
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION
Redford Union Schools
October 14, 2024

Regular Meeting
10/14/2024

A Regular meeting of the Redford Union Board of Education was held on October 14, 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 5:31 PM.

Roll Call:

Roll Call

Present: Bailey, Dean (Late 5:59 PM), Martin, McAfee, Osowski, Pridemore and Student Representative Juzswik

Absent: Miller

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.

Legislative:

President Pridemore provided a legislative update which included a slashed budget for School Safety, Social Emotional Supports, and the need for continued advocacy for funding. She highlighted the \$125 million one-time payment for School Safety and Social Emotional Supports. She shared some of the priorities in Lansing, with a focus on health care costs and the new dyslexia law mandate that would require public schools to test for dyslexia three times a year without providing resources. President Pridemore emphasized the need for more counselors, social workers, and nurses in public schools, and training on AI.

Adoption of Agenda:**Adoption of
Agenda**

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Bailey, to adopt the Agenda of the October 14, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.

Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Call to the Audience: Public Participation Regarding Agenda Items

None.

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

None.

Presentations**Student Representative Communication:**

Elisia Juzswik, Student Representative shared updates on homecoming, which was two weeks ago, and the theme was red carpet. The homecoming king was Eric Camille, and our homecoming queen was Ariana Jones. The Hope Squad is almost fully trained in QPR. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer. Today, at 6am Channel Four released the Hope Squad interview. The Student Council is having the Halloween spirit week and then they will be working on reviving the Winter Games.

Superintendent Witt shared that there would be more information on the Hope Squad later tonight. The Hope Squad will present at a future Board meeting.

**Student Representative
Communication****Superintendent Communication:****October 2024 Board Brag Book**

The Brag Book and Calendar of Events will be posted on the District's Facebook.

**Superintendent
Communication
October 2024
Board Brag Book****Beech Elementary School:****Open House Event**

Beech staff hosted an Open House for families on August 27th. Teachers greeted their students and were able to interact in a fun outdoor environment. Community Partnerships were strengthened by having the YMCA and Pastor Paula Lee-Barnes from Kingdom Presence at the event. Pastor Paula's non-profit provided backpacks filled with school supplies to every student that needed one. One lucky student won Pastor Paula's drawing for a new iPad! Families were able to sign-up for before/after care, complete meal forms, speak to transportation, play lawn games, and enjoy fresh popped popcorn throughout the event! The turnout was fantastic!

Mission BBQ donated dinner for the staff prior to the event!

Hilbert Elementary School:

Open House

In September, we were thrilled to welcome numerous families to our Open House event. Parents had the opportunity to explore their child's classroom and meet our wonderful teachers. Many students enjoyed guiding their families on scavenger hunts throughout the classroom and school. Many families were also impressed by the renovations to the bond

Family University: Family Game Night at Beech & Hilbert

Beech and Hilbert hosted the first collaborative family event of the year on September 26th. Over 120 students and parents joined in the fun as they played educational games with staff and our RUJH cheerleaders!

Family University

Everyone truly enjoyed themselves.

Redford Union Junior High School:

The junior high has spent a significant amount of time working to make connections at the start of the school year with both our students and their parents/guardians. Grade-level meetings were held with each grade level starting the second day of school. This gave us the opportunity to connect our students with all the support staff in the building and review school and class expectations. We held both a 9th grade orientation that was well attended both in person as well as viewed over 300 times on Facebook. We also held a school wide Open House/Meet and Greet for all 7th through 9th grade families that was very well attended. Parents had the opportunity to walk through their student's schedule, meet all the teachers and see the spaces their student learns in each day.

On Wednesday, October 9th Mrs. Jaramillo, the 9th grade Success Coordinator, and Mrs. Rancour, the 9th/10th grade counselor went into each 9th grade World History class to discuss grades, the high school transcript and to complete the 9th grade graduation pledge. Being in the same building for 9th grade is confusing to some of our students so we want to spend ample time making sure that they do see a clean start to their high school transcript. We also want all our students to make a commitment to graduate with their class, on time, in 2028.

