

---

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Redford Union Schools**  
**October 6, 2025**

A Regular meeting of the Redford Union Board of Education was held on October 6, 2025, at MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240, (Entrance on Curtis – Door #3)

**Regular Meeting**  
**10/6/2025**

**Call to Order:**

**Call to Order**

President Pridemore called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

**Roll Call:**

**Roll Call**

Present: Dean, Martin, Osowski, and Pridemore

Absent: Bailey, Johnson, and Miller

Present: Barajas, Student Representative

**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.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

**Adoption of  
Agenda**

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Dean, to adopt the Agenda of the October 6, 2025, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Yes: 4 No: 0 Motion: Carried

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

The Board President opened the floor for public comments. One person addressed the Board.

**Call to the Audience: Public Participation Regarding Agenda Items****Presentation(s):**

**Easement at Transportation Building (15111 Garfield Ave.) – *Jasen Witt, Superintendent and Miles Tomasaitis, Director of Facilities and Operations***

Superintendent Witt explained the purpose of the easement and the need for charging stations for the five new EV buses awarded to the District through the National Express Corporation (NEC).

The buses are on the way. Miles detailed the location of charging stations which would be on the east and south sides of the parking lot. If approved, the construction would start in about three weeks from now, once the power source is in place, they hope to have the EV buses delivered in December, early January. Training would be the first week or two in January and have them in action by the beginning of the next semester.

There were questions and answers.

**Presentation(s)**

**Easement at Transportation Building (15111 Garfield Ave.)**

**Secondary -Level Course Failures – *RUHS & RUJH Administration***

Principal Mike Taylor, Redford Union High School, and Assistant Principal Katie Sims presented 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Grade Distribution / data on course failures.

They spoke on the various support initiatives and programs that are available to the students.

There were questions and answers.

**Secondary -Level Course Failures**

**Elementary -Class Sizes****Elementary -Class Sizes – Jasen Witt, Superintendent**

The administration gathered data on the elementary class sizes which was discussed at the last Board workshop. That data was shared with the Board.

There were questions and answers. They also discussed budget constraints.

**Student Representative Communication – Axel Barajas**

Axel reported that it was homecoming week. This Friday is the homecoming game, and the dance is on Saturday. Student Council has been very busy the past few weeks preparing for the dance and spirit week. The dance theme is a “Night of Mystery.” For Spirit Week, tomorrow students will be dressed as teachers. They will have a day for Country or Country Club. On Saturday, September 27, 30 Hope Squad students attended the out of the darkness suicide prevention month at Belle Isle, in Detroit. Students walked 3.5 miles with meaningful words written on posters. The Hope Squad will start their peer-to-peer program at the high school. This partners our high school Hope Squad students with students with autism, creating mentorships and friendships. This past Saturday, the Redford Union marching band competed for the first time in nine years since 2015 at the South Gate Anderson marching band showcase. They surpassed their goals, earning several awards, which includes second place award in class C, best color guard in class C, and more. One award was given to a group that showed the most pride throughout the entire day of competition, no matter what class they competed in. This past Friday, seniors found out that this year our school organized a prom send off with a movie at Hart Plaza, and a cruise on the Detroit Princess.

**Student Representative Communication****Superintendent Communication****Staff Member of the Month – October 2025:**

- Keeler Administration – Jasen Witt, Superintendent
- Beech Elementary School – Danielle Flinchum, Kindergarten Teacher

**Superintendent Communication**  
**Staff Member of the Month**  
**October 2025**

- Hilbert Elementary School – Jill Burch, Principal
- Redford Union Junior High School – Ed Barlow, Science Teacher
- Redford Union High School – Katrina McKay, Math Teacher
- MacGowan School – Lisa Hildebrandt, Teacher Consultant, Deaf or Hard of Hearing

## **October 2025 Board Brag Book**

### **Beech Elementary:**

#### **Kindergarten Round-Up**

Enrolled Beech families were invited to attend a Round-Up event where teachers and administration shared information about kindergarten, students participated in an academic screener, and families received a tour of the building. All children in attendance received a Beech Bag filled with academic fun!

#### **Back to School Bash**

Beech families were welcomed back to school at our annual bash! The event was a blast! Students got to meet their teachers while parents were able to sign students up for before/after care, confirm transportation, learn about our Title I events, and engage with other families!

#### **1st Day of School**

Staff and students were welcomed back with balloon arches, music, and fun! Through family donations as well as teachers creating fun backdrops, memories were able to be captured.

