

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION
 REDFORD UNION SCHOOLS, DISTRICT NO. 1
 August 9, 2021

Regular Meeting
8/9/2021

A Regular meeting of the Redford Union Board of Education was held on August 9, 2021, at the Redford Union Board of Education and Administration Building, 17715 Brady St., Redford, MI 48240.

President Pridemore called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Call to Order

Present: Bailey, Gray (Late 6:36 PM), Gubachy, Kick, McKee, Osowski, and Pridemore
 Absent: None

Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Pridemore reminded everyone to please place all cell phones on silent.

President's Remarks

President Pridemore started by apologizing for the length of her remarks, but she strongly felt that it was important to get it on the record.

President Pridemore read aloud her remarks regarding the Board meetings being video recorded by Trustee Jim Bailey. At a prior meeting then-President, Gubachy advised Trustee Bailey that his actions of privately Video Recording the meetings while participating as an elected official of the same meeting could put the Board in legal jeopardy as it would apply to the actual recording's status and the possibility of the recordings being requested through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

President Pridemore mentioned that at another Board meeting, Trustee Bailey sighted the Open Meetings Act (OMA) Para 15.163, Sec. 3. (1), which states, in part, "The right of a person to attend a meeting of a public body includes the right to tape-record, to videotape, to broadcast live on radio, and to telecast live on television the proceedings of a public body at a public meeting. The exercise of this right does not depend on prior approval of the public body." President Pridemore stated that for a private citizen attending a public open meeting, she agreed with Trustee Bailey 100%. She said that Trustee Bailey is an Elected Official when present at any meeting open or closed of the Redford Union Board of Education (RUBOE). President Pridemore said that as an Elected Official, Trustee Bailey's 1st Amendment rights shifted as detailed and supported in the

Shields v. The Charter Township of Comstock verdict. President Pridemore referenced the Open Meetings Act, the Redford Union School District Board of Education Bylaws and Policies. President Pridemore stated that keeping with Transparency, the same OMA Section concerning recording of an open meeting goes to say: "A Board may establish reasonable regulations governing the televising or filming by the electronic media of a hearing open to the public in order to minimize any disruption to the hearing, but I may not prohibit such coverage."

She stated that she wanted to read that into the record.

President Pridemore stated that per the District's Bylaws, she would pursue with legal counsel language to be written into the RUBOE Bylaws and Policies that will clarify public attendees of RUBOE meetings reasonable ways and manors of recording the open meetings. President Pridemore and Superintendent Witt would attend to the matter immediately. President Pridemore stated that she hoped to have this for the Board at the next monthly meeting or perhaps sooner. President Pridemore also spoke on the Redford Union School District Board of Education Code of Ethics. President Pridemore stated that Trustee Bailey was clearly compromising the Board by his continued action of recording these proceeds.

President Pridemore asked Trustee Bailey if he would please cease recording these proceeds while serving as an official of the Redford Union Board of Education?

Trustee Bailey's response was "No."

President Pridemore stated that due to Trustee Bailey's refusal to stop recording, she asked for a motion for a 15-minute recess. She stated that the recess was for Trustee Bailey to reconsider his position.

President Pridemore asked for a motion for a 15-minute recess.

The motion was moved by Member Osowski, seconded by Member McKee.

Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried Time: 6:40 PM

President Pridemore called the meeting back to order at 6:55 PM.

President Pridemore continued reading her remarks.

President Pridemore stated that in trying to be fair to Trustee Bailey and his desire to record these proceedings, he was given the following options:

As a public citizen, Trustee Bailey may take a seat in the area provided for and continue to record the meeting. In doing so, he would relinquish his right to participate in these proceedings for the duration of this meeting. The intent of this action would be to protect his rights under the OMA and the first amendment to record this publicly open meeting as it applies to a Public Citizen while protecting the RUBOE from possible litigation for violation of FOIA.

Participation as a public official would mean Trustee Bailey would stop recording as to not be in violation of the Code of Ethics - Item 4.

Trustee Bailey was asked to choose.

Trustee Bailey stated, "No."

President Pridemore requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. She stated that the Board would stand in adjournment until Trustee Bailey provided the Board in writing, a letter stating that he will no longer record or allow his personal equipment that he set up before the meeting to be used, that he maintains during the meeting or that he take down after the meeting, personally, any RUBOE meeting he is attending in his official capacity and that he again pledge to follow the Code of Ethics. Or until a special meeting is convened to introduce an amendment to the "RUBOE Bylaws and Policies" that will address this very issue. President Pridemore stated that at that time, this issue would be officially addressed, and Trustee Bailey's action would no longer be considered a potential threat to this district. The Board will adjourn the meeting until such time that President Pridemore and Superintendent Witt can find a path to resolve this matter or until the ratification of the Bylaw amendment.

It was moved by Member McKee, seconded by Member Osowski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Adjournment

Roll Call Vote:

J. Bailey: No, R. Gray: Yes, L. Gubachy: Yes, H. Kick: Yes, S. McKee: Yes, J. Osowski: Yes,
E. Pridemore: Yes Yes: 6 No: 1 Motion: Carried

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa Gubachy
Secretary
Redford Union Schools
Board of Education