

# **READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Holland Brook School  
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
February 20, 2024

## **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**

Dr. Cerciello called the meeting to order 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. DePinto, Mrs. Fiore, Mrs. Mencer, Mr. Peach, Mrs. Podgorski, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Wolf,  
Dr. Cerciello

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

**Absent:** None

### **II. FLAG SALUTE**

### **III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Dr. Hart presented an overview of the 2024-2025 budget process, introducing the following administrators to present their department budgets individually:
  - Dr. Brown, Ms. Krial, and Ms. Pauch, Supervisors, presented Curriculum, Professional Development Budget
  - Mr. Belske, IT Coordinator, presented Technology Budget
  - Ms. Beegle, Director of Pupil Services, and Mr. Tumolo, Supervisor, presented Pupil Services Budget
  - Mr. Race, Facilities Manager, presented Facilities Budget
  - Ms. Cole, Transportation Supervisor, presented Transportation Budget
  - Mr. Bohm, Business Administrator, presented Administration, Personnel and Benefits Budget

Dr. Cerciello thanked the administration for their work on the budget.

- Dr. Cerciello highlighted the vacancy on the Board of Education resulting from a resignation of Ms. Napoli. The process to fill the vacancy is in conformity with state statute and district bylaw 0145, where the Board of Education advertised the vacancy soliciting interest from the public, then conducting interviews this evening, before a public vote on March 12, 2024 to appoint a new board member on April 16, 2024 until December 2024. The general election held in November 2024 shall fill the remaining two years of the vacancy covering calendar years 2025 and 2026.

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

- A resident, congratulated Dr. Moss on promotion to Holland Brook School Principal
- Many community members commented on Mrs. Napoli's resignation, voiced thoughts on the new board member vacancy and provided suggestions to the Board to contemplate before a public vote occurs to fill the position.

### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Email J.F. - Weather School Closings
- Email M.W. - Board Vacancy

### **VI. RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER**

- Resignation of Christina Napoli, effective January 25, 2024

The Board held a lengthy dialogue on Ms. Napoli's resignation and board vacancy.

**Motion:** Mrs. Fiore

(Mr. Peach and Mrs. Ryan voted No)

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

**Roll Call Vote:** Carried 6 Yes

## VII. BOARD ACTION

### A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.03  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**                      **2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski**                      **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
- 1.01 Motion to approve Enrollment and Drill Reports January 2024.  
(Attachment 1.01)
- 1.02 RMS Quarterly Discipline Report Quarter 2/November 15, 2023 - January 31, 2024  
(Attachment 1.02)
- 1.03 Motion to accept the HIB report and affirm the Superintendent's decision:

CASE NUMBER	SCHOOL	DATE	FINDINGS OF HARASSMENT INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING
2	HBS	01/05/2024	No

### B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**                      **2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski**                      **Roll Call Vote: Carried 6 Yes**  
(Mrs. Mencer and Mr. Peach abstained)
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes January 23, 2024.
- 2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes January 23, 2024.

### C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

**Committee Report:** Ms. Mencer provided minutes of the meeting held on February 6, 2024.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.13  
**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**                      **2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Podgorski**                      **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**  
(Mrs. DePinto abstained on check #063667 only in 3.01)
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **January 25, 2024 through February 14, 2024** for a total amount of **\$2,287,244.08**.  
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **District Travel Schedule February 14, 2024** for a total amount of **\$1,830.29**.  
(Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **January 2024** for a total amount of **\$2,322,557.61**.  
(Attachment 3.03)
- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for January 2024 through January 31, 2024**.  
(Attachment 3.04-3.04a)
- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024**.  
(Attachment 3.05)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS January 31, 2024 Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of January 24, 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.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 and 4, we certify that as of January 31, 2024 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. 6A:23A-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 January 31, 2024.  
(Attachment 3.06-3.06a)

