
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION
Redford Union Schools
February 12, 2024

A Regular meeting of the Redford Union Board of Education was held on February 12, 2024, at MacGowan School, 18255 Kinloch, Redford, MI 48240.

Regular Meeting
2/12/2024

Call to Order:

Call to Order

President Pridemore called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Roll Call:

Roll Call

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

Absent: Moore

Pledge of Allegiance:

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Remarks:

President's Remarks

President Pridemore welcomed everyone and asked that everyone please place their cell phones on silent. Happy Valentines Day.

Adoption of Agenda:

**Adoption of
Agenda**

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Bailey, to adopt the Agenda of the February 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as presented:

Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Call to the Audience for Public Participation Regarding Agenda Items:

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

None.

Presentations:**Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Update – Bethany Gomillion, District Representative**

Ms. Gomillion was absent due to illness.

Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) protocol and Suicide-Risk Assessment protocol – Jessica Miller, Coordinator, Social-Emotional Learning & Student Wellness

Jessica Miller presented to the Board.

There were questions and answers.

Student Representative Communication:

Elisia Juzswik, Student Representative provided the Board with her agenda. She presented on the Link Crew and their upcoming events such as Valentine candy-grams, Link Crew leaders meeting with their mentees every Wednesday until the end of the school year. Also, on Thursday, February 29, 2024, the Link Crew will host an event where people can play an assortment of video games. Elisia said the students will take a practice PSAT/SAT test later this month. SAT prep will occur for 10th and 11th graders resulting in a trip to Cedar Point if students attend all eight preparation courses. She reported on the students' artwork as well as work from the other artists will be displayed at Plymouth Coffee Bean. Artwork will be displayed until March 30, 2024. Elisia reported on sports; signs for Majorette Squad will start February 22, 2024, from 3-5PM; track tryouts have officially started; swim leagues will start February 16, 2024, at 5pm at Crestwood; basketball on February 13 & 16, 2024 with Freshman 4pm at Redford Union, JV 5:30 pm at Redford Union, Varsity 7pm at Redford Union.

There were questions and answers.

Presentations**Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Update – Bethany Gomillion, District Representative****Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) protocol and Suicide-Risk Assessment protocol – Jessica Miller, Coordinator, Social-Emotional Learning & Student Wellness****Student Representative Communication**

Superintendent Communication:**Superintendent
Communication****Staff Members of the Month, February 2024:****Staff Members of the
Month, February 2024**

1. Keeler (Central Office): Jessica Miller, Coordinator, Social-Emotional Learning & Student Wellness
2. Beck Center: Katie Deegan, Audiologist
3. Beech Elementary School: Alyssa Stokes, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Upper Teacher
4. Hilbert Elementary School: Stacey Pace, Lead Special Education Teacher
5. Keeler (Day Treatment Programs): Ann Holland, Educational Assistant
6. Redford Union Junior High School: Raymond Brown, Lead Special Education Teacher
7. Redford Union High School: Margaret Buerkle, Art Teacher

February 2024 Board Brag Book:**February 2024 Board
Brag Book**

Beech Elementary School:

After School Clubs and Tutoring began in January! This year we will host 2 different 6 week sessions of clubs. The clubs being offered are being run by our Beech staff and include Art Club, Acting Club, Yearbook Club, Cooking Club, Board Game Club, and SEL Club. After School Tutoring runs 2 days per week and is available for students at each grade level who have been identified by NWEA and classroom data as needing additional support outside of the traditional classroom/intervention block. There are over 80 students participating in clubs and approximately 90 students participating in tutoring!

Student and Parent Engagement Opportunities at Beech: In January, Beech hosted our first Student Panel for grades 3rd-6th. Students had the opportunity to share their voice in a safe and welcoming environment as they answered questions about the culture, learning, safety, and care at Beech. This was the first of what will be a continued series of panel opportunities for students!

