

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 21, 2025

AGENDA

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.

The Board of Education will be meeting in-person on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. If members of the public wish to attend the meeting virtually, meetings are streamed Live over Youtube via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@readingtonpublicschoolsyou3011/streams>

The agenda and all materials for the Board meeting appear on the Board web page.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD PRESIDENT – OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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 may be taken.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy_____ Mrs. Fiore_____ Mr. Lopes_____ Mrs. Mencer_____ Mrs. Podgorski_____
Mrs. Rad_____ Mrs. Ryan_____ Mrs. DePinto_____ Mr. Rizza_____

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Student Recognition - Jesse Gold/Holland Brook School
- Housing Development and Enrollment Update

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

In accordance with Local Finance Notice (LFN) 2020-21, public comments can be submitted before remote public meetings through electronic mail or by written letter. Please email the Board Secretary at jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the board meeting. Comments shall be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting.

For members of the Readington Township School District Community who may be joining a Meeting for the first time or would like to provide comments tonight, we're sharing the Board Policy pertaining to public comments. Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts as per the District's Policy. The Readington Board of Education operates through a committee structure. Committees discuss and vet all topics for Board action before they appear on the Board agenda for vote. The Board committees publicly report at our meeting about what they discussed prior to the Board vote, excluding any topics that are rendered confidential by law.

0167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public comment at every regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or question Board members individually unless directed by the presiding officer.
2. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate; Web participants will type the information in as a preface to their comments.
3. If the Board of Education is webcasting the public meeting, the "chat" feature will be on during the public comment sessions only.
4. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard and time permits.
5. In order to provide sufficient opportunity for the public to be heard, a time limit of three minutes for each participant may be observed. Webcast participants making comments via chat may only enter one 256 character comment, excluding the announcement of his/her name and place of residence, unless the presiding officer asks for clarification or further information. The President may, at his/her discretion, limit discussion on any topic. The portion of the meeting during which the public is invited shall be limited to sixty minutes.
6. The presiding officer may interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The presiding officer may take other steps, including but not limited to adjourning the meeting or waiving any of the rules of the Residents' Forum, to respond to a lack of public decorum, or to otherwise protect privacy or the efficient completion of the Board's business.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email J.V. - Virtual School Days

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.02
Motion _____ 2nd _____
- 1.01 Motion to approve the Enrollment and Drill Reports December 2024.
(Attachment 1.01)
- 1.02 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education conducted a long term suspension hearing for student, whose name is on file, on November 12, 2024 in accordance with the NJ Administrative Code and Regulations, Board Policy and the Student Handbook, and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education approved the suspension for the balance of the 2024-2025 school year on November 12, 2024 and alternative placement for the student's educational programming on December 10, 2024; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the continued suspension of the student and current placement with no modification for the 2024-2025 school year, pursuant to NJ Administrative code and regulations. The Board shall review this matter at each subsequent regular Board meeting for appropriateness.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy _____ Mrs. Fiore _____ Mr. Lopes _____ Mrs. Mencer _____ Mrs. Podgorski _____
Mrs. Rad _____ Mrs. Ryan _____ Mrs. DePinto _____ Mr. Rizza _____

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01
Motion _____ 2nd _____
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes January 7, 2025.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy _____ Mrs. Fiore _____ Mr. Lopes _____ Mrs. Mencer _____ Mrs. Podgorski _____
Mrs. Rad _____ Mrs. Ryan _____ Mrs. DePinto _____ Mr. Rizza _____

B. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report:

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.09
Motion _____ 2nd _____
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **December 12, 2024 through January 22, 2025** for a total amount of **\$6,804,112.66**.
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **Travel Expenditures January 21, 2025** In the amount of **\$4,794.47**.
(Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **December 2024** for a total amount of **\$2,534,092.27**.
(Attachment 3.03)
- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024**.
(Attachment 3.04-3.04a)

- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024**
(Attachment 3.05)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS December 31, 2024 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of December 31, 2024 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.

