

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual/In-Person Available at Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 17, 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 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, Mrs. Mencer, Mr. Peach, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Wolf, , Dr. Cerciello,
Mrs. Hample

Also Present: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent, Jason M. Bohm, Business Administrator/Board Secretary,
Mrs. Stacey Cherry, Board Attorney/Fogarty & Hara

Absent: Mrs. Podgorski

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart shared a presentation on housing developments in the township and the impact on the district in terms of student population, staffing, budget, among other aspects. Most new development resides in the Whitehouse School area rather than the Three Bridges School area, resulting in some disproportion between the schools. Redistricting efforts over a five-year plan are well underway to help relieve some of the new enrollment at Whitehouse School area by shifting certain residential streets south of Readington Road to Three Bridges School for students in Grades K-3. Certain exceptions have been made to ensure existing families with siblings are not impacted by redistricting.
- Dr. Hart highlighted the results of a committee's review of a book in the RMS library, with no recommendation from the committee to remove the book at this time. The district received a complaint from a parent/guardian regarding the book being present in the middle school library. The district followed its book grievance protocols detailed in policy 9130 for the committees formation and review of this book complaint, finding the book meets resource needs per district policies and practices.

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

- A community member expressed concerns regarding motion 4.05 relating to Judy Lo Bianco's training for an inservice day and ESSER/ART fund usage. Dr. Hart mentioned the training is focused more on physical education than the health curriculum, and the majority of ESSER funds are going to learning programs for students and mental health.
- Thoughts and concerns were conveyed by the public on the book review, policy, and committee.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email V.G. - App

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.02

Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd:** Dr. Cerciello
(Mrs. Mencer and Mrs. Ryan abstained 1.02 only)

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

- 3.07 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent’s recommendation and sever the Tewksbury IT Shared Services contract per the terms in the contract effective 01/01/2023.
- 3.08 Motion to approve the attached resolution to join the Bergen County Cooperative purchasing alliance to access service and product bids.
(Attachment 3.08)
- 3.09 A RESOLUTION BINDING THE READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PURCHASE ELECTRIC GENERATION SERVICES THROUGH THE ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES (“ACES”)

WHEREAS, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from electric power suppliers for electric generation services through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 *et seq.*, and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 *et seq.* (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain electric generation services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to electric power suppliers following said bids for electric generation services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2028 hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for electric generation services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale electric market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Electric Generation Service in each service territory to one or more electric power suppliers that submit bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous electric usage and utility provided Basic Generation Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said electric generation services to electric power suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic generation service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period through any electric power supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law;

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs’ Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for electric generation services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period from the electric power supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for electric generation services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase electricity at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all

such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the Districts relative to the price charged for basic generation service by the electric public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain electric generation services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 *et seq.*) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission or expiration of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

3.10 A RESOLUTION BINDING THE READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PURCHASE NATURAL GAS SERVICES THROUGH THE ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES (“ACES”)

WHEREAS, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from natural gas suppliers for retail natural gas supply services including interstate transportation to the local natural gas distribution utility company (Natural Gas Supply Services) through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 *et seq.*, and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 *et seq.* (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain natural gas services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to natural gas suppliers following said bids for natural gas services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2028, hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for natural gas services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale natural gas market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Natural Gas Supply Service in each service territory to one or more natural gas suppliers that submits bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous natural gas usage and utility provided Basic Gas Supply Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said Natural Gas Supply Services to natural gas suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic gas supply service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all Natural Gas Supply Services for its own use during the Effective Period through any natural gas supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs’ Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for natural gas supply services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all natural gas supply services needed for its own use during the Effective Period from the natural gas supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for natural Gas supply services by the Lead Agency; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase natural gas at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the districts relative to the price charged for basic gas supply service by the natural gas public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain natural gas services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

- 3.11 Motion to accept an anonymous donation of \$2,000.00 to be applied to negative student lunch balances.
- 3.12 Motion to approve a Professional Services Contract with Settembrino Architects for the following projects and fees:

Readington Middle School Roof Project (not to exceed) \$90,000.00*
Bathroom Project at all K-5 elementary schools \$59,500.00

Ancillary fees/reimbursables (not to exceed) \$5,500.00

**\$40,000.00 of these fees contingent on inclusion of front gymnasium in final project scope, or shall not be paid*

WHEREAS, it was necessary to incur costs for professional architectural services during the current year in preparation for construction in the summer of 2023; 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.

