



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD WORK SESSION
September 7, 2022**

The Board of Education of the Reading Community City School District met in Work Session at Reading Community City School, 810 East Columbia Avenue on September 7, 2022, 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, Ms. Jennifer Burke, Mr. Mark Edwards.

Motion 217-22 Approve Agenda

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

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

District Report Card

Mark Edwards, the Director of Curriculum and Communication, discussed the district report card, which will be released on September 15th. The Ohio Department of Education has made several changes to the report card and how school performance information is reported. Mr. Edwards highlighted these changes and noted the following report card components:

- District overall ranking- No ranking is given on this year's report card.
- Progress - No ranking will be given until mid-October
- Early Literacy
- Gap Closing
- Graduation Rate

BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building & Grounds – Next meeting September 21, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m. Media Center

City/School Relation - Next meeting Feb. 1, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Finance Committee – Next meeting November 2, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m. Media Center

Policy – Next meeting October 5, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m. in Media Center.

OSBA Student Achievement – Mrs. Thamann provided information on a few programs that other districts are working on:

- Attendance programs - Many schools are implementing rewards to support student attendance.
- SEL program – Pairing middle school students with elementary students to support social-emotional learning of both middle and elementary students. These programs have proven to be mutually beneficial for both groups. Elementary students learn new SEL skills, while middle school students teach and reinforce their skills by teaching younger students.

OSBA Legislative Update – No Update.

Great Oaks Board & Student Highlights – Mr. Perdue advised the next meeting is September 14, 2022.



BOARD DISCUSSION

Board Development - OSBA October 5, 2022

On October 5th, the board will be working with OSBA to help develop strong board practices. With school board members and a new superintendent and treasurer, it is essential that they collectively learn how to create strong cooperative practices to lead the school district. OSBA will help facilitate this work at the October Board Work Session.

Senator Blessing - Local State Senator Blessing visited the district for an hour and a half to discuss school finance and safety.

RCCSD does not qualify for the new safety grant funds released by Ohio. Our district was deemed ineligible due to receiving OFCC funds for construction and that our campus is less than five years old. Senator Blessing was optimistic that there might be more opportunities to help schools in the future with the release of additional funds.

Dr. Davis and Mrs. Burke were also able to speak to Senator Blessing about the future the Fair School Funding Model and how we can make school financing more equitable. Senator Blessing believes that the state funding will remain constant or possibly increase with the next biennium budget. He believes that our 5-year forecast is on par with what he thinks we will see in the next budget.

BASA New Superintendent Conference - October 4th and 5th

Dr. Davis will be attending the BASA fall conference for new superintendents. Part of being a member of BASA, Dr. Davis has also been assigned a mentor. Marlon Styles, Superintendent of Middletown, was selected as his mentor. Dr. Davis will meet with Mr. Styles on occasion as he continues into the new role of superintendent.

RHS Centennial Celebration - Historical Society Dinner - October 1, 2022, at Haffey Fieldhouse.

Jim Perdue mentioned that Dr. Booth, former superintendent, and Reading Alumni, will be honored at the celebration.

Homecoming Parade - September 30, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Koenig Park is where the parade will start.

Exclusion Date - August 31, 2022

In Ohio, students who have not received updated vaccines are excluded from school after August 31. Initially, 483 students would have been excluded at that date. District Nurse Niki Luken, RJSH Nurse Katie Carlin, and RES Nurse Hannah Hale have worked with families to reduce that number to 44 students as of 9/7/22. There are no new vaccines required for students.

Retiree Breakfast - September 23, 2022 @ 8:30 AM

The district will invite former retired school employees back to hear a presentation, eat breakfast, and tour the building.



DISTRICT REPORT

Superintendent Damon Davis provided a district report; the presentation can be found [here](#). Key highlights are below:

District Enrollment Update

Dr. Davis updated the board on the district's current enrollment in each grade. He then compared the difference between enrollment today and 2017 on the same day.

Jim Perdue mentioned that several homes are for sale in the area, which could lead to new families.

OTES 2.0

The district fully implemented the teacher evaluation system last year. Dr. Davis met last week with the district evaluation committee, including REA and district administrators. The purpose was to align expectations and ensure consistency across the two buildings.

Dr. Davis further explained the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) is an evaluation model that focuses on teacher growth and has been designed to help teachers develop through a rigorous process.

Dr. Davis will meet with Reading Education Association (REA) later to work out any remaining questions.

Safety and Security Drill - K-9 Drill

Officer Magly coordinated five different police department K-9 units to do an unannounced sweep of hallways, lockers, and parking lot. The dogs were not around the Elementary sections of the campus, and no students were around the dogs. The drill resulted in no illegal drugs or weapons being found. One item was discovered, but building administrators investigated, verifying that it was not an issue.

Jim Perdue asked to test the panic buttons for the security system. Dr. Davis mentioned that the test had been scheduled for Thursday, September 8th, to see if the system was working correctly. Dr. Davis will update the board on Friday as to the result of the test.

District Culture Update

Dr. Davis spoke with staff on building a culture at Reading Community City Schools one person at a time by helping all staff to control their 20 square feet of influence. Over the last 60 days, Dr. Davis has conducted listening tours with staff members and provided 95 opportunities to meet with staff. Dr. Davis will use staff feedback with the administrative team to develop goals around district culture.

Dr. Davis mentioned the goal is to create a strong culture that can overcome other aspects. Making Reading a great place to work, teach and learn is the first step to making a healthy school district.

Dr. Davis will now turn his attention to meeting with students to ask them similar questions about what they enjoy about Reading. He will also be reading to elementary students to get connected more with students.

Treasurer's Recommendations

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

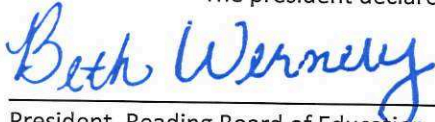


Motion 218-22 Adjournment

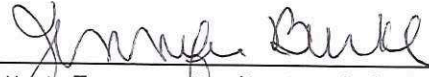
It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to adjourn at 6:56 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes, Five. Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Nays. None.

The president declared the motion carried.



President, Reading Board of Education



Attest: Treasurer, Reading Board of Education