

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Reorganization Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 7, 2025

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 SECRETARY – OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mr. Bohm called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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 action was taken.

II. FLAG SALUTE

REORGANIZATION

Election Results – November 5, 2024

READINGTON TWP. - BOE MEMBERSHIP 3 YR. TERM		
	VOTE COUNT	PERCENTAGE
Pamela Cassidy	3,070	16.60%
Camille Cerciello	2,804	15.16%
Richard Pieros	3,005	16.25%
Linda Rad	3,081	16.66%
David Rizza	3,453	18.67%
Kristen Turvey	3,032	16.39%
Write-In Totals	52	0.25%
Write-In Other	0	0.00%
Not Assigned	52	0.28%
Total Votes Cast	18,497	100.00%

READINGTON TWP. - BOE MEMBERSHIP 2 YR. TERM		
	VOTE COUNT	PERCENT
Paulo Lopes	4,177	94.76%
Write-In Totals	231	5.24%
Write-In: Other	0	0.00%

Not Assigned	231	5.24%
Total Votes Cast	4408	100.00%

III. OATH OF OFFICE

- Mr. Bohm administered the Oath of Office to new Board Members: Mrs. Cassidy, Mr. Lopes, Mrs. Rad, and Mr. Rizza.

Present: Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. DePinto, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Lopes, Mrs. Podgorski, Mrs. Rad, Mr. Rizza, Mrs. Ryan

Also Present: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent, Mr. Jason M. Bohm, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Ms. Jennifer Osbourne, Board Attorney

Absent: Mrs. Mencer

IV. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

- Nomination and election of Board President. Mr. Bohm opened nominations.

Mr. Bohm provided an overview of bylaw 0152 prior to election of the President and Vice President positions.

Ms. Fiore and Mr. Rizza thanked board members for their nominations, and provided background and priorities prior to voting on their candidacy.

Various board members shared thoughts and dialogue occurred.

Nomination: Mrs. Fiore

By: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes; 5 No

Nomination: Mr. Rizza

By: Mrs. DePinto

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes; 3 No

The newly elected Board President assumes the position and continues meeting.

V. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

- Nomination and election of Board Vice President. Mr. Rizza opened nominations.

Mrs. Fiore shared thoughts on her candidacy, and Mrs. Ryan shared thoughts on Mrs. DePinto's candidacy.

Nomination: Mrs. DePinto

By: Mrs. Ryan

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes; 3 No

Nomination: Mrs. Fiore

By: Mrs. Fiore

Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes; 5 No

VI. REORGANIZATION

- Adoption of R-1 – R-5

Motion: Mr. Lopes

Second: Mrs. Ryan

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

A discussion on resolution R-2, which involves the creation of annual board committees, was held. The nature of the Green Committee and recommendation to merge primarily into the Finance/Facilities Committee for efficiency reasons was highlighted. Other committees such as Education/Technology or Policy/Communications could review sustainability initiatives if their nature aligns with such. Board members and Dr. Hart shared their thoughts. Pros and cons were shared, with the primary concern of removal at this time impacting the current application for Sustainable Jersey as a critical component of that process to continue to be eligible for re-certification. All four schools and the district achieved silver recognition from Sustainable Jersey in prior certification efforts, the highest level feasible.

Motion: Mr. Lopes

Second: Mrs. Rizza

Roll Call Vote: Not Carried 8 No

Motion to remove Green Committee from R-2 and amend the board agenda to effectively merge the Green Committee into the Finance/Facilities Committee.

R-1 Motion to approve the 2025 Board of Education calendar as indicated on attachment.
(Attachment R-1)

R-2 Motion to create the following delegates and committees for Board President appointment:

- NJ School Boards Association Delegate
- NJ School Boards Association Alternate Delegate

- Hunterdon County ESC Representative
- Garden State Coalition of Schools Trustee
- Home School Association
- Home School Association Alternate
- Board of Education Sick Bank Trustees – Personnel Committee Members (when assigned)
- Committee Chairs and Committee Assignments:
 - Policy/Communications Committee
 - Finance/Facilities Committee
 - Education/Technology Committee
 - Personnel Committee
 - Negotiations Committee
 - Green Committee

R-3 Motion to adopt current Board bylaws, policies, and regulations.

R-4 Motion to adopt the Code of Ethics.
(Attachment R-4)

R-5 Motion to approve the Courier News and the Daily Record as the primary official weekly newspapers for 2025 legal notices and the Star Ledger, The Hunterdon County Democrat, Tapinto, and The CHronicle as alternate newspapers for 2025 legal notices.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart congratulated Mrs. Cassidy, Mr. Lopes, Mrs. Rad, and Mr. Rizza on their election to the board, and congratulated Mr. Rizza and Mrs. DePinto on their election to the position of President and Vice President, respectively.
- Jennifer Osbourne, Board Attorney from Methfessel & Werbel, presented on the roles and responsibilities of the board, code of ethics, and best practices to adhere to as a board member and functionality of the board as a whole. Dialogue with board members was held.

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

- A member of the public provided comments on the Green Committee, its functionality and past history, as it pertains to conversation the board undertook on resolution R-2 earlier in the board meeting.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

- None

X. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Committee Report

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.02
Motion: Mr. Paulo **2nd: Mrs. DePinto** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 5 Yes**
 (Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Rad, and Mr. Rizza abstained)
- 1.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes December 10, 2024.
- 1.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes December 10, 2024.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

XII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mr. Rizza shared information and next steps on the formation of board committees in the coming days for upcoming committee meetings scheduled in January. Dr. Hart shared upcoming committees scheduled and delegation assignments for people to be aware of.
 - There were shared thoughts and discussion between board members on taking minutes for committee meetings, and how to make potentially more effective moving forward.
- Dr. Hart highlighted the Board of Education Yearbook Photo scheduled for January 21, 2024.

- Mrs. Fiore highlighted the NJDOE will be holding a local meeting on state aid funding formula on January 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

XIII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- A Community member welcomed all the new board members and Mrs. DePinto and Mr. Rizza on their new positions.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT - 8:58 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Lopes

2nd: Mrs. DePinto

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education