

**READING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
August 27th, 2025
MINUTES**

President J Galloway called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Reading Community Schools to order at 7:00 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, G Wisel, M Hubbard, K Stewart, P Bailey, T Little, S Brown, C Willoughby, M. Draper,

IV. Additions/Corrects to Agenda: Under VII, item "d" , remove "Travel Reimbursement", and replace with "Naming of Band Room after Clifford S. Nix."

V. Nice Things:

- Nice Things in board packet. R Sanders commented on how nice it is looking in front of the Elementary School as construction is moving toward finality. He also made a comment regarding the City's use of the electronic sign north of town giving direction to parents for the revised drop off procedures. N Pridgeon commented on the great staff support the Elementary has received in supporting the pick-up/drop off with the construction challenges. B Wheeler echoed her comments.

VI. Comments form Guests:

- P Bailey made a comment regarding "time sheets" for paraprofessionals, which was addressed by Mr. Dubois and Ms. Boswell.
- K Stewart commented on her paraprofessional position in Special Ed, and concerns she has to be successful

VII. Board Business / Action Items:

- a. N. Pridgeon 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. Mr. Dubois clarified the only change to the contract was the verbiage from "association" to "employee." R Sanders made motion accept the Custodial/Maintenance Agreement, support by N Pridgeon.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

- c. Superintendent goals were covered during work session. J Galloway to prepare finalized version of the work session draft, and have as action item at next meeting. R Grossheim made motion, supported by B Wheeler.

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

- d. Travel reimbursement was tabled for next meeting. R. Grossheim made motion name the band room after former Director Clifford S. Nix, supported by N Pridgeon. **(Naming Plaques will be paid for by Band Boosters.)

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

Nays: None – Motion carried.

Absent: None

VIII. Items requiring Review and Update:

- a. Mr. Draper gave update on the recent school safety committee meeting. The new “west” security entrance for the HS building is going well. Some Cameras are still being implemented, but all involved in this project have been very supportive. Pick-up and drop off at the elementary building due to the construction has been the main focus the past few months. S Brown took point once school started a few weeks ago and has been instrumental in the success. Mr. Draper thanked everyone involved in this difficult time including all the staff, city employees, parents, and students.

IX. Information/Discussion Items:

- a. Mr. Hubbard gave the AD report highlighting the new Huddle Cameras installed at Barre Field. We can now stream events live from the field. All Coaching positions are filled, and there will be no JV football game this week as White Pigeon does not have a JV team.
- b. Mr. Wisel gave his principal report. Enrollment is up 44 students, for a total of 427 at the Elementary. Open house went very well, and they have a student assembly tomorrow. We have increased supervision at recess and lunch including more paraprofessionals and our “specials” (Art/Gym/Music) teachers. This has helped immensely and so far, the data shows it is curbing disciplines during these times. Stormi Jones and Patrice Caldwell have been very helpful for the Latchkey Program. So far Latchkey has very low morning numbers (due to the new early start time for students), and average’s 1 child after 4:30pm. We will be revisiting the attendance throughout the year. Mrs. Otterbein reported that the new front secure entrance has been great. The students have adjusted very quickly, and the staff has been flexible, supportive, and helpful for the morning changes. The focus is still on safety, and the cell phone policy is still been a positive change to the building. She highlighted the upcoming events for the building. B. Pavka asked about utilizing the brick stanchion sign at the West entrance- there are some plans to reinvigorate its use. She also asked about the bleachers project by Eagle Scout Owen Parker at the Track. B Wheeler is his liaison and stated they are progressing, as he has to clear things with the Scout organization frequently to continue. Owen is doing so, and will complete this project through the procedures in place.
- c. P Bassage gave an update on the new State Budget. The House of Representatives has passed the budget, and now it goes to the Senate and Governor. The House did some reforming of different programs that could be a challenge for many districts, including ours. The proposal includes getting rid of some “categorical programs” (of which we use about \$300k)- and replace with a “competitive program fund.” At this point it is difficult to forecast what will actually be

approved after the Senate review and vote, which then still has to have Governor's approval. More info will be coming in the near future.

- d. Mr. Dubois gave the Superintendents report:
 - 1. All summer capital projects have been completed. We distributed flyers at Festival days showing and describing these projects, and where district sinking funds were going.
 - 2. We have 50 students enrolled in Kindergarten- and are looking to hire another Kindergarten teacher due to the high numbers. Our current start of year enrollment is 283 for 7-12, and 427 K-6, for a total of 710. Mr. Dubois is putting together a posting for another hopefully permanent "substitute bus driver." We currently have two counselors with the 31N money.

X. Additional comments from Board/Superintendent:

Mrs. Galloway asked the board to email her availability for the week of September 8th to do Strategic Planning session with Chuck North and Mr. Dubois. She also passed out a fact sheet form the State of Michigan pertaining to Special Education students. N Pridgeon inquired about what the earliest time a student is being picked up in the morning for bussing, and how many students are on each bus. In addition, she asked about the potential of getting another full-time bus driver. Mrs. Pridgeon also asked about getting a copy of the flyer that was handed out during Festival Days emailed to the board.

XII. Future Meetings:	September 24th, 2025	6:00 p.m.	Work Session
	September 24 th , 2025	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting

XIII. Additional comments from guests: NONE

R Sanders moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. The motion was supported by N Pridgeon.

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