



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD REGULAR MEETING
February 21, 2024**

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 February 21, 2024, 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, Jennifer Burke, Mark Edwards, Becky Johnson, Susan Fraley, Nick Wilson.

Motion 56-24 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

Athletic Awards

This fall, a total of 22 student-athletes were honored with All-CHL, District, City, and State awards. Tonight, we celebrated the achievements of these outstanding individuals who have excelled in their respective sports.

Blue Devil Hero Award

Kim Race and Anne Marie Woodward were this month's recipients of the Blue Devil Hero Award.

Kim Race - Cafeteria Production Manager

Kim is our Cafeteria Production Manager, and her dedication to her role is truly unparalleled. She preps and cooks all the meals and has been with Reading Schools for nearly 20 years! We rely heavily on her input and judgment. Kim is the heart of the kitchen and has been for many years. Her years of dedication, help make her calm and cool under pressure, and help to provide hundreds of meals day after day. We have also heard that her dance moves are unmatched!

Anne Marie Woodward - Intervention Specialist

Colleagues regard Anne Marie Woodward as an exceptional educator, consistently displaying a warm demeanor and a willingness to assist others. Her positive influence extends beyond the classroom, inspiring admiration among peers and setting a high standard for professional conduct. Recognized for her patience and dedication to student success, Anne Marie's commitment to furthering academic and personal growth is evident in her tireless advocacy for all students. As an intervention specialist and valued member of the Reading community, Anne Marie supports both students and colleagues alike.

*****10 minute recess for reception**



RES & RJSH Stem Recognition

Dr. Davis presented award letters from Rep. Miranda to Building Principals:

Sandy Ruschell: Awarded \$5,000

With the use of these funds, Vernier Probeware will be integrated into the Reading Jr/Sr High 7-12 Science Curriculum. This technology will allow students to collect and analyze data, enhancing their understanding of scientific principles. This grant will provide our students with 21st-century equipment for experiments and explorations, from studying weather in 7th grade to modeling Newton's 2nd law of motion in physics. This early exposure to Vernier technology will better prepare them for STEM careers.

Corrie Crain: Awarded \$2,500

The grant will fund the purchase of robots for 7th and 8th-grade math students to program and carry scale models of balloon floats for a Thanksgiving parade. Additionally, Algebra 1 students will construct catapults to apply their understanding of quadratic equations. This hands-on approach will make learning math more engaging and relatable, enhancing students' understanding of mathematical concepts through real-world applications.

April Black and Jessica Carpenter: Awarded \$5,000

The Elementary STEM program will receive funding for STEM career education. The grant will be used to purchase an Electronic and Robotics Classroom Makerspace, multiple career learning kits, STEM career books, and curriculum development materials.

BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES (104:41)

Building & Grounds

Next meeting currently scheduled for April 17th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Finance Committee

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024, in the Media Center at 4:30 PM

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee meeting is set for April 3, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the Board Office.

Great Oaks Board & Student Highlights

Blake Profitt - Blake recently achieved a perfect score of 1000 on the Word 365 test, earning the distinction of representing Ohio in the upcoming 2024 Microsoft Office Championship. This achievement is a testament to Blake's dedication and expertise in using Microsoft Word.

The priority application deadline for Great Oaks High School programs for the 2024-25 school year was February 6, with Harry Snyder, President/CEO, reporting a total of 2,365 applications across four campuses: Diamond Oaks (459), Laurel Oaks (487), Live Oaks (566), and Scarlet Oaks (853). A lottery on February 27 will determine placement for oversubscribed programs, with notifications on March 8, while applications for programs with available spots remain open.

Board member Micki Spears was sworn in, and the Board approved the 2024-2025 campus calendars and various capital projects. These include the completion of the Scarlet Oaks rooftop unit replacement and renovations at both Scarlet and Laurel Oaks to repurpose and expand program spaces, enhancing facilities for Early Childhood Education, Exercise Science, Fire & EMT, Heavy Equipment, Welding & Fabrication, and the new Law Enforcement program.



BOARD DISCUSSION

None.

DISTRICT REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Damon Davis and Assistant Superintendent Mark Edwards provided a district report; the presentation can be found [here](#). Key highlights are below: [\(31:35\)](#)

Curriculum Update

The district has adopted a new focus on the Science of Reading for Elementary Schools, including curriculum adoption and Orton Gillingham training. RJSH highlights include offering 15 in-house college courses enabling students to earn up to 48 college credits, career community cards outlining six pathways, pre-apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities in sectors like manufacturing and healthcare, and a strong presence in Great Oaks with 62 students participating.

Special Education and Service Learning

Programming is tailored to individual IEP needs, with inclusive tutors and service learners enhancing the educational experience.

Professional Learning Community Model (PLC)

This model is implemented across departments and grade levels, emphasizing the development of a data culture through tools like Abre/Branching Minds and the HCESC Data pilot. A program of study process ensures course alignment and continuum from K 12, with notable ELA and Social Studies adoptions.

District Leadership

The district leadership, under Dr. Davis, focuses on coherence work with Hamilton County ESC and instructional improvements through instructional councils, walks, and advocacy efforts.

