

# **READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Holland Brook School  
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
September 10, 2024

## **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 at 6:00 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.

**Present:** Mrs. DePinto, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Lopes, Mrs. Mencer, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Wolf, Dr. Cerciello

**Also Present:** Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent, Jason M. Bohm, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**Absent:** Mr. Peach, Mrs. Podgorski

### **II. FLAG SALUTE**

Mr. Peach arrived at 6:04 p.m.

### **III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Dr. Hart highlighted the opening week of the 2024-2025 school year, sharing photos and sentiments from around the district.
- Dr. Hart presented district goals for the 2024-2025 school year including: inquisitive learning, partnerships, and social awareness which are 5-year strategic goals, as well as academic achievement, communications enhancement, and referendum planning. Action steps and measures were shared. Although not strategic, sustainable jersey certification and development of an artificial intelligence policy and professional development were mentioned. Board members discussed their thoughts and gave feedback.

Ms. Podgorski arrived at 6:38 p.m.

### **IV. BOARD GOALS**

- Patricia Rees, NJSBA Field Service Representative, helped review board-level goals for the upcoming school year, while reflecting on past goals and accomplishments. The board and Superintendent discussed and shared thoughts at length. Tentative goals may include:
  1. Academic Achievement - The board is dedicated to creating and implementing systems and frameworks that prioritize academic success, ensuring it remains a central focus in decision making.
  2. Committee structure - The Board of Education aims to enhance the effectiveness of its committees by conducting a comprehensive review of existing committee protocols.
  3. Communications - To enhance communications and foster community engagement with all stakeholders, the board will broaden its efforts to highlight and celebrate district accomplishments.
  4. Referendum - The board will collaborate with the administration to identify district capital project needs for a referendum. They will develop a comprehensive communications plan to engage stakeholders

### **V. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (LIMITED TO ACTION ITEMS ON THE AGENDA)**

- None

### **VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Email L.L. - ELA Curriculum

## VII. BOARD ACTION

### A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore** **2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**  
(Mrs. Wolf abstained 2.01)

2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes August 20, 2024.

### C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

**Committee Report:** Mrs. DePinto provided minutes of the meeting held on August 29, 2024.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.08  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore** **2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **August 22, 2024 through September 11, 2024** for a total amount of **\$1,687,459.70**.  
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **Travel Expenditures September 10, 2024** In the amount of **\$9,616.01**.
- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **July 2024** for a total amount of **\$486,723.52**.  
(Attachment 3.03)
- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for July 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024**.  
(Attachment 3.04-3.04a)
- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for July 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024**.  
(Attachment 3.05)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS July 31, 2024 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of July 31, 2024 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9 and 18A:22-8.1.

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Jason M. Bohm, Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 and 4, we certify that as of July 31, 2024 after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A23A-16.10(a)1 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, and further, that we approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports subject to audit for the period ending July 31, 2024.

- 3.07 Motion to approve the Shared Services Agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2024-2025 school year.  
(Attachment 3.07)
- 3.08 Motion to approve the corrective action plan for excess funds in the District's Food Service Program and authorize the Business Administrator to submit to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.  
(Attachment 3.08)

### D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

**Committee Report:** None

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.03

- 4.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and adopt the attached list of the following curriculum for the 2024-2025 school year:  
(Attachment 4.01-4.01a)

<b>CURRICULUM</b>
English Language Arts - Grade 6
Viking Broadcast Encore

- 4.02 Motion to adopt the following fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year:

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>FUNDRAISER</b>	<b>RECIPIENT</b>
Readington Middle School	Thanksgiving Food Drive	Flemington Food Pantry or Open Cupboard Food Pantry
Readington Middle School	Souper-Bowl Food Drive	Flemington Food Pantry or Open Cupboard Food Pantry
Readington Middle School	School Store Sale	Student Council NJASC State Charity/Grow-a-Row
Readington Middle School	Bake Sales	Student Council NJASC State Charity/Grow-a-Row
Readington Middle School	Spring/Winter Dance-Activity Night	Student Council NJASC State Charity/Grow-a-Row
Readington Middle School	Halloween Bash	Student Council NJASC State Charity/Grow-a-Row
Readington Middle School	EcoAmbassador Plant & Pot Sale	EcoAmbassador Club
Readington Middle School	Athletics Fall Car Wash	Readington Athletic Booster Club
Readington Middle School	Movie Night	Student Council NJASC State Charity/Grow-a-Row

- 4.03 Motion to approve a handwriting study through a partnership with Angelique Aitken, Ph.D., and Penn State College of Education to evaluate the relative effectiveness of four different handwriting programs for kindergarten and first grade students.  
(Attachment 4.03)

## **E. PERSONNEL**

**Committee Report:** None

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.13

**Motion: Mrs. Wolf**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski**

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

- 5.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute Teacher/Aide/Nurse/Bus Driver for the 2024-2025 school year, paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township District, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
Cheryl Bregman	Substitute Teacher/Aide