Session 3 of Parent University was hosted at Beech in January. Our session focused on Supporting Students Healing and Growth. Parents worked with Principal Nickel, Interim Principal Burch, and Sabrina Rudy from Wayne RESA to talk about resilience, the effects of trauma on the brain, shared resources for trauma informed parenting, and talked about how families could create a network of support. While the parents were meeting with administration and Wayne RESA, the students were working with Beech and Hilbert staff to discuss ways that they could be resilient. The students created network maps for who they could go to for support at home and in the school community! Session 4 is digging deeper into this topic and will incorporate role playing with scenarios that we are seeing most frequently in the school and home setting with our students.

Hilbert Elementary School:

Students of the Month for January: We are excited to start our Students of the Month program. Each month teachers nominate a student from their own class who shows positive characteristics of outstanding citizenship. It was wonderful reading about the nominees and to see them acknowledged and rewarded.

Reading Buddies: Many of our classrooms have paired older students with younger students to read together. Mrs. Chartier's sixth grade class and Mrs. Faulkner's second grade class met last week to begin their partnership.

PBIS Council: Our SEL Specialist, Allison Hubert, started a PBIS council that is comprised of students from K-6 grade classrooms. The council meets once a month to coordinate opportunities to engage students more in school-wide activities. This month, they sponsored a Candygram sale for the school community to send to each other.

Redford Union Junior High School:

There has been a whirlwind of activity as the students and staff at Redford Union Junior High School wrapped up semester one and dove into semester two. Our counseling team has been working extremely hard to make sure that they set up meetings with those students who did not have a successful semester one in the form of letters sent home and parent meetings scheduled. We also celebrated our counselors Mrs. Paulette Rancour and Ms. Christal Malone during the week of February 5th since this was National Counselor Appreciation week. We are also celebrating our most improved students from semester one by taking them to the Education Day field trip, which is a partnership between the Motor City Cruise and the Detroit Pistons. This is an all-expense field trip to remind students that they will be rewarded for making the correct adjustments and choosing success.

We have continued to bring in engaging speakers and opportunities for our students. Every Thursday we have mentoring sessions for a group of our 9th grade students who are struggling to consistently make positive choices. Our 9th grade Ambassadors are also part of this group. The focus is on the negative and positive consequences of decision making. Each session has a key word and last week's word was 'empathy.' Students had discussions and role-played scenarios. We also had a guest speaker come in and speak to all our 7th-9th grade boys last week. This speaker was part of the juvenile release program and spoke to the students about the importance of education and how being successful academically truly changes the trajectory of your life. Our students were completely engaged and asked intelligent follow-up questions.

Redford Union High School:

Redford Union High School students who are members of the Detroit Regional Dollars for Scholars program attended Project Runway 2024 at Eastern Michigan University.

160 Next Level Scholar sophomores braved the snow to gather at EMU for leadership and networking training from Jacqueline M. Baker, a campus tour, a program alumni Q&A panel, and more. What a great day! In addition to visiting Eastern Michigan University, our students also visited The University of Michigan for a full campus and academic programming tour.

On February 7th, Redford Union High School had five student-athletes sign their letter of intent to play athletics at the collegiate level during the winter National Signing Day. DeMathew Dixon (Central State University), Parker Kennedy (Central State University), Mike Myles (Olivet), Jakhari Lewis (Olivet), and Elijah Triplett (Adrian College) all signed their letters of intent to play football.

RUHS students Alexander Vazquez and Cain Hester took time out of their busy school schedules to write to the President of the United States. According to veteran History teacher Mrs. Johnson, this is the first time in her 25-plus years of teaching that any of her students received a response from the President.

