

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 21, 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

Mr. Rizza 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.

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

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

Absent: Mrs. DePinto

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart recognized Jesse Gold, Holland Brook student, for overcoming adversity and persevering to accomplish great things such as starring in the intermediate school musical Nanny Poppins and much more.
- Dr. Hart shared a presentation on housing developments in Readington Township, redistricting and enrollment in the district. Projections and preschool were also discussed.

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

- None

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email J.V. - Virtual School Days

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.02

Motion: Mrs. Ryan

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

(Mrs. Cassidy and Mrs. Rad abstained from 1.02 only)

- 1.01 Motion to approve the Enrollment and Drill Reports December 2024.
(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

meeting for appropriateness.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01
Motion: Mrs. Ryan **2nd: Mr. Lopes** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes**
(Mrs. Mencer abstained)

- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes January 7, 2025.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Mrs. Ryan provided minutes of the meetings held on December 13, 2024 and January 17, 2025.

The board discussed the referendum timelines prioritization of needs with detailed list of potential projects and information to evaluate, and building tours to view areas of need in-person. The Finance Committee shall review the referendum in more detail in February for a potential vote at a special board meeting on February 25, 2025 solely for the referendum. A vote in February is required to have the referendum appear on the September or November ballot, and if not achieved, the board has the ability to postpone to a later date through December of 2026 if necessary without impacting the tax levy schedule.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.09
Motion: Mrs. Ryan **2nd: Mr. Lopes** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **December 12, 2024 through January 22, 2025** for a total amount of **\$6,804,112.66**.
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **Travel Expenditures January 21, 2025** In the amount of **\$4,794.47**.
(Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **December 2024** for a total amount of **\$2,534,092.27**.
(Attachment 3.03)
- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024**.
(Attachment 3.04-3.04a)
- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024**
(Attachment 3.05)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS December 31, 2024 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of December 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.

Jason M. Bohm, Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 and 4, we certify that as of December 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 December 31, 2024.
(Attachment 3.06-3.06a)

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education is in receipt of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report FY 2023-2024 (ACFR) and the Auditor's Management Report as prepared and submitted by Bedard, Kurowicki & Co., CPA and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Readington Township Board of Education accepts and files with the Department of Education the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Management Report on Administrative Compliance and Performance for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024.
(Attachment 3.07-3.07a)

- #### D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.08

2nd: Mrs. Ryan

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

- | SCHOOL | FUNDRAISER | RECIPIENT |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Holland Brook School | Sweet Messages | Furry Tail Endings Canine Rescue |
| Three Bridges School | WizFit | TBS Student Activities Account |

- | GROUP/GRADE | TRIP | LOCATION | APPROXIMATE
COST TO PARENT |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| HBS/Life Skills | Chick-Fil-A | Flemington, NJ | \$10 |
| RMS/Junior Librarians | Seton Hall University | South Orange, NJ | \$5 |
| RMS/Mandarin 6-7-8 | Asian Food Market
Hibachi Grill | North Plainfield, NJ
South Plainfield, NJ | \$20 |

- 4.08 Motion to approve the attached updated list of HSA fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year.
(Attachment 4.08)

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: None

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.07

Motion: Mrs. Ryan

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 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:

NAME	POSITION
Cadence Ottenstroer	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Phoebe Stedman	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Allan Mirsenit	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Maureen Carroll	Substitute Bus Aide
Cheryl Magill	Substitute Secretary/Aide
Heather Boyce	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Simon Muckle	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Mirsenit Vargas	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
Emma Weger	LTS Teacher/LA (RMS) 20-01-D2/aes	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$58,860.00 BA Step 1 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	12/16/2024 - 03/28/2025
Kathleen Suchorsky	LTS Principal (TBS) 10-03-D1/aai	\$65.00/hr.	12/17/2024 - 01/20/2025

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Grace Curren	Cafe Aide (HBS) 40-02-D3/bcu	\$16.00/hr. Step 1	11/22/2024 - 06/30/2025
Dina Phillips	Bus Aide/Preschool (WHS) New Position	\$25.00/hr.	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025

*Gary Kropilak	Bus Aide/Preschool (TBS) New Position	\$25.00/hr.	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025
*Isatou Marong	Bus Aide/Preschool (WHS) New Position Cafe Aide (RMS) 40-01-D3/bdl	\$25.00/hr. \$16/00/hr. Step 1	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025
*Tumbul Jaiteh	Bus Aide/Preschool (WHS) New Position Cafe Aide (TBD) New Position	\$25.00/hr. \$22/00/hr. Step 13	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025
*Nyimanding Marong	Bus Aide/Preschool (WHS) New Position Cafe Aide (TBD) New Position	\$25.00/hr. \$16/00/hr. Step 1	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025

*pending fingerprinting/background check clearance

5.04 Motion to approve the following staff members to facilitate the Science Fair at the contractual rate:

NAME	SCHOOL	HOURS
Jill Nabozny	Three Bridges School	4 Hours Total
Leslie Martinez	Whitehouse School	4 Hours Total

5.05 Motion to ratify and approve Yolanda Lima to provide home instruction for Student: H-787029 from December 16, 2024 through March 16, 2025, for 5 hours per week, at the contractual rate.

5.06 Motion to ratify and approve Sheryl Ottenstroer and Kelli Meadows, as chaperones for the RMS musical, for student S-218, 22 hours total at the contractual rate.

5.07 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve special skills stipend of \$1,000.00 for Malin Lago who is 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.

D. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: None

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.02

Motion: Mrs. Ryan

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Mrs. Cassidy requested minor, non-substantive wording changes and formatting in policy 8505. The board agreed without the need to push back to the Policy Committee and continue vote this evening.

6.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and adopt the following policy for second reading: (Attachment 6.01)

- Policy 8505 - Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards for Meals and Other Foods

6.02 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHERE, New Jersey's public schools serve approximately 1.4 million children from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, The direction of public education in New Jersey is charted locally by individual school boards, whose 5,000 members serve as advocates for public education as they work with administrators, teachers, parents and local residents; and

WHEREAS, Boards of Education provide accountability to the public, they communicate the needs of the school district to the community, and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the school district; and

WHEREAS, School board members receive no remuneration for their services; and

WHEREAS, The Readington Township Board of Education is justly proud of the academic, athletic and social achievements of the students in our community; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2025 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Readington Township Board of Education does hereby commend the service of local school board members and its members to our community and its children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Readington Township Board of Education proclaims January 2025 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH in New Jersey and urges all citizens to join in recognizing the dedication of local school board members, past and present, as we work together to advance educational opportunities for our children.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Mr. Rizza highlighted the process of forming board committees and finalization of memberships and chairs. He thanked the committee chairs for spearheading the hard work for the 2025 calendar year.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Dr. Hart spoke about the Board Committee Handbook and that it will be utilized moving forward by the district to help with onboarding and serving.
- Mrs. Cassidy spoke about the Garden State Coalition of Schools attended last week. She provided minutes of the meeting. She said journalists were asking questions of the panel of Superintendents and board members about AI policies, cell phone practices and community engagement, obstacles and budgeting, teacher shortages, race for Governor, special education, chronic absenteeism, etc.

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Mrs. Buelow welcomed the new board member and mentioned she will enjoy working in partnership with them for the coming year as the new REA Board Liaison!

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:15 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Ryan

2nd: Mrs. Mencer

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 2 HIBs and the Superintendent's evaluation (mid-year update) for approximately 45 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action shall not 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 - 9:03 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Ryan

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

XII. ADJOURNMENT - 9:04 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Ryan

2nd: Mrs. Rad

Roll Call vote: Carried 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education**