



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING
February 7, 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 February 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Ms. Wernery motioned, Jim Perdue seconded to excuse Mrs. Menner from the meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes: Four. Alycia Bemmes, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Nay: None.
Absent: Crystal Menner
The president declared the motion carried.

In Attendance:

Dr. Damon Davis, Ms. Jennifer Burke, Mark Edwards

Motion 51-24 Approve Agenda

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the agenda as written.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building & Grounds – Next meeting April 17, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Finance Committee – Next meeting May 15th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Policy – Next meeting April 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Education Office.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Solar Eclipse (4:45)

Dr. Davis presented key information regarding the upcoming solar eclipse, highlighting its rarity with total eclipses occurring globally every 18 months but only once every approximately 400 years in a given location. Plans currently include distributing solar viewing glasses for safe observation and integrating eclipse-related lessons into classrooms, with the Drake Planetarium scheduled to enhance learning for grades 3-6. As a result of safety concerns, Dr. Davis proposed two options for the school calendar: an early dismissal to avoid eclipse-related disruptions or a calendar adjustment moving a Professional Development Day to accommodate the event. These measures aim to ensure a safe, enriching experience for all students and staff during this rare celestial event.



The Board decided to modify the existing school calendar by shifting the Professional Development Day initially slated for March 15th to April 8th. Consequently, students will attend school on March 15th as usual but will enjoy a day off on April 8th.

DISTRICT REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Damon Davis provided a district report; the presentation can be found [here](#). Key highlights are below: [\(16:08\)](#)

Kindergarten and Preschool Registration

Dr. Davis presented a report on Preschool and Kindergarten registration. For the Preschool Class of 2038, both full-day and half-day programs have reached full capacity, with all available spots filled. Families were promptly notified of their acceptance by January 17th, and currently, there are 38 students registered for the program. Transitioning to the Kindergarten Class of 2037, the registration process commenced with an Open House on December 5, 2024. Official registration opened on February 1, 2024, with 18 students already registered via Final Forms, indicating promising early enrollment figures. Anticipating further interest, a Kindergarten Registration Night is scheduled for February 15, 2024, in collaboration with RES PTO. Additionally, Dr. Davis outlined the Open Enrollment period, scheduled from April 1 through May 14, with all pertinent information available on the district's website.

Strategic Plan Update

In addition to the enrollment updates, Dr. Davis provided insights into the ongoing strategic planning efforts. A comprehensive district survey was distributed to various stakeholders, including staff, students, and community members (encompassing parents, alumni, board members, faith leaders, business leaders, and city officials). The survey garnered significant engagement, with 281 responses recorded as of February 6, 2024, including 74 responses from community members, 53 from district staff, and an impressive 154 from students. To accommodate additional feedback, the survey window was extended until February 9, 2024, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of perspectives and needs across the district as part of the strategic planning process.

TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS - NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion 52-24 Approval of Revised Job Description for Athletic Director:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the revised job description for the Athletic Director.

Roll Call: Ayes: Four. Alycia Bemmes, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Nay: None.
Absent: Crystal Menner
The president declared the motion carried.

Motion 53-24 Approval of Revised 2023-2024 Academic Calendar:

It was moved by Amy Thamann, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the revised 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.

Roll Call: Ayes: Four. Alycia Bemmes, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Nay: None.
Absent: Crystal Menner
The president declared the motion carried.



Motion 54-24 Approve Executive Session

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve entering into Executive Session.

Personnel, R.C. 121.22 (G) (1): For the purpose(s) of considering the
___ appointment ___X___ employment ___X___ dismissal ___ discipline ___ demotion
of a public employee or public official of the School District.

In: 5:52 p.m.
Out: 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Four. Alycia Bemmes, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Nay: None.
Absent: Crystal Menner
The president declared the motion carried.

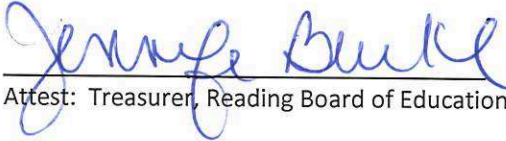
Motion 55-24 Adjournment

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Four. Alycia Bemmes, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Nay: None.
Absent: Crystal Menner
The president declared the motion carried.



President, Reading Board of Education



Attest: Treasurer, Reading Board of Education