On February 8, 2024, four of our Symphonic Band students went to Wayne State University to perform in the WSU Honors Band. Our students worked with college professors, future music educators, and students from 32 Metro Detroit area schools. Over 120 students worked from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM to learn five (5) collegiate/professional level pieces of music and perform them this evening!! Our students did such a phenomenal job representing our school that the Wayne State Music Department plans to collaborate and work with the band program in the near future. We are so proud of our students! They performed so well, and we could not be prouder. Congratulations to Reba Adkins, La'Ryeyah Smiley, Owen Blume, and Reyana Irby!

Veritas Alternative Education:

This month Veritas would like to recognize the students who made the Honor Roll for 1st Semester. We are so proud of these students for their effort and determination to do well in their classes. These students are natural leaders throughout the building and help our new students become acclimated to the program. Pictured: Damarion Amber, Dalea Bradley, Zaria Calvin, Mya Echols, Amya Hannon, Rod'Nisha Hill, Sherry Jones-King, Kamden Moore, Jacob Owensby, Cortez Taylor.

Keeler Day Treatment Programs: Keeler Center had a total of 7 students to be fully and successfully mainstreamed back to their resident districts: 5 from ADT (high school) and 2 from EDT (K-8). More good news is that we have already received referrals to fill many of those vacant spots.

Redford Union K-12 - Act 18 - ASD Program:

Friendship Circle-Weinberg Village - On Friday, February 2nd the Redford Union ASD program took a field trip to Friendship Circle's Weinberg Village in West Bloomfield to practice the life skills they have been learning. Students in grades K-12 along with teachers, Educational Assistants, district OTs, the ASD social worker, parents and more enjoyed Weinberg Village's 11 locations that enable students to learn and practice life skills. The village is set up like a small town with a hair salon, pharmacy, pet shop, library, doctor's office, movie theater and more. Each is sponsored by a real store i.e.; the hair salon is sponsored by Fringe Salon in West Bloomfield. Each location in the village is designed to focus on 2 or more skills that students can practice.

The students worked on:

Following Directions

Safety Skills

Time Management

Money Management

Decision Making

Communication/Interpersonal Interactions

Stress Management/Dealing With Change

Socialization/Leisure and Recreation

Employment

Personal Hygiene/Healthy Living

This field trip would not have been possible without the organization and planning of our High School ASD team.

An elementary student from Mrs. Goree's class along with his mom (not pictured) gets a manicure from a Friendship Circle volunteer.

An elementary student from Mrs. Goree's class pets the guinea pig at the pet store with assistance of a Friendship Circle volunteer.

An elementary student from Ms. Morrison's class visits the Friendship Circle dentist with his mom (not pictured) to learn about the equipment a dentist uses when they clean your teeth.

A junior high student from Mr. Ververis's Class with the support of an EA visits Huntington Bank at Friendship Circle to work on counting money and depositing.

A RUHS student signs in at the Friendship Circle doctor for their appointment.
 A RUHS student uses their money to purchase tickets for the Friendship Circle movie theater where actual movies are shown.

RUHS students enjoy ice cream they purchased at the village Ice cream stand with money.

Redford Union students work on skills such as following a stop light, using a crosswalk, and following a pattern.

Redford Union Schools: A Small Token of Appreciation - Beech, Hilbert, Secondary Campus, Keeler Day Treatment, and MacGowan have all been surprised with a new addition to their Staff Lounge. "RU @ The Candy Corner." When staff need a quick pick-me-up or a sweet treat to brighten their day, they can head to the staff lounge and indulge in some delicious candies.

Calendar of Events February 13, 2024, through March 29, 2024:

Beech Elementary School:

- February 14th: Student Count Day
- February 15th: Parent University - Session 4 @ Hilbert 5:30-7:30 PM
- February 16th: District-Wide PD - No Students
- February 19th-20th: Mid-Winter Break - District Closed
- February 22nd: Coffee w/the Principal - Facebook Live/Media Center @ 9:00 AM
- February 22nd: 4th Grade NAEP Testing
- March 13th-21st: Scholastic Book Fair
- March 14th: Parent University - 5:30-7:30 @ Beech - Navigating Educ. Supports
- March 21st: ½ Day for Students - Afternoon and Evening Conferences
- March 25th-29th: Spring Break - No School

