

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
November 14, 2023

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

Mrs. Hample called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that 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 was taken.

Present: Mrs. Bettermann, Mrs. Fiore, Mrs. Mencer, Mr. Peach, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Wolf, Dr. Cerciello, Mrs. Hample

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

Absent: Mrs. Podgorski

Mrs. Podgorski arrived at 7:01 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart highlighted the bioswale project recently completed at Three Bridges School, an initiative to transform a simple drainage basin located at the school into a naturalized habitat for native species capable of retaining water runoff and cleanse water. Dr. Hart introduced David Livingston, former board president, who shared the journey of the project from a simple idea to final conclusion, along with the help of many in the community. Fundraising efforts were tremendous to require no taxpayer effort to perform the construction, and the education component of the restoration will have an impact for future students for years to come. Marlene Orlandi, community member, introduced former students Tatiana Hlinka, current Hunterdon Central student, as well as Malcolm Williams Jr., Raritan Valley Community College student, who were an integral part of the design and artwork for communication and education. Kind words were shared by various members of the community, board members and former students. A story map and video of the project was shared with the public, and is part of the future plans of the curriculum department. Dr. Hart congratulated all on their hard work, and presented plaques of appreciation.
- Dr. Hart shared an update of preschool expansion aid, funding awarded to the district by the State of New Jersey to provide free 3- and 4-year old preschool to the community with partnerships with local private providers starting January 2, 2024. Over 155 children applied for the available seats, and the lottery is being held currently to communicate shortly with parents on results. A community event on the preschool program occurred in early November with more than 50 families attending.

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

- Community members provided kind thoughts regarding the Three Bridges School Bioswale project.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email C.S. - PEA Funding Meeting

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.02

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

- 1.01 Motion to approve Enrollment and Drill Reports October 2023.
(Attachment 1.01)
- 1.02 Motion to approve Board Goals for the 2023-2024 school year.
(Attachment 1.02)

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes October 17, 2023.
- 2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes October 17, 2023.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Dr. Cerceillo provided minutes of the meeting held on November 2, 2023.

- 3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.13
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
(Mr. Peach abstained 3.10)
- Motion to adopt 3.14
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Wolf** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
(Mr. Peach left the meeting before vote)
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **October 19, 2023 through November 15, 2023** for a total amount of **\$2,373,824.45**.
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **District Travel Schedule November 14, 2023** for a total amount of **\$4,684.08**.
(Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **October 2023** for a total amount of **\$2,291,219.19**.
(Attachment 3.03)
- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for October 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023**.
(Attachment 3.04-3.04a)
- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for October 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023**.
(Attachment 3.05)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS October 31, 2023 Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of October 31, 2023 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 October 31, 2023 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 October 31, 2023.

- 3.07 Motion to authorize the Business Administrator to solicit bids for refuse disposal and recycling collection services for the period starting July 2024, for 3 (three) years, with 2 (two) 1 (one) year renewals at the CPI index.
- 3.08 Motion to approve a Professional Services Contract with Settembrino Architects for the following projects and fees:
- Readington Middle School Main Office, Roof and HVAC \$189,500.00
Air monitoring/remediation consultant (not to exceed) \$60,000.00
Ancillary fees/reimbursables (not to exceed) \$2,500.00
- WHEREAS**, it was necessary to incur costs for professional architectural services during the current year in preparation for construction in the summer of 2024; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Readington Township Board of Education approves the withdrawal of the above amounts from capital reserve effective immediately.
(Attachment 3.08)
- 3.09 Motion to approve a parental transportation contract not to exceed the amount of \$22,400.00 pending approval of the Executive County Superintendent for student #587836 for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 3.10 Motion to approve Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLC as Board counsel, as a professional service for the 2023-2024 school year.
(Attachment 3.10)
- 3.11 Motion to approve the attached legal settlement regarding student #531731.
(Attachment 3.11)
- 3.12 Motion to approve contracts with the following private providers for preschool expansion for the 2023-2024 school year commencing January 2, 2024:
- Stanton Learning Center
 - Berry Patch Learning Center
 - Whitehouse Prep
- 3.13 Motion to approve method of compliance in conformity with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-6.3 of a toilet room facility at Whitehouse School for a classroom containing kindergarten students for the 2023-2024 school year, due to preschool expansion programming commencing January 2, 2024.
(Attachment 3.13)
- 3.14 Motion to approve a legal settlement agreement regarding student whose name in on file per the terms and conditions of the attached contract.

