

READING BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD REGULAR MEETING JUNE 25, 2025

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 June 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the President Beth Wernery at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

In Attendance:

Dr. Damon Davis, Mrs. Jennifer Burke, Mr. Mark Edwards, Ms. Rebecca Johnson, Mr. Michael Howton, Mr. Matt Heredia and Mr. Donald Furniss.

Motion 175-25 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

Nayes: N

The President declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

New Business:

Motion 176-25 Approve the Following New Administrative Staff for 2025-2026 School Year: It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the Following New Administrative Staff for 2025-2026 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position	Recommended Contract
Matt Heredia	Associate Principal 6-8	2 Year Contract
		August 1, 2025-July 31, 2027

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 177-25 Approve the Following New Classified Staff for 2025-2026 School Year:

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

Name of Staff	Position	Recommended Salary Placement
Donald Furniss	Staff Accountant	Step 1

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

5-minute reception

PRESENTATIONS

2 Hour Learning Pilot - Mr. Mark Edwards

Assistant Superintendent Mark Edwards introduced the 2-Hour Learning Pilot, an innovative instructional model the district will begin piloting during the 2025–2026 school year. The pilot will involve a smaller



group of students and focus on intensive, short-duration learning blocks designed to address student needs in a more targeted, flexible manner.

Mr. Edwards explained that the goal is to personalize learning, increase student engagement, and explore how this might better support academic progress and teacher support. The pilot will allow the district to evaluate logistics, student response, and instructional impact before considering broader implementation. Board members expressed interest in what could be learned from this exploratory effort, particularly regarding student outcomes and operational feasibility.

Disadvantaged Student impact Aid & Student Wellness & Success Funds – Mrs. Jennifer Burke Treasurer Jennifer Burke provided an overview of Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA) and Student Wellness and Success Funds (SWSF) which are two state funding streams that support students with specific identified needs.

Mrs. Burke explained how the District has historically used these funds for staffing, wrap around services, and targeted programming. The District relies on these funds for important services such as Counselors, School Resource Officer (SRO) Nurses, and Psychologist.

Mrs. Burke discussed with the Board that the FY26 allocation for federal funds have not been released. Historically, the district spent Title I funds for Reading Specialists, Title II funds on Instructional Coaching, Title III on ESL supplies and IDEA B funds are used for School Psychologist, Intervention Specialists, and Classroom Aides. The District is required to provide Mt. Notre and St. Peter and Paul their non-public allocation from these funds.

New Business:

Motion 143-25 Approve the Following New Staff for 2025-2026 School Year:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the Following New Staff for 2025-2026 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position	Recommended Salary Placement
Nicole Lawson*	Science Teacher 7-8	BA Step 0
Logan Bush*	Spanish Teacher 9-12	BA Step 0

*Pending required certification

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building & Grounds –The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Finance – The next meeting will be on September 17, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Policy - The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Great Oaks Board & Student Highlights – Mr. Perdue provided the board a summary of the last Board of Directors meeting which included Student spotlights.

Records Commission Meeting – Mrs. Burke, Dr. Damon Davis and President Wernery met for the Records Commission on June 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. before the board meeting. The agenda included reviewing requests to discard materials following the retention schedule to verified it aligned with the approved



records retention approved by the Ohio Commission. Our next meeting will be set at the Board's Organizational meeting held in January 2026.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Ohio School District Class Action Voucher Lawsuit- Dr. Davis

Superintendent Dr. Davis updated the Board on the district's potential participation in the Ohio School District Class Action Voucher Lawsuit. This legal action aims to challenge the constitutionality and funding mechanisms of Ohio's school voucher system, which has been a source of concern for many public school districts across the state.

The class action lawsuit focuses on diverting public funds from local districts to private schools, often without sufficient local input or oversight.

Dr. Davis noted multiple filings and recent legal developments, and the lawsuit continues progressing through the judicial system. Participation would allow Reading Schools to support preserving public education funding and ensuring transparency and equity in distributing state dollars.

The Board did not take new action during this meeting but reaffirmed the district's alignment with the broader coalition of public schools advocating for fairer funding practices in Ohio.

Superintendent / Treasurer Updates to Board - Board of Education

The Board of Education discussed the update report provided by the Superintendent / Treasurer on a weekly basis. The Board discussed the week of Board of Education meetings due to the update that is provided during the meeting, there was no need for the normal weekly submission.

