



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD REGULAR MEETING
May 15, 2024**

The Board of Education of the Reading Community City School District met in Regular Session at Reading Community City School, 810 East Columbia Avenue on May 15, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the President Beth Wernery at 5:32 p.m.

Roll Call: Present Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

In Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Burke, Mr. Mark Edwards, Ms. Rebecca Johnson, Ms. Susan Fraley, Mr. Nick Wilson.

Dr. Davis was not in attendance due to representing the district at the funeral services for prior Superintendent Scott Inskeep.

Motion 144-24 Approve Agenda

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the agenda as written.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mary Zander addressed the board on the following:

1. Condolences and Acknowledgment: Mary expressed her condolences regarding the recent passing of former superintendent Scott Inskeep.
2. Traffic Concerns: Mary raised concerns about the "no left turn" policy at the parking lot on to Bolser, suggesting it doesn't help with traffic flow. She mentioned that this policy was initially recommended by the building committee but feels it needs reevaluation. Mary offered to assist in communicating with the city to find a better solution, possibly considering restrictions only at certain times of the day.
3. Praise for Staff Member: Mary shared her admiration for Cayla Crooks, a ninth-grade English teacher. She highlighted Miss Crooks' exceptional ability to provide personalized instruction in a large group setting, her dedication to student growth in writing and reading, and her deep care for her students, as evidenced by positive interactions during parent-teacher conferences and student feedback.

Mary concluded by expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to share her thoughts and left the meeting on a positive note.

PRESENTATIONS

Character Awards –

Our 4th quarter character award recipients were presented with their certificates. View our awardees [here](#).

Blue Devil Hero Award

This month, we celebrate Danielle Cripe and Morgan Davidson for their exceptional contributions and commitment to our students and staff.



Danielle Cripe:

Danielle's dedication to her students extends far beyond the classroom as she tirelessly supports them in their academic journey and course recovery needs. Many students have the opportunity to graduate because of her efforts and dedication. As the chair of her department, Danielle provides invaluable leadership and contributions to our school's success. Additionally, Danielle's involvement with the Athletic Boosters demonstrates her commitment to the development of our students both in the classroom and out. She dedicates countless hours to supporting our athletic programs, whether it's working in concession stands, selling spirit wear, or organizing study tables and meals for the football team and cheerleaders. Danielle's contributions make her an incredibly valuable member of our staff, and we are grateful for her unwavering dedication and commitment to our school community.

Morgan Davidson:

Morgan's commitment to her students' academic and personal growth is exemplary. She consistently goes above and beyond to support her students, attending various school events and advocating for their best interests. As a teacher, Morgan demonstrates strong communication skills with students' families, her fellow teachers, and the entire math department. Her expertise in teaching and curriculum development is evident in her ability to assess her students' needs and provide tailored instruction to ensure their success. Morgan's leadership and collaboration within her team are commendable, and she is a true pleasure to work with each day. Her dedication to her students and her profession make her a deserving recipient of the Blue Devil Hero Award.

Joshua Johnson - Reading Community Schools recognized an exceptional academic milestone achieved by Joshua Johnson, a trailblazing student at Reading Jr/Sr High School. The Board of Education congratulated Joshua on his achievement.

BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building & Grounds - Next meeting scheduled August 7, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Mrs. Bemmes also mentioned that there will be a ribbon cutting soon to officially open the Hilltop Basketball court.

Finance Committee - Meeting was held this evening prior to the board meeting. The main topics discussed were:

Recognition for Financial Reporting – Auditor of State Award

The meeting featured Joe Braden from the Auditor of State's Office, who presented an award for outstanding financial reporting. Jim emphasized the rigorous criteria that had to be met and commended Treasurer Burke and her team, along with the rest of the administrative team, for their impressive achievement.

Bond Refinancing Presentation

Heather Arling from Bradley Payne Advisors gave a presentation on bond refinancing. The presentation aimed to save the community money by refinancing bonds, but it determined that it was not the right time. Mrs. Burke and Ms. Arling will continue to monitor the market closely for the right time to refund the bonds for savings to the district.

Five-Year Forecast

Jim mentioned Mrs. Burke reviewed five-year forecast and underlying assumptions, which were discussed further during the board meeting. Additionally, a review of the actual vs budget detail was provided to members of the Finance Committee.

Policy - Next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2024 @10:30 a.m. in the Board Office.



Great Oaks Board & Student Highlights - The Oaks graduation ceremonies occurred this week. The following student recognitions were discussed:

Heavyn White from Diamond Oaks in cosmetology was placed at the Avalon Beauty Lounge.

Presley Hoover from Scarlet Oaks received a welding certification.

