



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING  
MAY 1, 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 May 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present Four. Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Absent: Alycia Bemmes

**In Attendance:**

Dr. Damon Davis, Ms. Jennifer Burke, Mr. Mark Edwards, Ms. Gina Sansone, Ms. Madison Reed

**Motion 136-25 Approve Agenda**

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to Approve the Agenda with one change moving Resolution 139-25 to after Public Participation.

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Absent: Alycia Bemmes

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**Motion 139-25 Approve the Following New Staff for 2025-2026 School Year:**

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the following New Staff for 2025-2026 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position	Recommended Salary Placement
Madison Reed*	4th Grade Science/SS	BA Step 0

*(\*Pending background checks and appropriate licensure)*

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Absent: Alycia Bemmes

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

**HB96 Update**

Dr. Damon Davis and Treasurer Jen Burke provided an update on the district's advocacy regarding House Bill 96 (HB96). While no major changes have occurred in the bill since its passage through the Ohio House, the District has been actively engaging with legislators to advocate for Reading Schools and protect district resources. HB96, which includes a proposed 30% cap on carryover funds and fails to fully phase in the Fair School Funding Plan, is now in the hands of the Ohio Senate, following a two-week recess.



Dr. Davis and Mrs. Burke met with State Representative Rachel Baker to better understand legislative expectations from school districts and to express concern about the harmful impact of these provisions. Representative Baker voiced support for removing the 30% carryover cap and for fully implementing the final two years of the Fair School Funding formula. Although the bill has moved beyond her chamber, she remains a proponent of adjusting the legislation in favor of schools.

Dr. Davis and Mrs. Burke also met with Senator Bill Blessing, who expressed bipartisan support for removing the carryover cap. He is exploring the possibility of proposing an amendment to separate the cap from the overall budget bill and address it as a standalone item. Both legislators have recognized Reading's history of responsible financial management and oppose penalizing districts for strong fiscal stewardship.

In parallel with legislative meetings, the district invited WCPO to highlight the positive impact of Reading's programs on students. Two seniors were interviewed: Madeline Clay, who is headed to college and involved in the Insight Program, and Lawrence Harris, who has secured full-time employment through a district business partnership. Their stories exemplify how strategic programming supports diverse student pathways opportunities that could be jeopardized if the current HB96 provisions are enacted.

The administration has also engaged the school community by distributing a form letter to families and residents, encouraging them to advocate by contacting legislators. Several community members have already responded. In addition, the District has been invited to deliver testimony before the Ohio Senate Education Committee next Wednesday, May 7, where Dr. Davis and Mrs. Burke will speak about the potential impacts of HB96 on Reading students and staff.

Mrs. Burke and Dr. Davis hosted staff meetings at both the Elementary and RJSH to provide updates and encourage employees to share personal stories about the importance of state funding. The District also plans to host two community forums to gather input and provide transparency regarding budget implications and local advocacy efforts.

While it is too early to determine specific impacts on programming or staffing, Dr. Davis emphasized that the proposed legislation could significantly affect educational offerings. The district continues to focus on personalizing the issue through student success stories and sustained outreach to legislators and the community. Board members expressed gratitude for the proactive and thorough efforts of Dr. Davis, Mrs. Burke, and the leadership team in taking a strong stance in defense of public education.

#### Gifted- Mark Edwards

Mark Edwards provided an overview of the District's Gifted Education Program along with considerations for future improvements. At the time, Gifted Services were being delivered through a pull-out model, with students receiving 30 minutes of instruction once a week. This instruction focused on general critical thinking skills rather than targeted gifted content. Additionally, the same individual served as both the coordinator and the service provider, limiting the ability to offer more specialized instruction. Over the previous three years, the District had seen a steady increase in gifted indicators. In the prior school year, 16 students in grades K–5 were identified as gifted, and that number had more than doubled to 34 in the most recent year. The number of students supported by written acceleration plans also grew significantly, with 116 students across grades K–12 receiving such services. In light of this growth and the evolving needs of gifted learners, Mr. Edwards shared that the District was considering a shift to a cohort-based delivery model to provide more focused and collaborative instruction. To gather feedback and input from families, the District hosted a Parent Advisory Group on May 7th to discuss the potential transition to the cohort model.





Policy Update 43.2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Policy Number	Policy
po0131.1	Technical Corrections
po0171	Rescind-Review of Policy
po1422.01	Drug-Free Workplace
po1613	Student Supervision and Welfare
po2265	Protections of Individual Belief, Affiliations, Ideals, or Principles of Political Movements and Ideology
po2271	College Credit Plus Program
po2340	Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips
po2430.02	Participation of Community/Stem school Students in Extra-Curricular Activities
po2431	Interscholastic Athletics
po2460	Special Education
po3213/4213	Student Supervision and Welfare
po5113	Inter-District Open Enrollment
po5120	Assignment within District
po5131	Rescind-Student Transfers
po5136.01	Electronic Equipment
po5223	Released Time for Religious Instruction During the School Day
po5330	Use of Medications
po5350	Student Health, Well-Being, and Suicide Prevention
po5460	Graduation Requirements
po5610	Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students
po5751	Parental Status of Students
po5780.01	Parents Bill of Right
po6151	Insufficient Funds Checks
po6460	Vendor Relations
po7421	Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Shower Rooms and Changing Rooms
po7440.01	Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring
po8142	Criminal History Record Check for Contracted School Services
po8452	Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
po8500	Food Services



#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion 137-25 Approve the Retirement of the Following Classified Staff:**

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Retirement of the following Classified Staff.

Name of Staff	Position	Effective Date
Janie Harris	Staff Accountant	June 30, 2025

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Absent: Alycia Bemmes

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

**Motion 138-25 Approve the Resignation of the Following Certified Staff:**

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the Resignations of the following Certified Staff.

Name of Staff	Position	Effective Date
Lindsay Welage	Science 7th Grade	End of 2024-2025 school year <i>Received 4/23/2025</i>

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Absent: Alycia Bemmes

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

**Motion 140-25 Approve the Adoption of Project Ready as Preschool Curriculum:**

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the Adoption of Project Ready as the Preschool Curriculum.

Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Absent: Alycia Bemmes

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

**Motion 141-25 Adjournment**

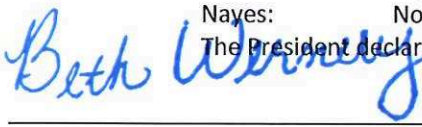
It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Jim Perdue to Adjourn at 6:09 p.m.

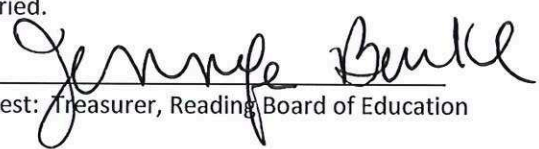
Roll Call: Ayes Four: Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Absent: Alycia Bemmes

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

  
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President, Reading Board of Education

  
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Attest: Treasurer, Reading Board of Education