Redford Union High School:

Lady Panthers Flag Football Team

On Sunday, September 15th, our Lady Panthers flag football team took over the Lion's Den during the Lions vs. Buccaneers football game. The game was dedicated to women in football and highlighted the importance of encouraging young girls to get involved in football. The team met flag football legend, Dianna Flores, before the

game and was able to ask her questions about women in sports and her experience. What a great opportunity for our student athletes!

Partnership

On Tuesday, October 8th, Redford Union High School, in partnership with the American Red Cross, hosted its first of three blood drives for the year.

Keeler Day Treatment Programs:

Open House

On Wednesday, September 11th, Keeler Center Families enjoyed our annual Open House. We were excited to welcome families into Keeler to start the 2024-2025 school year off with a bang!

PBIS Clubs

Keeler Center students have been enjoying a crafting class during PBIS Clubs. Here is one example of many projects completed during crafts. A nod to fall - The mason jar pumpkin!

Count Day / School Wide SEL Day

On Wednesday, October 4th Count Day - We had a school wide SEL Day to ensure that we got kids into the building. Staff prepared walking tacos for all of our students, and we played schoolwide bingo. The students really enjoyed the activities including the massive prize table for BINGO!

Veritas Alternative Education Program:

We have a hero among us!

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Andre Marable for his quick thinking and decisive action in performing the Heimlich maneuver when I (Mrs. Jain) was choking at lunch. Your ability to stay calm under pressure and respond so effectively saved my life. It is truly inspiring to see someone act selflessly in a moment of crisis, and your courage and action made all the difference. Thank you for being a hero when it mattered most; your kindness and bravery will not be forgotten.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

September was Suicide Awareness Month and an exciting debut for our inaugural Redford Union Hope Squad! Staff teams and students worked very hard bringing awareness to Suicide Prevention!

All 66 Hope Squad members met, created their group expectations, trained in QPR, and planned their activities for Hope Week Sept 23 - 27th!

Some students and staff also participated in media interviews with WXYZ, WDIV, & Bridge Michigan about their experience being a part of the Hope Squad and how Mental Health awareness has impacted them!

We want to Shout Out and say Thank You to our brave students who interviewed with the News!

RUJHS Students: Amir Z., Cheyenne T., Ava K., Carissa F., KaMyra D.

RUHS Students: Antonio W., Tyler R., Elisia J.

RUJHS Hope Squad Advising Staff: Tiffany Carlton, Twylana Nixon, Schianti Jaramillo, and Katie Sims

RUHS Hope Squad Advising Staff: Lyn Adolfo, Ryan Rogowski, Randall Taylor, Asia Neal, Yasmeen Nagi

We also would like to give a special Thank You to Nick Monacelli from WDIV & Meghan Daniels from WXYZ for coming out and creating an amazing experience for our students to be a part of. The WDIV story will air Monday, October 14, 2024.

https://archive.tveyes.com/7313/meltwater/26d9a16d-ed7b-47c4-b688-d0ce240ae0b6/WDIV_10-14-2024_06.45.08.mp4

There were questions and answers about Hope Squad.

The WXYZ aired the RU Hope Squad story on September 11, 2024, and highlighted the efforts of the secondary campus teams.

https://youtu.be/m68eiAERwos?si=TnIEbqr_iVWtGLqG

Redford Union High School Boys' Cross Country

Having already clinched the Western Wayne Athletics Conference (WWAC) Championship by winning the first 2 of 3 Jamborees, the team also very recently placed 3rd among Division 2 teams (& 15th Overall) in the Wayne County Cross Country Championship.

The Board of Education, Superintendent & District Administration:

To our staff, students, parents, and community,

We thank our students, devoted parents, hardworking staff, local partners, and the community for their outstanding accomplishments and steadfast commitment to our District.

Give Us Someone/Something To Brag About:

If you know of an individual, group, or business that merits recognition for their extraordinary contributions or service within our District, please send their details along with 1-2 pictures to your building principal or the Board Office at warrenj@redfordu.k12.mi.us (Title: Brag Book) for inclusion in our Board Brag Book.