Jason M. Bohm, Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 and 4, we certify that as of December 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. 6A23A-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 December 31, 2024.
(Attachment 3.06-3.06a)

- 3.07 Motion to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education is in receipt of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report FY 2023-2024 (ACFR) and the Auditor's Management Report as prepared and submitted by Bedard, Kurowicki & Co., CPA and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is required to accept the report and approve no corrective action plans recommendations from the auditing firm,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Readington Township Board of Education accepts and files with the Department of Education the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Management Report on Administrative Compliance and Performance for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024.
(Attachment 3.07-3.07a)

- 3.08 Motion to apply for and accept a Regular Operating District (ROD) grant for the State of New Jersey, School Development Authority share amount of \$208,363.20 and a district share of \$312,544.80, totaling a project cost of \$520,908.00 for the construction of the Three Bridges School Preschool toilet rooms.
(Attachment 3.08)
- 3.09 Motion to authorize the Business Administrator to apply for a waiver for Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) revenue projection for the 2025-2026 school year, and authorizing the Business Administrator to submit necessary forms and documents to the County office.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy_____ Mrs. Fiore_____ Mr. Lopes_____ Mrs. Mencer_____ Mrs. Podgorski_____
Mrs. Rad_____ Mrs. Ryan_____ Mrs. DePinto_____ Mr. Rizza_____

C. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report:

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.08
Motion _____ 2nd _____
- 4.01 Motion to approve the Special Education Extended School Year LLD, Extended Day Preschool, Autism, Behavioral Disabilities and Life Skills classes to occur Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. from July 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025.
- 4.02 Motion to approve Special Education Extended School Year, Math and Literacy Program to occur Monday through Thursday from either 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., from July 1, 2025 through July 24, 2025.

- 4.03 Motion to approve Special Education Extended School Year for Preschool Disabled from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., from July 1, 2025 through July 24, 2025.
- 4.04 Motion to accept a donation from Marie Steen for \$1,000.00 to be used for the WHS Library and/or Garden.
- 4.05 Motion to adopt the following fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year:

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Holland Brook School	Sweet Messages	Furry Tail Endings Canine Rescue
Three Bridges School	WizFit	TBS Student Activities Account

- 4.06 Motion to ratify and approve home instruction for Student: H-787029 to receive home instruction from December 16, 2024 through March 16, 2025 for 5 hours a week.
- 4.07 Motion to adopt the following additional field trips for the 2024-2025 school year:

GROUP/GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	APPROXIMATE COST TO PARENT
HBS/Life Skills	Chick-Fil-A	Flemington, NJ	\$10
RMS/Junior Librarians	Seton Hall University	South Orange, NJ	\$5
RMS/Mandarin 6-7-8	Asian Food Market Hibachi Grill	North Plainfield, NJ South Plainfield, NJ	\$20

- 4.08 Motion to approve the attached updated list of HSA fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment 4.08)

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy_____ Mrs. Fiore_____ Mr. Lopes_____ Mrs. Mencer_____ Mrs. Podgorski_____ Mrs. Rad_____ Mrs. Ryan_____ Mrs. DePinto_____ Mr. Rizza_____

D. PERSONNEL

Committee Report:

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.07
Motion _____ 2nd _____
- 5.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute Teacher/Aide/Nurse/Bus Driver for the 2024-2025 school year, paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township District, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements:

NAME	POSITION
Cadence Ottenstroer	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Phoebe Stedman	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Allan Mirsenit	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Maureen Carroll	Substitute Bus Aide
Cheryl Magill	Substitute Secretary/Aide
Heather Boyce	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Simon Muckle	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Mirsenit Vargas	Substitute Teacher/Aide

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Emma Weger	LTS Teacher/LA (RMS) 20-01-D2/aes	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$58,860.00 BA Step 1 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	12/16/2024 - 03/28/2025
Kathleen Suchorsky	LTS Principal (TBS) 10-03-D1/aai	\$65.00/hr.	12/17/2024 - 01/20/2025

