

# READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual Meeting  
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
May 4, 2021  
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**

Laura Simon 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:** Dr. Cerciello, Mr. Emmons, Mrs. Fiore, Ms. Flores, Mrs. Podgorski, Mr. Zwerling, Mrs. Hample, Mrs. Simon

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

**Absent:** Mr. Wallace

## **II. FLAG SALUTE**

## **III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- Dr. Hart recognized the staff and students in the Life Skills program. The teaching staff submitted an application to the NJ State Board of Education for recognition. The following teachers, aides and students were recognized: Ms. Mary Beth Schwartz, Mr. David deVelder, Ms. Melissa Spatz, Ms. Nancy Hill, and Mrs. Denise Hawkins (students: Richard Calderon Duarte, Carmine Colantuono, Joseph Delli Santi, Jason Horner, Wyatt Hughes, Aniruddh Kapidi, Arianna Markowitz, Anna Rutgers, Lilly Rutgers, Julien Small, and Max Qi). They presented how the program operates with students performing the hard work to learn life skills through cooking and preparing food for distribution to staff and other students. Mrs. Sharon Moffat shared wonderful thoughts on the program, students and staff. Dr. Cerciello, board member, congratulated all the students on their terrific presentation and bringing joy to the board this evening highlighting this tremendous program.
- Dr. Hart provided kind words on the tireless work by staff members during the pandemic, working collaboratively to support each other and continue education in a new virtual environment while doing their best to maintain health and wellness. Bus drivers delivered food and supplies to students and families. IT responded to staff and student internet / computer issues at school and at home, deploying 1-to-1 devices to all students in the district, facility staff outfitting the entire district with safety measures for COVID-19, paraprofessionals adapting to IEP, among others! Dr. Hart said they did tremendous work and we wanted to highlight our thanks for all their efforts.
- Dr. Hart presented a Covid update. He highlighted our region’s return to yellow designation by the State of New Jersey’s criteria for COVID-19. He said we had a successful return to in-person Wednesday instruction going in all schools. 8<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor graduation is being planned for June at Hunterdon Central High School. He is hopeful for school operations to be as normal as possible in September.

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

- Board members, teachers, and parents thanked all for the tremendous work in the Life Skills class.
- Ms. Laura Vogel, parent, asked Dr. Hart about the lunch service staffing challenges and could we prioritize K-3 schools and open to full day as staffing is available (versus waiting unit all schools are staffed). Dr. Hart responded that it is a consideration, but there were other considerations highlighted in the Covid update presentation that factor into future decision making (i.e. RTEA contract and supervision, virtual students, etc.). Mrs. Vogel also asked what the current thinking on mask requirements for students is in the fall. Dr. Hart said he will be following guidance from the State of NJ and would reconsider if guidelines change.
- Ms. Becky Zenz asked about when full days will be communicated in the fall as parents need to plan for alternatives if not full day by then. Dr. Hart said he anticipates full days in the fall and will communicate that information as soon as possible.
- Mrs. Alissa Buelow, teacher, thanked Dr. Hart and the Board of Education, mentioning how much they are

appreciated.

- Ms. Wolfe asked when reopening of full day at elementary schools will happen. Dr. Hart highlighted multiple considerations in the COVID update presentation factoring into reopening more. This includes contractual issues, contact tracing and isolation, virtual learning, food service operation, as well as other issues. Mrs. Simon restated that our goal is to get kids back in the school as soon as possible and we are monitoring guidance and reopening at the state level to guide us.

Mr. Wallace arrived at 7:45 p.m.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

- None

**VI. BOARD ACTION**

**A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02  
**Motion: Mr. Wallace 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Hample Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes April 27, 2021.

