

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REDFORD UNION SCHOOLS, DISTRICT NO. 1  
October 11, 2021

Regular Meeting  
10/11/2021

A Regular meeting of the Redford Union Board of Education was held on October 11, 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 6:34 PM.

Call to Order

Present: Bailey, Gray, 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 Pridemore apologized for starting the meeting late.

President's Remarks

Superintendent's Remark

Superintendent's  
Remark

None.

It was moved by Member Osowski, seconded by Member Gray, to adopt the Agenda of October 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Adoption of  
Agenda as presented

Yes: 7 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:

## Presentations

Board Brag Book – Jasen Witt, Superintendent

Board Brag Book  
Jasen Witt,  
Superintendent

Superintendent Witt presented the October 2021 Board Brag Book, and the PowerPoint presentation was shown. Recognitions were given to the following:

Beech Elementary School – Beautification of school grounds and playground at Beech – Thank you to Miles Tomasaitis, Director of Facilities /Operations, and our grounds crew. Recognition was also given to the grounds crew for work that is being done at the other buildings.

Beech Elementary School – Thank you to the Dismissal Crew – Ms. Nickel, Mr. Maples, Mr. Rahman, Mr. Lee, Mr. Marable, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Olson. The team works hard during arrival and dismissal each day to keep the students at Beech safe.

Beech Elementary School – Thank you to Ms. Murcy Jones 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher for working hard to differentiate instruction for students in her 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade classroom.

Beech Elementary School – Thank you to the Kids Club staff – Jane Rocheleau, Susan Holst, Ann Holland, Shelley Albright, Mr. Erika Dunn. The staff have been working their magic to ensure students in their before and after care program are engaged, safe, and cared for.

Redford Union Varsity Football – Kudos to the team and coaches – Conference Champions. Redford Union (6-1) captured at least a share of our first football conference championship since 2004. The Panthers will look to clinch the Western Wayne Athletic Conference title outright this Friday as they host Melvindale HS (5-2) for Homecoming

The Board thanked everyone.

## Superintendent Communication:

Superintendent  
Communication

Preliminary Fall Student Enrollment Headcount.

October 6, 2021 was the Fall Student Count Day. Superintendent Witt shared the initial headcount figures for Fall 2021. He said that the initial headcount was up at many of the buildings except Hilbert and Stuckey. In some part transportation issues have impacted not only our district but other district's ability to transport students to center based programs as well as decisions of families that may have chosen virtual learning. The Fall 2020 headcount was 2084 and the Fall 2021 headcount was 2093. The District is still processing enrollment.

## Communication Received by the Board Secretary:

Secretary of  
the Board  
Communication

None.

Regular Board Meeting: 10/11/2021

**Chief Financial Officer's Communications:**

Michael Beltinck, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) gave an update on the Audit. He said that the audit field work has been completed and they are wrapping up additional work. With the transitions in the Business Office, he has received help from Maria Gisting, Consultant. The Audit Report would be presented to the Board in November. According to Terry Arriola, Pupil Accounting, the final student headcount numbers should be available by mid-November. Michael Beltinck said that he gave job offers for two general accountant positions last week and both have accepted and now the Business Office should be fully staffed.

Chief Financial Officer's  
Communications

**Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Labor Relations Communication:**

Superintendent Witt gave an update on staffing in particularly in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic and the receipt of some Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Funds). At the start of the pandemic last year the District created a coordinator position that would focus on the social-emotional learning piece. Mrs. Marie Schluter held that position last year. The District did move forward and found an individual to fill the role of coordinator of social-emotional learning and they added student wellness to that title. That position is being funded with the ESSER Funds. The District will receive the funds this school year and next school year. Mr. Mark Friday is the Coordinator of Social-Emotional Learning and Student Wellness. The District has also invested some of the ESSER Funds to fill three social-emotional learning specialist positions and those individuals will report to Mr. Friday. They will work District-wide where the needs of our students are identified, and the focus of their work would be some of the same work that the school's social workers do in part but with general education student population. Superintendent Witt said that they are trying to invest those funds in a way that maximize the benefits for the students.

Assistant Superintendent  
of Human Resources and  
Labor Relations  
Communication

**Executive Director of Curriculum & Technology Communications:**

Mrs. Crenshaw was not in attendance, but Superintendent Witt shared some information that was brought up in an earlier meeting. He said that the phone project is moving forward. The new timeline for the phones to be installed is by Thanksgiving break.

