



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

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 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Wernery at 5:30 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, Mrs. Rebecca Johnson, Mr. Michael Howton, Mrs. Gina Sansone, Mr. Nick Wilson, Ms. Holly Norton and family.

Motion 46-25 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

Blue Devil Hero

The Board was proud to recognize Ms. Holly Norton, Educational Aide, as the February Blue Devil Hero Award recipient. Ms. Norton's dedication to her students and colleagues exemplifies what it means to be a Blue Devil Hero.

"Holly is a kind soul and is very patient with all people everyday. She is always willing and enthusiastic about helping the students find ways to succeed."

Working with an individual who is always doing what is best for the student is a great person to have on your team. A person who has so many skills and is always willing to help you become a better teacher is an awesome individual to have assisting you and the students. Holly Norton is this person and I can't thank her enough for helping throughout my career at Reading High School. She is most deserving of Blue Devil Hero Award. She represents what it is to be a Blue Devil."

BOARD DISCUSSION

CTE Equipment Grant Contractor Bid Process – Jen Burke

In March 2024, the district was awarded \$2 million from Ohio to design and build new learning spaces to fuel workforce development. Competitive bidding recently ended as the district moves closer to breaking ground on its new Innovation Center and Makerspace (June 2025). The CTE Equipment Grant Public Bid process was designed to ensure transparency and competitiveness in acquiring industry-standard equipment for career and technical education programs. The bid was publicly posted on January 27, 2025, and February 3, 2025, allowing contractors to review the project details. A pre-bid contractor walk-through was held on January 31, 2025, with 22 contractors in attendance, allowing them to assess the scope of work. The sealed bid opening occurred on February 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., resulting in seven



total bids with a bid difference of \$121,510. Leo Brielmair Co. submitted the lowest bid at \$674,140, while the highest bid came from Alpha Construction at \$795,650. This competitive bidding process ensures that the district secures high-quality construction at the best value, maximizing the impact of grant funding for students' hands-on learning experiences.

Auditor of State Financial Award Notification – Dr. Damon Davis / Jen Burke

Congratulations to Treasurer Jen Burke, Mrs. Kelly Feld, and Mrs. Janie Harris who were notified they will receive the Auditor of State Financial Award. The district is incredibly proud of this achievement. The Auditor of State Financial Award recognizes school districts with exceptional financial stewardship and accountability. This award is granted to districts that meet stringent criteria for fiscal responsibility, including clean audit reports, accurate financial reporting, and compliance with state and federal regulations. This distinction reflects a commitment to sound financial management and transparency, reinforcing public trust in the district's financial operations. The recognition is a testament to the district's dedication to maintaining financial integrity while effectively allocating resources to support student learning and educational initiatives.

Strategic Plan Update – Mark Edwards

Assistant Superintendent Mark Edwards updated the board about the district's progress on the District Strategic Plan. The plan was launched at the beginning of this year and is part of our "Journey Toward 2030." Mr. Edwards explained that the plan is a measurable living document with established timelines. The district's administrators meet monthly to review their data and progress on the plan.

Staffing Update – Dr. Damon Davis

Dr. Davis provided the board with an update regarding current staff openings in the district. Staff were sent a survey to all staff to gauge their interest in openings. The following positions are currently posted:

- Science 7/8th grade
- Foreign Language 7-12 grades
- Preschool

Motion 47-25 Adjournment

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to adjourn at 6:11 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