



FROM THE ROUND TABLE



Issue 6

June 2023

A Note from the Superintendent

While the calendar says it is summer, I am not sure if Mother Nature has received the memo. I hope you finding time to enjoy the outside.

The summer months in education are a time to look back on the past year and plan ahead for growth opportunities. And, I can assure you this is exactly what is happening at each of the buildings throughout the district.

I would like to remind you to prioritize your health and well-being this summer. Whether it's spending time with family and friends, exploring new hobbies, or simply taking a moment to breathe, make sure to take care of yourself. August 28 will be here before we know it!

Quote of the Month

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
Dr. Seuss



Administration

Dr. Jennifer Murray,
Superintendent

Dr. Yamil Sanchez-Rivera,
Assistant Superintendent of
Operations

Wanda Gonzalez-Crespo,
Assistant Superintendent of
School Improvement

JuliAnne Kline,
Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning

Wayne Gehris,
Chief Financial Officer

Jesse C. Leisawitz, Esq.,
Chief Legal Officer

What Happened at the Board Meeting

The board approved the creation of a new scholarship entitled the You R Heard Hensley Scholarship in honor and memory of Stacey Hensley.

The board unanimously approved the 2023-2024 Final Budget for the General Fund in the amount of \$429,944,162.

The board approved a contract with TWG Security to purchase and install weapon scanners in Northwest, Southwest, Northeast, and Southern middle schools.

What Happened at the Board Meeting (cont.)

The agreement with Comcast Cable Communications Management to provide the Internet Essentials Partnership Program was extended till August 31, 2024.

An agreement between the Reading School District and The Double Tree was approved to hold the 2024 Reading High Senior Prom on May 10, 2024.

The board approved the Reading School District and Reading Area Community College agreement to provide Spanish Instruction Courses to district staff.

The board approved the affiliation agreement between the Reading Hospital and Reading School District for student internships.

The board approved the purchase of Criminal Justice and Law and Society textbooks by Cengage for Reading High School.

The board awarded the following bids for the 9th and Windsor STEM high school building:

- general contract to Skepton Construction Inc.
- mechanical contract to Matchline Mechanical Inc.
- electrical contract to Hirneisen Electric Inc.
- plumbing contract to Vision Mechanical Inc.

We are pleased to announce the following changes of status for current members of our Red Knight family.

- Erin Brown to Principal of 10th & Green Elementary School
- Kimberly Clarke to Assistant Principal of 10th & Green Elementary School
- Megan Shobe to Principal of Amanda Stout Elementary School
- Joseph McDevitt to Assistant Principal of Amanda Stout Elementary School
- John Mahoney to Principal of Glenside Elementary School
- Ryan Nye to Assistant Principal of Riverside Elementary School
- Geraldine Sepulveda-Torres to Assistant Principal of RKA/Thomas Ford
- Irnette Gonzalez Torres, change of status from Translator/Transcriber Clerk 4 to Parent Family Resource Specialist based at the Administration Building
- Johanna Zabala, change of status from HR Generalist in Food Service Department to Assistant Director Food Service based at Reading High School

We are pleased to welcome a new class of administrators to our Red Knight family.

- Roshanna Floyd Assistant Principal of 13th & Green Elementary School
- Nicholas Krajcic Assistant Principal of Millmont Elementary School
- Joshua Rankin Assistant Principal of Central Middle School
- Karen Hodge Principal of Northeast Middle School
- Dr. Tamara Smith Assistant Principal of Northwest Middle School
- Denise Rathman Assistant Principal of Southern Middle School

Staff Shout-Outs

Joey Snider, Head Custodian at Reading High School

Thanks to Mr. Snider for being an important part of our education system. He came to our class and helped teach a lesson on a career in the custodian field. The students saw firsthand the cart that was filled with cleaning supplies and how they were used. Thank you Room 242!

Shout out to all of our RSD employees! Thank you for another great school year. You are awesome! Go Red Knights!

Stacey Eiler, 6th Gr. ELA teacher and Queen of the Parent Engagement Committee at Northeast Middle School

Mrs. Eiler curated and artfully presented a successful series of six creative, fun, and engaging events for NEMS students, parents, and families throughout the 2022-2023 school year! Each event united families, teachers, and staff around a common goal. Mrs. Eiler's passion for and commitment to our students and families is second to none. Three cheers for Mrs. Eiler and the countless hours of planning, organization, and love that she devoted to the RSD this year!

