

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
April 8, 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 call 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. Podgorski, Mrs. Rad, Mrs. DePinto, Mr. Rizza

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

Absent: Mrs. Mencer, Mrs. Ryan

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart, Superintendent, congratulated students for all their dedication and success in Destination Imagination, an innovation program where students work together in teams to solve open-ended STEAM challenges designed to teach the creative process. The district won first and second place in the competition held in Kinnelon, New Jersey. Ms. Mahoney and Mrs. Vance, Teachers and Destination Imagination Leaders, presented with Dr. Hart certificates of achievement to the following Holland Brook School students in recognition of their efforts:
 - Team: The Six Amazing Girls & A Mysterious Mark
 - Summer Doherty
 - Tessa Gardella
 - Alyson Gutierrez
 - Shloka Middela
 - Mia Mlenak
 - Mark Spivey
 - Addison Stokes
 - Team: The Seven Dwarves (but Taller)
 - Lilah Greenberg
 - Alex Konicek
 - Fiona Kurtzo
 - Karina Rajeev
 - Lennon Stickle
- Dr. Hart spoke about the district's strategic plan developed five years ago surrounding inquiry learning, partnerships and social awareness. Dr. Ann DeRosa, WHS Principal, Sarah Pauch, Supervisor, and Anthony Tumolo, Supervisor, highlighted the strong work and actions undertaken as well as accomplishments. Students, staff and community connections and achievements were detailed. The board members shared great thoughts and sentiments on the goals, accomplishments and passion by everyone involved! The district shall collaboratively work with all stakeholders in the 2025-2026 school year to create a new strategic plan for the future.

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

- None

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email K.K. - Substitute Teacher Policy

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.03
Motion: Mrs. DePinto 2nd: Mr. Lopes Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes

1.01 Motion to approve the Enrollment and Drill Reports March 2025.
(Attachment 1.01)

1.02 Motion to accept the HIB reports and affirm the Superintendent’s decision:

CASE NUMBER	SCHOOL	DATE	FINDINGS OF HARASSMENT INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING
7	RMS	02/07/2025	No
8	RMS	02/19/2025	Yes

1.03 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 - 2.02
Motion: Mrs. DePinto 2nd: Mr. Lopes Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes

2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes March 11, 2025.

2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes March 11, 2025.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Mr. Rizza presented the minutes of the meeting held on April 2, 2025.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.15
Motion: Mrs. DePinto 2nd: Mr. Lopes Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes

3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **March 13, 2025 through April 9, 2025** for a total amount of **\$4,872,839.04**.
(Attachment 3.01)

3.02 Motion to approve **Travel Expenditures April 8, 2025** In the amount of **\$295.00**.
(Attachment 3.02)

3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **March 2025** for a total amount of **\$2,426,176.53**.
(Attachment 3.03)

- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for March 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025.** (Attachment 3.04-3.04a)
- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for March 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025.** (Attachment 3.05)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS March 31, 2025 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of March 31, 2025 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 March 31, 2025 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 March 31, 2025. (Attachment 3.06-3.06a)

- 3.07 Motion to approve the following resolution concerning group medical and prescription drug benefits:

The Readington Township Board of Education hereby resolves effective July 1, 2025 to make the following changes relative to its group medical and prescription drug benefits programs, as follows:

1. Continue to allow its group medical and prescription benefits program through the School's Health Insurance Fund via AmeriHealth Administrators for medical and Express Scripts for prescription drug benefits.
2. Implement the addition of a second health insurance plan through the School's Health Insurance Fund via Aetna for medical.
3. To ensure with the School's Health Insurance Fund that benefits delivered are "equal to or better than" the Board's current group medical and prescription drug insurance plans.
4. To periodically market the Board's group benefit plans.
5. To assist employees and dependents in the resolution of elevated service issues that cannot be resolved by employees first contacting AmeriHealth Administrators, Aetna, or Express Scripts directly.
6. To ensure all reporting provided to the Board or its administrators is compliant with HIPAA relative to protected health information (PHI).
7. To advise the Board of Education relative to compliance with Federal and State regulations regarding group benefit plans. (Attachment 3.07)

- 3.08 Resolved to renew the District's employee Horizon Dental plan for dental benefits for the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment 3.08)

