

**READING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
October 23rd, 2024
MINUTES**

President Galloway called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Reading Community Schools to order at 7:06 p.m. in the high school band room.

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: M. DuBois, P. Bassage, L. McDowell, L. Otterbein, D. Hard, D. Elder, C. Willoughby, S. Brown, Z. Brown, M. Matthews, J. Flynn, P. Green, M. Stewart, C. Hughes, L. Ringman, K. Rinard, M. Hubbard, M. Draper, L. Lott, G. Bailey

IV. Additions/Corrects to Agenda:

- Removed #1 (staff survey results) from item e - the Board President Report - as it was discussed in the work session.
- Added letter c, titled "facilities management" to new #2 under item e (Board President Report).

V. High School/Middle School Board Presentation:

- Mrs. Flynn's art class showed a presentation on artistic improvements they have made to areas of the school including the mirror, college room, concession stand area and throughout the hallways. Seniors Peyton Green and Madison Stewart presented the information

VI. Annual Audit Presentation Greg Bailey:

- Greg Bailey, from Bailey & Hodshire Company presented the annual audit results. Mr. Bailey went through highlighting the major points of interest. He said the audit was clean, consistent and clear with public school standards.

VII. Nice Things:

- PTO – October 30th is Donuts with Grown Ups at the elementary school. If any board members would like to participate – be at the elementary school at 6:45 am.

- A new organization at the elementary school is being formed called RKO – Reading Kids Organized. A group of elementary students are forming this to generate money for various school projects and to promote fellowship.
- Melanie Matthews announced her son and RHS alumnus, Dmitri Matthews, made the drumline at Western Michigan University.

VIII. Comments from Guests:

- Linda McDowell spoke about the public comment from others at the September board meeting. In addition, she gave her thoughts about the Board as a whole, her displeasure with certain trustees, and the recent survey about the superintendent and principal that was sent to staff at the elementary school. She also thanked some district staff and individuals as she resigned – giving her two weeks' notice today.

IX. Board Business / Action Items:

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

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

- b. N. Pridgeon made a motion to accept the quote by Adrian Locksmith for \$8,810 to replace the north portable doors. The motion was supported by R. Grossheim.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

- c. R. Sanders made a motion to accept the revised language for Neola policy po4140. R. Grossheim supported the motion.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

X. Items requiring Review and Update:

- a. The website is live to the public – still need to get an athletics tab added and a few more updates.
- b. The SRO is a city employee. The city is working on the MOU (memorandum of understanding). Once completed, the SRO will start immediately.
- c. Three virtual presentations are coming soon for OK2Say – segmented into grades 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12.
- d. Potential honoring of former principal, Don Richardson, was discussed during the work session.
- e. The city attorney's review is complete, and was returned to Mr. DuBois. He has returned it back to the city with a few changes after review with the school attorney. City is now reviewing those potential changes. Dave Santure Construction approved bid for the softball dugout contingent on both parties' signed agreement. Board suspended rules and B. Wheeler made a motion to allow D Santure Construction to start immediately once the lease is co-signed. R. Sanders supported this motion

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

- f. ISD staff are coming this Friday, October 25th to train employees.
- g. Cameras are being added to Latchkey and will be installed Friday, the 25th.
- h. The farm property was discussed in the work session and has been tabled.

A. XI. Information/Discussion Items

- B. Mr. Hubbard gave the athletic director's report. We hosted the first junior high girls' volleyball tournament – it went well. The facilities sound system has been upgraded and the sound is good. A new 8th grade boys' basketball coach was hired.
- C. Mrs. Otterbein gave the high school principal report highlighting homecoming and its success. On October 17th, every student received an apple for "Apple Crunch Day". We have a big change coming soon integrating upper and lower classmen lunch periods. Tardies are still an issue with most activity in the morning at the school start. Mrs. Otterbein listed all upcoming events.
- D. Mr. Hard gave the elementary principal report. He included the revamping of the behavioral restorative justice approach – it being the first priority. He's working with Mrs. Brown on the

project. The 5th grade girls had a lock in last week – it went well. The 5th grade boys will have theirs November 1st. Mr. Hard thanked the PTO for providing dinner during the parent teacher conferences. He listed upcoming events which included the Halloween parade this Friday, starting at 9:30 am.

E. Superintendent Dubois gave the following report/update:

1. Mr. DuBois announced the new paraprofessionals – Kari Crandall, DaLaney Randall, and Cayla Engel. Also announced was a new 6th grade teacher – Dana Clark.
2. No longer applicable
3. M. Dubois asked the board to review policy updates.
4. M. Dubois announced we are adding the Graduation Alliance to our curriculum. Mrs. Otterbein elaborated more on this as it's geared towards earning a diploma for things such as medical leave and long-term suspension.
5. Mr. Hard gave more detail on the elementary handbook updates including a handout showing new processes and consequences for each group. Board suspended rules and B. Kerspilo made a motion to accept the proposed changes for item #4 (high school curriculum guide) and item #5 (elementary handbook). The motion was supported by R. Grossheim.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

6. The Maintenance truck used by facilities will need to be replaced soon

F. Mrs. Galloway discussed the following in the Board President report:

- There is an MASB proposal in the board packet for strategic planning. The cost is \$8,900. President Galloway asked the board to review – will be an action item on next month's board meeting.
- J. Galloway gave an overview/handout of three standing committees that her, B. Pavka and N. Pridgeon have been working on.
 - a. School Safety
 - b. Human Resource/Employment
 - c. Facilities management.

She asked the board to review and choose a committee they would like to work with. More information at the next meeting.

XII. Additional Comments from Board/Superintendent:

- B. Kerspilo commended the staff involved with the annual audit done by Bailey & Hodshire.
- A guest suggestion pertaining to the possible re-naming the elementary school for D. Richardson was received.

XIII. Future Meetings:

December 18, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Work Session
December 18, 2024	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting

XIV. Additional comments from guests: None.

B. Wheeler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. The motion was supported by N. Pridgeon.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

Respectfully,
Brian Kerspilo
Board Secretary