DISTRICT REPORT

Meetings are streamed live and <u>archived here</u>, and board agendas can be found <u>here</u>. Board presentations can be found <u>here</u>.

HB96 & HB335

HB96 is part of a larger budget framework that includes provisions to reshape how public schools manage financial reserves and levies. Key components include:

Cash Balance Cap: The House version of HB96 imposes a mandatory tax reduction for any district whose cash reserves exceed 30% of operating expenses, while the Senate version raises this threshold to 50%.

Implications for Districts:

- It may undermine long-term financial planning, especially for capital improvements or unpredictable needs.
- Could impact a district's bond rating, facilities planning, and stability, leading to increased fiscal vulnerability.
- Poses a challenge for districts like Reading that have proactively saved for future needs through responsible budgeting.

Status and Advocacy: As of June 24, 2025, HB96 was under final review by the conference committee with a targeted approval date. Education leaders, including Reading's Administration and Board of Education have advocated strongly against these limits, emphasizing the importance of local fiscal control and forward-looking planning.



House Bill 335 - Major Tax Reform with Significant Impacts on School Funding

HB335, sponsored by Rep. David Thomas, consolidates several earlier tax proposals into a single sweeping bill that would dramatically change local property tax structures and, by extension, public school funding mechanisms. This proposed legislation could reduce district funding by \$1.1 million annually, which is 5% of the district's operating budget.

District Bullying Report

As required by law, Dr. Davis shared the second semester bullying report for the 2024–2025 School Year. The report included all documented incidents, interventions, and resolutions. He emphasized the District's continued commitment to student safety and a positive school climate, noting that anti-bullying efforts will remain a focus in the coming year. The Elementary School had three reported cases and zero confirmed. The Junior/Senior High School had two reported cases and zero confirmed.

Enrollment

Dr. Davis updated the Board on current and projected enrollment figures, noting stable overall numbers. The District is monitoring kindergarten enrollment closely. Enrollment in grades seven and nine increased.

Innovation and Makerspace Update

The District continues to invest in innovative learning environments, including its Makerspace and Innovation space initiative funded through grant dollars. Dr. Davis reported that usage of this space, once completed, will support hands-on, project-based learning across grade levels. These spaces foster creativity, design thinking, and collaboration, and essential skills for future-ready students. The space has been demoed, and steel will be delivered to build the structure the week of July 7th.

Summer Lunch Program

Dr. Davis highlighted the ongoing free summer lunch program, noting that more than 116 meals were served in a single day, and an average of 90 meals per day. The program has been a vital resource for many families and has seen strong participation from both returning and new families. The District is proud to provide access to nutritious meals when school is not in session. A special thank you to our kitchen staff for working hard throughout the summer to provide for families

Summer Learning

Summer School wrapped up on June 20, serving students in grades 7–12 for both Credit Recovery and Academic Remediation. High school students continue to work online through the end of June to complete credit requirements. Dr. Davis thanked the staff who supported this important work and emphasized the value of summer learning in helping students stay on track academically.

Breakfast and Lunch Food Prices

Due to continued increases in food costs, the Board is considering incremental price adjustments for school meals in the 2025–2026 school year. Dr. Davis emphasized that Reading remains competitive with neighboring districts, and these modest increases are necessary to maintain quality without dipping into the General Fund. The goal is to stay aligned with neighboring districts and sustain the food service fund. Meal prices will see a modest increase:

Elementary lunch: \$2.75 → \$3.00

• Junior/Senior High lunch: \$3.00 → \$3.25

Breakfast: \$1.75 → \$1.90

Milk: \$0.75 → \$0.80



Leadership Retreat and District Goals SY2025-2026

On June 3rd, the District Administration held a Leadership Retreat at HCESC to review progress on the Strategic Plan and OKRs from the 2024–2025 School Year. The team focused on analyzing district data. parent surveys, the five-year forecast, initiatives like the "Portrait of a Blue Devil" and Reading Bridges. The team also discussed 2025–2026 initiatives such as 2-hour learning pilot, the implementation of iReady for K-8 in reading and math to reduce testing and support personalized learning, and a continued emphasis on the Portrait of a Blue Devil across PK-12. Additional priorities include aligning formative assessments with focus standards, developing career pathways through programs like Adopt-a-Class and a new "Pathways to Possibilities" course, updating the gifted delivery model, enhancing junior high programming, and adopting new curriculum for specials and foreign language.

