

# **READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Holland Brook School  
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
April 29, 2025

## **AGENDA**

**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.

The Board of Education will be meeting in-person on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. If members of the public wish to attend the meeting virtually, meetings are streamed Live over Youtube via the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Nqnwk\\_J-sFlxSaFkuVaA/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Nqnwk_J-sFlxSaFkuVaA/live)

The agenda and all materials for the Board meeting appear on the Board web page.

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

The meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6-21) and is 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 may be taken.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza\_\_\_\_\_

### **II. FLAG SALUTE**

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

- District Goals
- Final Budget Adoption
- Staff Appreciation Week

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

In accordance with Local Finance Notice (LFN) 2020-21, public comments can be submitted before remote public meetings through electronic mail or by written letter. Please email the Board Secretary at [jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us) by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the board meeting. Comments shall be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting.

For members of the Readington Township School District Community who may be joining a Meeting for the first time or would like to provide comments tonight, we're sharing the Board Policy pertaining to public comments. Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts as per the District's Policy. The Readington Board of Education operates through a committee structure. Committees discuss and vet all topics for Board action before they appear on the Board agenda for vote. The Board committees publicly report at our meeting about what they discussed prior to the Board vote, excluding any topics that are rendered confidential by law.

#### **0167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public comment at every regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or question Board members individually unless directed by the presiding officer.
2. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate; Web participants will type the information in as a preface to their comments.
3. If the Board of Education is webcasting the public meeting, the "chat" feature will be on during the public comment sessions only.
4. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard and time permits.
5. In order to provide sufficient opportunity for the public to be heard, a time limit of three minutes for each participant may be observed. Webcast participants making comments via chat may only enter one 256 character comment, excluding the announcement of his/her name and place of residence, unless the presiding officer asks for clarification or further information. The President may, at his/her discretion, limit discussion on any topic. The portion of the meeting during which the public is invited shall be limited to sixty minutes.
6. The presiding officer may interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The presiding officer may take other steps, including but not limited to adjourning the meeting or waiving

any of the rules of the Residents' Forum, to respond to a lack of public decorum, or to otherwise protect privacy or the efficient completion of the Board's business.

## V. CORRESPONDENCE

## VI. BOARD ACTION

### A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.01 RMS Quarterly Discipline Report Quarter 3/January 29- April 3, 2025.  
(Attachment 1.01)

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza \_\_\_\_\_

### B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes April 11, 2025.
- 2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes April 11, 2025.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza \_\_\_\_\_

### C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

#### Committee Report:

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.05  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **April 10, 2025 through April 30, 2025** for a total amount of **\$1,578,471.56**.  
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve the following resolution adopting the 2025-2026 Budget:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the budget be approved for the 2025-2026 School Year and that the Superintendent and the SBA/Board Secretary be authorized to implement the following final budget and present the A4F request of school taxes to the Township of Readington.

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL 2025-2026
Total Expenditures	\$38,821,517.00	\$4,236,310.00	\$2,066,125.00	\$45,123,952.00
Less Anticipated Revenues	\$4,457,517.00	\$4,236,310.00	\$7,077.00	\$8,700,904.00
Taxes to be Raised	\$34,364,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,059,048.00	\$36,423,048.00

(Attachment 3.02-3.02b)

3.03 Approval of the adoption of tuition rates for 2025-2026:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to establish the following tentative tuition rates for the 2025-2026 school year:

Preschool/Kindergarten	\$24,321.00
Grades 1-5	\$26,276.00
Grades 6-8	\$26,461.00
*Learning Language Disabled	\$37,487.00
*Emotional Regulation Impairment	\$63,382.00
*Autism	\$51,359.00
*Preschool Disabled (full time)	\$35,463.00
*Rates listed subject to modification based on actual needs required for the Individualized Educational Plan of the student(s)	

3.04 Motion to approve the Preschool Education Aid Account Transfers from July 1, 2024 through April 29, 2025, and authorize the Business Administrator to submit transfers to the State of New Jersey for review and approval.  
(Attachment 3.04)

