

**READING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
April 23, 2025
MINUTES**

- I. President J. Galloway called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Reading Community Schools to order at 7:02 pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was given.
- III. **Roll call:**
 - a. Members present: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, R. Sanders, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler.
 - b. Members absent: B. Kerspilo
 - c. Others present: M. DuBois, P. Bassage, S. Boswell, C. Smith, S. Brown, K. Eaton, K. Stewart, D. Hassenzahl, L. Harding, B. Liby, K. Monahan, P. Johnson, C. Coldwell, B. Couch, A. Sanderson, M. Matthews, M. Knoll, D. Hard, D. Clark, M. Hubbard, J. Sholler
- IV. **Additions/corrections to the agenda:**
 - a. Add letter F under VII: Vote to add family and consumers science/home economics classroom.
 - b. Add letter G under VII: Owen Parker – approval of bleacher plans
 - c. Add number 7 under XI – C: Michigan Colin Access Network (MCAN)
 - d. Add letter H under VII: Make food service cooler bid an action item.
- V. **EMC Student Presentations:** Peppyr Johnson and Kloe Monahan presented their early middle college journey. They both received their high school diplomas and MEMCA certificates. The Montgomery United Methodist Church presented \$3,000 scholarships to both Johnson and Monahan.
- VI. **Reynolds Elementary School Presentation:** The sixth-grade science fair took place April 11, 2025. Three students brought in their experiments to present to the board.
 - a. Tesla Coil – Presented by Kaiden Stebelton
 - b. Electromagnets – Presented by Ezra Liby
 - c. Catapult – Presented by Caven Bassage
- VII. **Nice things:** Many nice things in the packet - Grants, band trip, plants in the hoop house are growing, kindergarten round-up was successful.
- VIII. **Comments from guests:**
 - a. M. Knoll – Explained the grant for books from Dollar General. Thanks for updating minutes on the website.
 - b. K. Eaton – Addressed difficulties with SPED, student behavior and IEPs.
 - c. B. Couch – Expressed concerns at the elementary with ISD staff being pulled.
 - d. R. Matz – Made statements regarding the current and future elementary principle.

IX. Board Business / Action Items:

- a. R. Sanders made a motion to approve items 1-4 under consent Agenda A. The motion was supported by R. Grossheim.
Ayes: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, B. Pavka, J. Galloway, R Sanders
Nays: None – Motion carried.
Absent: B. Kerspilo
- b. R. Sanders made a motion to approve the District Budget Adjustment under consent Agenda B. The motion was supported by B. Pavka.
Ayes: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, B. Pavka, J Galloway, R Sanders
Nays: None – Motion carried.
Absent: B. Kerspilo
- c. R. Grossheim made a motion to approve Thompson for the Elementary asphalt bid of \$72,000 (all included) under consent Agenda C. The motion was supported by B. Pavka.
Ayes: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, B. Pavka, J. Galloway, R Sanders
Nays: None – Motion carried.
Absent: B. Kerspilo
- d. B. Wheeler made the motion to approve an elementary art teacher for 2025-2026 SY as noted under consent agenda D. The motion was supported by B. Pavka.
Ayes: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, B. Pavka, J. Galloway, R Sanders
Nays: None – Motion carried.
Absent: B. Kerspilo
- e. B. Wheeler made a motion to non-extend and issue notice of such regarding the superintendent contract renewal 2025-2026 SY. Further discussion indicated that the contract in question is through 2027 (3-year contract).
Ayes: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, B. Pavka, J. Galloway
Nays: R. Sanders– Motion carried.
Absent: B. Kerspilo
- f. B. Wheeler made a motion to approve the position/posting of a Family and Consumers Science/Home Economics Classroom as noted under consent agenda F. The motion was supported by R. Grossheim.
Ayes: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, B. Pavka, J. Galloway, R Sanders
Nays: None – Motion carried.
Absent: B. Kerspilo
- g. R. Grossheim made a motion to approve the proposed bleacher plan as submitted by Owen Parker under consent agenda G. The motion was supported by B. Pavka.
Ayes: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, B. Pavka, J. Galloway, R Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo

- h. N. Pridgeon made a motion to approve Polar Leasing for the Food Service Cooler Bid as noted under consent agenda H. The motion was supported by B. Pavka.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo

X. Items requiring Review and Update:

- a. District open positions:

- i. First Grade – Initial candidate backed out. Another applicant has submitted.
- ii. Special Education – K. Coe just needs to take the exam. All coursework is completed.
- iii. Elementary Principal – currently five applicants.
- iv. Art – Just added. Will post soon.
- v. Consumer Family Science – Just added. Will post soon and drop the current science position posted.

