
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION
Redford Union Schools
July 15, 2024

Regular Meeting
7/15/2024

A Regular meeting of the Redford Union Board of Education was held on July 15, 2024, at MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240, (Entrance on Curtis – Door #3)

Call to Order:

Call to Order

President Pridemore called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Roll Call:

Roll Call

Present: Bailey, Dean, Martin, McAfee, Miller, Osowski, Pridemore

Absent: None.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Remarks:

President's Remarks

President Pridemore asked that everyone please place their cell phones on silent.

Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Summer Institute

President Pridemore provided details about the upcoming MASB Summer Conference in August, as well as the Fall Conference scheduled for October 24-27, 2024. Both President Pridemore and Vice-President Miller have confirmed their attendance at the Summer Conference, while other members will confirm their interest in attending at a later date.

The District will host the MASB Award Ceremony in April 2025.

Adoption of Agenda:

**Adoption of
Agenda**

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Bailey, to adopt the Agenda of the July 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as presented:

President Pridemore made a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented.

Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Call to the Audience for Public Participation Regarding Agenda Items:

None.

**Call to the Audience:
Public Participation
Regarding Agenda Items**

Presentations:

Presentations

**Future District/HS Baseball Field Update - Rob Kakoczki, Plante Moran
Realpoint:**

**Future District/HS
Baseball Field Update -
Rob Kakoczki, Plante
Moran Realpoint**

The team presented ball field designs location options for MacGowan, Beech, and Claude Allison Park. Those options also included budget prices.

During the discussion, questions and answers were shared about the field project.

President Pridemore and Superintendent Witt provided the community with some background information on the 2021 Bond Program and what they intended to do with the money.

Superintendent Witt suggested that the field project discussion be continued at a Board Workshop once more information regarding the overall budget is available.

The District post Regular meeting agendas and Workshops agendas on the District’s website prior to the scheduled meeting date. The topics to be discussed are included on the agendas.

**Western Wayne County Suicide Prevention Coalition Update – Brian Galdes,
Suicide Prevention Coordinator**

**Western Wayne County
Suicide Prevention
Coalition Update – Brian
Galdes, Suicide
Prevention Coordinator**

Mr. Galdes thanked the Board for the giving him a couple of minutes to head provide an update on where the coalition is and what the coalition is all about. He also thanked the board for their hard work. Mr. Galdes is a former Superintendent of South Redford Schools and after retirement he started working with Growth Works and leading a coalition of seven school districts in which Redford Union is a member and also two hospital systems, Trinity Health, and Cornwell Health, in battling adolescent depression and suicide. Suicide

Prevention Coalition is a coalition of school districts, hospitals, and service agencies dedicated to battling adolescent depression and suicide. The Coalition has a steering team and each school that is a member of the Coalition has steering team leaders. Redford Union Steering Team leaders are Jessica Miller and Tamaran Dillard. He shared the following 2022 CDC suicide statistics: 2nd leading cause of death for children ages 0-14 in the US, 1 youth suicide every 80 minutes in the US, 1 adolescent attempts suicide every 50 seconds in the US. Mr. Galdes shared the results from the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey from 2021. He also shared information on how we can make a difference. The plan for 2024-2025 and beyond Coalition Work is: 1) supporting students and families in acute crisis, 2) empowering student mental health, student leadership programs, 3) student voice. The Coalition has received statewide recognition.

The Superintendent and Board thanked Mr. Galdes for his presentation.

There were questions and answers.

Hope Squad – Jessica Miller, Coordinator of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Student Wellness:

Jessica Miller shared information on Hope Squad. Hope Squad's harnesses the power of peer-to-peer connection to reduce the risk of suicide by partnering with local mental health agencies and training members to recognize warning signs and connect those struggling to help. Hope Squad's build positive relationships and changes the culture surrounding mental health. She shared how Hope Squad works and why it is important.

The Hope Squad student members are first training in Question, Persuade, & Refer (QPR). The point of this is to train our students to talk to their struggling peers so they can come up and they can talk to the Administrators. It works by peers nominating their fellow students, which is super important because as adults, we do not want to pick the people to be a part of this group, we want the peers to pick their own peers. They also train Hope Squad Advisors.

Hope Squad national statistics for 2023-2024 mental health referral form, it was noted that over 95% of the referrals originated from individuals outside of the Hope Squad. That observation underscores the effectiveness of our peer-to-peer gatekeeper training model In fostering intentional help-seeking behaviors across the school community.

There were questions and answers.

Superintendent Witt encouraged the Board to follow some of those links provided to hear more about Hope Squad.