Hilbert Elementary School:

- February 13th: Hundredth Day of School
- February 14th: Student Count Day
- February 15th: Parent University @ Hilbert 5:30 - 7:30 pm
- February 16th: District-Wide PD - No Students
- February 19th-20th: Mid-Winter Break - District Closed
- February 28th: George-Therapy Dog Visits Classrooms
- February 29th: Basketball Jones Assembly Times TBD
- March 14th: Parent University
- March 21st: ½ Day for Students - Evening Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 25th-29th: Spring Break - No School

Calendar of Events February 13, 2024, through March 29, 2024:

RU Junior High Schools:

- February 14th: Student Count Day
- February 16th: District-Wide PD - No Students
- February 19th -20th: Mid-Winter Break - District Closed
- February 28th: Anti-Bullying Day
- March: Reading Month- Activity calendar to come
- March 2nd: Read Across America Day
- March 3rd: School Social Worker Day
- March 12th: Parent Club Meeting
- March 13th: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- March 17th: Red Nose Day
- March 18th: Roller Skating at Riverside
- March 22nd: End of Quarter Three
- March 25th-29th: Spring Break - No School

RU High School:

- February 13th-March 31st: Ongoing testing across all grades
- February 14th: Student Count Day
- February 16th: District-Wide PD - No Students
- February 19th-20th: District Closed - Mid-Winter Break
- March 13th: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 18th: Spring Sports season begins
- March 21st: State of the Township Address – held at the Secondary Campus
- March 25th-29th: Spring Break - No School

Veritas Alternative Education Program:

- February 14th: Student Count Day
- February 15th: Honor Roll Reward Activity
- February 16th: District-Wide PD - No Students
- February 19th-20th: District Closed - Mid-Winter Break
- March 4th: MUST Careers presentation/Life After High School Part 3
- March 13th: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- March 25th-29th: Spring Break - No School

Keeler Day Treatment Programs:

- February 14th: Student Count Day
- February 14th: EDT (K-8) schoolwide SEL (Social-Emotional Learning Day)
- February 14th: ADT (9-12 grade)- PBIS reward to the Great Skate (Skating party)
- February 16th: District-Wide PD - No Students
- Feb. 19th-20th: District Closed - Mid-Winter Break
- March 25th-29th: Spring Break - No School

Athletics:

- February 16th: Boys Swim (WWAC League Meet at Crestwood: 6:00 pm)
- February 17th: Individual Wrestling Regionals (at Warren Woods Tower)
- February 20th: Senior Day: Boys Basketball at 7:00 pm
- February 26th, 28th & March 1st: Boys Basketball Districts (at Det. Henry Ford)
- March 5th & 7th: Boys Basketball Regionals
- March 4th, 6th & 8th: Girls Basketball Districts (at Westfield Prep)
- March 11th & 13th: Girls Basketball Regionals
- March 11th: Spring Sports Begin
- March 25th-29th: Spring Break - No School

There were questions and answers about tutoring.

Communication Received by the Board Secretary:

None.

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

Chief Financial Officer's Communications:

Mike Beltinck, CFO reported that they are working on the Mid-Year Budget and working on setting up the final budget. They are also working on getting the grants and the headcount aligned.

The second student count day is February 14, 2024.

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

Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Communication:

Judy Nachman, Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations highlighted the candy corner that was in the meeting room. Mrs. Crenshaw and Mr. Witt attended a conference earlier in the fall and they learned about another district doing something similar. Mr. Witt brought the idea back and thought it would be a fun treat for all of the buildings, for the staff to enjoy and to say thank you for all that you do. He asked Amanda Marable, our Human Resource Coordinator and Jackie Warren, Executive Admin Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board to put together a candy corner in each building.

