

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
November 14, 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 is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6-21) and is 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, Mr. Jason M. Bohm, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Absent: Mrs. Podgorski

Mrs. Podgorski arrived at 7:01 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart highlighted the bioswale project recently completed at Three Bridges School, an initiative to transform a simple drainage basin located at the school into a naturalized habitat for native species capable of retaining water runoff and cleanse water. Dr. Hart introduced David Livingston, former board president, who shared the journey of the project from a simple idea to final conclusion, along with the help of many in the community. Fundraising efforts were tremendous to require no taxpayer effort to perform the construction, and the education component of the restoration will have an impact for future students for years to come. Marlene Orlandi, community member, introduced former students Tatiana Hlinka, current Hunterdon Central student, as well as Malcolm Williams Jr., Raritan Valley Community College student, who were an integral part of the design and artwork for communication and education. Kind words were shared by various members of the community, board members and former students. A story map and video of the project was shared with the public, and is part of the future plans of the curriculum department. Dr. Hart congratulated all on their hard work, and presented plaques of appreciation.
- Dr. Hart shared an update of preschool expansion aid, funding awarded to the district by the State of New Jersey to provide free 3- and 4-year old preschool to the community with partnerships with local private providers starting January 2, 2024. Over 155 children applied for the available seats, and the lottery is being held currently to communicate shortly with parents on results. A community event on the preschool program occurred in early November with more than 50 families attending.

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

- Community members provided kind thoughts regarding the Three Bridges School Bioswale project.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email C.S. - PEA Funding Meeting

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.02

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Donna Chiaffarano	Aide/Special Education (WHS) New Position	\$19.51/hr. Aide NC Step 5	01/02/2024 - 06/30/2024
Andrea DeCampos	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-04-D3/alu	\$21.71/hr. Aide C Step 6	11/15/2023 - 06/30/2024
Matthew Mandracchia	LTS.55 Teacher/PE (WHS) .25 - 20-04-D2/azo (TBS) .30 - 20-03-D2/azp	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$32,219.00 BA Step 3 per diem rate thereafter	12/01/2023 - 04/19/2024
Lindsay Salaj	Clerical Aide (HBS) 50-02-D4/amq	\$17.97/hr. Clerical Step 10	12/18/2023 - 06/30/2024
Tanya Cavallo	Teacher/Preschool (WHS) New Position	\$69,125.00 BA+15 Step 11/12 (11) (Prorated)	01/02/2024 - 06/30/2024

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

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Cheryl Edmonds	Aide/Special Education (WHS) 30-04-D4/akw	10/31/2023
Donna Cramer	Secretary/CST (BOE) 50-05-D4/amo	11/22/2023

5.05 Motion to authorize the Superintendent to hire new staff for Preschool, with the approval of the Personnel Committee, after the November 14, 2023 board meeting through its February 13, 2024 board meeting to be subsequently ratified by the Readington Township Board of Education at Board Meetings of December 12, 2023 or January 23, 2024 or February 13, 2024.

5.06 Motion to temporarily increase the hours for the following teachers to provide coverage for TBS Intervention position 20-03-D2/afw for the period of November 30, 2023 - January 19, 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)

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Mrs. Hample, Mrs. Ryan , and others shared thoughts on the NJSBA Annual Conference. Takeaways encompassed a variety of topics such as Committee meeting structure and communication, open Forums at certain BOE meetings, book and resource evaluation processes, ethics trainings, Board of the
- whole vs. committee structure, academic achievement gap closure, professional development, onboarding new board members, committee surveys, among many others.
- Mrs. Hample announced the Holiday Breakfast is on December 6th at 8:30 a.m. if you have time to attend to host staff.
- Mrs. Ryan asked about NJSLA scores from local districts. Dr. Hart shared many have posted neighboring scores, and Ed/Tech has curated data from some local data to share with board members on that committee. iReady data will also be shared.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mrs. Hample asked the board to review the tentative Board Meeting Dates for calendar year 2024 and mentioned two February budget meetings were combined into one meeting in lieu of two to be more.

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:47 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 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 a legal settlement, HIB and RTAA negotiations for approximately 30 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action will 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 - 8:33 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

Mr. Peach left at 8:36 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT - 8:42 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Carol Hample
President, Board of Education**