- 3.07 Motion to approve a \$32,099.00 Emergent and Capital Maintenance Needs Grant from the State of New Jersey for capital projects and maintenance relating to safe and healthy learning environments for staff and students.  
(Attachment 3.07)
- 3.08 Motion to adopt the revised intra-district mileage rate attached effective January 1, 2024.  
(Attachment 3.08)
- 3.09 Motion to accept a donation of \$2,600.00 in \$25.00 Kings gift cards through Gift Card Bank, on behalf of Kings Food Markets Foundation's Nourishing Neighbors Program and GENYouth to assist families in need.
- 3.10 Motion to designate \$331,269.00 of Capital Reserve Funds for the local share of State SDA Project #4350-050-23-G5QW and School Facilities DOE Project # 4350-050-23-R501, Readington Middle School Roof Project.
- 3.11 **Whereas**, the New Jersey Department of Education has determined that State SDA Project #4350-050-23-G5QW and School Facilities DOE Project # 4350-050-23-R501, Readington Middle School Roof in the amount of \$552,115.00 qualifies as a school facilities project eligible for State support under the Regular Operating District Grant pursuant to the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 and the New Jersey Department of Education implementing regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq.; and
- Whereas**, the New Jersey Department of Education has approved Final Eligible Costs for this \$552,115.00 project to be calculated at the District's Aid Percentage (DAP) of \$220,846.00 or 40.000%, whichever is greater.
- Therefore**, the Readington Township Board of Education, accepts State Share Final Eligible Costs of \$331,269.00, and agrees to locally fund the excess costs; and
- Whereas**, the Readington Township Board of Education has selected to construct the School Facilities SDA Project #4350-050-23-G5QW and School Facilities DOE Project # 4350-050-23-R501, Readington Middle School Roof Project; and
- Therefore**, Be It Resolved, the Readington Township Board of Education elects State funding support in the form of a Grant for State SDA Project #4350-050-23-G5QW and School Facilities DOE Project # 4350-050-23-R501, Readington Middle School Roof Project.
- 3.12 Motion that the Readington Township Board of Education approve "Authorizing execution and delivery of the Grant Agreement ", Section 15, Grant #G5-6842 in the amount of \$552,115.00 in Total Project Costs, of which \$220,846.00 represents the Grant Amount from the State of New Jersey Schools Development Authority relating to School Facilities SDA Project #4350-050-23-G5QW and School Facilities DOE Project # 4350-050-23-R501 for the purpose of the Readington Middle School Roof.
- 3.13 Motion that the Readington Township Board of Education approve the "Delegation of Authority" to Jason M. Bohm, Business Administrator, for supervision of the School Facilities SDA Project #4350-050-23-G5QW and School Facilities DOE Project # 4350-050-23-R501, Readington Middle School Roof.

#### **D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY**

**Committee Report:** Mrs. Fiore provided minutes of the meeting held on January 31, 2024.

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.03

**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

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

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

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

GROUP/GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	COST TO PARENT
HBS/Chorus	Shannon Daley Game Performance	HCRHS	- 0 -
RMS/7 <sup>th</sup>	Topgolf	Edison, NJ	- \$25 -

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

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Readington Middle School	Musical Flower Sales	FPAC
Readington Middle School	Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart	American Heart Association
Readington Middle School	Spring Text & Call-A-Thon	RABC

4.03 Motion to approve "Summer Spark" enrichment program courses for the weeks of July 15-18 and July 22-25, 2024. Summer enrichment is a self-sustaining program.

COURSES
Crafting Campers
Innovative Explorers
Culinary Creators
Junior Crafting Campers
Junior Innovative Explores
Junior Culinary Creators
Kindergarten Kickoff: A Warm Welcome
Bobcat Beginnings
Middle School Mingle

## **E. PERSONNEL**

**Committee Report:** Mrs. Wolf minutes of the meeting held on February 9, 2024.

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.17

**Motion: Mrs. Wolf**

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

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Michele Adamitis	LTS Teacher/Science (RMS) 20-01-D2/ach	\$60,180.00 BA+15 Step 3 (prorated)	02/28/2024 - 06/30/2024
Maureen Woerner	LTS Teacher/Special Education (RMS) 20-01-D2/ahu	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$79,320.00 MA Step 16 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	03/15/2024 - 06/30/2024

- 5.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following position control change and designated transfers for the 2024-2025 school year:

NAME	CHANGE	POSITION	LOCATION	SALARY
Dr. Jonathan Moss	Transfer From: To:	10-01-D1/aaf 10-02-D1/aak	RMS Vice Principal HBS Principal	\$137,000.00

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Lily Santo	LTS Teacher/Art (HBS) 20-02-D2/axv	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$58,080.00 BA Step 1 per diem rate thereafter	02/12/2024 - 04/12/2024
Anna Malin Lago	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/awq	\$19.13/hr. Aide NC Step 2	02/14/2024 - 06/30/2024
Bobbie Friedhoff	Aide/ Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/awg	\$19.13/hr. Aide NC Step 2	02/14/2024 - 06/30/2024

- 5.04 Motion to approve the following resignation:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jacqueline Campanale	Aide/Special Education (RMS) 30-01-D3/awv	01/19/2024