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Maria Llinas	Custodian (RMS) 70-01-D5/apl	\$41,770.00 Step 3	On or before 09/04/2024 - 06/30/2025
Kelli Meadows	Aide/Special Education (RMS) 30-01-D3/ayq	\$20.62/hr. Aide NC Step 7	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025
Heather Canha	Aide/Kindergarten (WHS) 30-04-D3/axz	\$21.52 /hr. Aide NC Step 10	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025
Kathy Hunter	Aide/Preschool (WHS) 30-04-D3/bcj	\$22.11/hr. Aide C Step 4	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025
Rosemarie Perna	LTS Aide/Special Education (RMS) 30-01-D3/awv	\$21.22/hr. Aide NC Step 9	On or about 09/06/2024 - 11/15/2024
Jennifer Hardison	LTS Aide Special Education (TBS) 30-03D3/alu	\$21.49/hr. Aide C Step 1	09/01/2024 - 12/16/2024

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Bruce Corwin	LTS Teacher/LA (RMS) 20-01-D2/afc	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$66,575.00 BA Step 10 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	09/01/2024 - 11/27/2024

5.04 Motion to approve the attached list of Preschool Bus Aides for the 2024-2025 school year at the contractual rate.  
(Attachment 5.04)

5.05 Motion to rescind the following Bus Driver appointments for the 2024-2025 school year:

Yendry Fernandez
John Gilliam

5.06 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following for additional curriculum writing/development, at the contractual rate:

STAFF MEMBER NAME	CURRICULUM	STIPEND NOT TO EXCEED
Angela Hendricks	ELA Curriculum Writing Grades 6-8	\$350.00
Nicole Maraventano	ELA Curriculum Writing Grades K-8	\$350.00

- 5.07 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve stipend payments for the following teachers' participation in the 2024 Summer Teacher Academy sessions:

STAFF MEMBER NAME	SESSION	STIPEND
Lauren Greenberg	Mentor/Buddy Teacher Leadership Academy	\$140.00
Donna Kwiatkowski-Belt	Transitioning from Word Walls to Sound Walls (Grades K-2)	\$35.00
Rachel Tomson	Transitioning from Word Walls to Sound Walls (Grades K-2)	\$35.00

- 5.08 Motion to approve the following salary increases in recognition of the employees' attainment of additional credits for lateral movement on the RTEA guide, effective September 1, 2024:

NAME	SCHOOL	FROM STEP	SALARY	TO STEP	REVISED SALARY	INCREASE
Blair Alber Crossley	RMS	MA Step 18	\$85,045.00	MA+30 Step 18	\$87,445.00	\$2,400.00
Rachel Tomson	TBS	MA Step 14-15 (14)	\$78,205.00	MA+30 Step 14-15 (14)	\$80,605.00	\$2,400.00
Stephanie Armstrong	TBS	BA Step 12	\$70,505.00	BA+15 Step 12	\$72,105.00	\$1,600.00
Michelle Parkhurst	TBS	BA Step 5	\$60,560.00	BA+15 Step 5	\$62,160.00	\$1,600.00
Mindy Bennington	RMS	MA Step 20	\$90,055.00	MA+30 Step 20	\$92,455.00	\$2,400.00
Paul Yunos	RMS	BA+15 Step 12-13 (12)	\$72,105.00	MA Step 12-13 (12)	\$76,105.00	\$4,000.00
Melissa Truempy	HBS	BA Step 23	\$92,645.00	BA+15 Step 23	\$94,245.00	\$1,600.00
Lauren Suriano	WHS	BA Step 4	\$59,860.00	BA+15 Sep 4	\$61,460.00	\$1,600.00
Lauren Mahoney	HBS	BA Step 20	\$84,445.00	BA+15 Step 20	\$86,055.00	\$1,600.00
Lenora Iglesias	WHS	BA+15 Step 10	\$68,175.00	MA Step 10	\$72,175.00	\$4,000.00
Jacqueline Ganguzza	HBS	BA+15 Step 2	\$60,960.00	MA Step 2	\$64,960.00	\$4,000.00

- 5.09 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve special skills stipend of \$1,000.00 for full-time aides who are assigned to self-contained autism or BD programs, or who provide extraordinary services as defined by the RTEA agreement set forth in an IEP for the 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment 5.09)
- 5.10 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the attached list of club advisors for the 2024-2025 school year at their contractual rate. (Attachment 5.10)
- 5.11 Motion to approve the following mentor for the 2024-2025 school year:

NEW STAFF MEMBER	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Bruce Corwin	RMS	LTS Teacher/LA	Lauren Greenburg

- 5.12 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve stipends for all staff facilitating on the Readington Township October 14-15, 2024 In-Service Days, not to exceed \$2,000.00.
- 5.13 Motion to approve the attached list of teachers as Central Office Detention and Homework Room Advisors at the Readington Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year at their contractual rate. (Attachment 5.13)

## **F. COMMUNICATION**

**Committee Report: None**

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.02  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore** **2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
- 6.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and adopt the following policies and bylaw for second reading:  
(Attachment 6.01)
- Bylaw 0141 - Board Member Number and Term
  - Policy 2200 - Curriculum Content
  - Policy 8467 - Firearms and Weapons
  - Policy 9181 - Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants
- 6.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and abolish the following policy:
- Policy 0164.6 - Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Dr. Hart shared information for board members to consider in attending NJSBA Workshop in late October.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD**

- None

## **X. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- A member of the public inquired about the new bathroom pass at Readington Middle School. Dr. Hart provided an overview indicating Readington Middle School principal, Mr. Charleston, received feed back earlier in the week and is implementing adjustments as pass is digital or physical.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT 7:44 p.m.**

Motion to adjourn  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Wolf**

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

Respectfully submitted,

**Mr. Jason M. Bohm**  
**Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**Dr. Camille Cerciello**  
**President, Board of Education**