Hope Squad – Jessica Miller, Coordinator of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Student Wellness

Student/Parent/Staff Perception Survey(s) – Jessica Miller, Coordinator of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Student Wellness:

Jessica Miller reported on the Student/Parent/Staff Perception Survey(s). The domains surveyed were: 1) Social-Emotional Learning, which covered Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision Making, Self-Awareness, Self-Management & Social-Awareness. 2) Student Engagement, which covers Classroom climate, Classroom rigor, Growth mindset, Teacher relationship, & Valuing the subject matter. 3) Belonging, which covers Cultural awareness, Fairness, & Inclusive environment(s). She also shared the data of each domain of the students. There were 898 student respondents. There were 38 educator respondents and there were 80 parent/guardian respondents.

There were questions and answers.

The Board would like to see the breakdown of the students and parents' data.

RU-RUAA Master Agreement – Judy Nachman, Executive Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations:

Judy Nachman presented the summary agreement of the Redford Union Administrators Association Tentative Agreement. This is a small group made-up of our building administrators only. They came to a tentative agreement on a two-year contract. She went over the changes to the agreement, the salary schedules, and stipends. There is an Action Item later on the Agenda for a recommendation to the Board. There were questions and answers.

Superintendent Communication:

Ron Clark Academy Visit – Jasen Witt, Superintendent:

Superintendent Witt shared information on an opportunity that he and Redford Union High School Principal Mike Taylor had to take a really quick trip to visit the Ron Clark Academy that is doing some fabulous and innovative things with regards to student engagement in Atlanta, GA. The Ron Clark Academy's student body is very similar to Redford Union's student body. The trip was sponsored by the alum that wanted them to have exposure to this and with the understanding that maybe this is something that our District wants to expose our staff to at a greater level in the near future. It was also sponsored by Huntington Bank, which in addition to helping Superintendent Witt and Principal Taylor get down there and back, Huntington Bank covered the cost for 800 educators, including 400 educators in the Michigan area to be down there for that two-day professional development training. More about the Ron Clark Academy will be discussed at a near coming Board Workshop.

Student/Parent/Staff Perception Survey(s) – Jessica Miller, Coordinator of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Student Wellness

RU-RUAA Master Agreement – Judy Nachman, Executive Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations

Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Witt encouraged the Board to Google the Ron Clark Academy and take a look at some of the great things they are doing.

State/School Aid Budget Update – Jasen Witt, Superintendent:

Superintendent Witt gave a brief overview of the 2024-2025 school aid budget. There are a lot of questions about exactly what went on in Lansing between both the legislature and the governor with regard to the adoption of this budget. And while schools are not happy about the budget overall. He gave credit to both Senator Cavanagh and our state representative, Stephanie Young, they are very supportive of our public schools, and they want to know what they can do to further help our schools. Pre-K through 12 districts will not receive a per pupil foundation allowance increase for the coming school year. Funding the school safety and mental health was reduced from \$300m to just 26m – a 98% cut. It is estimated that Redford Union Schools will receive an “increase in funding” of \$1,291,412 for the upcoming fiscal year. It is important to understand that \$1,275,409 of that “increase” are one-time dollars. He also shared other highlights of the budget.

Superintendent Witt mentioned that the source of the FY 2024-2025 School Aid Budget Overview came from Mike Latvis, Wayne RESA.

State/School Aid Budget Update – Jasen Witt, Superintendent

Communication Received by the Board Secretary:

None.

**Communication Received by the Board Secretary
Lorna Dean**

Chief Financial Officer’s Communications:

None.

**Chief Financial Officer’s Communications,
Mike Beltinck**

Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Communication:

None.

**Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Communication,
Judy Nachman**

Executive Director of Curriculum & Technology Communications:

Mrs. Crenshaw shared that the District's reading curriculum had been delivered.

**Executive Director of
Curriculum &
Technology,
Kim Crenshaw**

Consent Agenda:**Consent Agenda**

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Miller, to approve the consent agenda items as presented below:

Waived the reading and approved June 10, 2024, Public Budget Hearing Minutes of Redford Union Board of Education as presented.

**June 10, 2024, Public
Budget Hearing Minutes**

Waived the reading and approved June 10, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of Redford Union Board of Education as presented.

**June 10, 2024, Regular
Meeting Minutes**

Waived the reading and approved June 17, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of Redford Union Board of Education as presented.

**June 17, 2024, Regular
Meeting Minutes**

Approved the recommend payment of \$1,124,516.82 for checks dated 6/1/2024 – 6/30/2024.

**Check Register
6/1/2024 – 6/30/2024.**

Approved the electronic transfers for the month of June 2024 in the amount of \$6,243,352.24.

