

**READING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Budget Hearing
June 25, 2025
MINUTES**

J. Galloway called the budget hearing session meeting of the Board of Education of Reading Community Schools to order at 6:33 p.m. in the high school band room.

Members present: N. Pridgeon, R. Grossheim, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Members absent: B. Kerspilo, B. Pavka, B. Wheeler

Others present: P. Bassage, M. Dubois, J. Sholler, C. Willoughby

1. State Aid
 - a. House versus Senate
 - i. \$10,025 per student is what the house is proposing
 - ii. \$10,000 per student is what the governor proposes
 - iii. \$10,000 per student is what the senate proposes
 - iv. Possible to lose \$250,000 in student funding
 - b. MASB break down on house vs senate proposals
 - i. M Dubois recommends we review that on MASB website
 - c. Retirement
 - i. Recently dropped to 15% but with potential changes may go back up to almost 21%
2. Budget
 - a. P. Bassage used \$10,000 per student and 680 students as the numbers
 - b. Total retirement rate at 44.93 (MORS recommends)
 - c. Health Insurance state cap at 2.9% (not dental or vision)
 - i. With Lenawee Consortium for the next 3 years
 - d. Grants
 - i. Music Grant - will update the music curriculum
 - ii. No longer able to get: 35J (curriculum), 23j
 - iii. At Risk Funding (could cover most students in the school (academic, behavior, financial)
 - iv. Majority of Title 1 funding to go to new art teacher
 - e. Contract Negotiations - ongoing
 - f. Staff changes
 - i. Newly Added:
 1. Art teacher, elementary principal, family and consumer science teacher, and food director
 2. Still looking to hire lower elementary teacher

- g. IT
 - i. Still doing iPad and Chromebooks for students
 - ii. Looking to purchase more for admin
 - iii. 6 more months on the ISD consortium for internet and then that will go away
 - iv. New software for cyber security
- h. New bus lease agreement
 - i. Almost double in cost from previous agreement
- i. State Aid Note
 - i. Came in better than expected at 3.54%
 - ii. Started at 2.5 million and down to 2 million
 - iii. Plan to pay \$72,000 in interest this year
- j. 31AA
 - i. Security/Mental Health
 - 1. State plans to cut
- k. Food Service
 - i. CEP program
 - 1. Every student gets free meals
 - 2. Gov and Senate plan to make up the difference. (80% from Feds and 20% from Senate)
 - ii. Did not receive the No Kids Hungry Grant
 - 1. More for inner city school and less overall in the pot
 - iii. Applied for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant
 - 1. Even if we don't get the grant, may still want to continue with it
 - iv. 1% discount from Gordon Food Service if paid online
 - 1. Also receiving rebate checks if "pre-buying" items
 - v. General Fund does not need to assist financially with the Food Service Department at this time
 - vi. Summer Food Service
 - 1. 100% reimbursement
- l. Debt/Retirement
 - i. Only 2 more years on 2012 retirement and then that will be paid off
 - ii. New Bond will be needed
- m. Sinking Fund
 - i. Exterior painting should be done
 - ii. Playground structure should be done
 - iii. Interior doors will be moved to next school year budget (price on doors have already doubled but we locked the price in)
 - iv. Waterline upgrade - will go in July 2025
 - v. Have not done much the last few years so there is money to spend
- n. Special Revenue Fund
 - i. The elementary school student council contains 9 separate funds within itself
 - ii. Many donations from June's Place

o. Capital Projects

i. None

p. Land Acquisition Fund

i. None

R. Grossheim made a motion to conclude work session at 7:02 pm, supported by R. Sanders

Ayes: N. Pridgeon, R. Grossheim, J. Galloway, R. Sanders

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: B. Kerspilo, B. Wheeler, B. Pavka

Respectfully,
Nicole Pridgeon – Trustee