

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
April 29, 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 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. Cassidy, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Lopes, Mrs. Podgorski, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. DePinto, Mr. Rizza

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

Absent: Mrs. Mencer, Mrs. Rad

Mrs. Mencer arrived at 7:04 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart presented an update on the progress, action steps and accomplishments on the 2024-2025 district goals through April. The goals include three strategic goals of inquisitive learning, social awareness and partnerships, along with academic achievement, communications enhancement and referendum planning. Other noteworthy projects shared were Sustainable Jersey for Schools Recertification process, governance and policy work, a successful budget cycle given constraints, and final steps in retention and recruitment efforts. The board conveyed wonderful thoughts on all the achievements and work to move the district forward to benefit students and staff as a whole.
- Mr. Bohm presented the final budget with no changes from the March 11, 2025 presentation, with a proposed 3.2% overall tax levy increase.
- Dr. Hart shared kind thoughts and words for Staff Appreciation Week, highlighting a resolution later in the agenda for board vote recognizing the hard work and dedication of the district's professional staff to the students and community.
- Dr. Hart introduced Rebecca Burns, Director of Pupil Services, who has been board approved to start during the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Burns thanked the board and conveyed her excitement for joining the district and continue the great work of the district.

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

- None

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- None

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Motion to adopt 1.01
Motion: Mrs. Ryan | 2nd: Mr. Lopes | Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes |
| | Motion to adopt 1.02
Motion: Mrs. Mencer | 2nd: Mr. Lopes | Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes |

- 1.01 RMS Quarterly Discipline Report Quarter 3/January 29- April 3, 2025.
(Attachment 1.01)
- 1.02 Motion to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education conducted a long term suspension hearing for student, whose name is on file, on November 12, 2024 in accordance with the NJ Administrative Code and Regulations, Board Policy and the Student Handbook, and
- WHEREAS**, the Readington Township Board of Education approved the suspension for the balance of the 2024-2025 school year on November 12, 2024 and alternative placement for the student's educational programming on December 10, 2024; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board hereby approves the continued suspension of the student and current placement with no modification for the 2024-2025 school year, pursuant to NJ Administrative code and regulations. The Board shall review this matter at each subsequent regular Board

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mr. Lopes** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 6 Yes**
(Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Mencer abstained)
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes April 11, 2025.
- 2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes April 11, 2025.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: None

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.05
Motion: Mrs. Mencer **2nd: Mrs. DePinto** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
- 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)

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: None

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.04
Motion: Mr. Lopes **2nd:** Mrs. DePinto **Roll Call Vote:** Carried 8 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
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)

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: Mrs. Podgorski provided minutes of the meeting held on April 25, 2025.

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.21
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd:** Mr. Lopes **Roll Call Vote:** Carried 8 Yes

- 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

Mrs. Cassidy acknowledged the wonderful efforts and impact of Mrs. Ganguzza on the students of Readington Township, regretting her departure by resignation from the district but wishing her the best moving forward both professionally and personally.

D. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: Mrs. DePinto provided minutes of the meeting held on April 16, 2025.

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.03

Motion: Mrs. DePinto

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

- 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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mrs. Cassidy provided a report from a Garden State Coalition of Schools meeting held on April 23, 2025, on state funding and unfunded mandates, with options for district to challenge the state.
- Dr. Hart highlighted the Governor's Educators of the Year and Retirees reception commencing at 6:15 p.m. on May 13, 2025 in Holland Brook School cafeteria. At 7:00 p.m., the board would convene in the Board of Education conference room for the regular meeting before speeches occur in the Holland Brook School cafeteria. The board shall return to the Board of Education conference room for the rest of the Board meeting.

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- A parent requested their preschooler placement to be at Whitehouse Preparatory School instead of Berry Patch Learning Center. Dr. Hart said he would meet with parent to discuss and hopefully come to a resolution.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:59 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. DePinto

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

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.

XI. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - 9:20 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Lopes

2nd: Mrs. Cassidy

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

XII. ADJOURNMENT - 9:23 p.m.

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Mr. Lopes

2nd: Mrs. Cassidy

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education