- 3.13 Motion to approve the following resolution regarding authorization and submission of projects and amendments to the Long Range Facility Plan:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education approved a contract for professional architectural services with Settembrino Architects for the development of plans and specifications for various facility projects to be included in the 2022-23 budget; and

WHEREAS, these facility projects are required to be submitted to the State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, these facility projects will be totally funded through local sources since they are considered to be other capital projects; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to approve an amendment to the district's long range facility plan; and

4.01 Motion to adopt the following fundraisers for the 2022-2023 school year:

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Readington Middle School	Great Kindness Challenge	St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center
Readington Middle School	Valentine Dance/Bake Sale	NJASC State Charity/RMS Student Council
Readington Middle School	Valentine Carnation Sale	Nature and Garden Club
Three Bridges School	Student Voice Seashells	Readington Starfish

4.02 Motion to approve the following additional field trips for the 2022-2023 school year:

GROUP/GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	COST TO PARENT
RMS/Grade 6	RVCC Planetarium	North Branch	\$14.00
RMS/Grade 6	Somerset Patriots	Bridgewater	\$11.00
RMS/6-8 Mandarin	Asian Market Hibachi Grill - Lunch	North Plainfield South Plainfield	\$31.00

4.03 Motion to approve the implementation of a Behavior Disabilities Program, located at Three Bridges School, to begin on February 1, 2023.

4.04 Motion to approve Divonna Stebick to facilitate *Teacher Inquiry and Data as Tools to Examine Learning Gaps* on March 16-17, 2023, for \$4,800.00. This consultant will be paid using the ESSER/ARP grant.

4.05 Motion to approve Judy Lo Bianco, HPE Solutions Consultant, in the amount of \$1,650.00 for professional development training for the PE/Health staff on the District In-Service Day, March 17, 2023. This consultant will be paid using the ESSER/ARP grant.

4.06 Motion to amend the ARP/ESSER grant to adjust remaining balances to be as follows:

ARP Subgrant

100-100 Salaries	\$51,500.00
100-300 Services	\$15,000.00
100-600 Supplies/Software	\$20,000.00
200-200 Benefits	\$ 4,266.00
200-300 Services	\$45,000.00

Accelerated Learning

100-600 Supplies/Software	\$49,061.00
200-300 Services	\$58,000.00

Summer Learning

100-100 Salaries	\$ 9,235.00
100-300 Services	\$11,000.00
100-600 Supplies/Software	\$19,000.00
200-200 Benefits	\$ 765.00

Beyond the School Day

100-300 Services	\$22,220.00
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Mental Health

200-300 Services	\$45,000.00
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NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Kirsli Spinks	Network/Database Support Technician (BOE) 15-05-D3/awm	12/31/2022
Nathaniel Joyce	Computer Technician (BOE) 15-05-D3/avn	12/31/2022
Christopher Bolotov	Teacher/Special Education (WHS) 20-04-D2/ajc	02/02/2023

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Susan Zimmerman	Teacher/Behavioral Disabilities (TBS) New Position 20-03-01/bbu	\$68,595.00 MA Step 9 (prorated)	02/01/2023 - 06/30/2023
Daria Fisher	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/auw	\$24.72 Aide NC Step 23 (prorated)	02/06/2023 - 06/30/2023

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Amanda Mancusi	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/alb	\$19.65/hr. Aide NC Step 7	12/01/2022 - 06/30/2023

5.05 Motion to amend the substitute rate for clerical aides/secretaries/custodians from \$105.00 per day to \$106.00 per day effective January 1, 2023 to conform to the minimum wage requirement based on significant and unexpected increase in the Consumer Price Index.

5.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the stipend payment for the following teacher facilitating a 2022-2023 Fall Teacher Academy Session:

FACILITATOR	SCHOOL	SESSION	STIPEND
Lauren Mahoney	HBS	Canva	\$60.00

5.07 Motion to approve chaperones for winter athletic games for building safety at Readington Middle School, not to exceed \$1,300.00.

5.08 Motion to approve Jill Nabozny to facilitate the Science Fair for Three Bridges School on February 27-28, 2023 for 2 hours each night for a total of 4 hours at the contractual rate.

5.09 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following additional clubs at Readington Middle School for the 2022-2023 school year:

ADVISOR	CLUB
Betsy Freeman	Bits, Bytes, and Atoms...

5.10 Motion to extend the following leave replacement teachers:

NAME	POSITION	FROM	TO
Michele Adamitis	LTS Teacher/Science (RMS) 20-01-D2/aek	11/14/2022 - 1/30-2023	11/14/2022 - 04/06/2023
Janet Schierloh Howard	LTS Teacher/LA (RMS) 20-01-D2/aey	12/05/2022 - 01/31/2023	12/05/2022 - 02/03/2023

F. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report - Mrs. Bettermann provided minutes of the meeting held on December 20, 2022.

6. Motion to adopt 6.01

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Dr. Cerciello

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

6.01 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2023 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school Board members; and

WHEREAS, The Readington Township Board of Education is 1 of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies for our schools and make important decisions affecting curriculum, financing and staffing; and

WHEREAS, The Readington Township Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School Boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of Education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public’s expectations for the schools; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Readington Township Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2023 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Readington Township Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local Boards of Education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children’s education.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- None

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Various members of the public expressed concerns about a book in the middle school library, the review by the committee formed, and expressed a desire for its removal. Dr. Hart shared protocols undertaken for the review and offered next steps if the complainant wants to appeal the committee's decision. Measures on book access in the middle school library were conveyed.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:18 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mr. Peach

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 RTEA negotiations and Superintendent evaluation (mid-year) for approximately 1 hour 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.

XI. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - 8:56 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT - 8:57 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Dr. Cerciello

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Carol Hample
President, Board of Education**