Calendar of Events (October 15, 2024 – January 6, 2025)

**Calendar of Events
(October 15, 2024 –
January 6, 2025)**

Beech Elementary School:

October 2024:

- 21st: Fall Picture Day
- 25th: Trunk or Treat

November 2024:

- 1st: End of Marking Period 1st & 5th: District Wide PD - No Students
- 11th - 15th: Book Fair

Hilbert Elementary School:

October 2024:

- 16th: Fall Picture Day
- 18th: Trunk or Treat 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

November 2024:

- 1st: End of Marking Period 1st & 5th: District Wide PD - No Students

Redford Union Junior High School:

October 2024:

- 23rd: Red Ribbon Week
- 24th: Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 2024:

- 1st: End of Marking Period One 1st & 5th: District Wide PD - No Students

Redford Union High School:

November 2024:

- 1st: End of Marking Period One 1st & 5th: District-Wide PD - No Students

Veritas Alternative Education Program:

November 2024:

- 1st: End of Marking Period One 1st & 5th: District-Wide PD - No Students

Communication Received by the Board Secretary:

Secretary Martin followed up with Superintendent Witt regarding a letter that she received from the Oakland Department of Treasurer. Superintendent Witt will follow up on the letter and give it to Mike Beltinck, Chief Financial Officer.

**Communication
Received by the
Board Secretary
LaKeya Martin**

Chief Financial Officer’s Communications:

Student Count:

Mike Beltinck, CFO gave an update on the Student Count noting a preliminary increase of 20 students from the previous year. However there has not been an audit. The audit will be this week.

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

Economic Update:

Mike Beltinck, CFO discussed the impact of the shared time program and the potential for growth in that area. He also highlighted the importance of stable housing prices, labor markets, and tax revenue streams for the district.

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:

They are finishing testing this week as our last week of the EA testing. Our new ELA curriculum is out and running and sounds like staff are getting their hands into it and really starting to enjoy some of the features of it.

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

The District has more Professional Development Days coming up. She attended a couple conferences. Recently, she attended the MASA conference and received some updates from the state. Last week, she attended the Ron Clark Academy with Carissa Peterson, Principal of Redford Union Junior High, Jill Burch, Principal of Hilbert Elementary School Chris Norton, Coordinator of Teaching & Learning, and Superintendent Jasen Witt. And what a phenomenal program. She looks forward to more discussions on some parts of that program that the District can implement.

Consent Agenda:**Consent Agenda**

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

Waived the reading and approved September 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of Redford Union Board of Education as presented.

**September 9, 2024,
Regular Meeting
Minutes**

Waived the reading and approved September 24, 2024, Workshop Meeting Minutes of Redford Union Board of Education as presented.

**September 24, 2024,
Workshop Minutes**

Approved the recommend payment of \$7,092,527.88 for checks dated 8/1/2024 – 8/31/2024.

**Check Register
9/1/2024 –9/31/2024**

Approved the electronic transfers for the month of September 2024 in the amount of \$1,735,572.51.

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

Approved **NEW HIRES: Certified** as listed below:

- 1. Jerry Wagoner/School Nurse/Keeler Center/Effective 10/16/2024
- 2. Kristen Wrase/Psychologist/MacGowan/Effective 11/4/2024
- 3. Breyanna Thayer/Teacher/RUHS/Effective 11/4/2024

New Hires: Certified

- Jerry Wagoner
- Kristen Wrase
- Breyanna Thayer

Approved **NEW HIRES: Non-Certified** as listed below:

- 1. Sadie Davis/ATA/Hilbert Elementary/Effective 10/10/2024
- 2. Michael Brown/Teacher/Beech Elementary/Effective 11/4/2024

- Sadie Davis
- Michael Brown

Approved **LEAVE REQUEST** as listed below:

- 1. Erika Hunt/PBSI/Beech Elementary/Effective 10/9/2024
- 2. Rosemary Johnson/Social Studies Teacher/RUHS/Effective 9/30/2024

- Erika Hunt
- Rosemary Johnson

Approved **SEPARATIONS** as listed below:

- 1. Todd Colville/English Teacher/RUHS/Resignation/Effective 9/24/2024
- 2. Christine Jacobs/Psychologist/MacGowan/Terminated/Effective 9/3/2024
- 3. Michael Brown/Educational Assistant/Keeler Center/Terminated/Effective 9/6/2024

- Todd Colville
- Christine Jacobs
- Michael Brown

Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Action Items:

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

None.

