

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
May 9, 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, Board Administrator/Board Secretary

Absent: Mrs. Podgorski

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart welcomed everyone to celebrate the 2022-2023 Governor's Educator of the Year honorees and retiring staff members.
 - Mr. Charleston, RMS Principal, shared kind thoughts on the following staff members:
 - Betsy Freeman, G&T Teacher (Governor's Educator of the Year)
 - Ellen Goodfellow, School Counselor (Governor's Educator of the Year)
 - Christine Crielly, School Counselor (County Counselor of the Year)
 - Mr. Nigro, HBS Principal, highlighted the following staff members:
 - Gargi Adhikari, Special Education Teacher (Governor's Educator of the Year and County Teacher of the Year)
 - Helena Coelho, Paraprofessional (Governor's Educator of the Year)
 - Jack Kimple, Paraprofessional (Retiree)
 - Barbara Pauley, School Counselor (Retiree)
 - Susan Johnson, Grade 4 Teacher (Retiree)
 - Dr. DeRosa, WHS Principal, conveyed warmhearted reflections on the following staff members:
 - Janice Razza, Grade 3 Teacher (Governor's Educator of the Year)
 - Anna Albano, Paraprofessional (Governor's Educator of the Year)
 - Dr. Higgins, TBS Principal, provided good-hearted words on the following staff members:
 - Jenna Nagel, Grade 2 Teacher (Governor's Educator of the Year)
 - Zeila Lopes-Shreiber, Behaviorist (Governor's Educator of the Year)
 - Kathleen Kirk, Paraprofessional (Retiree)
 - Deborah Sevell, Principal Secretary (Retiree)

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

- Parent of WHS elementary school, asked about the cell as she was interested in learning more about the past discussion and potential future actions being considered. Mrs. Hample provided background on the lack of cell service in the RMS and HBS area, and the board reviewing safety and security relating to cell service. During past board meetings, matters such as health, airport proximity, among others were shared. Therefore, a study to evaluate and provide more information was discussed, but no such action has yet been taken to hire a group to perform the study nor to build a cell tower to date.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- None

May 2024	2,824,522.17		2,824,522.17
June 2024	2,824,522.17		2,824,522.17
2024	16,158,044.00	\$ 789,089.00	16,947,133.00
Total	32,316,089.00	\$ 2,047,658.00	32,316,089.00

3.04 Motion to approve the following Shared Services Agreements between Readington Board of Education and Branchburg Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024:

- 1 year renewal rental agreement for a garage bay at the rate of \$33,437 plus increase at the Consumer Price Index rate.
- Transportation Personnel agreement in the amount of \$20,000.00
- Transportation Services Agreement per attachment (Attachment 3.04-3.04b)

3.05 Motion to adopt the attached resolution for participation in joint transportation services with the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission for the 2023-2024 school year. (Attachment 3.05)

3.06 Motion to adopt the attached resolution for participation in joint transportation services with the Somerset County Educational Services Commission for the 2023-2024 school year. (Attachment 3.06)

3.07 Motion to approve Shared Services Agreement between Readington Board of Education and Tewksbury Township Board of Education for transportation services for the 2023 - 2024 school year. (Attachment 3.07)

3.08 Resolved to renew the District's employee insurance health and vision benefits with AmeriHealth and Horizon Dental for dental benefits for the 2023-2024 school year. (Attachment 3.08-3.08a)

3.09 **BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION** of Readington Township upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator approves the renewal of the food service management base year contract with Maschio's Food Service for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

Maschio's guarantees a return to the School Food Authority in the amount of \$20,000.00 In the event the actual bottom line of the operational report (total revenue from all sources less program costs, including the management fee) is below this amount, Maschio's shall be responsible for any shortfall with the following conditions:

- a) There shall be no change in the School Food Authority's policies, practices and service requirements including changes in bell schedules and or meal service periods.
- b) The proposed pricing schedule is approved.
- c) The proposed staffing schedule is approved with no alterations.
- d) The state or federal minimum wage rate and taxes in effect as of January 1, 2024 shall remain consistent throughout the year.
- e) The projected number of service days for lunch will be 181 for all schools.
- f) There shall be no reduction in service days due to inclement weather schedule changes (i.e. early dismissal, delayed opening).
- g) The government reimbursement rates shall be no less than the rates for the previous school year.