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

Executive Director of Curriculum & Technology Communications:

Mrs. Crenshaw was absent due to a scheduled vacation.

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

Consent Agenda:

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

Waive the reading and approve January 16, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Redford Union Schools Board of Education as presented.

Waive the reading and approve January 23, 2024, Board Workshop Minutes of the Redford Union Schools Board of Education as presented.

Waive the reading and approve January 23, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes of the Redford Union Schools Board of Education as presented.

Approved the recommend payment of \$1,153,645.17 for checks dated 1/1/2024 – 1/31/2024.

Approved the electronic transfers for the month of January 2024 in the amount of \$5,797,056.63.

Approved NEW HIRES: Certified as listed below:

1. JuaQuita Grady/Math Teacher/Veritas Alternative Education/Effective 2/12/2024

Approved NEW HIRES: Non-Certified as listed below:

1. Wafa Flayh/Educational Assistant/Hilbert Elementary School/Effective 2/05/2024
2. Caitlyn Lewis/Behavior Specialist/ Keeler EDT/Effective 2/12/2024

Approved LEAVE REQUEST as listed below:

1. Kimberly Hill-Brooks/Educational Assistant/RUJHS/Effective 1/22/2024

Approved SEPARATIONS as listed below:

1. Arlissa Brock/ELA Teacher/RUJHS/Resignation/Effective 1/26/2024
2. Michelle Goodsell/5th Grade Teacher/Hilbert Elementary School/Resignation/Effective 2/9/2024
3. Karen Nedeau/Educational Assistant/Beech Elementary School/Resignation/Effective 1/26/2024

Approved SES GROUP NEW HIRES as listed below:

1. Sara LaPrise/Online Mentor/Austin Catholic High School/Effective 2/12/2024

Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Regular Board Meeting: 2/12/2024

Consent Agenda
Approved as presented

Regular Meeting Minutes
of January 16, 2024, as
presented
Board Workshop Minutes
of January 23, 2024, as
presented
Special Meeting Minutes
of January 23, 2024, as
presented
Check Register List
January 1-31, 2024

Electronic Transfers for
January 2024 as
presented

JuaQuita Grady

Wafa Flayh

Caitlyn Lewis

Kimberly Hill-Brooks

Arlissa Brock
Michelle Goodsell

Karen Nedeau

Sara LaPrise

Action Items:

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

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS (MASB) 2024 ELECTION

It was Moved by Member Miller, Seconded by Member Bailey, that the Board of Education elect a candidate for the MASB Board of Directors that will represent Region 8. This position plays a crucial role in advocating for the interests of our schools and students in the region.

There were questions and answers.

President Pridemore gave a brief explanation of the interview process.

Region 8 (Three-Year Term) Candidates:

- Melandie Hines, Wayne Westland Community Schools, Wayne County

Yea:____, Nay:____

- Birgit McQuiston, Lake Orion Community Schools, Oakland County

Yea:____, Nay:____

- Evelyn Pridemore, Redford Union School District, Wayne County 18

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

By a majority “yea” votes, Redford Union Schools’ Board of Education has elected Evelyn Pridemore as the MASB Board of Directors for Region 8.

The Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education will cast a Ballot in favor of Evelyn Pridemore election to this important position before the March 6, 2024, deadline.

Roll Call:

J. Bailey: Yes, L. Dean: Yes, L. Martin: Yes, L. Miller: Yes, T. Moores: ABS,

J. Osowski: Yes, E. Pridemore: Yes Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion: Carried

President Pridemore shared that if Birgit McQuiston is reelected, she would ask her to come meet our Board. She said one of the things Ms. McQuiston said is she likes to speak to local boards and President Pridmore would love to have her come to one of our Board Meetings.

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:

None.

