



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD REGULAR MEETING
May 17, 2023**

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 17, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the President Beth Wernery at 5:31 p.m.

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

In Attendance:

Dr. Damon Davis, Ms. Jennifer Burke, Mr. Mark Edwards, Ms. Rebecca Johnson, Mr. Michael Howton, Ms. Susan Fraley, Mr. Luke Cripe, and Ms. Aria Oliver.

Motion 134-23 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

Character Awards - Moved from Media Center to Cafetorium at 5:31-5:53 p.m.

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

Washington D.C. Trip Proposal

Students presented an idea for sophomore students to take a trip to Washington DC each year. View their [Presentation](#).

Reading Academy Program

Luke Cripe presented information about the success of the Reading Academy, detailing students who have been able to graduate, earn industry credentials, and be placed in internships. -View his [presentation](#).

BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building & Grounds – The committee met on May 16th, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Hilltop Basketball Court Update: A meeting with contractors was held May 9th. Bids for the project are due by June 1st. An alternative bid for concrete was added. The original spec was for asphalt. The committee also agreed that the basketball court should be named Chad Richmond Memorial Court. This was approved at the board meeting.

Tree Planting: Gary Kurtz presented a donation of a Norway Spruce to be planted on campus. The group Gary represented, Rooted in Community, also proposed to make improvements on the grassy slope on Bolser. The proposals included planting saplings or creating a prairie of natural flowers and cover. Gary mentioned opportunities for free saplings through the Ohio Valley Forestry Fellowship. Prep work and



watering would need to be worked out for this proposal to work. The second proposal would take about 3-5 years to establish. The committee will take these proposals into consideration.

Mt. Notre Dame Update: Mt. Notre Dame has made an easement request for the auxiliary lot across Columbia Avenue. The proposal was created to allow more students to park in a parking lot and not on neighborhood streets. They are currently working on surveying the property and creating a legal description of the easement. The easement would result in 3-4 spots lost in the auxiliary lot.

Sisters of Notre Dame: Catholic institution that occupies the property next to the Mt. Notre Dame HS has requested an emergency contingency for sheltering in place on the Reading Schools campus should the need arise. The committee is taking this into consideration.

Hilltop Athletic Facility Update: Three items were discussed regarding the Athletic Facility at Hilltop. First, the committee announced that Omnia 360 has decided to donate gravel walkways to the softball gate and a walkway to the garage at the Hilltop Athletic Facility. The committee proposed the third path to the baseball gate should be funded by the district to take advantage of the cost savings from Omnia's donation. Secondly, the committee proposed adding dog waste bag posts at the property to help encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. Finally, the committee discussed adding cameras to the property to deter unwanted activity. The district will get quotes for wi-fi access and security cameras.

Central Property Soccer Fields Update: Little League soccer was hosted at the old Central property this spring, and it went well. The district has plans to use the property this fall for the High School Soccer Program.

City/School Relation - Next meeting is scheduled for August 16th, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Finance Committee – The committee met prior to the board meeting this evening. Mrs. Burke presented the Five Year Forecast. Details below.

Policy – No update.

OSBA Student Achievement – No update.

OSBA Legislative Update – No update.

Great Oaks Board & Student Highlights – Mr. Perdue discussed the highlights.

ACTE Region I awards were given to two Great Oaks members - Board Member Carole Ellis and Industrial Diesel advisory member Ed Medlock.

Great Oaks held their annual outstanding student recognition dinner celebration for students who competed in CTSO state or national level competitions or had perfect attendance for 2 years.

Great Oaks submitted a plan for state-funded expansion of CTE programs.

The Board authorized a request for bids for their proposed Heavy Equipment Operations Building.

Scarlet Oaks Senior Ceremony will be held Monday, May 22nd @ 7:00 PM -5/3 Arena

Records Commission Meeting – June 7th, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. in the Media Center



BOARD DISCUSSION

Five-Year Forecast

Treasurer Jen Burke reviewed the May filing of the Five Year Forecast and Assumptions. Her presentation can be found [here](#).

The forecast covers only the general fund and doesn't include any federal funds, athletic & student funds, bonds, or permanent improvement funds. The main revenue sources for the district continue to be local taxes, Public Utility Personal Property taxes, and State unrestricted and restricted aid. Mrs. Burke discussed the district's actual revenue received exceeding projected revenue by \$366,663. The district projected a 98.0% collection rate, and the amount collected was greater. In addition, the amount of funding received from Unrestricted State Aid exceeds the district's projections. The expenses for the fiscal year were under budget. The district was able to allocate salaries and benefits, Special Education tuition placement, and textbook adoption to one-time pandemic funding sources of ESSER III & ARP Idea B. This resulted in direct savings to the general fund. Mrs. Burke talked about the spikes and dips in the expenditures of the district since 2020. Through one-time pandemic funding sources such as ESSER I, II, and III, ARP Idea B, ARP ECSE, and ARP Homeless, the district has reallocated expenses off the general fund to these other funding sources. This results in spikes in our expenditures over the last several years. This will continue in FY24 for our last year of pandemic funding.