Know an awesome RSD Staff Member? Scan the QR Code Below to Shout Them Out!



Staff Spotlight: Principal Justin Storch Sets the Tone as the New Principal of Riverside Elementary

Mr. Justin Storch has been a friendly face in the Reading School District for 13 years. He has served as a teacher, Dean of Students, and Assistant Principal. Now, he takes on the new role of Principal of Riverside Elementary School following Principal Birts' retirement in March. "No one can replace Principal Birts but I learned a lot from her. She is one of my biggest supporters," said Principal Storch.

Principal Storch is a Reading High grad and prides himself on being a part of the Red Knight family. "My favorite thing about the Reading School District is the people. You find so many people who have grown up here and then stayed here because they love it. If you're here, you want to be here. We take pride in being a part of this community," said Principal Storch. A common theme at Riverside Elementary is teamwork. "We all work together and as a team. There can be stressful days but when we work together to help our students, it is the most rewarding thing," said Principal Storch.

His career in education and the Reading School District stems from growing up in Reading. "My mom was a lunch aid at 13th and Green. We were always very involved in school and all the opportunities that came from it. I played sports, I was in the band. So many opportunities came from being involved in school." Storch received his bachelor's degree in teaching from Millersville University and then his principal certification from Alvernia University.

Principal Storch plans on having a successful first year as principal of Riverside.



"I want to connect with the community and make Riverside the best it can be. We are unique and I want to show how great we are," said Storch. He also wants the families of Reading School District to know he is here for them and the students. "I am here for them and always willing to listen. If you make decisions with the student's best interest at heart, we will all be successful. Having these connections and learning from each other is how we will all succeed," said Principal Storch.

Outside of being the best principal he can be, Principal Storch loves to spend time with his family, cheer on the Philly sports teams, and coach his son's t-ball team.

The students of Riverside are in good hands. You make us #RSDProud Principal Storch!

Staff Question of the Month

Get to know your RSD colleagues with our fun question of the month! Summer is here! This month's question: What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

Kayla (Middleton) King, K-4 Innovation Specialist & Gifted Educator - I like a combination of coffee and chocolate!

Luis Villafane, Attendance Secretary at Glenside Elementary School - Choosing anything besides Cookies and Cream feels like a major life decision. It could be the coldest day of winter, and I am ordering that Oreo shake.

Peg Creamer, Secretary to the Director of Student Services - Chocolate Chip

Laura Arana, Main Secretary at 10th and Green Elementary School - Vanilla

Maria Castro, POA at 10th and Green Elementary School - Vanilla Ice Cream with Chocolate Fudge

Mike Himmelriech, Math and Science Teacher at Central Middle School - Chocolate Chip

Falco DiBiase, IT Application Support - Butter Pecan

Traci Webb, Principal at 16th and Haak Elementary School - Espresso Chip! YUM!

Giovanna Flowers, Food Service - Cookies and Cream

Joe Pottiger, 4th Grade Teacher at Lauer's Park Elementary School - A double scoop with chocolate and black raspberry!

Crystal Lynch, Attendance & Leave Specialist - My favorite ice cream is always a Reese's Pieces Sundae, especially from Scoupe DeVille!

Irnette Gonzalez Torres, Translator - Mango is my favorite flavor since it brings me many great memories of my beautiful little island, Puerto Rico.



#DuckDuckRSD

Our first non-RSD #DuckDuckRSD tag has been posted! Duck #13, which started at 10th and Penn Elementary School has traveled the farthest so far. It was passed along and found in Watkins Glen, NY. A Jeep owner then passed it along at a James Taylor concert in Bethel, NY. We look forward to seeing how far our ducks travel this summer!



The Manilow Music Project

Congratulations to Reading High School Music Teacher, Mr. Joe Smith! Mr. Smith has been selected as one of the 10 finalists for the Barry Manilow Music Teacher Award. The top-voted recipient will receive \$10,000 to help continue music education in their school. Please vote for Mr. Smith using the link below. Voting ends on July 21, 2023. No matter the outcome, we are #RSDProud of you, Mr. Smith!

<https://on.barrymanilow.com/trk/mmpreading>

FROM THE ROUND TABLE



The Reading High School Class of 2023

Congratulations to our Class of 2023! Thank you to all of our RSD employees for making this school year a memorable one!

