

## **READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Whitehouse School Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 17, 2015

### **MINUTES**

#### **Call to Order by Board President- – Open Public Meetings Act – Roll Call**

Cheryl Filler 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 (NJSA 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. Formal action was taken.

**Present:** Christopher Allen, Wayne Doran, Ray Ebgert, William Goodwin, Vincent Panico, Anna Shinn, Eric Zwerling, Laura Simon, and Cheryl Filler

**Also Present:** Barbara Sargent, Superintendent, Steffi-Jo DeCasas, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Dr. Sargent made the following comments:  
"Welcome to Whitehouse Elementary School! Before we turn the program over to Dr. DeRosa, please allow me to share some exciting student news.

Fifteen of our 8th grade students were accepted into the Honors Art class for their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. This is a record number of students who have been accepted into the program from our middle school and requires that students pass a placement test administered by the HCRHS Art Department.

Some of our students have artwork displayed at the Hunterdon Health and Wellness Center in Clinton for the Hunterdon County Young Artist's Month Celebration. It will be up through Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> with a closing reception from 1 to 3 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Additionally, 7 Readington Middle School students have been accepted into the NJ Junior High Honors Chorus this year. This is the most students EVER from our middle school and reflects marvelously on the choral programs in our schools. These students will perform with others across the state at JP Case Middle School on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Whitehouse School Presentation – Thematic Unit: Little House on the Prairie
- 2015-2016 Annual School Budget Presentation

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

- RTEA Leadership requested that the board table the motions regarding health benefits to allow more time stating that the association feels rushed regarding this change.
- James Finn of Brown & Brown addressed the audience about questions raised about the AmeriHealth Plan.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- C.F. Letter

## **ADMINISTRATIVE EPORTS**

Motion to adopt 1.01

**Motion:** Mrs. Simon    **Second:** Mr. Panico    **Roll Call Vote:** Carried - 9 yes

\*1.01    Enrollment and Drill Reports

## **MINUTES**

Motion to adopt 2.01

**Motion:** Mr. Doran    **Second:** Mrs. Simon    **Roll Call Vote:** Carried - 9 yes

2.01    Motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes February 24, 2015.

## **FINANCE/FACILITIES**

Motion to adopt 3.01 – 3.09

**Motion:** Mrs. Simon    **Second:** Mr. Goodwin    **Roll Call Vote:** No Vote

**Discussion ensued regarding the Health Care plan proposal to change carriers to AmeriHealth.**

**Motion to table items 3.04 to 3.06**

**Motion:** Mrs. Simon    **Second:** Mr. Panico    **Roll Call Vote:** Carried - 9 yes

**Motion to adopt items 3.01 – 3.03 and 3.07 – 3.09**

**Motion:** Mrs. Simon    **Second:** Mr. Panico    **Roll Call Vote:** 9 yes  
(Panico abstained 3.09)

3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **March 12, 2015** through **March 18, 2015** for a total amount of **\$1,339,607.69**. (Attachment 3.01)

3.02 Motion to approve **District Travel Schedule March 17, 2015** for a total amount of **\$824.34**. Attachment 3.02

3.03 Motion to approve **Account Transfers** for **February 1, 2015** through **February 28, 2015**. Attachment 3.03

3.04 Motion to adopt the following resolution for Group Medical Insurance Carrier.  
- **Tabled**

WHEREAS The Readington Board of Education understands per the recommendation of its group insurance broker-of-record, Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, Inc., in its report of 2/11/2015 the Board of Education hereby resolves, effective 6/1/15, to make the following changes to its group Insurance programs.

WHEREAS we shall terminate participation in the New Jersey School Employees Health Benefits Program (SEHBP).

WHEREAS we shall select AmeriHealth Insurance Company of NJ, Inc. as our group medical insurance carrier, at the rates, benefits, terms, and conditions represented in the Brown & Brown proposal dated 2/11/15.

WHEREAS we shall become a participant group in the Public Employer Trust, underwritten by AmeriHealth and managed by Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, Inc. for the period 6/1/15 Through 6/30/16.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT all appropriate Board of Education staff members understands and are authorized to take such action and affect such documentation as necessary to implement these changes.

3.05 Motion to adopt the following resolution: **Tabled**

WHEREAS The Readington Board of Education- Hunterdon County hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the program (Medical Plan, Prescription Drug Plan, and/or Dental Plan coverage) thereby canceling coverage provided by the State Health Benefits Program and/or School Employees' Health Benefits Program (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq.) for all of its active and retired employees.

WHEREAS we shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the program.

WHEREAS we understand that the Division of Pensions and Benefits will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage.

WHEREAS we understand that all COBRA participants will be notified by the Division of Pensions and Benefits and advised to contact our office concerning a possible alternative health, prescription drug, and dental insurance plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Readington Board of Education understands that the resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission or School Employees' Health Benefits Commission.

- 3.06 Motion to approve the selection of AmeriHealth Insurance Co. as the district's group medical insurance carrier, inclusive of secured performance guarantee at the rates, benefits, terms, and conditions represented in the Brown & Brown proposal date 2/11/15 with an effective date of 6/1/15. - **Tabled**

3.07 **Tentative Budget Adoption 2015-2016:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2015-2016 School Year and that the SBA/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive county Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline of March 20, 2015.

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2015-2016 Total Expenditures	29,523,372	408,005	2,119,963	32,051,340
Less: Anticipated Revenues	2,879,773	408,005	82,927	3,370,705
Taxes to be Raised	26,643,599	0	2,037,036	28,680,635

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2015-16 tentative budget be advertised in the Hunterdon Democrat in accordance with the format provided by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at, Holland Brook School, 52 Readington Road, Whitehouse, NJ on April 28, 2015 for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2015-2016 School Year.