Additionally, Mrs. Burke discussed the efforts the district has made to apply for competitive grants. The district has received approximately \$140,000 in competitive grants. These funds are used to offset expenses typically paid from the general fund. In summary, the district is operating a balanced budget for three of the five years. The district's forecast includes projected deficit spending in FY26 & FY27, with a cash balance of \$9,116,804 at the end of the forecasted period. Mrs. Burke provided an update on the Biennial budget that was introduced by the Governor. The House made changes and passed their proposal to the Senate. The Legislative Branch will hold hearings over the next several weeks. Simulations from the Governor's proposal and House proposal were included. As the budget moves through the legislative process, the simulations will change. The district included in the forecast modest increases in State Aid due to the budget not being passed at the time of the filing.

If you have any questions about the forecast or any assumptions used, please reach out to Jennifer Burke at 513-842-5108 or jburke@readingschools.org.

1st Reading - Policy 4438 Vacation Pay

Naming Rights of the Hilltop Basketball Court

The Buildings & Grounds Committee recommended to the Board of Education to rename the Hilltop Basketball Court to the Chad Richmond Memorial Court.

Hilltop Athletic Facility Gravel Pathway

The Buildings & Grounds Committee recommended to accept the donation of the two gravel pathways from Omnia 360 at the Hilltop Athletic Complex. The committee recommended for the district to move forward with a third pathway to finalize the project.

DISTRICT REPORT

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



Dr. Davis discussed the end-of-the-year staff appreciation and events happening around the district. Reading Community Schools is grateful to all the staff members who work tirelessly for our students.

An update was given on the discussion of arrival and dismissal and Dr. Davis recommended at this time making no changes to the current schedule due to ongoing logistical challenges. He recommended continuing to look at it next year.

A staffing update was given and two new teachers were on hand to be presented to the board. Aria Oliver (Elementary Music) and Lizzy Jacques (Behavior Unit) discussed their excitement at joining the team.

The plan for summer learning was given to allow high school students to gain credit both in classes they were close to passing, and in classes they failed. On the elementary side, the district will again be offering a jump start to learning opportunities to help students get a head start on the 23-24 school year. Danielle Cripe will be leading both opportunities for the district. Other summer opportunities were highlighted, including the summer lunch program.

Summer plans for technology updates and the administrative schedule were also shared with the board.

TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion 135-23 Approve Minutes – April 19, 2023 Regular Session, April 26, 2023 Special Board Meeting and May 3, 2023 Work Session Meeting

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the April 19, 2023 Regular Session Meeting, April 26, 2023 Special Board Meeting and the May 3, 2023 Board Work Session Meeting minutes.

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

Motion 136-23 Approve Financial Reports / Bank Reconciliation / Investments for April 2023

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Financial Reports/Bank Reconciliation / Investments for April 2023.

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

Motion 137-23 Approve Following Donations

It was moved by Crystal Menner seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following donations.

Donation From	Donation To	Amount
Jennifer Head Honor of Katherine (Garnett) Calhou Class of 1955	Cafeteria (Student Accounts)	\$ 773.30
NFL Foundation, Inc.	Football Program	\$1,000.00
Jeffery Konrad	Boys Basketball Program	\$2,200.00
Elementary PTO	Field Trips/Buses	\$1,219.80
Cincinnati Reds Community Fund	Baseball/Softball	\$1,200.00



Manning Contracting LLC	Wrestling	\$2,000.00
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Roll Call: Ayes, Five. Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
 Nays: None
 The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 138-23 Approve the Following Invoices as Then and Now:

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the following invoices under the Then and Now Certificate.

Vendor	PO Date	Invoice Date	PO #	Amount	Item
Lima Central Catholic High School	4/20/23	1/27/23	20231369	\$350.00	Thunderbird Wrestling Invitational
Madeira Athletic Department	4/18/23	8/20/2022	20231345	\$185.000	Volleyball Tournament

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

Motion 139-23 Approve the 2024 Tax Rates:

It was moved by Crystal Menner seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the 2024 Tax Rates.

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 140-23 Approve the Five-Year Forecast and Assumption Notes:

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the May Update 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 141-23 Approve the Following New Staff for 2023-2024 School Year:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following new staff for 2023-2024 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position	Recommended Salary Placement
Alexis Bruesewitz	Intervention Specialist 7th Grade	BA Step 1

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

Motion 142-23 Approve Home Instruction:

It was moved by Alycia Bemmes seconded by Crystal Menner to approve Meghan Overbeck for Home Instruction from 5/8/23-5/25/23, up to 5 hours per week at \$30.00/hour.

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



Motion 143-23 Rescind the Following Staff Supplemental for 2023-2024 School Year:

It was moved by Amy Thamann seconded by Crystal Menner to rescind the following staff supplemental for 2023-2024 School Year.