Athletics and Fine Arts

The district boasts a vibrant athletic program with 30 sports teams and notable achievements in academic awards and scholarships for athletes. The music and art programs offer various activities, including concerts and the Spring Art Show.

Communication and Focus

Efforts to enhance communication include the use of Blue Devil eNews, social media, a redesigned website, and various notification systems to keep the community informed.

District Wellness

Initiatives like the Second Step and 1N5 partnership focus on social-emotional learning and mental health, with the implementation of therapy dogs and resilience screeners among other strategies.

Facilities

Security measures and maintenance plans are in place across the district, with notable projects like the Hilltop Athletic Complex and the maintenance of the Central Property for community use.

Professional Development Collaboration

Feedback from collaborative PD sessions highlights the value of interdisciplinary learning and the positive impact of such experiences on staff.



District Culture

A shift towards a culture of learning is marked by various recognition programs, community surveys, and strategic planning efforts to engage the broader community.

Staffing and Organizational Changes

Adjustments in administrative and nursing staff aim to optimize resources, with a focus on maintaining high-quality educational services.

TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion 57-24 Approve Minutes – January 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and the February 7, 2024 Work Session Minutes:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the January 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and the February 7, 2024 Work Session Meeting Minutes.

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

Motion 58-24 Approve Financial Reports / Bank Reconciliation / Investments for January 2024:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Financial Reports/Bank Reconciliation / Investments for January 2024.

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

Motion 59-24 Approval of the Following Donations:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the following donations.

Donation From	Type	Donation To	Amount
Ohio Laureate Epsilon Gamma-Beta Phi Sorority	In Memory of Richard Morgan	Athletics	\$200.00

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

Motion 60-24 Approve the Following Invoices under the Then and Now Certificate:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following invoices under the Then and Now Certificate.

Vendor	PO Date	Invoice Date	PO #	Amount	Item
First Student	7/1/2024	10/9/2023	20240244	\$232.86	Bus trip 9/19/2020
First Student	7/1/2024	10/9/2023	20240244	\$164.92	Bus trip 6/24/2021
First Student	7/1/2024	10/9/2023	20240244	\$260.92	Bus trip 9/19/2020
Crossgate Lanes	2/1/2024	1/22/2024	20241184	\$2,400.00	Bowling Rental

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



Motion 61-24 Approval of the Following New Funds:

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

Fund	Description
019-9406	Martha Jennings Science Grant (C. Burns)
499-9224	FY24 Skilled Trainer

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 62-24 Approval of the Following Staff Supplementals for 2023-2024 School Year:

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

Name of Staff	Position
Mandy Franklin (50%)	Softball Field Maintenance
RJ Hayes (50%)	Baseball Field Maintenance

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

Motion 63-24 Approval of the Following Staff Supplementals for 2023-2024 School Year:

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

Name of Staff	Position
Scott Thamann (50%)	Baseball Field Maintenance

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

Motion 64-24 Approval of the Following Non-Staff Supplementals for 2023-2024 School Year:

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

Name of Staff	Position
Rylynne Jenkins	JV Softball Assistant

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

Motion 65-24 Approval of the Following Non-Staff Supplementals for 2023-2024 School Year:

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

Name of Staff	Position
Jeff Thamann (50%)	Softball Field Maintenance



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

Motion 66-24 Approve the following contract(s):

It was moved by Alycia Bemmes, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following contract(s).

Vendor	Service
Best Point	Student out of district placement
Hamilton County ESC	Student Data Agreement
Hamilton County ESC	Professional Learning - AI
Hamilton County ESC	Reading Math Coaching Support
Hamilton County ESC	Workforce Development Consultation (1/15/24-6/30/24)
Health Collaborative	Healthcare Career Exploration Grant
InnovateK12	Subscription Agreement (1/18/24-1/17/25)
University of Cincinnati	Student Transition Services at CEES
University of Cincinnati	Field and Clinical Experiences Agreement
Sinclair College	College Courses for Students

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

Motion 67-24 Approval of the Calamity Day Due to Inclement Weather:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the Calamity Day due to inclement weather on January 19, 2024.

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

Motion 68-24 Approval of the 2024-2025 Open Enrollment:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the 2024-2025 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 69-24 Approval of the 2024-2025 Membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the 2024-2025 Ohio High School Athletic Association Membership.



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

Motion 70-24 Approval of the Resolution to Authorize Filing of Original Compliant Board of Revision Complaint:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Jim Perdue to approve the resolution for the Reading Board of Education to authorize the filing of an original compliant with the Hamilton County Board of Revision regarding property.

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

Motion 71-24 Approval of the 2023-2024 Certified Substitute Rates .

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the 2023-2024 Certified Substitute rates that are employed by the Center for Collaborative Solutions.

Day 1-10: \$100.00/day
 Day 11-59: \$120.00/day
 Day 60+: \$240.24/day

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

Motion 72-24 Approval of the following After School Clubs and Staff Member Payment:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the following After School Club advisors from 2/1/2024-5/24/2024. The club advisor will be paid at a rate of \$30.00/hour.

Club	Grades	Sponsor	Total Approved Hours
Girls Running Club/Virtual Flying Pig	5-6	Meghan Overbeck / Emily Sewall	27

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

Motion 73-24 Adjournment:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to adjourn at 6:53 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