2.02 Motion to approve the Meeting Executive Session Minutes April 27, 2021.

**C. FINANCE/FACILITIES**

**Committee Report - None**

- 3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.06  
**Motion: Mrs. Podgorski 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Hample Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **April 29, 2021 through May 5, 2021** for a total amount of **\$26,427.97**.  
(Attachment 3.01)

3.02 Motion to approve **District Travel Schedule May 4, 2021** for a total amount of **\$2,329.00**.  
(Attachment 3.02)

3.03 Motion to approve the schedule for requisition of taxes from Readington Township for the 2021-2022 school year:

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2021-2022 TAX LEVY REQUEST

	GENERAL	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
July 2021	\$ 1,554,889.00	\$ 1,218,344.00	\$ 2,773,233.00
August 2021	\$ 2,773,233.00		\$ 2,773,233.00
September 2021	\$ 2,773,233.00		\$ 2,773,233.00
October 2021	\$ 2,773,233.00		\$ 2,773,233.00
November 2021	\$ 2,773,233.00		\$ 2,773,233.00
December 2021	\$ 2,773,233.00		\$ 2,773,233.00
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$ 15,421,054.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,218,344.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,639,398.00</b>

January 2022	\$ 1,997,529.00	\$ 687,177.00	\$ 2,684,706.00
February 2022	\$ 2,684,705.00		\$ 2,684,705.00
March 2022	\$ 2,684,705.00		\$ 2,684,705.00
April 2022	\$ 2,684,705.00		\$ 2,684,705.00
May 2022	\$ 2,684,705.00		\$ 2,684,705.00
June 2022	\$ 2,684,705.00		\$ 2,684,705.00
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$ 15,421,054.00</b>	<b>\$ 687,177.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,108,231.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 30,842,108.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,908,521.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,747,629.00</b>

- 3.04 Motion to approve the Shared Services Agreement with Tewksbury School District for Readington Township School District to provide Technology Support Services to the Tewksbury School District for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$168,895.00 for standard services and in addition a cost of \$55.00 per hour for any billable services beyond the standard services agreement.  
(Attachment 3.04)
- 3.05 Motion to approve the Shared Services Agreement between Readington Board of Education and Branchburg Board of Education for a 1 year renewal rental agreement for a garage bay at the rate of \$30,000.00, plus increase at the Consumer Price Index rate.  
(Attachment 3.05)
- 3.06 Motion to approve the Shared Services Agreement in the amount of \$101,600.00 for transportation services with Branchburg Township School District serving as host district for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.  
(Attachment 3.06)

**D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY**  
**Committee Report - None**

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.05  
**Motion: Mrs. Podgorski 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Hample Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
- 4.01 Motion to establish an Autism Class program at Holland Brook School for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 4.02 Motion to eliminate an Autism Class program at Readington Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 4.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following student placements in the Readington Township School District:

STUDENT NAME	UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE PLACEMENT REQUEST	SCHOOL/COOPERATING TEACHER	EFFECTIVE DATES
Andrea DeCampos	University of Phoenix 1 hour Classroom Observation & Teacher Interview	Three Bridges School - Jenna Nagel	May 2021
John Smyth	Temple University Advance Field Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	Three Bridges School Courtney D'Onofrio	May 10, 2021 - June 18, 2021

- 4.04 Motion to accept a mini-grant from the Readington Township Home and School Association in the amount of \$240.00 to be used for a Kahoot EDU subscription/license for Holland Brook School Grade 5 Math/Science/LA.
- 4.05 Motion to apply for and accept a grant from the Readington Township Home and School Association in the amount of \$635.00 to be used for a conductor's podium at Readington Middle School.

