



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING
May 1, 2024**

The Board of Education of the Reading Community City School District met in Regular Work Session at Reading Community City School, 810 East Columbia Avenue on May 1, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the President Beth Wernery at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Absent One: Alycia Bemmes

Jim Perdue motioned, Crystal Menner seconded to excuse Mrs. Bemmes from the meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Absent: Alycia Bemmes
Nays: None
The president declared the motion carried.

In Attendance:

Dr. Damon Davis, Ms. Jennifer Burke, Mark Edwards, Sydney Jacobs, Gina Sansone & family.

Motion 136-24 Approve Agenda

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the agenda as written.

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Absent: Alycia Bemmes
Nays: None
The president declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PRESENTATIONS

New Hire Welcome: (5:19)

Sydney Jacobs was welcomed as the new Third Grade Language Arts teacher at the elementary level. She comes with student teaching experience from Struble Elementary in the Northwest Local School District and has worked with preschool and kindergarten levels. Sydney was hired after a final interview conducted by Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Johnson, and Dr. Davis, and her hiring was confirmed right before her college graduation.

Gina Sansone was introduced as the new principal at Reading Elementary. Gina was chosen from about fifty applicants and stood out during multiple rounds of interviews. She has extensive teaching experience at the elementary level, has served as a principal in the Northwest Local School District and holds a Master's in Reading. Gina is recognized for her consistent performance, leadership qualities, decision-making skills, and her commitment to student safety and security. She presented a comprehensive 90-day plan during her interview and expressed a strong connection to the community, which she felt was affirming and family-oriented.

The Board welcomed Sydney Jacobs, 3rd Grade teacher and Gina Sansone, Elementary Principal as new staff members.



BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building & Grounds – Next meeting August 7, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Finance Committee – Next meeting May 15th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Policy – Next meeting October 2, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. in the Board of Education Office.

Records Commission Meeting – Next meeting June 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Late Arrival for RJSH

During the board discussion on potentially implementing delayed start days for junior and senior high students, various aspects were examined without any final decisions being made, as the discussion was preliminary. The proposed plan includes four delayed start days in the upcoming school year, allowing students to start two hours later than usual. These days are intended to give teachers time for collaborative planning, data analysis, and curriculum development, which are difficult to schedule within their current, tightly packed daily routines. The idea is that these sessions, held on specific Wednesdays to maintain consistency and avoid impacting other weekly activities, would contribute to enhanced instructional practices and community engagement.

Board members discussed the logistical implications, including the impact on meal schedules and the need for careful planning to ensure that these changes do not disrupt students' and teachers' routines significantly. Concerns were also raised about the effects on families, particularly those with children in different school levels. The board recognized the value of these professional development opportunities in improving educational outcomes and expressed interest in further exploring this initiative, considering its potential benefits against logistical challenges. There was an acknowledgment of the necessity for thorough planning and communication to make these changes beneficial and minimally disruptive.

DISTRICT REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Damon Davis and Assistant Superintendent Mark Edwards provided the district report; the presentation can be found [here](#). Key highlights are below: (35:16)

Dr. Davis provided updates on current registration numbers for the District's Kindergarten and Preschool programs. As of the end of April, 28 students are fully enrolled in Kindergarten, with an additional 29 partially enrolled. There are also 24 new Open Enrollment applications for Kindergarten, which are still under review since the Open Enrollment window remains open until May 15. This brings the potential total to 81 students if all Open-Enrollment applicants are accepted. For the Preschool program, there are 20 fully enrolled students and 13 partially enrolled. They expressed optimism about these numbers and expect enrollments to continue into the summer.

Mr. Edwards discussed the district's affiliation with the largest Business Advisory Council in the state, hosted by the Hamilton County ESC. This council recently received a three-star award, signifying its quality and impact.

Mrs. Wernery and Mr. Perdue are attending the Ohio School Board's Board Leadership Institute on May 2-4, 2024. Dr. Davis and Mr. Edwards are presenting during the conference focusing on Career Technical Education which reflects the district's ongoing initiatives in educational development.

TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

None.



NEW BUSINESS

Motion 137-24 Approve the Resignation of the Following Administrative Staff:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to accept the resignation of the following Administrative Staff.

Name of Staff	Position	Effective Date
Susan Fraley	Principal PK-6	July 31, 2024

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
 Absent: Alycia Bemmes
 Nays: None
 The president declared the motion carried.

Motion 138-24 Approval of Following Administrative Staff:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following Administrative Staff.

Name of Staff	Position	Effective Date
Gina Sansone	Principal PK-6	225 Day Contract Step 6 8/1/24-7/31/26

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
 Absent: Alycia Bemmes
 Nays: None
 The president declared the motion carried.

Motion 139-24 Approve Extended Days for the Following Staff for 2023-2024 School Year:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve extended days for the following staff for 2023-2024 School Year.

Name of Staff	Extended Days
Gina Sansone	10 extended days, May 1, 2024-July 31, 2024

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
 Absent: Alycia Bemmes
 Nays: None
 The president declared the motion carried.

Motion 140-24 Approve the Following new staff for 2024-2025 School Year:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following new staff for 2024-2025 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position	Recommended Salary Placement
*Stephen Sharp	Business Teacher	MA Step 1
*Sydney Jacobs	3 rd Grade	BA Step 0

(*Pending background checks and appropriate licensure)

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
 Absent: Alycia Bemmes
 Nays: None
 The president declared the motion carried.



Motion 141-24 Approve the Current Staff Change for 2024-2025 School Year:

It was moved by Amy Thamann, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following current staff change for 2024-2025 School Year.

Name of Staff	2023-2024 Position	2024-2025 Position
*Brooke Nichols	2nd Grade Teacher	Art Teacher PK-6

(*Pending background checks and appropriate licensure)

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
 Absent: Alycia Bemmes
 Nays: None
 The president declared the motion carried.

Motion 142-24 Approve the Additions/Changes for After School Clubs for 2023-2024 School Year:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following changes/additions to after school clubs from 2/1/24-5/24/24. The club sponsors will be paid at \$30.00/hour.

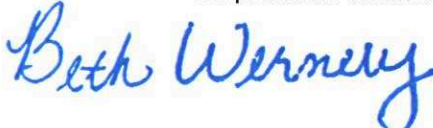
Club	Grades	Sponsor	Total Approved Hours
"Best Buddies"	6-8	Add Tanya Hasty as Club Sponsor	100 Shared Hours
Fun & Games Wellness Club	K-2	April Black Jessica Carpenter	Add 11 Additional Hours
Elementary Running Club	3-5	Rescind Ben Kolb - Club will not take place	16

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
 Absent: Alycia Bemmes
 Nays: None
 The president declared the motion carried.

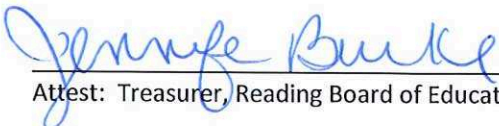
Motion 143-24 Adjournment

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to adjourn at 6:12 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
 Absent: Alycia Bemmes
 Nays: None
 The president declared the motion carried.



President, Reading Board of Education



Attest: Treasurer, Reading Board of Education