Action Items:

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:

None.

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:

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

None.

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

Superintendent’s Remark:

None.

Superintendent’s Remark:

Board of Education Communication/Discussion:

Trustee Osowski expressed how nice the Homecoming Football game was and the number of people that attended.

Board of Education Communication/Discussion

Trustee McAfee agreed with Trustee Osowski. It was wonderful seeing all the kids and the families. He is looking forward to going forward with volleyball, basketball, and wrestling.

Secretary Martin inquired about the technology that we are using for videos to ensure that our videos are in place on YouTube.

The videos are posted on YouTube. Going forward there will also be a link to the YouTube videos on the District's website under the Board of Education page.

Secretary Martin spoke about dyslexia. She highlighted that some parents do have students that possibly do need the testing for dyslexia. Understanding that the testing is not going to fix the reading problem, but it is one solution that the end all be all solution to our reading problem in the State.

President Pridemore explained that the mandate actually is going to require that we test three times a year, kindergarten, third grade. She expressed that the concern was that Lansing believes that this is going to fix the literacy problem, and it is not, and it is, once again, an unfunded mandate. She encouraged the Board members to visit MASB's website and read the legislative updates. Also, communications that are sent to their emails. She also asked that they contact the Help Desk for assistance if they are experiencing issues with their District emails.

Superintendent Witt shared that regarding the dyslexia legislation, he is getting up to speed on it, but many of his colleagues throughout Wayne RESA, including the Superintendent Amy Conway from Gibraltar Carlson schools, who herself is dyslexic and she is dead set against what is in this legislation. There are a number of superintendents within their group that have reading masters in literacy, and they share the same views about how ridiculous this piece of legislation is.

President Pridemore also shared that there is murmuring in Lansing about requiring every high school senior to complete a FAFSA as a graduation requirement. This would be another unfunded mandate.

Treasurer Dean shared that she did not attend the Homecoming game but from her home she could hear it, and it was amazing.

President Pridemore mentioned that she read an article in the Observer that someone wrote, and the person called our football field, the Taj Mahal of small-town football fields. Also, in the article the person wrote that our greatest asset is our community, and that our new stadium embraces that with our open areas.

President Pridemore also shared that the Redford Chamber honored Redford Union School District for 50 years of membership to the Redford Chamber. That was quite an accomplishment. The District received an engraved plaque.

Trustee Bailey mentioned that he had an opportunity to record gaming the other day, and he saw potential opportunities for attracting people, which means that it is a possible way of fundraising for operations within the schools. He asked if the District was making a point of spreading the wealth among the different groups within the schools?

President Pridemore shared that the concessions is ran by Blue and Gold, and Blue and Gold gives money to any organization in the schools that needs assistance. Also, back in the day, when we had to pay to play, we had to pay an activity fee. They helped kids who could not afford activity fees. They do spread the wealth around. At our football games, our cheerleaders have the opportunity to raise funds. Our marching band has the opportunity to raise funds. There are equal fundraising opportunities in the District.

Future Meeting Dates:

Future Meeting Dates

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, Board Workshop – 5:30 PM
MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240, (Door #3)

Please, everyone, go out, make sure you vote, including on the Wayne County millage.

Monday, November 11, 2024, Regular Meeting – 5:30 PM
MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240, (Door #3)

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, Board Workshop – 5:30 PM
MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240, (Door #3)

Adjournment:

It was Moved by Member Osowski , Seconded by Member McAfee, to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 PM.

Adjournment

Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Respectfully Submitted

LaKeya Martin
Secretary
Redford Union Schools
Board of Education