Records Commission Meeting - The Records Commission meeting will be held on June 26 at 5:00 PM in the media center, before the regular board meeting, with Mrs. Burke, Dr. Davis, and Mrs. Wernery. The agenda includes reviewing requests to discard materials following the retention schedule approved by the Ohio Commission. This schedule dictates how long documents must be kept and when they can be disposed of. Once records reach their disposal date, they are presented to the Records Commission, which then evaluates and approves their disposal to ensure proper records management compliance.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Assistant Superintendent Mark Edwards discussed the State Auditor's Award and a proposed calendar change.

Auditor of State Award

The district has been recognized for receiving the State Auditor's Award for excellent financial reporting for the second consecutive year under Mrs. Burke's leadership. Edwards commended Jen Burke and her team for their exceptional work in school finance, underscoring the district's commitment to maintaining high standards in financial management.

Calendar Changes for Late Arrival Days

A third discussion was made on the proposed four delayed start days for the junior-senior high school to allow for teacher collaboration and instructional planning. Mr. Edwards emphasized the need for additional meeting time due to the current tight staff schedule. The suggested dates for these late starts are September 18th, November 6th, January 29th, and February 26th, chosen to maximize staff attendance by scheduling them mid-week. Edwards addressed board questions about incorporating these days into conference days or adding professional development days and discussed the impact on elementary schedules.

Five-Year Forecast

During the board discussion, Mrs. Burke provided a detailed overview of the five-year financial forecast, emphasizing the importance of accurate budgeting and financial planning. She highlighted that revenue and expenses were closely aligned with projections, showing less than a 1% difference in the revenue projection vs actual. Significant revenue items included the anticipated but unreceived \$400,000 from the Duke pipeline project, a surplus from Medicaid reimbursements and catastrophic costs, and an unexpected \$84,000 from the state for curriculum-related Science of Reading expenses. Expenditure projections vs actuals were within 3.7%. Mrs. Burke noted savings from unfilled positions and fewer placed-out special education students, additional costs for unexpected supplies like the Science of Reading materials, and deferred equipment upgrades for Wi-Fi access points. Mrs. Burke noted the district's strong cash balance but stressed the importance of planning for future deficit spending years. She praised the collaborative approach to managing district finances and the support from the Treasurer's Office Team, Administrative Team, Finance Committee and Board of Education.

DISTRICT REPORT

None



Treasurer's Recommendations

Motion 145-24 Approve Minutes – April 17, 2024 Regular Session and the May 1, 2024 Work Session.

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the April 17, 2024 Regular Session Meeting minutes and the May 1, 2024 Work Session Minutes.

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

Motion 146-24 Approve Financial Reports / Bank Reconciliation / Investments for April 2024

It was moved by Amy Thamann, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Financial Reports/Bank Reconciliation / Investments for April 2024.

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

Motion 147-24 Approve Following Donations:

It was moved by Amy Thamann seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the following donations.

Donation From	Donation To	Amount
PTO	Bus 2nd Grade	\$689.28
Taylor and Moore	Football "Lift-A-Thon	\$100.00
Karen Laknahr	Football Equipment	\$560.00
Vivian Kay/Abby Morgan	Richard Morgan Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Jane/Abby Morgan	Richard Morgan Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Patheon Pharmaceuticals	Thermo-Fisher Scholarship	\$1,000.00

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

Motion 148-24 Approve the Tax Rates for 2025.

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the 2025 Tax Rates.

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

Motion 149-24 Approve the Five Year Forecast and Assumption Notes:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Five Year Forecast and Assumption Notes.

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

Motion 150-24 Approve Following Invoices as Then and Now:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the following invoices under then Then and Now Certificate.

Vendor	PO Date	Invoice Date	PO #	Amount	Item
Amplify	4/11/2024	04/15/2024	20241447	\$2,500.00	RES Staff Training 1/3/24

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



NEW BUSINESS

Motion 151-24 Approve the Following New Staff for 2024-2025 School Year:

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

Name of Staff	Position	Recommended Salary Placement
James Budde*	Science 9-12	MA Step 1
Mary Miller	Music 7-12	BA Step 2
Maria Hemmelgarn	Intervention Specialist K-6	BA Step 3

(*Pending background checks and appropriate licensure)

Roll Call: Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann. Beth Wernery
Nayes: None
The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 152-24 Approval to Rescind the Following Staff Supplementals 2024-2025 School Year:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to rescind the following Staff Supplementals 2024-2025 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position
Sophia Easton	Volleyball, 8th Grade

Roll Call: Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann. Beth Wernery
Nayes: None
The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 153-24 Approval to Rescind the Following Non-Staff Supplementals 2024-2025 School Year:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to rescind the following Non-Staff Supplementals 2024-2025 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position
Laura Bryant	Cheerleading, Head Coach MS
Mckenzie Neri	Cheerleading, Head Coach JV

Roll Call: Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann. Beth Wernery
Nayes: None
The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 154-24 Approval of the Following Staff Supplementals 2024-2025 School Year:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following Staff Supplementals 2024-2025 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position
Mike Denney	Weight Room - Summer
Nicholas Schaefer	National Honor Society
Sophia Easton	Volleyball, JV Head Coach

Roll Call: Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann. Beth Wernery
Nayes: None
The President declared the motion carried.