<u>Treasurer's Recommendations</u>

Motion 178-25 Approve Minutes – May 21,2025 Regular Session (waived the reading of the minutes) It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the May 21, 2025 Regular 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 179-25 Approve Financial Reports / Bank Reconciliation / Investments for May 2025

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the Financial Reports/Bank Reconciliation / Investments for May 2025.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 180-25 Approve FY25 Final Appropriations and Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the FY25 Final Appropriations and Amended Certificate of Amended Resources.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 181-25 Approve FY26 Temporary Appropriations

It was moved by Alycia Bemmes, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve FY26 Temporary Appropriations.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes:

None The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 182-25 Approve the Revised Five-Year Forecast and Assumption Notes:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Revised Five-Year Forecast and Assumption Notes per attached.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None



Motion 183-25 Approve Following Donations:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the Following Donations.

Donation From	Donation To	Amount
RES PTO	Kona Ice for Field Day	\$1,408.00
RES PTO	Assemblies (3) & Recess Cart	\$1,386.53

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 184-25 Approve the Resolution to Establish a Special Revenue Termination Benefits Fund:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Resolution to Establish a Special Revenue Termination Benefits Fund for the Purpose of Accumulating Resources for the Payment of Accumulated Sick Leave and Vacation Leave upon Termination of Employment.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 185-25 Approve the Following Fund to Fund Transfers:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Following Fund to Fund Transfers. Public discussion and input were held on June 2, 2025.

From Fund:	To Fund:	Purpose	Amount
001-0000	003-0000	1 mil Perm Improvement Capital Projects FY26-FY30	\$1,390,000.00
001-0000	003-0000	Textbook Curriculum Adoptions FY26-FY30	\$1,000,000.00
001-0000	003-0000	Chromebook Replacement FY26-FY30	\$625,000.00
001-0000	300-9301	Athletic Transportation FY26-FY30	\$375,000.00
001-0000	035-0000	Anticipated Retirements FY26-FY30	\$500,000.00
001-0000	003-0000	2012 COPS & Interest	\$1,040,000.00
001-0000	300-9301	Athletic Coaching Supplementals FY26-FY30	\$1,685,000.00
001-9004	001-0000	Student Fees (SCC 9004 to SCC 0000)	\$32,070.70

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 186-25 Approve the Following New Funds:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Following New Funds.

Fund	Purpose
019-9503	INSight Work Based Learning

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None



NEW BUSINESS (con't)

Motion 187-25 Approve the Resignation of the Following Staff Member(s):

It was moved by Alycia Bemmes, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Resignations of the Following Staff.

Name of Staff	Position	Effective Date
Kristin Pong	Intervention Specialist (K-5)	End of 2025-2026 School Year
		Received 5/29/2025

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 188-25 Approve the Following Staff for Leave of Absence for the 2025-2026 School Year: It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the Following Staff for Leave of Absence for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Name of Staff	Position	Effective Date
Maddie Mahoney	4th Grade Math Teacher	2025-2026 School Year Received 6/16/2025

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Naves: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 189-25 Rescind the 150-Day Contract for Rebecca Johnson and Approve the 175 Day Calendar for the 2025-2026 School Year:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to rescind the 150 Day Contract for Rebecca Johnson, Director of Special Education and approve the 175 Day Calendar effective August 1, 2025-July 31, 2026.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 190-25 Approve the 175 Day Calendar for Rebecca Johnson, Director of Special Education for the 2025-2026 School Year:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the 175 Day Calendar for Rebecca Johnson, Director of Special Education effective August 1, 2025-July 31, 2026.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Naves:

The President declared the motion carried.

None

Motion 191-25 Approve the Following Non-Staff Supplementals 2025-2026 School Year: It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the Following Non-Staff

Supplementals 2025-2026 School Year.

supplementals 2025 2020 school real.			
Name of Staff	Position		
Matt Morgan	Basketball, Girls Head Coach (8th)		
Ricky Bush	Bowling, Boys JV		

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None



Motion 192-25 Approve Current Staff Changes for 2025-2026 School Year:

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

Name of Staff	2024-2025 Position	2025-2026 Position
Taryn Williams	Dean of Students Grades PK-5	RES Assistant Principal

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 193-25 Approve Extended Days for the Following Non-Staff for 2024-2025 School Year:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve Extended Days for the Following Non-Staff for 2024-2025 School Year.

