

# **READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Holland Brook School  
Regular Meeting 5:00 p.m.  
July 23, 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**

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.

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

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

**Absent:** Mr. Lopes, Mrs. Podgorski, Mrs. Ryan

### **II. FLAG SALUTE**

### **III. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RENEGOTIATION AND AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Cerciello read : Whereas, the Readington Township School District Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") wishes to amend the contract of the Superintendent, for the effective period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029; and

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11, the Board is required to provide public notice, 30 days and 10 days prior, of its intent to hold a public hearing and to take action to amend, extend, renegotiate and/or alter contract terms and conditions of the Superintendent. Notice was provided to the public via publication in the district's official newspaper on June 20, 2024 and on June 21, 2024, and publication on the district's public website every day for the period beginning June 20, 2024 through July 23, 2024. The subject contract was reviewed and subsequently approved on June 27, 2024 by the Interim Executive County Superintendent of the NJ Department of Education, Hunterdon County Office.

Now, therefore be it resolved, the Board is providing opportunity for public comment on the amended contract of the Superintendent. The Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b), the Open Public Meetings Act, shall not publicly discuss personnel matters and shall not respond to comments made by members of the public. Please be aware that the subjects of this hearing retain the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The Board shall not be held liable for comments made by members of the public.

A member of the community congratulated Dr. Hart on being recognized as Hunterdon County Superintendent of the Year, and his many achievements since he joined the district. She mentioned that he is one of the longest serving Superintendents for the district.

The RTEA president and teacher thanked Dr. Hart for all your hard work and dedication to the staff and students, and his vision to better the district. She said she was looking forward to working with him for years to come.

A teacher and resident thanked the board for renewing Dr. Hart's contract and thanked Dr. Hart for all his service over the years.

### **IV. PERSONNEL**

Motion to adopt 5.01

**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

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

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 6 Yes**

5.01 Motion to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Readington Township Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) and Jonathan R. Hart, Ph.D., entered into an Employment Agreement for the term commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2026 (hereinafter referred to as the “Present Employment Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board and the Superintendent desire to rescind the Present Employment Agreement prior to its conclusion, and enter into a new Employment Agreement for a term commencing July 1, 2024 and expiring June 30, 2029 (hereinafter referred to as the “Succeeding Employment Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, this Employment Agreement has been submitted to and approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent, according to standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8(j).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby rescinds the Present Employment Agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby appoints Jonathan R. Hart, Ph.D., as the Superintendent of Schools for the Readington Township School District for the period beginning on July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2029, in accordance with the terms of the Succeeding Employment Agreement annexed hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves the attached Succeeding Employment Agreement with Jonathan R. Hart, Ph.D., for the position of Superintendent of Schools for the foregoing period of appointment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and School Business Administrator to execute the Succeeding Employment Agreement on behalf of the Board.  
(Attachment 5.01)

## V. BOARD RETREAT WITH JUDITH WILSON

- Judith Wilson, consultant and former Superintendent, led a retreat with the board. Dialogue between board members and administration occurred to focus best practices and structures to move the district forward.

## VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart shared a presentation on enrollment and redistricting. The impact of preschool enrollment was discussed, as well as future and current new housing developments in township boundaries. Plans and actions moving forward were highlighted to best prepare to meet the needs of the anticipated student population.

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

- The RTEA president and teacher highlighted the agreement proposed this evening between the board and RTEA relating to tuition reimbursement, and for consideration of helping staff on this matter.
- A teacher thanked the board for considering the tuition reimbursement agreement this evening to recognize the staff's hard work to pursue education and to better the district as a whole.
- Dr. Cerciello, Board President, thanked staff members for their hard work and that the board was happy to come to an agreement that hopefully will pass this evening.

## VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email J.C. - Information for BOE
- Email D.F. - District Buses

## IX. BOARD ACTION

## A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- |      |   |                                    |                                      |
|------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1.   | Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.04<br><b>Motion: Mrs. Fiore</b>                      | <b>2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Mencer</b> | <b>Roll Call Vote: Carried 6 Yes</b> |
| 1.01 | Motion to approve Enrollment and Drill Reports June 2024<br>(Attachment 1.01) |                                    |                                      |
| 1.02 | Motion to accept the HIB reports and affirm the Superintendent's decision:    |                                    |                                      |

CASE NUMBER	SCHOOL	DATE	FINDINGS OF HARASSMENT INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING
7	RMS	05/03/2024	No
8	RMS	05/15/2024	Yes

- 1.03 Motion to approve the Readington Middle School Discipline Report Quarter 4/April 15 - June 21, 2024.  
(Attachment 1.03)
- 1.04 Motion to approve the Emergency Virtual or Remote Instructional Program Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.  
(Attachment 1.04)

## B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Wolf                      Roll Call Vote: Carried 6 Yes**
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes June 11, 2024.
- 2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes June 11, 2024.

## C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

**Committee Report:** Mrs. DePinto provided minutes of the meeting held on July 18, 2024.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.08  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore                      2<sup>nd</sup> : Mrs. Mencer                      Roll Call Vote: Carried 6 Yes**  
(Ms. DePinto abstained one check 064135 on resolution 3.01 only)
- Motion to adopt 3.09  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Mencer                      Roll Call Vote: Carried 6 Yes**
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **June 13, 2024 through July 24, 2024** for a total amount of **\$5,016,160.31**.  
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **Travel Expenditures July 23, 2024** In the amount of **\$23,741.08**.
- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **June 2024** for a total amount of **\$2,620,535.90**.  
(Attachment 3.03)
- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024**.  
(Attachment 3.04-3.04a)
- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024**.  
(Attachment 3.05)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS June 30, 2024 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of June 30, 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 June 30, 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 June 30, 2024.  
(Attachment 3.06-3.06a)

- 3.07 Motion to participate in the National Sourcewell Cooperative for electric school bus vehicles and related parts, supplies and accessories, contract and bid number 063020-BBB expiring August 15, 2025 adopted by the State of New Jersey Division of Purchase & Property through a New Jersey Participating Addendum under N.J.S.A. 52:34-6A. Funding for electric school bus vehicles provided for through grants awarded by federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean School Bus Rebate program and state Electric School Bus program.
- 3.08 Motion to submit the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant application and acceptance of funds for the 2024 - 2025 school year:
- ESSA:  
Title I - A: \$51,120.00  
Title II - A: \$22,394.00  
Title III Consortium: \$32,469.00 with \$5,406.00 designated for Readington funds  
Title IV Part A: \$10,000.00
- IDEA:  
Basic: \$386,327.00  
Preschool: \$14,507.00
- 3.09 Motion to approve Cornell, Merlino & Osborne, LLC, who merged with Methfessel & Werbel, P.C., July 1, 2024, as Board counsel, for professional services for the 2024-2025 school year.

#### D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

**Committee Report:** None

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.03  
**Motion:** Mrs. Fiore                      **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Mrs. Mencer                      **Roll Call Vote:** Carried 6 Yes
- 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
Julia Garrera	TCNJ/ Student Teacher	Three Bridges School/ Kristen Halozan	08/29/24-10/18/24
Chloe Gilio	TCNJ/ Student Teacher	Three Bridges School/ Kristen Halozan	10/21/24-12/06/24

- 4.02 Motion to approve tuition contract for non-resident staff members' child to attend Readington Township Schools at the tuition rate \$4,500.00 for the 2024-2025 school year:
- Employee #6786
  - Employee #6115
  - Employee #6943
  - Employee #6338
- 4.03 Motion to accept the 2024 through 2027 Language Instructional Educational Program Three Year Plan to be submitted to the state.  
(Attachment 4.03)

#### E. PERSONNEL

**Committee Report:** Mrs. Wolf provided minutes of the meeting held on July 1, 2024.

5. Motion to adopt 5.02 - 5.15  
**Motion:** Mrs. Wolf                      **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Mrs. Fiore                      **Roll Call Vote:** Carried 6 Yes  
(Mrs. Fiore abstained 5.15 only)