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Grace Curren	Cafe Aide (HBS) 40-02-D3/bcu	\$16.00/hr. Step 1	11/22/2024 - 06/30/2025
Dina Phillips	Bus Aide/Preschool (WHS) New Position	\$25.00/hr.	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025
*Gary Kropilak	Bus Aide/Preschool (TBS) New Position	\$25.00/hr.	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025
*Isatou Marong	Bus Aide/Preschool (WHS) New Position Cafe Aide (RMS) 40-01-D3/bdl	\$25.00/hr. \$16/00/hr. Step 1	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025
*Tumbul Jaiteh	Bus Aide/Preschool (WHS) New Position Cafe Aide (TBD) New Position	\$25.00/hr. \$22.00/hr. Step 13	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025
*Nyimanding Marong	Bus Aide/Preschool (WHS) New Position Cafe Aide (TBD) New Position	\$25.00/hr. \$16/00/hr. Step 1	On or about 02/03/2025 - 06/30/2025

*pending fingerprinting/background check clearance

5.04 Motion to approve the following staff members to facilitate the Science Fair at the contractual rate:

NAME	SCHOOL	HOURS
Jill Nabozny	Three Bridges School	4 Hours Total

Leslie Martinez	Whitehouse School	4 Hours Total
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- 5.05 Motion to ratify and approve Yolanda Lima to provide home instruction for Student: H-787029 from December 16, 2024 through March 16, 2025, for 5 hours per week, at the contractual rate.
- 5.06 Motion to ratify and approve Sheryl Ottenstroer and Kelli Meadows, as chaperones for the RMS musical, for student S-218, 22 hours total at the contractual rate.
- 5.07 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve special skills stipend of \$1,000.00 for Malin Lago who is assigned to self-contained autism or BD programs, or who provide extraordinary services as defined by the RTEA agreement set forth in an IEP for the 2024-2025 school year.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy_____ Mrs. Fiore_____ Mr. Lopes_____ Mrs. Mencer_____ Mrs. Podgorski_____

Mrs. Rad_____ Mrs. Ryan_____ Mrs. DePinto_____ Mr. Rizza_____

D. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report:

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.02
Motion _____ 2nd _____
- 6.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and adopt the following policy for second reading: (Attachment 6.01)

- Policy 8505 - Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards For Meals And Other Foods

- 6.02 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHERE, New Jersey's public schools serve approximately 1.4 million children from pre-kindergarten through 12 th grade; and

WHEREAS, The direction of public education in New Jersey is charted locally by individual school boards, whose 5,000 members serve as advocates for public education as they work with administrators, teachers, parents and local residents; and

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

WHEREAS, School board members receive no remuneration for their services; and

WHEREAS, The Readington Township Board of Education is justly proud of the academic, athletic and social achievements of the students in our community; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2025 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members.

NOW, THEREFORE , BE IT RESOLVED, That the Readington Township Board of Education does hereby commend the service of local school board members and its members to our community and its children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Readington Township Board of Education proclaims January 2025 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH in New Jersey and urges all citizens to join in recognizing the dedication of local school board members, past and present, as we work together to advance educational opportunities for our children.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy_____ Mrs. Fiore_____ Mr. Lopes_____ Mrs. Mencer_____ Mrs. Podgorski_____

Mrs. Rad_____ Mrs. Ryan_____ Mrs. DePinto_____ Mr. Rizza_____

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- [Board Committees](#)

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Board Committee Handbook

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion _____ 2nd _____

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 2 HIBs and the Superintendent's evaluation (mid-year update) for approximately 45 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.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy_____ Mrs. Fiore_____ Mr. Lopes_____ Mrs. Mencer_____ Mrs. Podgorski_____
Mrs. Rad_____ Mrs. Ryan_____ Mrs. DePinto_____ Mr. Rizza_____

XI. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Motion _____ 2nd _____

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy_____ Mrs. Fiore_____ Mr. Lopes_____ Mrs. Mencer_____ Mrs. Podgorski_____
Mrs. Rad_____ Mrs. Ryan_____ Mrs. DePinto_____ Mr. Rizza_____

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at:

Motion _____ 2nd _____

Roll Call:

Mrs. Cassidy_____ Mrs. Fiore_____ Mr. Lopes_____ Mrs. Mencer_____ Mrs. Podgorski_____
Mrs. Rad_____ Mrs. Ryan_____ Mrs. DePinto_____ Mr. Rizza_____