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: None

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.07
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd:** Mrs. Podgorski **Roll Call Vote:** Carried 9 Yes

- 4.01 Motion to adopt the following fundraisers for the 2023-2024 school year:

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Readington Middle School	Concert Refreshments Candygrams/Flower Sales	FPAC
Readington Middle School	Silent Auction VIP Winter Concert Package	FPAC
Whitehouse School	Empty Bowls	Flemington Food Pantry

- 4.02 Motion to adopt the following additional field trips for the 2023-2024 school year:

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Donna Chiaffarano	Aide/Special Education (WHS) New Position	\$19.51/hr. Aide NC Step 5	01/02/2024 - 06/30/2024
Andrea DeCampos	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-04-D3/alu	\$21.71/hr. Aide C Step 6	11/15/2023 - 06/30/2024
Matthew Mandracchia	LTS.55 Teacher/PE (WHS) .25 - 20-04-D2/azo (TBS) .30 - 20-03-D2/azp	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$32,219.00 BA Step 3 per diem rate thereafter	12/01/2023 - 04/19/2024
Lindsay Salaj	Clerical Aide (HBS) 50-02-D4/amq	\$17.97/hr. Clerical Step 10	12/18/2023 - 06/30/2024
Tanya Cavallo	Teacher/Preschool (WHS) New Position	\$69,125.00 BA+15 Step 11/12 (11) (Prorated)	01/02/2024 - 06/30/2024

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

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Cheryl Edmonds	Aide/Special Education (WHS) 30-04-D4/akw	10/31/2023
Donna Cramer	Secretary/CST (BOE) 50-05-D4/amo	11/22/2023

5.05 Motion to authorize the Superintendent to hire new staff for Preschool, with the approval of the Personnel Committee, after the November 14, 2023 board meeting through its February 13, 2024 board meeting to be subsequently ratified by the Readington Township Board of Education at Board Meetings of December 12, 2023 or January 23, 2024 or February 13, 2024.

5.06 Motion to temporarily increase the hours for the following teachers to provide coverage for TBS Intervention position 20-03-D2/afw for the period of November 30, 2023 - January 19, 2024:

NAME	POSITION	TRACK/STEP	HOURS	SALARY
Noelle Henderson	Teacher/Intervention (TBS) 20-03-D2/afu	B Step 22	From: .58 Part Time To: Full Time	From: \$51,509.80 To: \$88,810.00 (prorated)
Kathryn O'Connor	Teacher/Intervention (TBS) 20-03D2/aft	B+15 Step 16	From: .5 Part Time To: Full Time	From: \$37,660.00 To: \$75,320.00 (prorated)

5.07 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following job descriptions: (Attachment 5.07)

- Preschool Teacher
- Preschool Coach
- Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist
- Preschool Relief Teacher

5.08 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following employees salary adjustments effective November 1, 2023:

NAME	POSITION	CURRENT SALARY	ADJUSTED SALARY
Thomas Duda	Maintenance Mechanic	\$61,058.00	\$66,000.00
Charles Keri	Maintenance Mechanic	\$48,547.00	\$52,000.00
Patrick Paul	Maintenance Foreman	\$64,272.00	\$80,000.00
Luke Schostkewitz	Maintenance Mechanic	\$57,000.00	\$59,000.00

5.09 Motion to approve Marybeth Schwarz and Denise Hawkins, as Chaperones for student S-011, to attend Cheer from November 28 - February 8, 2024, not to exceed 114 hours collectively, at the contractual rate.

5.10 Motion to approve Jill Komosinski, as a Nurse, to attend the Halloween Bash at RMS on October 27, 2023 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm, not to exceed 3 hours at the contracted hourly rate.

5.11 Motion to ratify and approve Michele Adamitis for a total of 6 hours to provide transportation after school support to student S-069 at the contractual rate for the 2023-2024 school year.

5.12 Motion to approve Anne Rieche as a Bus Aide for student S-185, beginning November 7, 2023 through February 29, 2024, not to exceed 10 hours per week, at the contractual rate.

5.13 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve Alexa Ulloa the special skills stipend of \$1,000.00, who is assigned to the BD program, providing extraordinary services as defined by the RTEA agreement set forth in an IEP for the 2023-2024 school year.

F. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: None

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.03

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Wolf

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

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

- Policy 3212 - Attendance
- Policy 4212 - Attendance

6.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following policies for first reading: (Attachment 6.02)

- Policy 5112 - Entrance Age
- Policy 5112.1 - Preschool Program

6.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and abolish the following policy:

- Policy 2471 - Integrated Preschool

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Mrs. Hample, Mrs. Ryan , and others shared thoughts on the NJSBA Annual Conference. Takeaways encompassed a variety of topics such as Committee meeting structure and communication, open Forums at certain BOE meetings, book and resource evaluation processes, ethics trainings, Board of the
- whole vs. committee structure, academic achievement gap closure, professional development, onboarding new board members, committee surveys, among many others.
- Mrs. Hample announced the Holiday Breakfast is on December 6th at 8:30 a.m. if you have time to attend to host staff.
- Mrs. Ryan asked about NJSLA scores from local districts. Dr. Hart shared many have posted neighboring scores, and Ed/Tech has curated data from some local data to share with board members on that committee. iReady data will also be shared.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mrs. Hample asked the board to review the tentative Board Meeting Dates for calendar year 2024 and mentioned two February budget meetings were combined into one meeting in lieu of two to be more.

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:47 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 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 a legal settlement, HIB and RTAA negotiations for approximately 30 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action will 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 - 8:33 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

Mr. Peach left at 8:36 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT - 8:42 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Carol Hample
President, Board of Education