintendent DuBois, Lisa Otterbein, Katherine Kerspilo

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

**B.** N. Pridgeon made a motion to designation Thrun Law Firm, P.C. as legal counsel for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was supported by B. Kerspilo.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

**C.** B. Kerspilo made a motion to retain membership in MASB for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

**D.** B. Kerspilo made a motion to set the school board compensation at \$30 per meeting for attendance at 12 regular meetings and \$15 for up to 6 work sessions/special meetings. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- E.** N. Pridgeon made a motion to accept the provided work session/regular board meeting schedule as presented. The Board of Education work session meetings will take place at 6:00 p.m. and the regular meetings of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. in the Reading High School Band Room unless a different time or location is posted. The motion was supported by B. Kerspilo.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- F.** B. Kerspilo made a motion to renew our MHSAA membership for the 2024-2025 year. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

**VII. Board Business/Action Items:**

- A.** B. Kerspilo made a motion to approve items 1-4 under the consent agenda. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon .

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- B.** N. Pridgeon made a motion to accept the Approval of the Security Door Replacement with Adrian Locksmith. The vestibule doors will cost \$11,885.00, and the cafeteria doors will cost \$9,600. The funds will come from a security grant. B. Kerspilo supported the motion.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- C.** B. Kerspilo made a motion to approve the updated language for the Superintendent's Contract as presented. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- D.** N. Pridgeon made a motion to adopt NEOLA Policy Update of Policy po6220 Budget Presentation. The motion was supported by B. Kerspilo.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- E.** R. Sanders made a motion to recognize that there is a compelling reason to waive the second reading of the new Title IX policies that address recent revisions to the Title IX regulations after one reading under Bylaw 0131.1 to ensure the Board's policies comply with the 2024 Title IX regulations effective August 1, 2024. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon.

Roll Call Vote was taken.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

N. Pridgeon made a motion to adopt NEOLA Policies po2264 and po2266 in the interest of complying with 2024 Title IX regulations. The motion was supported by B. Kerspilo.

Roll Call Vote was taken.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- F.** Agenda Item **VIII. F.** was not completed as not enough trained board members were present to participate in and vote on the Superintendent's evaluation. This item will be scheduled for the August work session meeting and voted on in the regular board meeting.

Training will be held in person at HCISD on 8/14/2024. Board Members have the option of attending this training in person or other training opportunities that are available.

- G.** L. Otterbein gave an overview of the information in the updated HS Handbook and Curriculum Guides with an amendment of changing the Technology Director from Brian Marquart to Shawn Shook. B. Kerspilo made a motion to accept the 2024/2025 HS Handbook and Curriculum Guides as presented with the notated amendments. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon.

J. Galloway commented on future board review of the nicotine policy.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- H.** N. Pridgeon made a motion to accept the resignation of Stacey Kies. The motion was supported by B. Kerspilo.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

- I.** Discussion regarding a tax sale on a .24-acre parcel that joins with our current Barre Field property on the SW corner on 8/20/2024. The Board discussed the parcel and its potential value. R. Sanders made a motion to authorize Superintendent DuBois up to \$2,500 to purchase the .24-acre lot on W. Silver St bordering Barre Field. The motion was supported by B. Kerspilo.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

**IX. Items Requiring Review and Update:**

- A. P. Bassage provided information on fiscal changes passed by the State Legislature and the Governor since our budget adoption, including some grant changes.
- B. Staffing Updates 2024-2025
  - i. We have hired Dakota Hard as the Elementary Principal
  - ii. We have hired Sherree Sonnenberg as the new Kindergarten Teacher
  - iii. As of right now, we have no candidates for the SRO Officer
  - iv. We have no applicants for the High School Science Teacher
  - v. Special Education Teacher Elementary (to replace S. Kies)
  - vi. Elementary Paraprofessionals Hired:
    - i. Kari Jo Rinard
    - ii. Jillian Marsh
    - iii. Kayleigh Eaton

**X. Informational and Discussion Items:**

- A. M. Hubbard's report included (2) football coaching openings, and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th grade boys' basketball teams need coaches.
- B. L. Otterbein gave her report, which included the Handbook and Curriculum Guide she discussed during Action Item VIII. g. In addition, Mrs. Otterbein talked about the new cell phone policy for the Handbook.
- C. D. Hard, the new Elementary Principal, was present, and his first report will be at the next meeting.
- D. Superintendent DuBois gave the following updates/reports:
  - 1. M. DuBois discussed eliminating po6210, item "c" (3) year budget projection. Superintendent DuBois will be recommending deleting/omitting the (3) year budget projection language moving forward. In addition, it is recommended that item "e" be deleted.
  - 2. Farm Property – this will be discussed at next month's work session.
  - 3. Superintendent DuBois discussed the Mackinaw Center for Public Policy's FOIA request with Thrun. L. McDowell provided the minimum information required to fulfill their request.

**Additional Comments from Board/Superintendent:**

NONE

**Comments from Guests:**

M. Hubbard announced the Athletic Department will be participating in the Festival Days Garage Sales with retired inventory from the athletic department.

**Future Meetings:** August 28, 2024 6:00 p.m. Work Session

R. Sanders moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion was supported by B. Kerspilo.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: R. Grossheim, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

Respectfully,

Brian Kerspilo  
Board Secretary