- 5.05 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following retirement with appreciation for her years of service:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Linda Giorgianni	Bus Driver (Transp.) 80-06-D6/anw	06/30/2024

- 5.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute Teachers/Aides/Nurses/Bus Drivers paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township District, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements:

NAME	POSITION
Laila Naveed	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Mary Baker	Substitute Nurse
Lily Santo	Substitute Teacher
Danielle Dellipoali	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Joyce Trella	Substitute Aide

Elizabeth Farley	Substitute Aide
------------------	-----------------

- 5.07 Motion to approve the following salary increase in recognition of the following employee attainment of additional credits for lateral movement per RTEA Guide effective February 1, 2024:

NAME	SCHOOL	FROM STEP	SALARY	TO STEP	REVISED SALARY	INCREASE
Angela Hendricks	RMS	BA Step 3	\$58,580.00	MA Step 3	\$64,180.00	\$5,600.00

- 5.08 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve special skills stipend of \$1,000.00 (prorated) for Kimberly Pfauth who will be assigned to provide extraordinary services as defined by the RTEA agreement set forth in an IEP for the 2023-2024 school year, effective January 2, 2024.
- 5.09 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve other leave for staff member #6851 for the period 12/5/2023 - 02/29/2024.
- 5.10 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve stipend payments for the attached list of teachers facilitating 2024 Spring Teacher Academy Sessions.  
(Attachment 5.10)
- 5.11 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve prep-time stipends for the following teachers facilitating on February 16, 2024, In-Service Day:

NAME	SESSION	PREP STIPEND
Tiffany Barca	PreK Technology Refresher	\$60.00
Tanya Cavallo	PreK Gold Assessment	\$90.00
Nicole Maraventano	Vocabulary Strategy Groups	\$60.00
Wendy Reardon	PreK Technology Refresher	\$60.00

- 5.12 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the attached list of staff members participating in the Readington Township School District Parent Academy Night on March 20, 2024 at the contractual rate.  
(Attachment 5.12)
- 5.13 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the attached list of staff members for Summer Spark enrichment curriculum writing, at the contractual rate, using summer enrichment funds.  
(Attachment 5.13)
- 5.14 Motion to temporarily increase the hours for the following teachers to provide coverage for TBS Special Education Teacher position 20-03-D2/asm for the period of January 24, 2024 - March 28, 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)

- 5.15 Motion to ratify and approve Denise Hawkins, as a Chaperone for student S-253, to attend Art Club from February 6, 2024 through April 16, 2024, not to exceed 12 hours at the contractual rate.
- 5.16 Motion to approve Stephanie Armstrong, Nurse, for 15 hours and Katie Lynch, Nurse, for 5 hours to review student medical records and provide nursing services for the preschool expansion program at the contractual rate not to exceed 5 hours per school paid through the Preschool Expansion Aid for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 5.17 Motion to approve the following mentor for the 2023-2024 school year:

NEW STAFF MEMBER	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Alexander Bors	WHS/TBS	LTS-PE/Health Teacher	Laurie Levesque

Dr. Moss was introduced and congratulated by Dr. Hart as the new Principal of HBS, providing an overview of the thorough committee process undertaken to select Dr. Moss.

Dr. Moss shared thoughts and thanked the Board of Education, staff and public for the appointment.

## F. COMMUNICATION

**Committee Report:** None

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.02  
**Motion:** Mrs. Fiore                      **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Mrs. Podgorski                      **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 5111 - Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students
  - Policy 5116 - Education of Homeless Children and Youths
- 6.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the revised 2023-2024 district calendar.  
 (Attachment 6.02)

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Dr. Hart highlighted the BOE self evaluation process, with the Board requesting Judith Wilson lead the process with the NJSBA tool.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Dr. Hart discussed board tours for March or early spring.
- Mrs. Fiore provided minutes from the Green Committee Meeting held on February 7, 2024.

## X. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Mr. Nigro, Principal, congratulated Dr. Moss on appointment to HBS principal.
- A resident asked questions concerning who determines conflict of interest of board members. Questions were answered by Dr. Hart.

## XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:46pm

**Motion:** Mrs. Fiore

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

**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 two (2) HIB matters, personnel budget, RTAA negotiations, and to conduct board vacancy interviews for approximately 90 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.

CANDIDATE
Jodi Bettermann

Pam Cassidy
Paulo Lopes
David Rizza
Megan Schaub
Brian Stelter – rescinded application

**XII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - 10:15 p.m.**

**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

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

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT - 10:16 p.m.**

**Motion: Mrs. Fiore**

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

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**Dr. Camille Cerciello  
President, Board of Education**