### **Hilbert Elementary:**

#### **Four Houses, One Family**

On September 19, we held three assemblies to officially sort more than 300 students into our four houses and celebrate their induction by becoming slide certified. Leading up to this event, we hosted House Hype Week, during which staff taught daily lessons highlighting the values and traditions of each house. The excitement and energy from

our staff set the tone each day, and our fifth- and sixth-grade students, who experienced the program last year, played a key role in guiding and mentoring our younger students.

Since the sort, students have been actively earning points for their houses and eagerly tracking the leaderboard. Many classrooms have also paired reading buddies from different grade levels to complete house activities together, further strengthening cross-grade connections and mentorship.

We held our first official house meetings, where students discussed leadership opportunities, community service projects, and fundraising ideas. Our first initiative will be a Penny War, designed to promote friendly competition while also supporting a Hilbert family currently navigating cancer treatments.

Through the house system, our staff and students are working side by side to build a stronger sense of community, belonging, and school culture.

### **Redford Union High School:**

On Saturday, 9/27, students from our junior high and high school Hope Squad, a student-based suicide prevention group consisting of 62 RU students, participated in the Out of the Darkness walk on Belle Isle. The event raised over \$110,000 to promote awareness and support those affected by suicide. We extend our gratitude to our students, as well as our coordinators, Ms. Adolfo, and Ms. Carlton, for their assistance with this important event.

Did you know that there is more to a Redford Union HS football game than just our winning football team? On Friday, 9/19, our Panthers marching band, color guard, and majorettes showed off their brand new uniforms as they performed alongside our hard-working cheerleading squad, as our Student Council and G.R.I.T. Team hosted booths in the athletic plaza.

On the field, the RU varsity football team won their 36th consecutive conference game by beating Dearborn Heights Robichaud, 8-0, in a classic defensive battle. With the win, RU improves to 3-0 in conference play this season.

On Wednesday, 9/10, students in our Broadcast Media classes were given the opportunity to learn firsthand about all of the opportunities available to them in the world of broadcast media.

A big thank you to Chad Bush and ThePrep, who will be working with our students throughout the school year to help develop a fully operational broadcast media program here at RUHS!

#### **Veritas Alternative Education:**

Veritas would like to recognize our science teacher, Mrs. Perry. She consistently works to create lessons and activities to engage our students. Her Forensic Science class recently completed lab where they worked on extracting the DNA of a strawberry and banana. They began by adding a buffer to a crushed up strawberry or banana, filtering the mixture, then adding alcohol to separate the DNA from the mixture. The "goop" that you see, are all strands of DNA. Students were able to compare the amount of DNA produced by the strawberry and the banana and saw firsthand that the banana contains more DNA. Students then calculated that strawberries have 27 chromosomes and bananas have 33 chromosomes.

#### **Keeler Center EDT/ADT:**

Keeler Center had our Annual Open House on Wednesday, September 10th. Families enjoyed meeting teachers and staff and being welcomed back for the 2025-2026 School Year!

Keeler Center students participated in our annual PBIS Kickoff. This year we opted to do a team building scavenger hunt with our students that centered around the key concepts and principles of PBIS.

#### **Student Engagement:**

1. Give each group a clipboard and a piece of paper so they can write down the decoded questions and their answers to them.
2. Explain to the students that the codes are hidden around the school. Each team will get ONE point for each question they correctly

decode and copy down onto their sheet, and a further TWO points if they can then provide the correct answer and write this down underneath the question and take a selfie with each answer they find throughout the building.

3. Away they go! The winner is the first team to return with the most correct answers in the time available.

### **Administration & Board of Education:**

To our staff, students, parents, and community,

Thank you for your 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](mailto:warrenj@redfordu.k12.mi.us) (Title: Brag Book) for inclusion in our Board Brag Book.

**Both EDT and ADT students had an amazing time!**

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

The upcoming Trunk or Treat events at Beach and Hilbert Elementary schools were announced.

The Board Brag Book and Calendar of Events will be posted on Facebook.

### **WHO Foundation – Hope Squad Recognition**

An article was provided to the Board in their board packets. Superintendent Witt highlighted that the previously mentioned Lynn Adolfo was interviewed about the impact of the Hope Squad program

and was then featured with a little bit of some quotes and things within this article that was provided.

**Communications Received By The Board Secretary:**

None.

**Communications Received By  
The Board Secretary****Interim Chief Financial Officer Communication:**

Maria Gisting, Interim CFO, was not present.

