



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 4, 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 September 4, 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 Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

**In Attendance:**

Dr. Damon Davis, Mrs. Jennifer Burke, Mr. Mark Edwards, Ms. Becky Johnson, Ms. Gina Sansone, Mr. Michael Howton, Mr. Evan Kelsey – VSWC, Ms. Regina Richmond, Ms. Linda Fitzgerald.

**Motion 243-24 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:**

None.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Chad Richmond Memorial Basketball Court – Richmond Family Appreciation**

Dr. Davis and the Board of Education recognized Ms. Richmond for the planning and fundraising for the Chad Richmond Memorial Basketball Court. This project will provide long last benefits to the community and our students for many years to come.

**CTE Project – Evan Kelsey – VSWC**

Mr. Evan Kelsey from VSWC provided an update to the Board on the Career Tech Education Innovation Space. The district applied and was awarded a grant for \$1.9M from the State of Ohio for Career Tech Education for construction and equipment. The new space will be located above the Elementary Media Center and the majority of the construction will take place in the Summer of 2025 with a planned opening in January 2025. The Elementary Media Center will not be available during this period. More details to come in the coming months.

**Curriculum Revision Cycle – Mark Edwards**

Mr. Mark Edwards provided an in-depth curriculum update to the Board of Education, outlining the progress and plans for the district's curriculum revisions. He explained that the district is currently in year four of the curriculum cycle, with science undergoing its revision process this year. Mr. Edwards detailed the revised order of curriculum adoption, which now includes math, social studies, ELA, and science. This change allows the primary building to avoid implementing two major curricula back-to-back, easing the load on teachers.

Mr. Edwards described the curriculum revision cycle, highlighting that the first year involves investigating and selecting materials, followed by implementation in the second year, and data collection in subsequent years to assess effectiveness. He emphasized the importance of formative assessments to evaluate both students understanding and the quality of instruction. The focus this year is on refining



teaching practices and addressing any gaps in curriculum or instruction based on performance data.

In addition to the curriculum updates, Mr. Edwards highlighted initiatives related to the "Science of Reading," with teachers across all grades receiving training through state-funded modules. He also mentioned a grant from the University of Cincinnati that provides a literacy coach and additional training for teachers to enhance reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition.

Other key updates included the expansion of curriculum map integration, where assessments are linked and tracked to improve instructional outcomes. Additionally, Mr. Edwards discussed efforts to expand career-based learning opportunities, including internships and work-based learning. One notable partnership is with the Talbert House, offering paid internships and certifications in behavioral health, allowing students to gain both credentials and employment opportunities directly out of high school. The District is also working with the Home Builders Association on construction trade workshops, adding another career pathway for students.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Building & Grounds** – Next meeting scheduled November 6, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center

**Finance Committee** Next meeting scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center. The Finance Committee met this evening to discuss the district's federal and local funds. Mrs. Burke reviewed annual allocations and proper and allowable uses of funds. The team discussed the district developing a long-term capital plan that will guide future needs by year to ensure proper funding for the expenditures. Last, Evan Kelsey from VSWC provided an update on the Career Tech Education Innovation space plans which is funded through \$1.9M grant provided by the State of Ohio.

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

### **BOARD DISCUSSION**

**Homecoming Parade – October 11, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Dr. Davis provided the Homecoming Parade details and invited all to walk in the parade. The gathering point prior to the parade is at Central property. The team will play Deer Park following the parade.

### **Auditor of State Fraud Training**

Mrs. Burke reminded the Board of Education of the required Auditor of State Fraud Training video training that is required by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **DISTRICT REPORT**

#### **OTES Evaluation Process**

Dr. Davis reviewed the OTES Process. OTES is used to evaluate teaching staff and provide feedback for growth opportunities. Staff are notified of when the OTES are planned. District Administration will perform instructional walks in the classrooms and will note many areas to celebrate the classroom achievements and impact in the classroom.

#### **Treasurer's Recommendations**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None



Motion 244-24 Approve Executive Session

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve entering into Executive Session.

**Economic Development Assistance ORC 121.22 (G) 8:** For the purpose(s) of considering the confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, and to negotiate with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance.

Invited Mr. Mark Edwards, Ms.Linda Fitzgerald

In: 6:16 p.m.

Out (Linda Fitzgerald only) 6:47 p.m.

Out: 7:38 p.m.

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

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 245-24 Adjournment

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to adjourn at 7:38 p.m.

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

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

  
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President, Reading Board of Education

  
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Attest: Treasurer, Reading Board of Education