Action Items

**MICHIGAN
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS
(MASB)
2024 ELECTION**

**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:****Superintendent's
Remark**

Superintendent Witt presented the Wayne County Regional Enhancement Millage Renewal which is November 5, 2024. He shared Wayne RESA would be presenting this same presentation at the Wayne County School Board Association meeting on February 15, 2024. He stated that the intent right now is to go through a process to have that renewal be on the November 5th ballot. This election can only take place in even years. Superintendent Witt did not read the entire presentation, but he did hit the highlights. He said that if they need to have a future discussion about this, they could include it at a workshop and then ultimately at some point coming up, the issue would be brought back to a regular board meeting because the board will be asked to act upon this question. The Regional Enhancement Mileage provides all of our districts in Wayne County with additional operating revenues. For the Enhancement Millage to be placed on a ballot, the Board of Education for school districts representing a majority of the students within a region pursuing one of these enhancement millages must pass identical resolution asking for Wayne RESA to pursue an enhancement millage. The regional enhancement mileage must be proposed county wide and then it passes or fails on a county wide basis. Each school board must decide if they wish to place the millage on the ballot and if enough school districts vote yes. So at least 50% representing more than 50% of the student's county wide, then the initiative is placed on the ballot. If the voters passed the millage the ISD or in our case Wayne RESA, collects and then distributes the money equally to all constituent school districts on a per student basis. Wayne RESA does not receive any funding through this regional enhancement millage. He stated that this is something that the District already have in place.

Local districts first became eligible to receive enhancement millage funding after the millage was first passed in 2016.

Superintendent Witt said that the reason the District was looking at this through Wayne RESA and why they are talking about this issue is because the current millage will expire at the end of the 2027/2028 school year.

The presentation continued.

The Board would be asked later in May or sometime between May 1st and July 16th of this year to consider adopting a resolution.

More discussion on the Wayne County Regional Enhancement Millage Renewal will be had at a future Board Workshop.

Board of Education Communication/Discussion:

**Board of Education
Communication/
Discussion**

President Pridemore shared that Thursday, February 14, 2024, is the Wayne County Association of School Boards Meeting at 5:30 pm at Wayne RESA. Dinner will be provided. The Board should have in your district e-mail an e-mail from Dr. Darlene Pomponio, our Wayne County Association of School Board President. She encouraged the Board to attend.

Trustee Bailey spoke on the Sex Education Advisory Board which was discussed at the last Board meeting. He shared a handout with the Board which was the Revised School Code (Excerpt) Act 451 of 1976 – Section 380-1507. Trustee Bailey read some of the laws from the school code. He shared that he contacted the local clergy within Redford Union. He contacted each of the Churches and gave them a copy of the law and he asked if they would be interested if the offer was presented to them.

Pastor Helga of Grace Lutheran Church said yes. Trustee Bailey will give the updated information to the Superintendent, and he will try to get names of some local physicians.

Trustee Bailey proposed the idea that the information would be appropriate for an all-female class and information for an all-male class. He does not think that in a Coed class certain information presented would be taken seriously.

President Pridemore mentioned that the District has an advisory committee in place, including a health professional, because we have a school nurse.

Superintendent Witt shared that he has had discussions internally with Mr. Norton and Mrs. Crenshaw and that they will continue to follow up on this and to make sure that the composition of the committee is what it needs to be. And in addition to that they have talked about the fact that ultimately if they do have clergy that is interested but turns out that person cannot make the meeting. They would make sure at a minimum to create opportunities for them to either review the information and potentially ask questions or even to participate virtually.

Superintendent Witt stated that they will make sure that they follow the process that is outlined by Wayne RESA and the State.

Trustee Martin will pass along some information as it relates to social education for people with special needs with special education to the Superintendent.

Future Meeting Dates:

**Future Meeting
Dates**

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Board Workshop – 5:30 PM
MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI
48240, (Door #3)

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

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

Adjournment:

Adjournment

It was Moved by Member Osowski , Seconded by Member Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 6:33PM.

Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Respectfully Submitted

Lorna Dean
Secretary
Redford Union Schools
Board of Education