3.05 Motion to approve contracts with the following private providers for preschool expansion for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Berry Patch Early Learning Center
  - Global Pioneer Academy/REN
  - Stanton Learning Center
  - Whitehouse Preparatory School
- (Attachment 3.05)

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza \_\_\_\_\_

**D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY**  
**Committee Report:**

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.04  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

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

STUDENT NAME	UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE PLACEMENT REQUEST	SCHOOL/COOPERATING TEACHER	EFFECTIVE DATES
Brooke Sodowich	Rutgers University/ Internship	Three Bridges School/ Beth Furka	09/01/2025 - 06/30/2026

4.02 Motion to adopt the following additional field trips for the 2024-2025 school year:

GROUP/GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	APPROXIMATE COST TO PARENT
Preschool TBS/WHS/All Provider Locations	Pickell Park	Whitehouse Station, NJ	- 0 -
RMS-HBS/Life Skills	Whitehouse Fire Company	Whitehouse Station, NJ	- 0 -

4.03 Motion to ratify and approve home instruction for student S-243, for 10 hours per week, from April 9, 2025 through May 30, 2025.

4.04 Motion to approve the attached updated HSA fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year.  
(Attachment 4.04)

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza\_\_\_\_\_

## E. PERSONNEL

### Committee Report:

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.21  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **tenured administrators** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Administrators Association.  
(Attachment 5.01)
- 5.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **non-tenured administrators** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Administrators Association.  
(Attachment 5.02)
- 5.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **tenured certificated staff** members for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
(Attachment 5.03)
- 5.04 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **non-tenured certificated staff** members for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
(Attachment 5.04)
- 5.05 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **paraprofessionals** with final appointments pending assignments as required through student Individual Education Plans for the 2025-2026 school year and in accordance to the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
(Attachment 5.05)
- 5.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **secretaries** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
(Attachment 5.06)
- 5.07 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **clerical aides** for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
(Attachment 5.07)
- 5.08 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **custodians** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
(Attachment 5.08)
- 5.09 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **other support staff** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.  
(Attachment 5.09)
- 5.10 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **maintenance mechanics** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.  
(Attachment 5.10)
- 5.11 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **technology staff** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.  
(Attachment 5.11)

- 5.12 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **unaligned administrators** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.  
(Attachment 5.12)
- 5.13 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **confidential secretaries** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.  
(Attachment 5.13)
- 5.14 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **bus drivers**, salaries and hours pending finalization of routes, for 2025-2026 school year.  
(Attachment 5.14)
- 5.15 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following appointments:

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Ashanti Simpkins	Bus Driver (OOD Route) (new position)	\$28.75/hr. Step 8	On or about 05/12/2025 - 06/30/2025
	Cafeteria Aide (HBS)	\$19.50 Step 8	
Emma Weger	Teacher/Grade 5 (HBS) 20-02-D2/abw	\$60,430.00 BA Step 1-2 (2)	09/01/2025 - 06/30/2026

- 5.16 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following position control changes and designated transfers for the 2025 - 2026 school year:

NAME	CHANGE	POSITION	LOCATION
Alissa Buelow	Transfer From: To:	20-02-D2/abu 20-02-D2/ahf	HBS Teacher/Grade 5 HBS Teacher/Intervention
Gargi Adhikari	Transfer From: To:	20-02-D2/ahp 20-02-Dw/bay	HBS Teacher/Special Education HBS Teacher/Grade 5
Kaitlyn Jones	Transfer From: To:	20-03-D2/arf 20-03-D2/acr	TBS Teacher/Kindergarten TBS Teacher/Grade 2
Lindsay Solano	Transfer From: To:	20-01-D2/aev 20-01-D2/afb	RMS Teacher/LA/Coach RMS Teacher/LA
Erica Applegate	Transfer From: To:	20-01-D2/afb 20-01-D2/aev	RMS Teacher/LA RMS Teacher/LA/Coach
Emily Obenauer	Transfer From: To:	20-01-D2/agx 20-01-D2/agx 20-02-D2/axs	RMS Teacher/Music RMS .5 Teacher/Music HBS .5 Teacher/Music

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

NAME	POSITION
Jaclyn Assuncao	Substitute Aide

Kevin Flynn	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Robert Nierenberg	Substitute Teacher/Aide

