



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING
September 6, 2023**

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 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the President Beth Wernery at 5:35 p.m.

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

In Attendance:

Mark Edwards.

Motion 231-23 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

Curriculum Revision Cycle

Mark Edwards, Curriculum Director, recently presented an update on the Curriculum Adoption Process within the district, which is currently in its third year of implementation. The process has been broken down into a five-year cycle, with each year focusing on specific aspects of curriculum development.

In the first year, the Curriculum Department conducts research and evaluation of materials. This involves a comprehensive examination of various educational resources, including consultation with experts in the field. Notably, this year, the V-Lifts grant has been awarded to the Reading department, enabling them to collaborate with a science of reading expert from Mt. St. Joseph's during the adoption process. The evaluation process utilizes a nationally recognized rubric from Edreport to assess the suitability of materials. Additionally, departments are guided by their mission and vision statements in making informed choices.

The second year shifts the focus towards training teachers in effectively utilizing the selected materials. This involves engaging with vendors to ensure that educators are well-prepared to implement the chosen curriculum.

In the third year, further training is provided to support teachers in elevating their instructional practices after one year of using the curriculum. This year also emphasizes assessment, setting the stage for Years 4 and 5. During these years, departments collect data and begin evaluating the impact of the adopted curriculum on student test scores.

In the final year of the cycle, attention is turned towards identifying any remaining needs and gaps in the curriculum. This comprehensive five-year process ensures that the district's curriculum is not only well-



informed and carefully selected but also effectively implemented and continuously improved to enhance student learning outcomes.

BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building & Grounds – The committee met this evening at 4:30 p.m. prior to the board meeting. Chad Richmond Basketball Court: Jen Burke presented quotes for the Chad Richmond Basketball Court project. The Richmond family decided to opt for a concrete acrylic approach instead of sports tiles. Due to weather constraints, it was recommended to split the project into two contracts: phase 1 includes all construction removal/replacement and the phase 2 is acrylic top coat. This approach allows the project to start, even without all the necessary funds. The committee approved Game Changer as the contractor, and the Richmond family has raised 70% of the total funds and 100% of the funds for Phase 1.

Andy Ramsey/Amber Reed Bench - The committee discussed the placement of a bench donated in memory of Andy Ramsey and Amber Reed. Potential locations were considered, including by the flagpole, near the weight room, in the garden area, or by the baseball field. The family's input will be sought, and Omnia will be contacted for possible foundation work. Planting a tree nearby was also suggested.

Central Property Soccer Field: Regulation goals were ordered in July but were back-ordered until mid-September. BSN agreed to provide an upgrade for quicker delivery. The new goals have been shipped but have not yet arrived. In the meantime, the soccer teams are using smaller existing goals. Dr. Davis commended the City's efforts in maintaining the field.

Hilltop Fields: The area outside the baseball fields has issues with weed overgrowth, as it was previously a building and parking lot that was demolished. The school plans to address this by fertilizing and using weed and feed in the fall with the hope of growing grass in the spring.

Naming Rights Policy: The Board requested that Jen Burke explore policies regarding naming rights on campus. NEOLA, the policy group the Board works with, recommended creating a policy that grants the district the ability to remove naming rights and impose a waiting period before new naming rights are granted.

Richard Morgan's Parking Spot: Scott Thamann discussed the possibility of keeping Richard Morgan's parking spot vacant in honor of his passing.

These were the key topics discussed during the meeting, addressing various aspects of the school's facilities and grounds.

City/School Relation - Next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Finance Committee – No Update.

Policy – No Update.

OSBA Student Achievement – No Update.

OSBA Legislative Update – No Update.

Great Oaks Board & Student Highlights – No Update.



BOARD DISCUSSION

Homecoming Parade

The board discussed the Homecoming Parade will be held on September 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. starting at Central property. Dr. Davis encourage the Board and Administration to take part in the Homecoming activities.

DISTRICT REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Damon Davis provided a district report, and the presentation can be found [here](#). Key highlights are below: [25:53](#)

OTES (Ohio Teacher Evaluation System) Committee Meeting:

During the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, August 29th, several key stakeholders came together. This included representatives from the Reading Education Association (REA), our Building Administrators and District Administrators. The meeting served as an important update on the full implementation of OTES, which was successfully carried out during the 2021/22 school year.

The primary agenda of the meeting revolved around a comprehensive review of procedures, protocols, timelines, and ensuring uniformity in the evaluation process across different administrators and buildings. To facilitate this process, Principals have taken the initiative to schedule building meetings. These meetings will be instrumental in reviewing and refining the evaluation process with their respective staff members.

Student Learning Update - Building a Stronger Culture of Data:

One of the core objectives discussed in the report is the continued commitment to building a robust culture of data within the district. This effort is aimed at fostering a learning environment where data is used constructively, without defensiveness, to assess and improve student learning outcomes.

An important facet of this strategy is the introduction of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Audit. This initiative has been designed to identify students who may be facing academic challenges. It involves careful observation of data meetings to pinpoint areas where additional support may be needed. The district has partnered with Hamilton County Educational Service Center who will provide best practice recommendations and offer relevant professional development opportunities.

To facilitate the data-driven culture, new resources have been introduced, including ABRE, Branching Minds, and a Data Pilot by the Hamilton County Educational Service Center (HCESC). The HCESC will play a pivotal role in creating data dashboards for RCCSD consolidating various resources to maximize their potential.

The Instructional Council, comprised of our principals, will take the lead in developing comprehensive assessment plans tailored to individual buildings. These plans will be shared with the Board in October, with a strong emphasis on formative assessments that help guide instruction effectively. A curriculum mapping audit has also been conducted, focusing on aligning assessments with curriculum maps and addressing areas of improvement based on the "Five Worst Tested Items" on the Ohio State Tests (OST).

Early Literacy:

The District places a significant emphasis on early literacy initiatives, recognizing the pivotal role they play in a student's educational journey. The report highlights ongoing efforts, such as the Dyslexia training



provided to the third-grade team through the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). This training, spanning 18 hours, is part of a broader strategy to enhance early literacy education, with K-2 teachers having completed similar training in the previous year.

In partnership with the University of Cincinnati and Mt. St. Joseph, the District has initiated a program featuring monthly meetings and professional development opportunities. This initiative is supported by a generous \$10,000 grant aimed at building the capacity of our established literacy team within the district. There is a growing momentum within the district around the Science of Reading, and its potential to make a significant impact on student learning is increasingly recognized.

New Resources - M-Class by Amplify:

The District has introduced a valuable resource, M-Class by Amplify, for students in grades K-6. This tool serves as a screener specifically aligned with the principles of the Science of Reading, offering a more comprehensive and effective replacement for the previously used AIMS Web Assessment System.

COVID-19 Update:

The District has adapted its guidelines and procedures to reflect the current situation. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are now advised to stay home for a period of 5 days from the onset of symptoms. For those who are asymptomatic, the test date should be used as a reference point. To ensure a streamlined process, positive test results should be promptly submitted to the school nurse, and related absences will be excused.

Upon returning to school after a COVID-19-related absence, students are recommended to wear masks for a duration of 5 days.

TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion 232-23 Approve the Following Resignation:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following resignations.

Name of Staff	Position	Effective Date
Stephanie Glad	Wellness and Outreach Coordinator	September 1, 2023

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

Motion 233-23 Adjournment:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to adjourn at 6:22 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