Motion 155-24 Approval of the Following Non-Staff Supplementals 2024-2025 School Year:
It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following Non-Staff Supplementals 2024-2025 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position
Stephen McKenzie	Bowling, Girls JV
Scott Rohlfs	Bowling, Girls Head Coach
Joe Godbey	Bowling, Boys Head Coach
Ricky Bush	Bowling, Boys JV
Mckenzie Neri	Cheerleading, Head Coach MS
Colleen Caudill	Volleyball, Varsity Head Coach

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

Motion 156-24 Approve the Summer Staff Positions at \$30.00/hour:
It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following staff Summer positions at \$30.00/hour.

Name of Staff	Position
Elementary Certified Staff	Reading Intervention Grades K-6 6/2/24-8/9/24 Total of 90 hours

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

Motion 157-24 Approve the Summer Staff Positions at \$30.00/hour:
It was moved by Alycia Bemmes, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following staff Summer positions at \$30.00/hour.

Name of Staff	Position
High Certified Staff	Summer School Remediation Grades 7-12 6/3/2014-6/14/2024 Total of 80 hours

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

Motion 158-24 Approve the Professional Development Work at \$30.00/hour:
It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Jim Perdue to approve the following Professional Development Work at \$30.00/hour.

Name of Staff	Position
Morgan Davidson	Math PD Grades 5-6 June, 2024 6 hours/day
Allison Brown	Math PD Grades 5-6 June, 2024 6 hours/day
Evan Marsh	Math PD Grades 5-6 June, 2024 6 hours/day



Rachel Huber	Math PD Grades 5-6 June, 2024 6 hours/day
Sydney Jacobs	Orton Gillingham Training Not to exceed 30 hours
Jeni Ernsthansen	Orton Gillingham Training Not to exceed 30 hours

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

Motion 159-24 Approve Home Instruction at the Rate of \$30.00/hour:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve Home Instruction at the rate of \$30.00/hour, up to 6 hours per week per student.

Name of Staff	Position
Rebecca Reynolds	June 3, 2024-July 26, 2024
Lizzy Jacques	May 15, 2024-May 23, 2024

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

Motion 160-24 Approval of the following After School Clubs and Staff Member Payment at \$30.00/hr:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following After School Club advisors from 2/1/2024-5/24/2024. The club advisor will be paid at a rate of \$30.00/hour.

Club	Grades	Sponsor	Total Approved Hours
Garden Club	K-6	Amy Celis Julie Rumpke	Add 8 Additional Hours

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

Motion 161-24 Approve the following Contracts for the 2024-2025 School Year:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Jim Perdue to approve the following contracts for the 2024-2025 School Year unless otherwise noted.

Vendor	Service
On Demand (aka Rehill)	Hamilton Co. Youth Employment Program (YEP)
AMERGIS	One-to-One Student Nurse Aide
Bonefish Systems	AP Monitoring Service Agreement
NKU	MOU Agreement for Student Teachers 2024-2025
Raptor	Service start up 6/1/2024 (13 months)

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



Motion 162-24 Approve the Following Overnight Field Trips:

It was moved by Alycia Bemmes, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following overnight trips.

Club	Travel Dates
Girls Basketball	June 12-15, 2024
Cheer	June 17-20, 2024

Roll Call: Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann. Beth Wernery
Nayes: None
The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 163-24 Approve the Disposal of Textbooks:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the disposal of 86 American Government Textbooks.

Roll Call: Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann. Beth Wernery
Nayes: None
The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 164-24 Approve the Revision of 2024-2025 Academic Calendar:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the revision of the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.

Roll Call: Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann. Beth Wernery
Nayes: None
The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 165-24 Approval of Resolution Ranking Professional Design Firm:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the resolution ranking professional design firms and authorize the execution of an agreement for architect services related to the Board's CTE Innovation Center.

Roll Call: Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann. Beth Wernery
Nayes: None
The President declared the motion carried.

Mrs. Wernery discussed that she and Mr. Perdue attended the OSBA Board Leadership on May 3-4, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio. She also reminded the community of the Class of 2024 graduation on May 23, 2024 at Sharonville Convention Center at 7:30 p.m.

Motion 166-24 Adjournment

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann. Beth Wernery
Nayes: None
The President declared the motion carried.

President, Reading Board of Education

Attest: Treasurer, Reading Board of Education