Name of Staff	Supplemental
Luke Cripe	Weight Room Coordinator - Spring

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

Motion 144-23 Approval of the Following Staff Supplemental for 2023-2024 School Year:

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following staff supplemental for 2023-2024 School Year.

Name of Staff	Supplemental
Luke Cripe	Weight Room Coordinator - Spring

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

Motion 145-23 Approval of the Following Staff Supplemental for 2023-2024 School Year:

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following staff supplemental for 2023-2024 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position
Alexa Norton	Yearbook Elementary
Aria Oliver	Associate Band Director (7-12)

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

Motion 146-23 Approval of the Following Non-Staff Supplemental for 2023-2024 School Year:

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

Name of Staff	Position
Emma Pletz	Cross Country Head Coach , MS
Grayson Roberts	Basketball, Boys Freshman
Bill Simpson	Soccer, Boys 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 147-23 Approval of the Following Volunteer and Club(s) for 2023-2024 School Year:

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following volunteers and club(s) for 2023-2024 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position
Jason Nagelhout	Fishing Club
Chris Fritsch	Fishing Club

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

Motion 148-23 Approval of the Following Staff for Summer 2023 Positions:

It was moved by Crystal Menner seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following staff for Summer 2023 Positions.

Name of Staff	Position
Tara Vornberg	Summer School Teacher K-6
Alexa Norton	Summer School Teacher K-6
Jess Blair	Summer School Teacher K-6
Morgan Davidson	Summer School Teacher K-6
Cindy Childs	Summer School Teacher K-6
Garrett Edwards	Summer Credit Recovery Teacher 7-12
Tracy Wiehe	Summer Credit Recovery Teacher 7-12
Amy Huss	Summer Credit Recovery Teacher 7-12

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

Motion 149-23 Approval of the Following Non-Staff for Summer 2023 Positions:

It was moved by Alycia Bemmes seconded by Jim Perdue to approve the following non-staff for Summer 2023 Positions.

Name of Staff	Position
Evanne Anderson	Summer Credit Recovery Teacher 7-12

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

Motion 150-23 Approval of the 2023-2024 Lunch Fees:

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the 2023-2024 lunch fees.

Lunch Type	Cost
Breakfast All Students	\$1.60
Lunch – Elementary	\$2.60
Lunch – RJSH	\$2.85
Combo - Lunch All Students	\$3.35

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



The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 151-23 Rescind the Following Policies (2nd reading):

It was moved by Crystal Menner seconded by Amy Thamann to rescind the following policies.

Policy Number	Policy
PO 3120.09/ 4120.09	Volunteers (Rescind)
PO 511.01	Intra-District Open Enrollment

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

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 152-23 Approve the Following Contracts:

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following contracts.

Vendor	Service
Omnia360 Facility Solution, LLC	Facility Management Services (7/1/23-6/30/26)
Bonefish System Service	Accounts Payable / Payroll Monitoring (7/1/23-6/2024)
Hamilton County ESC	Annual Contract for Product and Services (7/1/23-6/2024)
Hamilton County ESC	Early childhood Special Ed Intensive Program (7/1/23-6/2024)
Hamilton County ESC	ELA / Math Coaches 34 days (7/1/23-6/2024)
Hamilton County ESC	Job Coach Skills and Workforce Development Svcs (5/30/23-6/2024)
Comprehensive Sub Solution	Teacher Substitutes (7/1/23-6/2024)
SWOCA	State Financial Software (7/1/23-6/2024)
Butler County ESC	Food Service Supervisor (7/1/23-6/2024)
Hamilton Clermont Cooperative	Information Technology Services 7/1/23-6/30/2024)
Best Point	Counseling Services 7/1/23-6/30/2024
Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council	Food Service Compliance Agreement 7/1/2023-6/30/24
Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.	Royalty Agreement 7/1/2023-6/30/24

Roll Call: Ayes, Four. Alycia Bemmes, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Abstain: Crystal Menner

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.



Motion 153-23 Approval of the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar:

It was moved by Crystal Menner seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.

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

Motion 154-23 Approval of the 2023-2024 School Fees:

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the 2023-2024 School Fees.

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

Motion 155-23 Approval of the Field Trip for Cheer Camp Overnight Field Trip:

It was moved by Crystal Menner seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the overnight field trip for Cheer Camp Grades 7-12, June 16-June 21st, 2023 at Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, OH.

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

Motion 156-23 Approval of the Resolution of Naming Rights for Hilltop Basketball Court:

It was moved by Jim Perdue seconded by Crystal Menner for naming rights for the Hilltop Basketball court to "Chad Richmond Memorial Court".

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

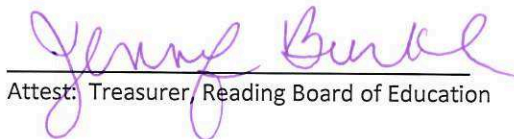
Motion 157-23 Adjournment

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to adjourn at 7:34 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