- b. Reporting suspected child abuse or neglect in Michigan.

- i. Included for all staff, including the board of education as they are all considered mandatory reporters.

XI. Information / Discussion items:

- a. Athletic directors report – Centerville is serious about joining, and Addison is also interested. The Big 8 could become the Big 12. Sand Creek is still only football, but considering wrestling. Homer is polling athletes – should let us know by the end of June.

- b. Principal reports:

- i. Elementary – Mr. Hard discussed the state testing going on. This week is M-Step: 3rd grade finished last week, 5th is next week and 4th the following week. Acadience and NWEA testing is next week with a 2-week long window. Mrs. Couch has provided a schedule to all staff to ensure adequate scheduling.
- ii. High School – Mrs. Otterbein indicated there are 48 students enrolled in HACC next year and BACC will receive open spots later on due to being out of county. There are many upcoming evens scheduled including a 6th grade visit to the high school tomorrow, state assessments have officially wrapped up and teacher evaluations are almost completed. Tardies and phone policy write ups have increased. Invites to prom for all BOE members was communicated.

- c. Superintendent's report

- i. State aid borrowing resolution – Pam Bassage discussed that paying down the loan is preferred because we are currently paying roughly \$100,000 per year in

interest. The state aid note is due in July. A consistent 15% fund balance would be needed to work towards paying it off. Letters have been sent to various banks including in and out of state.

- ii. Consideration of designation of electoral representatives and select ISD candidate – The board needs to designate an individual to attend the ISD vote on June 2nd, 2025 – the form was in the board packet. N. Pridgeon volunteer to be the voter and B. Pavka volunteered as backup.
 - iii. The district calendar was provided to the board for review/approval.
 - iv. Food service milk bids – M. Dunn recommended to stay with Kusters.
 - v. Letter was received from MCAN recognizing RCS achievements. D. Elder goes above and beyond.
- d. Safety Committee – Suggested that more training needs to be for all staff members including bus drivers, kitchen and paras. It was suggested to be done during PD days. Walkies have been purchased and have zones for drills. There's a new alert system which notifies both buildings giving corresponding alerts. The ISS room needs to be separate from nursing duties. The committee also discussed that classrooms need to be cleaned out at the end of the year and staff needs to ask permission for electronics (fridges and microwaves). The road construction is a large concern for pickup and drop-off.

XII. Additional Comments from Board/Superintendent: none.

XIII. Additional Comments from guests:

- a. M. Knoll – Questioned how funding will be affected for paraprofessionals with a new art teacher and Title 1 funding. She also stated that additional fridges/microwaves are needed due to time schedules.
- b. D. Elder – Invited the board members to decision day on May 5th, 2025 at 8:45 am. She also stated that there shouldn't be assumptions about fridges – she's had one for many years and it's a great way to check in with students. Kids use it for their lunches or drinks for sporting events.
- c. J. Sholler – thanked the board for the San Antonio trip. He discussed the trip and plans for scheduling a 2027 trip. He also communicated that he has a coffee maker and fridge in his room – he needs these for the long hours he spends at the school.
- d. B. Couch – suggested that there's a need for a full time ISS person and that the nursing duties are not working out for the office personnel. She also stated that recess creates a lot of issues.

XIV. Future Meetings:	May 13, 2025	6:00 pm	Superintendent Evaluation
	May 28, 2025	6:00 pm	Work Session
	May 28, 2025	7:00 pm	Regular Meeting

B. Wheeler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. The motion was supported by R. Grossheim.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo

Respectfully,
Nicole Pridgeon