**Electronic Transfers for
the month of June 2024**

Approved **NEW HIRES: Administration** as listed below:
Jennifer Smith/Beech Resource Room Teacher to Special Education
Coordinator/B. Beck Education Center/Effective 7/1/2024

**New Hires
Administration
Jennifer Smith**

Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Action Items:

Special Consideration Non-Consent Agenda Action Item(s):

Action Items:**RU-RUAA Master Agreement****RU-RUAA Master
Agreement**

Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Miller, that the Board of Education, at the recommendation of Judy Nachman, Executive Director of Human Resources/Labor Relations and Jasen Witt, Superintendent, adopt the Tentative Agreement between Redford Union Schools and the Redford Union Administrators Association (RU-RUAA) which provides for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 school years.

The Board had a discussion.
There were questions and answers.

Roll Call:

J. Bailey: Abstained, L. Dean: Yes, L. Martin: Yes, J. McAfee: Yes, L. Miller: Yes,
J. Osowski: Yes, E. Pridemore: Yes

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstention: 1 Motion: Carried

RUHS Weight Room Equipment Purchase

**RUHS Weight Room
Equipment Purchase**

Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member McAfee, that the Board of Education, at the recommendation of Jasen Witt, Superintendent, Mike Beltinck, CFO, Dave Lesmeister, Athletic Supervisor, and Mike Taylor, Principal-RUHS approve the purchase of weight room equipment from BSN Sports in an amount not to exceed \$63,000. This purchase will be funded with a combination of 2021 Capital Bond Project funds and funds from the cell tower lease renewal as earmarked within the General Fund for building/facility infrastructure, equipment, and maintenance needs.

The Board had a discussion.

There were questions and answers.

The District has not decided yet what is going to happen to that old equipment. They did an assessment of the equipment and will make sure to try to take advantage of any sales, but that equipment is very old.

Roll Call:

J. Bailey: Yes, L. Dean: Yes, L. Martin: Yes, J. McAfee: Yes, L. Miller: Yes,
J. Osowski: Yes, E. Pridemore: Yes Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried

The Board took a short recess at 7:42 PM and returned to business at 7:49 PM.

Recess/Return

Marching Band Uniforms Purchase

**Marching Band
Uniforms Purchase**

Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Miller, that the Board of Education, at the recommendation of Jasen Witt, Superintendent, Mike Beltinck, CFO, and Mike Taylor, Principal-RUHS approve the purchase of marching band uniforms from Stanbury Uniforms, LLC (an affiliate of BSN Sports) in an amount not to exceed \$37,000. This purchase will be funded from the District's General Fund.

The Board had a discussion.

Roll Call:

J. Bailey: Yes, L. Dean: Yes, L. Martin: Yes, J. McAfee: Yes, L. Miller: Yes,
J. Osowski: Yes, E. Pridemore: Yes Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried

2024/2025 Cooperative Education Program Agreement (Wayne-Westland Community Schools)

Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Miller, that the Board of Education, at the recommendation of Jasen Witt, Superintendent approve the 2024/2025 Cooperative Education Program Agreement between Wayne-Westland Community Schools and Redford Union Schools.

The Board had a discussion.

Roll Call:

J. Bailey: Yes, L. Dean: Yes, L. Martin: Yes, J. McAfee: Yes, L. Miller: Yes,
J. Osowski: Yes, E. Pridemore: Yes Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:

There was no Consent Agenda.

Call to the Audience: Public Participation Regarding Non-Agenda Items:

President Pridemore explained the Call to the Audience guidelines.

Todd McLeay, Homeowner addressed the Board on the topic of the Olympia project.

William Myers addressed the Board on the topic of Beech Elementary, access to Olympia, and a hearing.

John Thompson addressed the Board on the topic of Olympia and Beech Elementary.

There were other residents in attendance that addressed the Board regarding the Beech Bus Loop.

2024/2025 Cooperative Education Program Agreement (Wayne-Westland Community Schools)

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:

Call to the Audience: Public Participation Regarding Non-Agenda Items:

Superintendent’s Remark:

None.

Superintendent’s Remark:

Board of Education Communication/Discussion:

President Pridemore spoke to the Board and the attendees.

Trustee Bailey shared information about Detroit Youth Choir - Open Auditions, August 24, 2024, at Marygrove Conservancy, 12:pm – 5pm. An Audition video must be submitted by August 21st.

Trustee Osowski thanked Michael Taylor, Principal of the Redford Union High School for the Golf Outing.

Board of Education Communication/Discussion

Future Meeting Dates:

The 2024/2025 School Board Calendar will be published following approval at tonight’s Regular Board Meeting

Future Meeting Dates

Adjournment:

It was Moved by Member Osowski , Seconded by Member Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM.

Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted

LaKeya Martin
Secretary
Redford Union Schools
Board of Education