

# **READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Virtual/In-Person Available at Holland Brook School  
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
December 13, 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.

- **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 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. Bettermann, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Peach, Mrs. Podgorski, Mrs. Wolf, Mr. Zwerling, Dr. Cerciello, Mrs. Hample

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

**Absent:** None

- **FLAG SALUTE**

- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Dr. Hart shared a recent partnership the district has formed with the Township of Readington to provide four (4) police officers from the Readington Township's Police Department to be physically stationed in each of the district's (4) school buildings during student calendar days. Costs are shared between Readington Township and the district for the four (4) police officers. Police officers will be completing daily tasks such as patrolling the building and grounds, as well as integrating into the culture through regular building-based interactions with students and staff. The goal is to have the officers embraced. Officers shall be equipped with police uniforms, equipment, vehicles and training the same as regular police officers in the Readington Township, providing other services for the township beyond school hours. The officers shall be township employees and work in the district through a shared service agreement. Dr. Hart introduced officers: Thomas Wallace, John Harris, Connor Strohm, and Brian Gilmurray.
- Dr. Hart recognized Mr. Eric Zwerling, serving on the board since April 2010. He has been active on the Policy and Green Committees, and instrumental in significant achievements in sustainability throughout the district such as Green Ribbon certification at all 4 schools, silver designation in Sustainable Jersey for Schools at all 4 schools, installation of solar panels, among many others. Ms. Betsy Freeman, Teacher, shared caring thoughts on the outstanding efforts by Mr. Zwerling over the years and tremendous impact on students and community. His leadership has transformed the school district to embed green initiatives in all aspects of the culture, from curriculum to facilities and beyond.
  - Mrs. Hample thanked Eric Zwerling for all his hard work over the years on keeping green initiatives on its forefront.

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

- Parents asked about correspondence relating to a library book containing language they deem inappropriate for the school library and shared thoughts it should be removed.
- Dr. Hart shared the district's policy 9130 for complaints on student books and request for removal. A committee has been formed in conformity with this policy. The decision of the committee shall be shared with a report to the Board, who would need to take action to remove the book if committee recommends such. The committee members are currently reading the book. The 8th graders are the only students allowed to take from the library to bring home. The board should expect the report prior at its mid-January board meeting.
- A Holland Brook Teacher thanked the Board for the officers in the buildings and said they already have been helping with SEL lessons and more!

- **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Email J.F. - Book
- Email J.F. - Book Follow-up

- **BOARD ACTION**

**A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- 1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.05  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**                      **2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski**      **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**  
 (Mrs. Wolf abstained 1.05)
- 1.01 Enrollment and Drill Reports November 2022  
 (Attachment 1.01)
- 1.02 RMS Quarterly Discipline Reports Quarter 1/September 6 - November 15, 2022  
 (Attachment 1.02)
- 1.03 School Safety System Submission - Report period: January - June 2022  
 (Attachment 1.03)
- 1.04 Motion to accept the HIB reports and affirm the Superintendent’s decision:

CASE NUMBER	SCHOOL	DATE	FINDINGS OF HARASSMENT INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING
1	RMS	09/30/2022	No
2	RMS	10/05/2022	No
3	RMS	10/05/2022	Yes

- 1.05 Motion to approve the updated ARP Safe Return Plan.  
 (Attachment 1.05)

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**                      **2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski**      **Role Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022.
- 2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022.

**C. FINANCE/FACILITIES**

**Committee Report:** Dr. Cerciello shared minutes of the meeting held on November 29, 2022.

- 3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.09  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**                      **2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski**      **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **November 17, 2022 through December 14, 2022** for a total amount of **\$2,015,771.28**.  
 (Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **District Travel Schedule December 13, 2022** for a total amount of **\$2,323.36**.  
 (Attachment 3.02)

- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **October 2022** for a total amount of **\$2,594,151.53** and for the month of **November 2022** for a total amount of **\$2,215,478.31**.  
(Attachment 3.03-3.03a)
- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for October 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022** and **November 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022**.  
(Attachment 3.04-3.04c)
- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for October 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022** and **November 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022**.  
(Attachment 3.05-3.05a)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS: October 31, 2022 and November 30, 2022 Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of October 31, 2022 and November 2022 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.

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Jason M. Bohm, Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11(c)4, we certify that as of October 31, 2022 and November 30, 2022 and 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. 6A23-2.11(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, 2022 and November 30, 2022.  
(Attachment 3.06-3.06c)

- 3.07 Motion to approve and renew the Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Readington for the rental of a backhoe or similar piece of equipment for the 2022-2023 school year at a total cost of \$6,000.00.
- 3.08 Motion to void the following account checks:

Account	Check Date	Check #	Amount
Cafeteria	6/21/2022	002316	\$33.80
Cafeteria	6/21/2022	002319	\$14.30
Cafeteria	6/21/2022	002327	\$30.95
Cafeteria	6/21/2022	002335	\$48.10
Cafeteria	6/21/2022	002342	\$15.90
Operating	8/11/2021	058691	\$289.08
Operating	8/11/2021	058693	\$59.99
Operating	1/19/2022	059501	\$6.72
Operating	1/27/2022	059546	\$160.76
Operating	6/13/2022	060370	\$10.29
Operating	6/16/2022	060397	\$57.37
Operating	6/16/2022	060429	\$51.14
Operating	6/30/2022	060499	\$4.41

- 3.09 Motion to apply for and accept an Emergent and Capital Maintenance Grant from the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$32,998.00 for the 2022-23 school year to be utilized on maintenance or emergency projects.



