

**READING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
January 29th, 2025
MINUTES**

President J Galloway called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Reading Community Schools to order at 7:01 p.m. in the high school band room.

Pledge of allegiance was given.

Members present: R. Grossheim, B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler J. Galloway, R. Sanders, B Pavka

Members absent: None

Others present: M. DuBois, P. Bassage, S. Boswell, L. Otterbein, D. Hard, M. Hubbard, J. Scholler, B. Moore, S. Brown, C. Willoughby, K. Rinard, K. Eaton

IV. Additions/Corrects to Agenda: None

V. Nice Things:

- Nice Things in board packet

VI. Comments from Guests:

- Mr. Hubbard brought to the board's attention the last two versions of the "Simply Hers" magazine for Hillsdale County featuring Reading High School graduates as the cover story. Heather Mewes is on the January cover as the new Primary Care Director at Hillsdale Hospital. Sara Armstrong is a lieutenant colonel in the US Army and works with In-State Security.

VII. Board Organization

- A. Oath of Office- these were all done at the Hillsdale County Courthouse by recently elected trustees.
- B. Mrs. Galloway appointed Mr. Dubois as temporary chairperson
- C. Election of Officers- Mr. Dubois asked for nominations. R. Grossheim made a motion to keep the current slate of officers "as is." Motion Supported by R Sanders.

Ayes: R Grossheim, B Kerspilo, N Pridgeon, B Wheeler, J Galloway, B Pavka, R Sanders.

Nays: None- Motion carried

Absent: None

2025 Officers:

- a. President- Justine Galloway
- b. Vice-President- Randy Sanders
- c. Secretary- Brian Kerspilo
- d. Treasurer- Ron Grossheim

VIII. Board Business / Action Items:

- a. B. Wheeler made a motion to approve items 1-3 under consent agenda "a." motion was supported by R Grossheim

Ayes: R. Grossheim, B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, B Pavka, J Galloway, R Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

- b. City District Lease Agreement was approved at the December Meeting

IX. Items requiring Review and Update:

- a. Mrs. Brown gave an update on the Safety Committee meeting, noting the new breakfast procedure is going well.
- b. Mr. Dubois gave update on the Safety Committee meeting. He, Pam, and Jerry met earlier that day to discuss some of the priorities from the committee so far including but not limited to- playground equipment and tuck pointing at High School. Also, J Galloway brought up a "secure vestibule" at the High School for visitors. Mr. Dubois explained that Jerry and his team have some ideas to accomplish this, with more information to follow.
- c. Mr. Dubois just got the second quote for the bus lease, including 1 14 passenger van. He will review this quote as well as the Midwest second version quote he received today and report back in February.
- d. Mr. Dubois attended a zoom seminar from Plant Moran in regards to the Michigan Statewide School Facilities Study. The final study will not be complete

until June 2025. Once complete it will be presented to the state legislature for review. If any money is allotted, our district would be included- about 70% of Michigan Public Schools participated in this study. You have to be a participant to receive any potential dollars allotted.

- e. Mr. Dubois is looking for a consensus from the board on how to accomplish the Strategic Plan. Primarily “who and how” to facilitate. MASB, Mr. Dubois, another outside vendor or person have all been discussed. J Galloway mentioned reaching out to Bruce Caswell - which she will do. Intend to get this as action item on next month’s Agenda.

X. Information/Discussion Items:

- a. Mr. Hubbard gave the Athletic Directors report. Aubrey Ervans scored her 1,000th pt in girls’ basketball recently, and Lucas Strine got his 100th win in his wrestling career. He highlighted another successful Boosters raffle, and a site visit is being scheduled at East Jackson for their possible acceptance to the Big 8 Conference
- b. Mr. Hard gave his Elementary principals report highlighting the new morning breakfast procedure and how well it is going including lessening the congestion at drop off time. He has an upcoming assembly for student growth, and another for anti-bullying. Write ups/discipline is consistent with past 2 years, and literacy night coming up soon. PT conferences are coming soon, PTO is providing dinner for the staff. R Sanders made a comment commending Mr. Hard for the Sunday “all calls.” Mr. Hard also noted that the building went from 55 students in the fall, to 134 students in the winter that either achieved 90% (top 10) or 90% growth on the NWEA testing. Board asked to quantify why that happened, and he explained the he and the SLT team are meeting tomorrow to analyze the data. Mrs. Otterbein gave her H.S. principals report highlighting the upcoming Homecoming Festivities. The food services department and on school grounds group are doing Super Bowl themed food and décor. The 2nd annual chili cook-off is coming up. She gave a special thanks to Mr. Draper and Mrs. Brown for their work in both buildings. She also discussed the “secure entrance/vestibule.” She mentioned the Art doors and how much she appreciates Jerry and his team. 92% of our 9-12 grade students are passing all classes. She stated Math is something her and the staff are focusing on, as the small percentage of failed classes seem to be in the math category. She also gave an overview of this past month’s behaviors/write-ups.
- c. Mr. Dubois gave the Superintendents report:
 - 1. Mr. Dubois gave a statement thanking the board for all their work in honor of School Board Appreciation Month.

2. Mr. Dubois handed out the proposed FAFSA policy he created in regards to graduation requirements. The policy has to be in our handbook, and will be an action item on next months agenda.
3. Two Truck bids are in the board packet. He asked the board to review as this will be an action item on next month's agenda.
4. MASB reached out to the Superintendent's office to have the board select/recommend a candidate for the MASB Board. Board to select at the February meeting and Stacie Boswell will post the recommendation.
5. Narcan has been put in every real property location the district owns/operates.

XI. Additional comments from Board/Superintendent: None

XII. Future Meetings:	February 26, 2025	6:00 p.m.	Work Session
	February 26, 2025	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting

XIII. Additional comments from guests:

- B Moore made a comment about the division of staff at Reynolds Elementary and how it is affecting the entire building especially the student population. A discussion ensued in regards to what could possibly be done to improve building moral and overall continuity.
- P Bassage clarified a question from prior meeting in regards to Edu-staff and how the counselor and subs are billed through Edu-staff. She also commented on the new Supreme Court rule in regards to paid sick leave.
- J Galloway handed out some information in regards to staff de-escalation training and its importance

R Grossheim moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. The motion was supported by B Pavka.

Ayes: B. Kerspilo, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, R. Grossheim J. Galloway, B. Pavka, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

Respectfully,
Brian Kerspilo
Board Secretary