**Interim Chief Financial Officer  
Communication**

Superintendent Witt gave a brief update on the budget. He shared that they are still waiting on the exact details around the budget. He will share some aspects of what is included in that state budget and will share it with the Board at either a future workshop or board meeting when they have more exact information, and he will bring Maria Gisting to help walk them through some of that.

There were questions and answers.

Superintendent Witt will speak with Maria about when the audit presentation will be presented.

**Executive Director Of Human Resources And Labor Relations  
Communications:**

None.

**Executive Director Of Human  
Resources And Labor  
Relations Communications****Executive Director Of Curriculum & Technology Communications:**

Proposed Firewall Project

**Executive Director Of  
Curriculum & Technology  
Communications**

Kim Crenshaw introduced the proposal to replace the current firewall with a newer model. The cost savings and benefits of the new firewall were outlined. The recommendation will be brought forward at the November 6, 2025, regular meeting.

There were questions and answers.



Kim shared that they are almost done with the NWEA testing. She will be going on vacation and will not be present at the next workshop.

#### **Executive Director Of Student Services Communications:**

#### **Executive Director Of Student Services Communications**

Wayne RESA Parent Advisory Committee Update

Mrs. Gomillion, Board Representative, was not present.

Tamaran Dillard shared updates from the PAC advisory committee meeting she attended on September 11. She shared that there are podcasts, and newsletters for parents. They discussed their new Board, the mission statement, meeting schedule, and special recognition awards. The next meeting will be virtually on Thursday, October 9 at 6:30 PM. There are conferences that parents can attend, and the committee will pay \$600.

#### **Future Workshop Topic(S):**

#### **Future Workshop Topic(S)**

- Early College & Career Tech Education Programming Update – October 2025
- Understanding the District's Budget 101 – October 2025
- Strategic Planning – November 2025
- Board Norms and Protocols – Date TBD (MASB)
- MICIP Report Presentation – Date TBD
- Curriculum Review – Date TBD
- Office Referrals and Suspension Statistics Update - Date TBD
- Other Topics

The Board had a short recess at 6:57 PM and returned at 7:03 PM.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

#### **Consent Agenda**

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Martin, to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

President Pridemore will address her questions regarding the check register via email to Superintendent Witt.

September 2, 2025,  
Regular Minutes

Waived the reading and approve September 2, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes of Redford Union Board of Education as presented.

Waived the reading and approve September 16, 2025, Board Workshop Minutes of Redford Union Board of Education as presented.

September 16, 2025,  
Special Meeting Minutes

Recommended payment of \$1,629,145.70 for checks dated 9/1/2025 – 9/30/2025.

September 2025  
Check Register

Approved ACH Transfers for the month of September 2025 in the amount of \$1,393,886.33.

September 2025  
Electronic  
Transfers

Approved NEW HIRES: Administration as listed below:

- Joy Hartman/Director of Food Service/Central Office/Effective 10/13/2025

Joy Hartman

Approved NEW HIRES: Certified as listed below:

- Nakieta Williams/Dean of Students/Hilbert Elementary/Effective 9/29/2025

Nakieta Williams

Approved NEW HIRES: Non-Certified as listed below:

- Mercedes Krueger/Educational Assistant/Hilbert Elementary/Effective 8/28/2025
- Amanda Funk/Educational Assistant/Hilbert Elementary/Effective 9/8/2025

Mercedes Krueger

Amanda Funk

Approved LEAVE REQUEST as listed below:

- Kendra Roberts/Math COSA/Beech and Hilbert Elementary/Effective 9/11/2025

Kendra Roberts

Approved SEPARATIONS as listed below:

- Peytan Calvert/Educational Assistant/Hilbert Elementary/Resignation/Effective 9/19/2025
- Deborah Ellis/ATA/Beech Elementary/Resignation/Effective 9/26/2025
- Bridgette Baldwin/Director of Food Service/Central Office/Resignation/Effective 10/3/2025

Peytan Calvert

Deborah Ellis

Bridgette Baldwin

Approved SES GROUP NEW HIRES as listed below:

- Bradley Balkema II/Physical Education Teacher/St. Joan of Arc/Effective/9/2/2025
- Eric Burson/Virtual Mentor/Regina High School/Effective 9/15/2025

Bradley Balkema

Eric Burson

Yes: 4 No: 0 Motion: Carried

**Action Items:****Action Items**

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

**Easement at Transportation Building (15111 Garfield Ave.)****Easement at Transportation Building (15111 Garfield Ave.)**

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Martin, that the Board of Education, at the recommendation of Jasen Witt, Superintendent and Miles Tomasaitis, Director of Facilities & Operations approve the Easement with DTE Electric Company for the Transportation Building property located at 15111 Garfield Ave., Redford, MI 48239. This approval is necessary to complete the electrical infrastructure (charging stations) to support the five (5) EV school buses awarded to the District through NEC.

