

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual/In-Person Available at Readington Middle School
Regular Meeting 5:00 p.m.
AUGUST 23, 2022

MINUTES

Mission Statement: We empower members of our community to lead purposeful lives with integrity, to cultivate a spirit of discovery, and to embrace connections in our diverse, global society.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD PRESIDENT – OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Dr. Cerciello called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6-21) and was open to the media and public. Notices were duly posted, and the meeting was advertised in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News. Formal was taken.

Present: Mrs. Bettermann, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Peach, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Zwerling, Dr. Cerciello

Absent: Mrs. Podgorski, Mrs. Wolf, Mrs. Hample

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart and Mr. Bohm provided an update on projects completed over the summer months. Several board members shared how tremendous the partnerships are with local businesses, scouts, universities, and the community at large to accomplish these great projects.
- Dr. Hart presented an update on the current district enrollment, the impact of new housing this coming school year, and redistricting efforts which are well underway. The Ridge at Readington, the new development nearing completion, is anticipated to provide based on the Rutgers' formula, approximately 121 students in the coming months as families move-in. The district is in year 2 of a 5-year districting plan, with all kindergarten students and all move-ins in the redistricting area going to Three Bridges School in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Dr. Hart highlighted the potential need to start the October 11, 2022 board meeting early at 6:00 p.m. due to multiple presentations to the public that evening. The board agreed to start the meeting earlier and publicly advertise as required by law.

IV. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (LIMITED TO ACTION ITEMS ON THE AGENDA)

- Community members asked questions regarding a consultant from Rutgers University, Answer.org, health lesson plans, state mandates, among other curriculum areas. It was requested all lesson plans be presented to parents before adoption on this topic. Dr. Hart discussed the format of the information session on September 29, 2022, relating to the new health curriculum and responded to questions concerning the curriculum and Answers.org. A letter to families shall provide resources and other information for them to view in advance of the information session on September 29, 2022. Mrs. Fiore highlighted the opt-out for parents that will be specifically delineated, and Dr. Cerciello shared the trust is needed with teaching staff to select specific lesson plans that reflect the community but also adhere to state standards.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- None

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02

Motion: Mrs. Fiore
(Mr. Peach abstained)

2nd: Mrs. Bettermann

Roll Call Vote: Carried 5 Yes

- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes July 19, 2022.

- 2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes July 19, 2022.

WHEREAS, the School Employees Health Benefits Commission, comprised of state officials, union representatives and a representative of the New Jersey School Boards Association, annually considers the calendar year premium levels for the Local Education Employee Group of the SEHBP based on recommendations found in the Rate Setting Recommendation Analysis of the Local Education Employee Group; and

WHEREAS, the School Employees' Health Benefits Plan Design Committee has the responsibility for and authority over the various plans and components of the plans, including for medical benefits, prescription benefits, dental, vision, and any other health care benefits, offered and administered by the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, existing law requires three members of the School Employees' Health Benefits Plan Design Committee to be appointed by the Governor as representatives of public employers (i.e., local school districts) whose employees are enrolled in the program, but currently all such representatives are state-level appointees;

WHEREAS, the recommended rate changes for medical and prescription drug coverage for the Active 2023 Local Education Employer Group is 15.1%, which includes a 15.3% increase for active employees enrolled in NJ DIRECT 10/15 and a 14.9% increase for active employees enrolled in the NJ Educators Health Plan (NJEHP); and

WHEREAS, such proposed exorbitant rate increases will fall upon the local property taxpayer, as well as school employees, at a time where there is record inflation; and

WHEREAS, since employees enrolled the NJEHP pay a percentage of salary toward their health benefits per P.L.2020, c.44, commonly referred to as "Chapter 44", any increase in NJEHP premiums will fall almost entirely upon local boards of education, placing a severe strain on their budgets; and

WHEREAS, the proposed premium increase for most active employees will take thousands more out of their paychecks annually and lead to huge costs for local school districts that will translate into higher property tax bills for struggling families; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Readington Township Board of Education in the county of Hunterdon call upon the School Employees Health Benefits Commission to reconsider the rate increase and strike a rate increase that is appropriate in the current economic conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Readington Township Board of Education in the county of Hunterdon urge the Legislature to adopt legislation expanding the composition of the School Employees Health Benefits Commission and the School Employees' Health Benefits Plan Design Committee to include additional representatives from local school district management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Readington Township Board of Education in the county of Hunterdon urge the Legislature and executive branch to examine the impact that "Chapter 44" has had on school district budgets and to adopt legislation that will reverse any of its negative consequences and provide relief to those districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Murphy, State Treasurer Muoio, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Andrew Zwicker, Assemblyman Roy Frieman, Assemblywoman Sadaf Jaffer, and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

3.10 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education (the "Board") desires to procure the services of a consultant for the procurement and development of a cell tower on district property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a), the procurement of professional services, such as consultant services, may be exempt from public bidding; and

WHEREAS, to ensure a fair and open competitive process, the Board desires to solicit proposals through Requests for Proposals ("RFP").