Executive Director of  
Curriculum & Technology  
Communications

Consent Agenda: It was moved by Member Gubachy, seconded by Member Osowski, to approve the consent agenda items as presented below:	Consent Agenda Approved as presented
Waived the reading and approved September 13, 2021, Board Workshop Meeting Minutes of the Redford Union Board of Education, as presented.	Board Workshop Meeting minutes of September 13, 2021, as presented
Waived the reading and approved September 13, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Redford Union Board of Education, as presented.	Regular Meeting minutes of September 13, 2021, as presented
Waived the reading and approved October 4, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes of the Redford Union Board of Education, as presented.	Special Meeting minutes of October 4, 2021, as presented
Approved check register list from September 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021, in the amount of \$1,124,513.25.	Check Register List September 1-30, 2021
Approved electronic transfers for the month of September 2021, in the amount of \$1,564,211.93.	Electronic Transfers September 2021
Human Resources Recommendations for August 9, 2021, and September 13, 2021, Board Meetings:	Human Resources Separations:
A. Approve <b>NEW HIRES: Certified:</b>	
1. Christopher Norton/Teacher/Social Studies/RUHS/Effective 9/27/21	Christopher Norton
2. Darcy Renaud/Teacher/ELA/Hilbert/Effective 10/5/21	Darcy Renaud
3. Miriam Schloss/Teacher/Social Studies/Hilbert/Effective 9/27/21	Miriam Schloss
4. Lindsay Smith/Teacher/Resource Room/Hilbert/Effective 9/13/21	Lindsay Smith
5. Martha Soraruf/Teacher/GSRP/MacGowan/Effective 10/11/21	Martha Soraruf
B. Approve <b>NEW HIRES: Non-Certified:</b>	
1. Susan Bates/Educational Assistant/RUHS/Effective 10/11/21	Susan Bates
2. Skyler Hunter/Educational Assistant/ASD Program/Hilbert/Effective 10/1/21	Skyler Hunter
3. Sarah Lau/Educational Assistant/GSRP/MacGowan/Effective 10/4/21	Sarah Lau
4. Sara Nolan/Academic Teaching Assistant/MacGowan/Effective 9/27/21	Sara Nolan
5. Deanne Stauch/Secretary/Beech/Effective 10/11/21	Deanne Stauch
C. Approve <b>SEPARATIONS:</b>	
1. Meredith Burke/Speech & Language/Resignation/Effective 10/1/21	Meredith Burke
2. Audra Holdorf/Assistant Supervisor/Stuckey Center/Resignation/Effective 10/7/21	Audra Holdorf
3. Kimberly Rose/ASD Teacher/Hilbert/Resignation/Effective 10/15/21	Kimberly Rose
D. Approve <b>LEAVE REQUEST</b> as listed below:	
1. Laura Dorais/Teacher/MacGowan/Effective 9/20/21	Laura Dorais
E. Approve <b>ASSIGNMENT CHANGES</b> request as listed below:	
1. Melaney Nikonowicz/Hilbert to RUHS/Special Ed.	Melaney Nikonowicz

F. Approve **SES New Hires** request as listed below:

1. Emily Frikken/Regina High School/Teacher/Effective 8/23/21

Emily Frikken

The Board had discussion.

Trustee Bailey asked about the September 13<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes regarding to the Capital Bond Project Update. He said that the Capital Bond Project Update was only noted. He asked how the minutes are done and who does the minutes.

Jackie Warren, Administrative Assistant said that she does the minutes.

Trustee Bailey asked about the meeting minutes from September 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, page 497 that read "Trustee Bailey commented on the law of the Open Meetings Act and not having to ask permission. He also commented on the document provided to the Board at the August 30, 2021, Closed Session."

Trustee Bailey asked that the following statement be added to the September 13<sup>th</sup> regular minutes "The proposed wording was taken out of Closed Session without the approval of the Board."

Superintendent Witt said that was not correct. He explained that between the Closed Session and the Board meeting he had a conversation with the attorney at the request of the Board President to bring forward a resolution for the Board to consider. The attorney advised him that that motion would be what he would advise him to bring forward. Superintendent Witt stated that was a separate conversation that took place. He said that it is okay for the Administration to interact with legal counsel that they work with on a district-wide bases and as an administrative team and in some cases as members of the Board of Education to then seek counsel's advice and bring it forward as the result of counsel. It is a normal course of business.

Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Action Items:

Action Items

Resolution to Appoint Director and Alternative Director to MAISL:

Resolution to  
Appoint Director  
and Alternative  
Director to MAISL

It was moved by Member Gubachy, supported by Member Osowski, that the Board of Education adopt this Resolution that Michael Beltinck be named Director and Jasen Witt be named Alternate Director to the MAISL Joint Risk Management Trust.

The Board had discussion.

Treasurer Gray asked what MAISL was.

Superintendent Witt explained that MAISL was a Risk Management Pool that the District belongs to along with other school districts throughout Michigan. MAISL provides property, causality, and liability insurance to the Districts. Each of the

representative districts that participate in MAISL have a seat at the table relative to the decisions of that Risk Management Pool.

Roll Call Vote:

J. Bailey: Yes, R. Gray: Yes, L. Gubachy: Yes, H. Kick: Yes, S. McKee: Yes, J. Osowski: Yes, E. Pridemore: Yes Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried

2021 MASB Call for Delegates and Alternates:

2021 MASB Call for Delegates and Alternates

There was "NO" motion from the Board for the following Action Item.

Moved by Member \_\_\_\_\_, Seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_, that the Board of Education, approve \_\_\_\_\_ as Delegate and \_\_\_\_\_ as Alternate to represent Redford Union Schools Board of Education and help decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. MASB's 2021 Delegate Assembly will begin Thursday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. Only the delegates and alternate(s) named by each board may offer motions and vote on issues.

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

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

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

Beech Principal Ms. Nickel addressed the Board. She shared that Beech would have a Trunk or Treat on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm in the parking lot at Beech for Beech's students and families.

Board of Education Communication/Discussion:

Board of Education Communication/ Discussion

Treasurer Gray asked for an update on how things are going with regards to COVID-19 and cases in the District.

Superintendent Witt said that we have had some cases and that they do work on updating on a regular basis the number of cases in the District and that information can be found on the District's website. The District has had cases involving both staff members and students. The District work closely in those situations with the Wayne County Health Division before determining the next steps regarding what they should be doing as far as next steps, quarantine, isolation, when the individual(s) can be back

in the schools, making sure the students are provided support when they are out of school during those periods and the same with staff members. The most significant issue was with the cheerleading team.

Superintendent Witt said that Beech Elementary has had representatives from the Wayne County Health Division onsite.

Beech Principal Ms. Nickel addressed the Board and shared her experience when the Wayne County Health Division representative was at her school. She said that they walked the representative through the processes that Beech has in place. Ms. Nickel was told that they were doing more than some of the other schools that were experiencing high cases and that the representative was impressed with what Beech was doing and what was seen.

The Center based ASD Program at Beech was impacted and had to be treated as a group quarantine. This group does not routinely adhere to the mask wearing requirements and as a result of the one case which was reported, there were additional steps that had to be taken as far as the quarantine of students in that group.

Vice-President Osowski asked if anyone was available to come out Friday and cheer on the Panthers Home Coming.

Ms. Diya Bethel, Assistant Principal of Hilbert addressed the Board and introduced herself.

President Pridemore spoke on behalf of the Marching Band. She said that COVID has put a glitch in the way that they fundraise. The Band recently had a fundraiser with Boston Market. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Marching Band will have a fundraiser with On the Border Restaurant. When you go in let the restaurant know you are ordering to support Redford Union Marching Band. The Band will get a percentage of the take. Follow the Band on Facebook or you can reach out to Ms. Samojedny for more information.

President Pridemore said every day we hear on the News about another school that had to go virtual due to multiple COVID cases, busing issues, or teacher shortages. She gave a thank you to the staff, Superintendent, administrators, teachers, and bus drivers for showing up every day and making it happen and not making us a negative news story. She appreciates the hard work that goes into a return to school in a situation like this.

Superintendent Witt echoed President Pridemore's sentiments. He said that we face those same staffing challenges as the other districts do but it is kudos to our staff that are stepping up in roles that are not their primary roles to make sure that our students need continue to be met.

Future Meeting Dates:

Future Meeting Dates

Monday, November 8, 2021 – Board Workshop – 5:00 PM  
Board of Education Administrative Offices (Board Room), 17715 Brady St., Redford, MI  
48240

Monday, November 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting – 6:30 PM  
Board of Education Administrative Offices (Gymnasium), 17715 Brady St., Redford, MI  
48240

It was moved by Member Gray, seconded by Member Osowski, to adjourn the  
meeting at 7:11 PM.

Adjournment

Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa Gubachy  
Secretary  
Redford Union Schools  
Board of Education