

**READING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
May 28, 2025
MINUTES**

- I. President J. Galloway called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Reading Community Schools to order at 7:01 pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was given.
- III. **Roll Call:**
 - a. Members present: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, J. Galloway, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler.
 - b. Members absent: B. Kerspilo, R. Sanders
 - c. Others present: T. Little, S. McClain, K. Eaton, K. Rinard, C. Smith, P. Bailey, S. Shook, K. Stewart, M. Draper, L. Otterbein, M. Knoll
- IV. **Additions/corrections to the Agenda:**
 - a. Strike letter C under Board Business/Action Items and move to #5 under Information Discussion/Items Superintendent report
 - b. Move Item IX.c.3. and move to an action item as letter E under Board Business/Action Items
 - c. Move item IX.c.4. (Hillsdale ISD General Fund Operating Budget) and move to an action item as letter F under Board Business/Action Items
- V. **Nice Things:** J. Galloway reports many nice things in the packet
- VI. **Comments from Guests:**
 - a. K. Eaton - Concern about ongoing capacity issues at latchkey. Expressed frustration with the Safety Committee, communication and discussion amongst staff regarding students with disabilities.
- VII. **Board Business / Action Items:**
 - a. B. Wheeler requests correction of minutes. He proposes to strike the last sentence under item E in the Board Meeting Minutes from 4/23/25 to provide better clarity. R. Grossheim made a motion to approve items 1-4 under consent Agenda A with the correction to item E. The motion was supported by B. Wheeler.

Ayes: R. Grossheim, N. Pridgeon, B. Wheeler, B. Pavka, J. Galloway,
Nays: None – Motion carried.
Absent: B. Kerspilo, R. Sanders
 - b. B. Wheeler made a motion to support the State Aid Borrowing Resolution under consent Agenda B. The motion was supported by B. Pavka.

Discussion: P. Bassage reports the state aid started 20+ years ago and will come due in July. Slowly lowering, however, the better we do financially, the less we can borrow. Proposing to borrow 2 million. Will work with Thrun for all the closing

documents. The State Aid Note is sent to multiple banks to get the best loan rates. Lately the local banks have given the best rates. We have to take the lowest rate.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo, R. Sanders

- c. R. Grossheim made a motion to stay with Kusters for the 25-26 school year under consent Agenda C. The motion was supported by B. Pavka.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo, R. Sanders

- d. B. Wheeler made the motion to approve B. Pavka as #1 and N. Pridgeon as #2 as the designated Electoral Representative under consent agenda D. The motion was supported by R. Grossheim.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo, R. Sanders

N. Pridgeon made a motion to support R. Grossheim and S. Gutowski as the ISD Board Candidates under consent agenda D. The motion was supported by B. Wheeler

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo, R. Sanders

- e. R. Grossheim made a motion to spend \$10,000 with DP equipment for tractor engine repair under consent agenda E. The motion was supported by B. Wheeler

Discussion: Tractor needs new engine. It is a full-size tractor with a bucket and loader. Repairs will cost approximately \$10,000. Purchasing new would cost \$40,000. This tractor was purchased in 2018. Everything else is structurally sound. Used almost daily in the summer. Used to clear sidewalks and spread salt.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo, R. Sanders

- f. R. Grossheim made a motion to approve the ISD Operating Budget as presented under consent agenda F. The motion was supported by B. Wheeler.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo, R. Sanders

VIII. Items requiring Review and Update:

- a. School Safety Committee
 - i. M. Draper presents: discussed the recent threats with plan for re-examination and adjustment of all drills, as needed. Changes for drop-off and pickup at both elementary and high school will be different in the 25-26 SY. Positive things regarding creation of the safety committee: securing entrances with metal plating, window coverings to the elementary entrance, breakfast changes (kitchen, custodial, bussing and kids all enjoy the change), created ISS room, duffel bags off the floor, coolers and first aid at recess to minimize traffic to the office.
- b. Art Teacher Posting
 - i. One candidate. Posting closed Friday May 23, 2025.
 - ii. Lacie Ringman applied
- c. Teacher Negotiations
 - i. Coming along. Another meeting will be held tomorrow May 29, 2025 for the teachers.
- d. New Hires
 - i. Sandra Barnett - para pro at the elementary
 - ii. Shelby Randall - Consumer Science Teacher
 - iii. Taylor Lake - new varsity volleyball coach
 - iv. Gavin Wisel - letter of agreement for elementary principal
 - v. Open position - first grade at elementary school

IX. Information / Discussion items:

- a. Athletic directors report –
 - i. M Hubbard not present
 - ii. Homer wants back in. Principals have not voted them in yet.
 - iii. East Jackson voted in for 26-27 SY. If Homer comes we would be at 10.
- b. Principal reports:
 - iv. L. Otterbein: Shelby Randall has been a sub in the building and she is a certified teacher in Family Consumer Science. She has signed a tentative letter of agreement. Deb Price, the former Consumer Science teacher) is coming in to help design courses and give guidance. There are a total of 5 kitchens and they have been looking at what needs to be purchased. Requested \$2500 from the Geis Foundation and already received a check. Looking at incorporating a clothing/textile course and interior design. Met with Jenn Flynn to be included with textile course as well. Movement in teachers and office personnel will happen before the next SY.
 - v. M. Hard: had to leave early for a family emergency.
 - 1. B. Pavka planning to ask him about the maximum head count for latchkey. M. Dubois said 18
- c. Superintendent's report
 - vi. MHSAA Membership Resolution
 - 1. Please review in the packet and approve at next month's meeting

2. B. Pavka suggests correct spelling

vii. Principal Hire

1. Preparing a contract and reviewing language to ensure appropriate and legal
2. Mr. Wisel has signed a letter of intent. He has 6 years as dean of students and 2 years as an elementary principal

viii. District Calendar

1. Slight modifications due to contract negotiations
2. Will need to vote on at the next meeting

VIII. Additional Comments from Board/Superintendent: none.

- a. Graduation was great
 - i. B. Wheeler stated, "the band was great!"
- a. R. Grossheim said, "graduation was amazing!"

IX. Additional Comments from guests:

- a. P. Bailey - Mr. Nix (former band teacher) passed away. Board plans to send a card.
- b. K. Rinard - 1 adult to 18 kids in latchkey. Wanted to inform the board that extra fingerprinting is required because it's considered daycare and it's a cost to the staff
 - i. J Galloway - inquires if a latchkey position is posted. M. Dubois states it's not posted
- c. S. McClain - She is concerned about the lack of information regarding lockdown drills for parents. Wants additional information on drills and how to explain to children.

X. Future Meetings:	June 10, 2025	7:00 pm	Disciplinary Hearing
	June 25, 2025	6:00 pm	Work Session
	June 25, 2025	7:00 pm	Regular Meeting

R. Grossheim moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. The motion was supported by B. Pavka.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo, R. Sanders

Respectfully,
Nicole Pridgeon