**ROLL CALL**

J. Bailey ABS, L. Dean Yes, M. Johnson ABS, L. Martin Yes,

L. Miller ABS, J. Osowski Yes, E. Pridemore Yes

Yes: 4 No: 0 Motion: Carried

**2025 Capital Bond Project – Construction Manager (CM) Services****2025 Capital Bond Project – Construction Manager (CM) Services**

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Dean, that the Board of Education, at the recommendation of Jasen Witt, Superintendent and Miles Tomasaitis, Director of Facilities & Operations approve the The Christman Company (TCC) as the Construction Manager for the 2025 Capital Bond Project as presented.

The Board members that are on the committee agreed with the decision to go forward with The Christman Company. Trustee Martin shared that she was not able to join the committee meeting.

The next meeting, provided everything goes well this evening, will be in conjunction with the regular meeting on Monday, November 3. The advisory committee will meet prior to the regular meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

J. Bailey ABS, L. Dean Yes, M. Johnson ABS, L. Martin Yes,

L. Miller ABS, J. Osowski Yes, E. Pridemore Yes

Yes: 4 No: 0 Motion: Carried

**Items Removed from Consent Agenda:**

None.

**Items Removed from  
Consent Agenda**

**Call To The Audience: Public Participation Regarding Non-Agenda Items**

The Board President opened the floor for public comments. One person addressed the Board.

**Call To The Audience:  
Public Participation  
Regarding Non-Agenda  
Items**

**Superintendent's Remarks**

Fire Prevention Month, Redford Township Fire Department –  
(Elementary Schools & Keeler Center)

October is Fire Prevention Month. In combination, in partnership with Redford township Fire Department, Both elementary schools and Day Treatment arranged to have the Redford Township fire department come to their buildings this month. This will be a nice opportunity for our students to participate and interact with one of the first responder groups here within the township.

**Superintendent's Remarks**

**Board of Education Communication/Discussion**

Board's Self-Assessment

President Pridemore mentioned that at the last Board workshop the members wanted to take some time to decide whether or not the Self-Assessment was something that they wanted to do and it would be further discussed at tonight's Board meeting.

President Pridemore is for the Self-Assessment. The Board members present also agreed to do the Self-Assessment. She asked that Superintendent Witt and Jacke Warren, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board to move forward with getting

**Board of Education  
Communication/  
Discussion**

those assessments in place and with asking MASB to facilitate that for our members.

Superintendent Witt shared that he has already received some initial feedback from MASB, and they can move forward. He said the first thing they can do at the next workshop is talk about timing of the self-assessment. His understanding is that the completion of the self-assessment is similar to what our students do with the NWEA. They can open up a window of time, and the assessment can be completed virtually by each individual board member. After the Board determines what that window will be, he can work with Scott and MASB to get something set up for a future workshop, so then they can compile the results of the self-assessment and then use a portion of a workshop to discuss and work through that process.

The Board will also discuss strategic planning which is coming up next month. It is the desire of this board to hear from not only MASB on their proposal for strategic planning, but at least one other provider of that service.

Superintendent Witt is working on getting at least one proposal and he already has an initial response from MASB. He will also check with Wayne RESA Superintendent, Dr. Colbert for some opportunities that might be able to assist us with and the facilitators from Michigan Virtual.

Trustee Martin suggested everyone check out the Redford Twp. Library.

Homecoming is coming up.

President Pridemore mentioned that she met a lady from Newaygo, which is out by Grand Rapids, and she is a Redford Union alum from the class of 1973.

#### **Future Meeting Dates:**

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, October 21, 2025, Board Workshop – 5:30 PM  
MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240, (Door #3 on Curtis)

Monday, November 3, 2025, Regular Meeting – 5:30 PM  
MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240, (Door #3 on Curtis) Board Workshop – 5:30 PM

---

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, Board Workshop – 5:30 PM  
MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford  
Twp., MI 48240, (Door #3 on Curtis)

**Adjournment:**

**Adjournment**

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Dean, to  
adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Yes: 4 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Respectfully Submitted

Megan Johnson  
Secretary  
Redford Union Schools  
Board of Education