- h) Vendor prices shall remain constant throughout the year.
- i) Average daily attendance shall remain at the same level as the previous school year.
- j) The number of free and reduced price participants shall remain at the same level as the previous school year.
- k) USDA donated foods including both entitlement and bonus foods, and including the value of donated foods contained in processed end products will be no less than the previous school year.
- l) Usable USDA donated foods, of adequate quality and variety required for Maschio's proposed menu will be valued at no less than the previous school year's value per reimbursable meal.
- m) There shall be no restrictions in a la carte sales. Sales will be permitted at all locations for the term of this addendum.
- n) Service hours, service requirements type or number of facilities selling food and/or beverages on School Food Authority's premises shall remain consistent throughout the year.
- o) There shall be no competitive sales during all service hours.
- p) Any changes in legislation, regulations, reimbursement rates, meal components and quantities required by the Child Nutrition Programs or changes in the USDA Smart Snack Policies will affect the guarantee.
- q) Due to the volatile nature of raw material costs, Maschio's and the Local Education Agency shall review quarterly costs associated with the paper and plastic supplies and fuel surcharges on other deliveries. Any changes in Maschio's costs shall result in an appropriate change in the guarantee.
- r) There will be no cessation of labor within the School Food Authority that would adversely affect sales.
- s) The School Food Authority shall make payment to Maschio's for the entire amount of fees, costs and expenses which Maschio's shall have incurred as the result of union organizational activities and 4 Agenda May 9, 2023 participation in administrative proceedings involving the unionization of personnel, which were unknown to the officers of Maschio's at the time of execution of this Addendum.
- t) The number of eligible free and reduced students will be at least equal to the number of free and reduced eligible students in the previous year.
- u) The School Food Authority agrees to reimburse the food service account for the amount of unpaid charged meals either monthly or annually.
- v) Maschio's will not be responsible for sales decrease due to allowances given the School Food Authority for students to purchase lunches off campus if that allowance was not stated in the School Food Authority's specification.
- w) Any mandated expenses by either the federal or state governments regarding employee health care costs will reduce the guarantee in the amount of the actual cost of those expenses
- x) Maschio's has not taken into account the effect of lunch meals distributed under the School Food Authority's humanitarian meal policy in establishing the guarantee. Any changes in the value of lunch distributed under such policy that would negatively affect the guarantee will result in an appropriate adjustment thereof.
- y) The cost of providing reimbursable humanitarian meals will be at no cost to the students. Humanitarian meals shall mean meals provided at no cost to students who are unable to pay the full or reduced prices for a reimbursable meal. If a reimbursable Humanitarian meal is provided, the cost of such meals either full price or reduced price shall be billed to and paid for by the School Food Authority, then the cost of providing the humanitarian meals shall be excluded from the calculation of financial results for purposes of determining achievement of the financial guarantee.
- z) Any changes in the actual sales of meals distributed under any non-pricing program implemented during the current contract term could negatively affect the guarantee which will result in an appropriate

adjustment thereof. In the event the foregoing conditions are not met during the school year, Maschio's guarantee obligation shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to any increased cost of loss of revenue attributable to the changes in such conditions.

- The School Food Authority shall pay Maschio's an annual management fee in the amount of \$18,480.00. The management fee shall be payable in monthly installments of \$1,540.00 per month commencing on September 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2024.
- Maschio's guarantees a return to the School Food Authority in the amount of \$20,000.00.
- Total cost of contract \$693,267.66

3.10 Motion to approve a required student lunch price for the 2023 - 2024 school year as \$3.75 (an increase of \$.25 from 2022 - 2023 school year) and the student breakfast meal price of \$2.25.

3.11 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education ("Board") seeks to install cafeteria software and hardware integration; and

WHEREAS the Board has funding in its General Fund for this software: and

WHEREAS there is cafeteria software designed by Payschools through I3 Education for this upgrade and is proprietary to that company; and

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

WHEREAS the software is necessary to comply with new regulations issued by the State of New Jersey for free and reduced student population;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the proprietary upgrade of cafeteria software and hardware integration not to exceed \$20,000.00 from an authorized vendor Payschools to install software to effectuate this means. Annual recurring software costs shall be \$6,010.00. (Attachment 3.11)

3.12 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education ("Board") seeks to have Aqua Treatment Services Inc, (ATS) and Passaic/Bergen Water Softening to provide maintenance services for the 4-Log Ultra Violet Sanitation System, which is a component of the equipment that provides domestic water service to Readington Middle School; and

WHEREAS the Board has funding in its General Fund for the system software and equipment maintenance services; and

WHEREAS there is system software and associated equipment designed by Aqua Treatment Services Inc, and is proprietary to that company; and

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

WHEREAS the software and equipment maintenance services are required by NJDEP regulations to be compliant with current quality standards for drinking water in schools.

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

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

GROUP/GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	COST TO PARENT
RMS/Life Skills	Voorhees High School	Clinton NJ	-0-
RMS/6th-I&D	Kingwood School	Frenchtown NJ	\$10.00

4.07 Motion to approve an agreement with Prevention Resources for employee assistance for the 2023-2024 school year for \$22.00 per employee for a total amount not to exceed \$7,370.00, to be paid through ESSER/ARP funds.

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report - None

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.05

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Mencer

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

5.01 Motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation and approve the following appointment:

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Patricia Dowden	Teacher/Grade 5 (HBS) 20-02-D2/abt	*\$70,195.00 MA Step 10/11 (10)	09/01/2023 - 06/30/2024

*to be adjusted upon contract ratification between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association

5.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute Teacher/Aide/Nurse/Bus Driver paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township District, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements:

NAME	POSITION
Camilla Giannattasio	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Lauren Golebiewski	Substitute Teacher/Aide

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

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Kathleen Kirk	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/awq	June 30, 2023

5.04 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve stipend payments for the attached list of teachers facilitating 2023 Summer Teacher Academy Sessions. Stipend payments to be adjusted upon contract ratification between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association. (Attachment 5.04)

5.05 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the attached Summer Enrichment programs, facilitators, and facilitator stipends for the self-sustaining 2023 Readington Township School District Summer Enrichment Program. Stipend payments to be adjusted upon contract ratification between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association. (Attachment 5.05)

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Carol Hample
President, Board of Education**