5.02 Motion to approve the following resignations:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Matthew Hama	Database/SIS Administrator (BOE) 15-05-P5/ayf	01/03/2023
Katherine Pomeisl	Aide/Special Education (HBS) 30-02-D3/alo	11/16/2022

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Janet Schierloh Howard	LTS Teacher/LA (RMS) 20-01-D2/aey	Substitute rate for the first 20 consecutive days, \$62,585.00 MA Step 1 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	12/05/2022 - 01/31/2023
Dr. Kathleen Suchorsky	Administrative/Principal Substitute (BOE)	\$65.00/hr, not to exceed \$3,000.00	12/05/2022 - 06/30/2023

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Brittney Steitz	Aide/Special Education (WHS) 30-02-D3/ayr	\$20.56/hr Aide NC Step 10	12/19/2022 - 06/30/2023
Bradley Klippel	School Counselor (RMS) 20-01-D2/ajf	\$62,585.00 MA Step 1 (prorated)	01/03/2023 - 06/30/2023
Matthew Lonschein	Database/SIS Administrator (BOE) 15-05-P5/ayf	\$70,000.00 Unaligned	On or before 01/14/2023 - 06/30/2023

5.05 Motion to approve Colleen Ogden as the Summer Enrichment Coordinator for the Summer of 2023 at a stipend of \$4,000.00.

5.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following coaching assignment for the 2022-2023 school year:

STIPEND POSITION	STAFF MEMBER	REPLACING
Track Assistant Coach	Kevin Sanders	Coron Short
Boys Lacrosse A Coach	Philip McGinty	N/A

5.07 Motion to approve the following job assignment for the 2022-2023 school year as part of his regular job duty:

JOB ASSIGNMENT	STAFF MEMBER
Anti-Bullying Specialist	Bradley Klippel

5.08 Motion to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, on November 16, 2022, an employee of the Readington Township Board of Education, whose name is on file in the Board Office, was provided with notice of termination; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent has recommended that the board terminate said employee's individual employment contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the board has determined that there is a good and sufficient cause to terminate the employee.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby terminates the employee's individual employment contract, effective immediately; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Secretary/business administrator shall provide the employee with notice of the Board's action.

**F. COMMUNICATION**

**Committee Report - None**

6. Motion to adopt 6.01  
**Motion: Mrs. Podgorski                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Fiore                      Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

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

- Policy 2425 - Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program
- Policy 5722 - Student Journalism

● **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Mrs. Hample mention that Governor Murphy's Mental Health Plan has funded for the next year, which directly impacts the high school, not our district. The district shall monitor for potential advocacy in 2023.

● **NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD**

- Mrs. Hample recognized Mrs. Fiore as the first board member who has achieved Boardmanship Certification sponsored by the NJSBA.
- Mr. Zwerling provided minutes of the Green Committee meetings held on November 29, 2022 and December 7, 2022.
- Mr. Zwerling shared a statement on thoughts regarding the expansion of the existing solar array, with potential significant savings to the district and taxpayers of green-house gas emissions reducing poor air quality that can impact health. These efforts will help convey the district's commitment to sustainability and provide direct curriculum opportunities for students. The electric generated could meet 85% of the district's needs. Although Mr. Zwerling will not be here to vote as his board member term is ending, he encourages the board to vote in favor of solar expansion.
- Mr. Peach asked about developing a district wide policy on cell phone use by students, asking if the Policy Committee could explore recommendations. Many board members supported investigating the matter.

● **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- Parents asked a variety of questions regarding the process of adding and removing books from the school library, therapy dogs in the schools, the health curriculum, and clubs being offered to all grade levels at Three Bridges

School.

- Dr. Hart and board members responded to the public that cell phone usage would be looked into and will get thoughts from Mr. Charleston and from other district's best practices shall be undertaken. Dr. Hart explained that book library processes and shared thoughts on policy and administration of books. Dr. Hart commented that therapy dogs will be a slow implementation if it proceeds. Dr. Hart discussed that after school enrichment can be designated for all grades as reviewed by the Education/Technology Committee.
- Several residents, staff and community members thanked Mr. Zwerling for his work as a member of the district's Green Committee Team. Mr. Zwerling's efforts really appeared to have transformed the district.

• **EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:30 p.m.**

**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Wolf**

**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 HIB for approximately 30 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action will 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.

Mr. Zwerling left the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

• **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - 8:47 p.m.**

**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Peach**

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes**

• **ADJOURNMENT - 8:48 p.m.**

**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski**

**Roll Call vote: Carried 7 Yes**

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Carol Hample**  
**President, Board of Education**