READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual/In-Person Available at Holland Brook School Board of Education Meeting Room Reorganization Meeting 7:00 p.m. January 4, 2022

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 SECRETARY - OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mr. Bohm 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.

There are two open public comment sessions on the agenda. The first, which follows the Superintendent Report, is only for questions or statements pertaining to items on this agenda. Should you have any other question or statement, these must wait until the second and final open public session at the end of the meeting. These sessions are for the sole purpose of the community to express their comments in a public forum and the Superintendent and/or board is under no obligation to respond during the meeting.

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. REORGANIZATION

Election Results - November 2, 2021

READINGTON TWP BOE MEMBERSHIP 3 YR. TERM			
	VOTE COUNT	PERCENT	
Randall J. Peach	2,482	20.05%	
Jennifer Wolf	3,129	25.27%	
Camille Cerciello	2,829	22.85%	
Anthony Emmons	1,651	13.33%	
Eric Zwerling	2,166	17.49%	
Write-In (Various)	125	1.01%	
Total	12,382	100%	

READINGTON TWP BOE MEMBERSHIP 2 YR. UNEXPIRED TERM			
	VOTE COUNT	PERCENT	
Jodi Bettermann	211	33.55%	
Write-In (Various)	418	66.45%	
Total	629	100%	

IV. OATH OF OFFICE

Board Secretary administers the Oath of Office to new Board Members: Mrs. Bettermann, Mr. Peach, Mrs. Wolf

Present: Mrs. Bettermann, Dr. Cerciello, Mrs. Fiore, Mrs. Hample, Mr. Peach, Mrs. Podgorski, Mr. Wallace, Mrs. Wolf

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

Absent: None

V. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Nomination and election of Board President by Board Secretary

Nomination: Mrs. Hample By: Dr. Cerciello

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2^{nd:} Mrs. Hample Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

The newly elected Board President assumes the position and continues meeting.

VI. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Nomination and election of Board Vice President by Board President

Nomination: Dr. Cerciello By: Mrs. Fiore

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2^{nd:} Mr. Peach Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes

VII. REORGANIZATION

R. Motion to adopt R-1 – R-5

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2^{nd:} Dr. Cerciello Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes

(Mr. Peach abstained R-1 – R-5)

- R-1 Motion to approve the 2022 Board of Education calendar as indicated on attachment. (Attachment R-1)
- R-2 Motion to create the following delegates and committees for Board President appointment:
 - NJ School Boards Association Delegate
 - NJ School Boards Association Alternate Delegate
 - Hunterdon County ESC Representative
 - Garden State Coalition of Schools Trustee
 - Home School Association
 - Home School Association Alternate
 - Board of Education Sick Bank Trustees Personnel Committee Members (when assigned)
 - Committee Chairs and Committee Assignments:
 - Communications Committee
 - Finance/Facilities Committee
 - Education/Technology Committee
 - o Personnel Committee
 - Negotiations Committee
 - o Green Committee
 - District Technology Committee
- R-3 Motion to adopt current Board bylaws, policies, and regulations.
- R-4 Motion to adopt the Code of Ethics. (Attachment R-4)
- R-5 Motion to approve the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News as the primary official weekly newspapers for 2022 legal notices and the Star Ledger as alternate daily newspaper for 2022 legal notices.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart presented an update on the impact of the COVID situation in the district and in the State of New Jersey, sharing district data and information available on the <u>statewide COVID dashboard</u>. Dr. Hart highlighted potential suspension of activities such as athletics, clubs, field trips and in-person visitation to prevent quarantining more students if our NJDOH region turns red, the highest risk level per state standards. Dr. Hart shared potential changes in isolation guidelines being considered by the state to align with the CDC, a reduction of 5 days of quarantine for close contacts, and 5 additional days of strict mask wearing. The state is also reviewing a test to remain in school option to allow quarantined students to remain in the district for in-person instruction. Currently, quarantined students are provided tutoring. However, as the degree of students quarantining increase, the district is moving towards turning on cameras in the classroom for synchronous learning for core academic periods. This is intended to be short in nature for a few weeks until COVID case counts reduce. There was board discussion on testing and timing of results, student learning given circumstances and quarantine times among other area. The goal is to overcome challenges to the best degree to continue in-person instruction.
- Robert Lorfink, Board Attorney from Fogarty & Hara, provided mandated ethics training to the Readington Township Board of Education. Roles, responsibilities, and best practices were shared.

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

- Many parents asked questions relating to COVID-19 quarantine, vaccinations, contact tracing, student absences
 added, tracking of data points, and other topics relating to impact of pandemic. Dr. Hart answered all questions to
 the best of his ability referencing to the Road Forward Readington Ready Plan and guidelines from the Hunterdon
 County Department of Health. The district has provided professional development since March 2021 to prepare
 staff to continue in person instruction during the pandemic and taking upmost safety precautions to insure health
 and wellbeing of staff and students.
- A community member asked about how administration is being consistent with all staff on use of paid time off.
 Dr. Hart said every situation is handled case by case providing flexibility based on the nature when feasible as possible.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

None

XI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to adopt 1.01

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2^{nd:} Dr. Cerciello Roll Call Vote: Carried 5 Yes (Mrs. Bettermann, Mr. Peach, Mrs. Wolf abstained 1.01)

1.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes December 14, 2021.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

XIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mrs. Hample reviewed the process for committee appointment. She asked board members to email their interest to President and Vice President for consideration.
- Mrs. Hample highlighted the vacant board position application deadline is January 10, 2022. The January 18th board meeting will start at 6:00pm, and go straight into executive session to interview candidates, following interviews. The Board Secretary will notify all candidates the next day, January 19, 2022 of results. At the February 4th board meeting the new board member will be sworn in.

XIV. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC -

A community member thanked the board and administration with COVID information shared.

XV. ADJOURNMENT – 9.29 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2^{nd:} Dr. Cerciello Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jason M. Bohm Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Carol Hample President, Board of Education