- Social Studies Grade 5
 - Social Studies Grade 6
 - Social Studies Grade 7
 - Social Studies Grade 8
 - Civics Grade 8
 - ELA Grade K
 - ELA Grade 1
 - ELA Grade 2
 - ELA Grade 3
 - ELA Grade 4
 - ELA Grade 5
 - ELA Grade 6
 - ELA Grade 7
 - ELA Grade 8
- (Attachment 4.05)

4.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following student placements in the Readington Township School District as follows:

STUDENT NAME	UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE PLACEMENT REQUEST	SCHOOL/COOPERATING TEACHER	EFFECTIVE DATES
Linnette Galindo	New York University Steinhardt Fieldwork	Holland Brook School Barbara Pauley	Fall Semester 2022
Tasha Schwab	Purdue University Global Observation	Whitehouse School Jennifer Prior	Fall Semester 2022
Lexie Smith	Florida Institute of Technology Fieldwork	Holland Brook School Michael Cooney	Fall Semester 2022

Mrs. Bettermann asked about math progression. Dr. Hart explained 4th and 5th grades will be honors and regular, and honors still exist.

Mrs. Bettermann then asked about computer science and civics and how will work in schedule. Will all 6th grades have computer science? Dr. Hart said yes as computer science is a required elective. Dr. Hart said similar to civics for grade 8. If someone has no electives as in honors, how will this work? Dr. Hart indicated that schedules are still being evaluated on how best to accomplish this. A handful of students are impacted and will make sure we can achieve the state mandated standards but also still have

Mr. Peach asked about revisions to curriculum for social studies Grade 7 among others. And Dr. Hart said the revisions are within the final documents posted online to the attachments of the board agenda.

Mr. Zwerling asked about science curriculum and climate change. Sustainability in an addendum will be incorporated by grade level and map sustainability topics into curriculum. Teachers will see activities, but the board will also get to vote on this addendum.

D. PERSONNEL

Committee Report - Minutes of the meeting held on August 8, 2022 were provided by Mrs. Fiore.

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.15
 Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2nd: Mrs. Bettermann Roll Call Vote: Carried

5.01 Motion to approve the following resignation:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jennifer Ulloa	Aide/Special Education (WHS) 30-04-D3/auw	July 30, 2022

5.02 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following appointments:

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Christine Parolise	Teacher/LA (RMS) 20-01-D2/aew	\$65,795.00 MA Step 7	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Jemma Buccine	Teacher/Math (RMS) 20-01-D2/ady	\$65,795.00 MA Step 7	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Christopher Bolotov	Teacher/Special Education (WHS) 20-04-D2/ajc	\$61,495.00 BA Step 8	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Stevie Ader	LTS Teacher/Science (RMS) 20-01-D2/aeg	\$56,985.00 BA Step 1	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Gianna DeSapio	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/aya	\$19.16/hr. Aide NC Step 5	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Nicole Smith	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/avm	\$18.96/hr. Aide NC Step 3-4 (4)	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Susan Zimmerman	LTS Teacher/Special Education (RMS) 20-01-D2/ais 20-01-D2/aco	\$62,585.00 MA Step 1	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Kelsey Shebey	LTS Teacher/Science (RMS) 20-01-D2/aeH 20-01-D2/aek	Sub rate for the first 20 consecutive days, \$56,985.00 BA Step 1 per diem rate thereafter	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Errol Jimenez-Rojas	Head Custodian (WHS) 70-0-D5/apk	\$44,490.00 Custodian Step 4	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Krystiana Sellers	.55 PT Teacher/Physical Education (TBS) 20-03-D2/azp (WHS) 20-04-D2/azo	\$31,341.00 BA Step 1	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Krystiana Sellers	.45 PT Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/axm	\$20.56/hr. Aide C Step 1	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Alexa Smith	Aide/Special Education (WHS) 30-04-D3/auw	\$18.76/hr. Aide NC Step 2	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Angela Hendricks	LTS Teacher/LA (RMS) 20-01-d2/afb	Sub rate for the first 20 consecutive days, \$56,985.00 BA Step 1 per diem	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023

		rate thereafter	
Beverly Betsko	Assistant Dispatcher/Clerk (Transp) 81-06-P6/bbs	\$40,000.00 Unaligned	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Jolene Mizesak	LTS Speech Language Specialist (TBS) 20-03-D2/aki	Sub rate for the first 20 consecutive days, \$62,585.00 MA Step 1 per diem rate thereafter	8/15/2022 - 11/24/2022

