

**READING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
September 25, 2024
MINUTES**

President Galloway called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Reading Community Schools to order at 7:04 p.m. in the high band room.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Members present: R. Grossheim, B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

Members absent: None

Others present: Martin DuBois, Pam Bassage, Linda McDowell, Mitch Hubbard, Lisa Otterbein, Dakota Hard, Jennifer Marsh, Jillian Marsh, Melani Matthews, Kristen Rice, Lauren Bednar, Kari Jo Rinard, Kareny Camacho, Emily Bethel, Tiffini Toppel, Danyelle Hassenzahl, Kelly Stewart, Phyllis Bailey, Stephanie Brown, Jill Weatherwax, Zac Brown, Bethany Johnston, Carrie Smith, Betty Everline, Becky Evans, Mark Lama, Brenee Moore, Kayleigh Eaton

IV. Additions/Corrects to Agenda: Security Door quote added to IX, Letter D, #4

V. Nice Things: The board packet included nice things and no additional comments. L. Otterbein introduced New staff members: Stephanie Brown – Behavior Interventionist, Mark Lama – HS Math, and Bethany Johnston – Jr. High/HS Science Teacher. D. Hard introduced new staff members: Jillian Marsh, Kari Jo Rinard, Jill Weatherwax, Kayleigh Eaton, Christine Plank, and Sherree Sonnenberg.

VI. Comments from Guests: Kelly Stewart gave her comments regarding the special education classroom. Lauren Bednar gave comments and her perspective regarding the latchkey program and her experience with some staff in the past two years as it pertained to her resignation.

VII. Board Business/Action Items

A. R. Grossheim made a motion to approve items 1-3 under the consent agenda. The motion was supported by B. Wheeler.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

- B.** B. Wheeler made a motion to table the farm property discussion/vote to the next work session meeting. The motion was supported by R. Sanders.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

- C.** B. Wheeler moved to table the adoption/discussion on po4140 for the next work session, which was supported by B. Pavka.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

- D.** B. Wheeler made a motion to approve the resignation of paraprofessional, Lauren Bednar and 6th Grade Teacher, Denise McCosh. The motion was supported by B. Pavka.

Ayes: R. Grossheim, B. Kerspilo, J. Galloway, R. Sanders, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

Nays: N. Pridgeon– Motion carried.

Absent: None

VIII. Items Requiring Review and Update:

- M. DuBois gave the following updates:
 - a. Dave Santure of Santure Construction and Concrete will soon start erecting the Hoop House near Elementary track property.
 - b. Lease Agreement with the City of Reading for Magic Square – City of Reading Attorneys still reviewing the agreement
 - c. New Website – M. DuBois showed the new website mock-up to the board and attendees on the presentation screen. The website should be ready to go live within 30 days.
 - d. Staff Openings—With Mrs. McCosh's recent resignation, we have an opening for a 6th-grade teacher. There was a promising interview today (9/25/2024), and we hope to fill the position as quickly as possible.
 - e. Juul Funds Received—We recently received \$2,800 as a one-time settlement payment from the Altria Vape Settlement.
 - f. SRO Interviews—Douglas Pope and Rob Cooley applied. The interviews will be held on October 2, 2024.

IX. Informational and Discussion Items:

- A. M. Hubbard was attending a home game and was not present. M. DuBois asked the board if there were any questions. The board did not ask any questions.
- B. D. Hard gave his principal's report. The mandatory State Drills with staff and students went well. Mr. Hard reports the morning drop-off crowding is getting better. The upcoming focus is to promote a positive attitude and environment. The Elementary will be celebrating students who won PBIS referrals
- C. L. Otterbein gave her report highlighting a couple of field trips and student OJTs (On-the-job training). Homecoming students voted for themes; underclass male representatives have been added to the fall court. The new cell phone policy is still going well; only nine violations have occurred. Students have been more socially interactive, especially at lunch playing games. L. Otterbein expressed how proud she was of our Career Center kids as she gets positive feedback from staff at both centers about our student participants.
- D. Superintendent DuBois gave the following updates/reports:
 - 1. M. DuBois gave an update on the Water Fountain/Filtration System and informed the board that grant funds have been applied for. These will be a one-time grant. We will need to replace 4 fountains at the high school, and 3 fountains at the elementary school per the State of Michigan. Pam has applied for both the PA154, and PA116 grants, which could take a couple of months to get a decision on if we get the grant(s) and how much. The approximate cost for all of the replacements are currently \$80,000.
 - 2. M. DuBois showed the "I Love You" presentation regarding lockdowns and reunification.
 - 3. M. DuBois recently attended the MASA Superintendent Conference. Some of the high points included meeting with K12 Media, which helps with enrollment and bonding, attending a Q&A session with two state representatives about MiPSR and a bill they have introduced, and attending a couple of interesting sessions regarding AI (artificial intelligence) and Title IX. M. DuBois also noted how it was great to network with other Superintendents.
 - 4. M. DuBois provided the board with 2 quotes for the North portable doors; we are still waiting for a third quote.

X. Additional Comments from Board/Superintendent:

- R. Sanders commended the music program, particularly the "on-field" band performance and strength in numbers.
- B. Pavka commented on the Reading Chamber donating \$1,000 for our elementary students to do the annual pumpkin carving with the Fire Department at the Pavilion.
- B. Wheeler asked for an updated copy of the security checklist, the facility maintenance plan, and urged the board to use MASB to facilitate strategic planning for the board/district and get an estimate.

XI. Comments from Guests:

None

XII. Future Meetings:	October 23, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Work Session
	October 23, 2024	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting

B. Wheeler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

Respectfully,

Brian Kerspilo
Board Secretary