Name of Staff	Extended Time	Rate of Pay	Reason
Cindy French	6/1/2025-6/30/2025	\$150.00/day	PreK Evaluations

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 194-25 Approve Extended Days for the Following Staff for 2024-2025 School Year:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Jim Perdue to approve Extended Days for the Following Staff for 2024-2025 School Year.

Name of Staff	Extended Days	Rate of Pay	Reason
Sarah Blair	10 Days - July 1, 2025-July 31, 2025	Current Daily Rate	Curriculum Work

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 195-25 Approve the Following Curriculum Work for the Following Staff for the 2024-2025 at the Rate of \$30.00/hour:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the Following Staff for Curriculum Work in 2024-2025 Summer at the rate of \$30.00/hour.

Name of Staff	Extended Hours	Rate of Pay	Reason
Tami Burns	2 Hours	\$30.00/Hour	Curriculum Work
James Budde	2 Hours	\$30.00/Hour	Curriculum Work
Morgan Davidson	3.5 Hours	\$30.00/Hour	Curriculum Work
Evan Marsh	3.5 Hours	\$30.00/Hour	Curriculum Work
Rachel Huber	3.5 Hours	\$30.00/Hour	Curriculum Work

Ayes Five:

Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes:

None



Motion 196-25 Approve Student Fee for Senior Painting Parking Spots at \$30.00/each:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to Approve Student Fee of \$30.00 for Senior Painting Parking Spots which will used as fundraising and deposited into the Class Fund of 2027.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: No

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 197-25 Approve Chubb as the Builder's Risk Liability Insurance for the CTE Grant:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to Chubb as the Builder's Risk Liability Insurance provider effective 5/30/2025-end of project paid for the CTE Equipment Grant.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Naves:

None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 198-25 Approve the following Contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Jim Perdue to approve the Following Contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year unless otherwise noted.

Vendor	Service
Mercy Health	Sports Medicine Service Agreement 7/1/2025-6/30/2028
HCESC	Reading Data Service Agreement 8/1/2025-7/31/2026
Hamilton County Cooperative (HCC	Annual Contract for Services 7/1/2025-6/30/2026
SWOCA	Annual Software Services 7/1/2025-6/30/2026
Great Oaks Institute of Technology Career Development	Career Satellite Tech in Reading Schools 7/1/2025-6/30/2026
Dedicated School Staffing	Master Agreement Addendum 8/1/2025-7/31/2026
WeEmpower LLC	Leadership Development, Community Engagement, and Strategic Planning 8/1/2025-7/31/2026
Forward Edge	Service Contract 7/1/2025-6/30/2028
Student - 2 Hour Learning	Service Contract 7/1/2025-6/30/2028

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 199-25 Approve Change Order #2 for the CTE Equipment Grant:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Jim Perdue to approve Change Order #2 for the CTE Equipment Grant.

Change Order	Project	Amount
Bulletin #4	CTE Project - Window Film	\$3,597.00
Bulletin #5	CTE Project - New Storefront Divider	\$41,383.00

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery



Naves:

None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 200-25 Approve the Blended Learning Model - Blizzard Bags for 2025-2026 School Year:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to approve the Blended Learning Model - Blizzard Bags Repealed and Replace HB 33 (the budget bill) repeals the use of blizzard bags. This has been replaced by a provision that requires districts that do not have a blended learning model to adopt by Aug. 1 each year a plan to provide instruction via real time synchronous learning on a virtual learning platform to make-up up to the equivalent of 3 school days. Time made up must be due to closures for "disease epidemic, hazardous weather conditions, law enforcement emergencies, inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to the school's operation, damage to a school building, or other temporary circumstances due to utility failure rendering the school building unfit for use."

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Naves:

None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 201-25 Approve the 2024-2025 2nd Half Bullying Report as listed below:

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the 2024-2025 2nd Half Bullying Report as follows:

Building	Reported Incidents	Confirmed Incidents
Elementary	3	0
RJSH	2	0

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 202-25 Approve the Disposal of Textbooks:

It was moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to dispose of the attached list of textbooks.

Disposa	1
Textbooks (See Attached)	

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Motion 203-25 Adjournment

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to Adjourn at 8:43 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ayes Five: Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery

Nayes: None

The President declared the motion carried.

President, Reading Board of Education

ttest: Treasurer, Reading Board of Education