5.18 Motion to adopt the following resolution for Staff Appreciation Week:

**WHEREAS**, Teacher Appreciation Week will be celebrated the week of May 5, 2025 through May 9, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Readington Township Board of Education recognizes the extraordinary efforts of not only its teachers but also its counselors, nurses, Child Study Team members, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, maintenance staff, technology staff, and secretaries; and

**WHEREAS**, all staff, are responsible for the translation of district mission and vision, which they have helped formulate, into programs and activities in and outside the classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, the dedication, intelligence, creativity, sensitivity, and high standards of our teachers and staff are a source of inspiration to the hundreds of students whose lives they touch; and

**WHEREAS**, the excellence in our classrooms is matched by the excellence of the services provided by our staff, which are crucial to the success of the Readington Township Public Schools,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that on behalf of the administration, parents, and residents of Readington Township we express our gratitude to all of our professional staff for exemplary service to the district, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Tuesday May 6, 2025 be designated as National Teacher Day for the Readington Township Public School District and that we take this opportunity to extend an official thank you, to all District staff whose devotion enriches the lives of the members of the Readington Township Public Schools.

5.19 Motion to accept the Superintendent recommendation and approve other leave for staff member #6810 for the period of 05/12/2025 - 06/30/2025.

5.20 Motion to ratify and approve Yolanda Lima to provide home instruction for student S-243, for 10 hours per week, from April 9, 2025 through May 30, 2025, at the contractual rate.

5.21 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following resignations:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Darian Hampton	Teacher/Music (HBS) 20-02-D2/axs	06/30/2025
Jacqueline Ganguzza	Teacher/Grade 5 (HBS) 20-02-D2/abw	06/30/2025
Edward Heussler	Bus Driver (Transp) 80-06-D6/aod	04/17/2025

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza\_\_\_\_\_

#### **D. COMMUNICATION** **Committee Report:**

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.03

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

- 6.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following policies for second Reading:  
(Attachment 6.01)

- Policy 5111 - Eligibility of Resident and Nonresident Students
- Policy 8500 - Food Service

- 6.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and abolish the following bylaws:

- Bylaw 0131.1 - Education-Technology Committee
- Bylaw 0147 - Board Member Travel Expenses
- Bylaw 0155.01 - Board Member Participation of Board Meetings Using Electronic Devices

- 6.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following bylaws for first reading:  
(Attachment 6.03)

- Bylaw 0000.01 - Adoption Resolution
- Bylaw 0110 - Identification
- Bylaw 0134 - Board Self-Evaluation
- Bylaw 0141 - Board Member Number and Term
- Bylaw 0142 - Board Member Qualifications, Prohibited Acts...
- Bylaw 0142.1 - Nepotism
- Bylaw 0143 - Board Member Election and Appointment
- Bylaw 0145 - Board Member Resignation and Removal
- Bylaw 0146 - Board Member Authority
- Bylaw 0153 - Annual Appointments
- Bylaw 0155 - Board Committees
- Bylaw 0164 - Conduct of Board Meeting
- Bylaw 0167 - Public Participation in Board Meetings
- Bylaw 0168 - Recording Board Meetings
- Bylaw 0169 - Board Member Use of Electronic Mail/Internet
- Bylaw 0171 - Duties of Board President and Vice President
- Bylaw 0174 - Legal Services
- Bylaw 0177 - Professional Services

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza \_\_\_\_\_

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD**

- Delegate Reports

## **IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Motion to adopt the following resolution: Resolved to adjourn to Executive Session in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Chapter 321, P.L. 1975, to discuss HIBs, student matter and the Superintendent's evaluation and training for approximately 45 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action shall be taken. The matters discussed will be made public if and when the circumstances requiring confidentiality no longer exist; however, it is not presently known when such circumstances will exist.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza \_\_\_\_\_

**XI. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Roll Call:  
Mrs. Cassidy \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza \_\_\_\_\_

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at:  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Roll Call:  
Mrs. Cassidy \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Fiore \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopes \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Mencer \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Podgorski \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Rad \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Ryan \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. DePinto \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rizza \_\_\_\_\_