- 3.09 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education ("Board") seeks to have East Coast Elevator Services and Otis Elevator provide maintenance service for the District elevators and chairlifts. The elevators/chairlifts offer service for those individuals who need assistance accessing areas of the school buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Board has funding in its General Fund for these maintenance services; and

WHEREAS, the system software and the associated equipment designed by Otis Elevator is proprietary to that company; and

WHEREAS, the use of a different vendor and/or software for this equipment would unnecessarily escalate the costs and lose the interconnect ability with internal systems and devices that rely on this proprietary software and equipment, thereby defeating the purpose of public contracting laws; and

WHEREAS, elevator services are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act for accessibility compliance

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the proprietary vendor, and their approved vendors to provide maintenance services to ensure functionality.

3.10 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education ("Board") has contracted with ACB Services, with offices located at 37 Schoolhouse Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514 for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, said contract provides that the parties may, at their option, agree to renew the contract for up to two additional one-year periods, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A 18A-42 which requires that the terms and conditions of the extensions shall remain substantially the same in the original contract; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds the services provided by ACB Services are being performed effectively and efficiently; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby renews its contract with ACB Services for a period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 for the amount of \$816,275.00, a 3.0% increase, which does not exceed the index rate of 3.0% as of January 2025, as defined by N.J.S.A 18A-2 (bb)

3.11 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education ("Board") seeks to have Newton-Metallo and Airedale International provide maintenance service for District Airedale HVAC units. These units provide ventilation, heat, and air conditioning for classroom spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Board has funding in its General Fund for these maintenance services; and

WHEREAS, the system software and the associated equipment designed by Airedale International is proprietary to that company; and

WHEREAS, the use of a different vendor and/or software for this equipment would unnecessarily escalate the costs and lose the interconnect ability with internal systems and devices that rely on this proprietary software and equipment, thereby defeating the purpose of public contracting laws; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the proprietary vendor, and their approved vendors to provide maintenance services to ensure functionality.

3.12 Motion to approve the corrective action plan for Special Education Medicaid Initiative for the district's 2024 - 2025 program performance.
(Attachment 3.12)

3.13 Motion to approve the following resolution:

Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of selling said surplus property in an "as-is" condition without express or implied Warranties;

Kim Hutson	Aide/Special Education (WHS) 30-04-D3/alv	06/30/2025
Valerie Steen Zanardi	Media Specialist (WHS) 20-04-D2/akm	03/31/2025

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

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Lori Sciarrino	Preschool Bus Aide (Transp) 40-04-D3/bdj	4/16/2025

5.05 Motion to amend motion 5.01 from the March 11, 2025 agenda and ratify and approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following appointment:

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Michele Adamitis	.49 LTS Teacher/Special Ed (RMS) 20-01-D2/aic	\$30,115.40 BA+15 Step 4 (prorated)	03/12/2025 - 05/09/2025

5.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following staff for their preparation and participation in the Readington Township School District Parent Academy Night on March 26, 2025 at the contractual rate:

STAFF	HOURS
Betsy Freeman	6
Ellen Goodfellow	3

5.07 Motion to ratify and approve the extension of the following bus aide at the contractual rate, not to exceed 10 hours per week:

NAME	STUDENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Natacha Gandarez	S-159	12/20/2024 - 06/30/2025

5.08 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve special skills stipend change of assignment from Renee Delia to Phoebe Stedman of \$1,000.00 (prorated) who is assigned to self-contained autism or emotional regulation impairment program, or who provide extraordinary services as defined by the RTEA agreement set forth in an IEP for the 2024-2025 school year, effective March 24, 2025.

5.09 Motion to approve Vincent Biancamano as RMS Grade 6 Team leader replacing Megan Sarao for the 2024-2025 school year effective April 28, 2025 at his contractual rate, prorated.

D. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: Mrs. DePinto presented minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2025.

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.02

Motion: Mrs. DePinto

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes

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

- Policy 5516.01 - Student Use of Wireless Communication Devices Including Cell Phones

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

- Policy 5111 - Eligibility of Resident and Nonresident Students
- Policy 8500 - Food Service

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Delegate Reports - None
- Green Committee Meeting - Mr. Lopes presented minutes of the meeting held on April 3, 2025.

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:17 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 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 and a legal update for approximately 30 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 - 8:55 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes

XII. ADJOURNMENT - 8:56 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Cassidy

Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education