



READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular BOARD SESSION
June 3, 2020

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 June 3, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present Five. Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Jason Rader, Beth Wernery.

In Attendance:

Mr. Chuck Lafata, Ms. Colette Lewis, Mr. Jason Enix

Motion 115-20 Approve Agenda

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Motion 116-20 Approve MOU between RCCSD and REA

It was moved by Jason Rader, seconded by Jim Perdue to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Reading Community City School District and the REA for a one-year extension, 0% increase, to the Master Negotiated Contract.

Roll Call: Ayes Four. Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Jason Rader, Beth Wernery.
Abstain, One. Alycia Bemmes.
The President declared the motion carried.

Hamilton County Task Force Update

Mr. Jason Enix provided an update on the Hamilton County Task Force that has been formed during the first few weeks of the Pandemic. HCESC is leading the group and has formed multiple smaller committees. Together the committees will provide a working document to share with the local districts.

Reduction Presentation

Reading Treasurer Colette Lewis and Superintendent Jason Enix presented a list of \$900,000 in potential reductions to the Board of Education for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mrs. Lewis shared how the district has reached this point including lost funding due to Tangible Personal Property reductions, state requirements increasing without additional revenue to support these mandates and no new operating money since 2009.

The District was notified by the Ohio Department of Education in December of 2019 that Reading was considered to be in "precautionary" watch due to a negative cash balance in FY2023. To offset increased cost and loss of funding, the district implemented more than \$1,000,000 in budget reductions this spring to help balance the school district's budget. These reductions are outlined in the presentation below.

Mr. Enix then spoke to the Board about the proposed budget reductions. He consulted with the administrative team and the Reading Education Association to gather feedback. Mr. Enix spoke of the importance of identifying key values before making reduction decisions.



“We agreed it is most important to maintain the integrity of the district in programming, staffing, class sizes, and extra-curricular programs. It is also critical to “right-size” the district to ensure we are efficient in operations and support,” he shared.

There were four areas where potential reductions were identified.

- Administration - review of administrative team organization
- Operations - building budgets, open enrollment, scheduling
- Support - administrative assistants, aides
- Academics - master scheduling, class sizes, section numbers

Mr. Enix stressed the importance of making reductions in areas that have the least impact on academics. An outline of these recommendations are listed in the presentation at the link below.

According to Mr. Enix, the \$720,000 in reductions identified would result in a limited reduction in programming and still keep class sizes reasonable in grades K-8. He shared that further reductions to meet a total of \$900,000 will result in a potential loss of programming at Reading High School, increased class sizes at Reading Middle School, and increased class sizes at Reading Elementary School.

Motion 117-20 Executive Session

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Jason Rader for the purpose of employment, dismissal, promotion, demotion or compensation of public employees and whereas no action will be taken following executive session and for the purpose of conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are subject of pending or imminent court action.

Mr. Enix was invited into executive session.

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

Time In: 6:14 p.m.
Time Out: 8:21 p.m.

After the presentation, the Board went into Executive Session. No vote was taken. Mr. Enix shared that an aggressive timeline is needed to make these budget reductions. The Board is planning a special board meeting on Monday, June 8, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, it was the consensus of the Board that the meeting adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

President, Reading Board of Education

Attest: Treasurer, Reading Board of Education