5.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following appointments:

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Virginia Petzinger	Bus Driver (Transp) 80-06-D6/ach	\$27.25/hr. Step 7	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Jennifer Rourke	.72 PT Aide/Special Education (HBS) 30-02-D3/akx	\$24.80/hr. Aide C Step 17	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Jennifer Rourke	.28 PT Teacher/Special Education (HBS) 20-02-D2/bbt	\$22,503.60 MA Step 17	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Katherine Pomeisl	Aide/Special Education (HBS) 30-02-D3/akx	\$20.24/hr. Aide NC Step 9	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
Jessica Gass	Aide/Special Education (HBS) 30-02-D3/awk	\$18.56/hr. Aide NC Step 1	9/1/2022 - 6/30/2023

5.04 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following **Substitute Teacher/Aide/Nurse/Bus Driver** paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township District, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements:

NAME	POSITION
Jose Fernandez	Substitute Bus Driver

5.05 Motion to approve the Paraprofessional hours for the 2022-2023 school year.
(Attachment 5.05)

5.06 Motion to approve Bus Driver and Cafeteria Aides hours for the 2022-2023 school year.
(Attachment 5.06)

5.07 Motion to approve Anthony Tumolo as Acting Principal of Three Bridges School beginning on August 24, 2022 through tentatively September 30, 2022 at a monthly stipend of \$1,100.00.

5.08 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve stipend payments for the following teachers participating in the 2022 Summer Teacher Academy Sessions:

STAFF MEMBER NAME	SCHOOL	SESSION	STIPEND
Donna Kwiatkowski-Belt	TBS	Explicit Strategy Instruction in Reading	\$20.00
Mary Scarpa	TBS	Understanding Behavior	\$20.00
Cheryl Bellew	RMS	Mentor/Buddy Teacher Leadership Academy	\$120.00
Allison Lovering	RMS	Mentor/Buddy Teacher Leadership Academy	\$120.00
Beth McGivney	RMS	Mentor/Buddy Teacher Leadership Academy	\$120.00
Lori Yukniewicz	WHS	Mentor/Buddy Teacher Leadership Academy	\$120.00

5.09 Motion to approve the following mentors for the 2022-2023 school year as follows:

NEW STAFF MEMBER	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Stevie Ader	RMS	Science - 6th LTS	Olivia Kashtaev
Alyssa DeBiasio	HBS	Special Ed	Megan Sloan
Julia Fillebrown	TBS	Kindergarten	Lisa O'Connor
Stephanie Goldrosen	RMS	Special Ed	Lauren Greenberg
Kevin Grant	WHS	Grade 3	Arlene Schlosser
Angela Hendricks	RMS	ELA - 6th LTS	Lindsay Solano
Joshua Idio	RMS	Music/Band - LTS	Jack Hasselbring
Jaclyn Kephart	RMS	Special Ed	Jen Heller
Emily Obenauer	RMS	Choral Music	Jack Hasselbring
Kelly Petersen	WHS	Grade 3	Michelle Mielke
Caroline Ratanski	RMS	ELA - 7th	Shaina Mirsky
Julia Ricardo	WHS	Grade 1	Kristy Pieloch
Krystiana Sellers	TBS/WHS	PE - Part-time	Ed Dubroski
Kelsey Shebey	RMS	Science - 7th/8th - LTS	Cheryl Bellew
Jessica Weiss	HBS	Grade 4	Jennifer Higdon

- 5.10 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the attached list of thank you and recognition stipends.
(Attachment 5.10)
- 5.11 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the attached list of Readington Middle School coaching assignments for the 2022-2023 school year at their contractual rate.
(Attachment 5.11)
- 5.12 Motion to approve the attached list of teachers as Central Office Detention and Homework Room Advisors at Readington Middle School for the 2022-2023 school year at their contractual rate.
(Attachment 5.12)
- 5.13 Motion to approve all staff as substitutes for stipends listed in the Readington Township Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2022-2023 school year at their contractual rate.
- 5.14 Motion to join Central Jersey Program for the Recruitment of Diverse Educators (CJ Pride) to assist with the recruitment and acquisition of staff at a fee of \$2,000.00 for the 2022-2023 school year.
(Attachment 5.14)
- 5.15 Motion to rescind the appointment of Dana Silva, Aide/Special Education, for the 2022-2023 school year.