\*3.08 Motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C 6A.: 23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C 6A.:23B-1.1 et seq., and (in excess of \$150.) but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C.6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$85,000 for all staff and board members and be it

Noted that The 2014-15 budget included a maximum travel appropriation of \$75,000 for all staff and board members.

3.09 Motion to adopt the following resolution

RESOLVED that the Readington Township Board of Education requests the approval of a capital outlay withdrawal in the amount of \$404,662.

The district intends to utilize these funds to upgrade science classrooms at the Middle School, install additional security upgrades and install wireless access points at all four schools in the district.

RESOLVED that the Readington Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the application for project authorization through the State of New Jersey for approval of the following project otherwise eligible for aide which are also designated as part of the district's Long Range Facility Plan.

WHEREAS the Readington Township School District posted Form 470 on the Schools and Libraries website for telecommunications services and Whereas, Century Link provided the only response for said services, Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Readington Township School District contract with Century Link for the provision of PRI and Cooper lines for both local and long distance service for the 2015-16 School Year.

WHEREAS the Readington Township School District posted Form 470 on the Schools and Libraries website for the installation of wireless access points and

WHEREAS, Aspire Technology Partners hold WSCA#87720 recognized by the State of New Jersey and

WHEREAS, Aspire provided the lowest cost proposal per access point and meets all criteria pre-established by the Readington Township School District's Technology Department Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Readington Township School District contract with Aspire for the provision of Meraki Cloud Managed Access Points, antenna, 5 year license and support and 20 hour support block at a total ATPQ12540 contract cost of \$91,071.62 for the 2015-16 School Year.

## **EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY**

Motion to adopt 4.01

**Motion:** Mr. Panico    **Second:** Mrs. Simon    **Roll Call Vote:** 8 yes – 1 no (Panico)

4.01    Motion to approve the following Field Trip:

Field Trip	School	Date
Liberty Science Center	RMS – Gr 7	June 9, 2015

## **PERSONNEL**

Motion to adopt 5.01 – 5.10

**Motion:** Mr. Doran    **Second:** Mrs. Simon    **Roll Call Vote:** Carried – 9 yes

5.01    Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint Kyle Czepiga, Support Technician, 15-05-D3/awm, replacing Eric Plumstead, at a salary of \$35,000 (prorated) effective March 2, 2015.

5.02    Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following teachers to facilitate evening elementary concerts:

Teacher	School	Time/Amount
Lori Dribbon	TBS	5 hours,\$30/hr
Laurie Levesque	HBS	2.5 hours,\$30/hr

5.03    Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve Will Daly as RMS Team Leader for the period of March 1 to June 30 as a replacement for employee #5611, who will be out on FMLA at a stipend of \$1500 (prorated).

- 5.04 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the Following **Substitute Teachers/Aides/Nurses** paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township district, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements.

Robert Clymer	Emily Orr	Bailey Krasovec	Paola Gower
John Bohmel			

- 5.05 Motion to approve Krista Volpe, Bruce Wild, and Emily Bengels to provide home instruction for student: H-150 for a total of 10 hours per week effective March 26, 2015 through the end of the school year, June 19, 2015 at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.

- 5.06 Motion to accept the following resignation for retirement with appreciation for his years of service.

Name	Position	Effective Date
Russell Drzewoszewski	Custodian/Head 70-03-D5/apj	October 1, 2015

- 5.07 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and affirm the appointment of a teacher (long term substitute) appointment pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements and emergent hire, if needed:

NAME	POSITION	RATE	EFFECTIVE DATES
Monica Rito	Long Term Replacement Teacher (replacing employee# 20-01-D2/afe •LOA)	Substitute rate for the first 20 consecutive days, per diem rate. BA, Step 1 after that.	March 9, 2015 – June 30, 2015

- 5.08 Motion to change the retirement date for John Krystofiak, Bus Driver (80-06-D6/anq), from April 1, 2015 to March 19, 2015.

- 5.09 Motion to approve Lillen Drew to provide home instruction for student: H-150 beginning March 10, 2015 through the end of the school year, June 19, 2015 at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.



- 5.10 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve Shaina Mirsky to facilitate the **Reading and Writing Workshop in the Middle Grades** at the Parent Enrichment programs on March 18, 2015 at \$90.00.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Motion to adopt 6.01

**Motion:** Mr. Panico      **Second:** Mrs. Simon      **Roll Call Vote:** Carried - 9 yes

- 6.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve for second reading and adopt the following policies and Regulations.

Policy 8505 Wellness

Policy 5600 Student Discipline

Regulation 5600 Student Discipline

Policy 5306 Health Services to Non Public Schools

Regulation 5306 Health Services to Non Public Schools

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Reminder for members to file Financial Ethics Disclosure forms.

## **NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD**

### **OPEN TO PUBLIC**

- Christine Fawcett read a letter to the Board of Education regarding plans for two tier transportation and the effect on bus driver hours and benefits.
- Several other members of the public commented on the bus driver hours and benefits.
- Kevin Meyer thanked the board for its postponement in taking action on the health benefits motions.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

- Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm to consider actions on tabled insurance items.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn at 9:24 pm.

**Motion:** Mr. Panico

**Second:** Mrs. Simon

**Vote:** 9 yes

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Steffi-Jo De Casas**

**Business Administrator/Board Secretary**