**E. PERSONNEL**

**Committee Report - None**

- 5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.17  
**Motion: Mrs. Podgorski 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Wallace Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
- 5.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **tenured administrators** for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Administrators Association, to be adjusted at the conclusion of negotiations and ratification of a successor Agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Administrators Association.  
 (Attachment 5.01)
- 5.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **non-tenured administrators** for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Administrators Association, to be adjusted at the conclusion of negotiations and ratification of a successor Agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Administrators Association.  
 (Attachment 5.02)
- 5.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **tenured certificated staff** members for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
 (Attachment 5.03)
- 5.04 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **non-tenured certificated staff** members for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the agreement 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 and appoint **paraprofessionals** with final appointments pending assignments as required through student Individual Education Plans for the 2021-2022 school year and in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
 (Attachment 5.05)
- 5.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **secretaries** for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
 (Attachment 5.06)
- 5.07 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **clerical aides** for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
 (Attachment 5.07)
- 5.08 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **cafeteria aides**, hours pending finalization of lunch schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.  
 (Attachment 5.08)

- 5.09 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **custodians** for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
(Attachment 5.09)
- 5.10 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **other support staff** for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in accordance with the agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and the Readington Township Education Association.  
(Attachment 5.10)
- 5.11 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **maintenance mechanics** for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.  
(Attachment 5.11)
- 5.12 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **technology staff** for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.  
(Attachment 5.12)
- 5.13 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **unaligned administrators** for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.  
(Attachment 5.13)
- 5.14 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **confidential secretaries** for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.  
(Attachment 5.14)
- 5.15 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and appoint **bus drivers**, rates and hours pending finalization of routes, for 2021-2022 school year.  
(Attachment 5.15)
- 5.16 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following **Substitute Teachers/Aides/Nurses/Secretaries/Bus Drivers** paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township School District, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements:

NAME	POSITION
Laura Talty	Substitute Secretary/Clerical Aide
Linda Saran	Substitute Nurse

- 5.17 Motion to adopt the following resolution for Staff Appreciation Week:  
**WHEREAS**, Teacher Appreciation Week will be celebrated the week of May 3 through May 7, 2021; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Readington Township Board of Education recognizes the extraordinary efforts of not only its teachers but also its counselors, nurses, Child Study Team members, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, maintenance staff, technology staff, and secretaries; and  
**WHEREAS**, all staff, are responsible for the translation of district mission and vision, which they have helped formulate, into programs and activities in and outside the classroom; and  
**WHEREAS**, the dedication, intelligence, creativity, sensitivity, and high standards of our teachers and staff are a source of inspiration to the hundreds of students whose lives they touch; and  
**WHEREAS**, the excellence in our classrooms is matched by the excellence of the services provided by our staff, which are crucial to the success of the Readington Township Public Schools,  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that on behalf of the administration, parents, and residents of Readington Township we express our gratitude to all of our professional staff for exemplary service to the district, and;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Tuesday May 4, 2021 be designated as National Teacher Day for the Readington Township Public School District and that we take this opportunity to extend an official thank you, to all District staff whose devotion enriches the lives of the members of the Readington Township Public Schools.

## COMMUNICATION

### Committee Report - None

6. Motion to adopt 6.01

**Motion: Mrs. Podgorski 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Wallace**

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

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

- Policy 1643 - Family Leave
- Policy 2415 - Every Student Succeeds Act
- Policy 2415.02 - Title I - Fiscal Responsibilities
- Policy 2415.05 - Student Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations
- Policy 2415.20 - Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints
- Policy 4125 - Employment of Support Staff Members
- Policy 6360 - Political Contributions
- Policy 8330 - Student Records
- Policy 9713 - Recruitment by Special Interest Groups

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Mrs. Simon reminded board members about the Superintendent's evaluation, as the deadline is this week.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- None

## IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- None from the public
- Mrs. Simon encouraged the public to continue submitting comments as it factors into future decision making of the board. Please continue to email the Superintendent or board, as well. She thanked everyone for the feedback.

## X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:54 p.m.

**Motion: Mrs. Podgorski 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Wallace**

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

(Mr. Emmons left at 7:55 p.m. due to conflicts with negotiations)

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 RTAA negotiations for approximately 30 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action shall 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 - 7:58 p.m.

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

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

## XII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:00 p.m.

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

**Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason M. Bohm  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Laura Simon  
President, Board of Education