- 5.02 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:

NAME	POSITION
Krista Pachuta	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Bobbie Friedhoff	Substitute Teacher/Aide
John Gilliam	Substitute Bus Driver
Carolanne Sherwood	Substitute Aide

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Kelly Cusik	Teacher/Grade 3 (WHS) 20-04-D2/adm	\$58,860.00 BA Step 1	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025
Walter Burkat	Teacher/French (RMS) 20-01-D2/aff	\$67,060.00 MA Step 7	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025
Kirsten Baron	LTS Teacher/PE & Health (RMS) 20-01-D2/agj	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$64,960.00 MA Step 2 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	09/01/2024 - 11/27/2024
Marjorie Milloria	Nurse (ODD) New Position	\$60,00.00 MA Step 7	On or after 07/15/2024 - 08/03/2024 (ESY summer rate) 09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
John Gilliam	Bus Driver (Transp.) 80-06-D6/anl	\$29.75/hr. Step 9	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025
Michael Trani	Bus Driver (Transp.) 80-06-D6/anx	\$26.75/hr. Step 1-6 (1)	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025
Darian Hampton	Teacher/Music (HBS) 20-02-D2/axs	\$61,460.00 BA Step 7	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025
Mackenzie Storms	Teacher/Special Education (TBS) 20-01-D2/aij	\$64,960.00 MA Step 2-3 (3)	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025

Michele Adamitis	LTS Teacher/Special Education (RMS) 20-01-D2/ahu	\$61,460.00 BA+15 Step 4 (prorated)	09/01/2024 - 11/15/2024
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5.05 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following position control changes and designated transfer for the 2024 - 2025 school year:

NAME	CHANGE	POSITION	LOCATION	SALARY
Anne Rieche	Transfer From: To:	30-02-D3/awr 30-02-D2/aid	HBS Aide/Special Education HBS Teacher/Special Education	\$66,575.00 BA Step 10
Christina Kosci	Transfer From: To:	20-01-D2/aij 20-03-D2/arz 20-03-D2/ayz	TBS Teacher/Special Education TBS .5 Teacher/Preschool TBS .5 Teacher/Special Education	No Change
Mary Shea	Transfer From: To:	20-04-D2/bcf 20-04-D2/axj	WHS Teacher/Preschool WHS Teacher/Kindergarten	No Change
Jennifer Rourke	Transfer From: To:	20-01-D2/bce 20-01-D2/bce	RMS .82 Teacher/GenEd RMS Teacher/GenEd (full time)	\$71,754.10 \$87,505.00
Krystiana Sellers	Transfer From: To:	30-03-D3/axm 20-03-D2/azo 20-03-D2/azo 20-03-D2/azp	TBS .45 Aide/Special Education WHS .55 Teacher/PE/Health WHS .90 Teacher/PE/Health TBS .10 Teacher/PE/Health	\$11,589.00 \$32,648.00 \$53,424.00 \$5,936.00

- 5.06 Motion to ratify and approve Maryann Shultz as a bus aide for student S-185 during the Extended School Year Program, not to exceed 10 hours per week, at their summer rate.
- 5.07 Motion to ratify and approve Susan Zimmerman as a bus aide for student S-049 during the Extended School Year Program, not to exceed 10 hours per week, at their summer rate.
- 5.08 Motion to approve the salary adjustment for Kathryn Cecala due to clerical error as per the attachment. (Attachment 5.08)
- 5.09 Motion to rescind the appointment of Rylie Kukal, LTS Teacher/LA for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 5.10 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following resignations:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Bobbie Friedhoff	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/awg	06/30/2024
Cadence Ottenstroer	Aide/Special Education (RMS) 30-01-D3/ayq	06/30/2024

- 5.11 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following retirement with appreciation for her years of service:



Sunshine Law, Chapter 321, P.L. 1975, to discuss 3 HIB and to interview attorneys for approximately 60 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action may 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.

**XIV. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - 8:25 p.m.**

**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

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

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 6 Yes**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT - 8:27 p.m.**

**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

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

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 6 Yes**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

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