READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m. December 10, 2024

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

Dr. Cerciello 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. DePinto, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Lopes, Mrs. Mencer, Mr. Peach, Mrs. Podgorski, Mrs. Wolf, Dr. Cerciello

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

Absent: Mrs. Ryan

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart, Mr. Bohm, Tony Solimine, Bond Counsel, and Kevin Settembrino, Architect, presented information on a
 potential bond referendum.
- Dr. Hart recognized the following board members leaving the Board of Education for their years of service and dedication to the students and community: Dr. Camille Cerciello, Mrs. Jennifer Wolf, and Mr. Randall Peach.

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

None

V. CORRESPONDENCE

None

1.02

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.05

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2nd: Mrs. Podgorski Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Motion to adopt 1.06

Motion: Mr. Lopes 2nd: Mrs. Podgorski Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

1.01 Motion to approve the Enrollment and Drill Reports November 2024. (Attachment 1.01)

RMS Quarterly Discipline Reports Quarter 1/September 7 - November 14, 2024

(Attachment 1.02)

1.03 School Safety System Submission - Report period: September 2023 - June 2024

(Attachment 1.03)

1.04 Motion to accept the HIB reports and affirm the Superintendent's decision:

CASE NUMBER	SCHOOL	DATE	FINDINGS OF HARASSMENT INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING
1	RMS	10/10/24	No
2	RMS	10/10/24	No
3	RMS	10/10/24	No

1.05 Motion to amend motion 1.01 from the August 20, 2024 meeting from the 2023-2024 school year to the following:

CASE NUMBER	SCHOOL	DATE	FINDINGS OF HARASSMENT INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING
10	HBS	06/05/2024, 10/22/2024	No

1.06 Motion to approve the following resolution:

> WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Readington Township Board of Education conducted a long term suspension hearing for student, whose name is on file, on November 12, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with the NJ Administrative Code and Regulations, Board Policy and the Student Handbook, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends student, whose name is on file, for the balance of the 2024-2025 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at each subsequent regular Board meeting, the Board shall review in executive session the matter in consultation with the superintendent of Schools, for the purpose of determining the status of student's, whose name is on file, suspension, the appropriateness of the students current educational program; and whether the suspended student's current placement, pursuant to NJ Administrative code and regulations should continue or whether the student should return to the general education program, the Board agreed to continue suspension of student, whose name is on file.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02

> Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2nd: Mrs. Podgorski **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes November 12, 2024.
- 2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes November 12, 2024.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Mrs. Mencer provided minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2024.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.07

> **Motion: Mrs. Fiore** 2nd: Mrs. Podgorski **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

- 3.01 Motion to approve the Bill List for the period from November 14, 2024 through December 11, 2024 for a total amount of \$4,704,816.42. (Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve Travel Expenditures December 10, 2024 In the amount of \$5,865.66. (Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve Payroll and Agency for the month of November 2024 for a total amount of \$2,472,153,34.

(Attachment 3.03)

3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for November 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024.**

(Attachment 3.04-3.04a)

3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for November 30, 2024 through November 30, 2024**.

(Attachment 3.05)

3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS November 30, 2024 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of November 30, 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 November 30, 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 November 30, 2024. (Attachment 3.06-3.06a)

3.07 Motion to approve method of compliance in conformity with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-6.3 of a toilet room facility at Three Bridges School for a classroom containing kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment 3.07)

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: Mrs. Fiore provided minutes of the meeting held on November 22, 2024.

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.06

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2nd: Mrs. Podgorski Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

4.01 Motion to adopt the following fundraiser for the 2024-2025 school year:

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Readington Middle School	Instrument Drive	RMS Music Dept.
Holland Brook School	Instrument Drive	HBS Music Dept.
Holland Brook School	HBS Talent Show	FPAC

- 4.02 Motion to approve the attached updated list of HSA fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year. (Attachment 4.02)
- 4.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following student placements in the Readington Township School District as follows:

STUDENT NAME	UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE PLACEMENT REQUEST	SCHOOL/COOPERATING TEACHER	EFFECTIVE DATES
Melissa Truempy	Montclair State University/ Administrative Internship	Holland Brook School/ Dr. Jonathan Moss	01/17/2025 - 05/05/2025
Brooke Sodowich	Rutgers University/ Practicum	Holland Brook School/ Christine Crielly	01/02/2025 - 06/01/2025

4.04 Motion to approve Dr. Padma Palvai, MD, Mindspace Psychiatry, LLC, to provide school based evaluations for \$1,000.00 per evaluation.

4.05 Motion to adopt the following additional field trips for the 2024-2025 school year:

SCHOOL/GROUP/ GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	APPROXIMATE COST TO PARENT
RMS/Spanish/6 th	Latin Creation Presentation & Cultural Workshop	New Hope, PA	\$30.00
RMS/Enrichment	Model UN Student Conference	Hershey, PA	\$600.00

4.06 Motion to approve an out of district contract for student ID#236029, to attend Somerset County Educational Services Commission, Somerset Elementary Academy, for the 2024-2025 school year, at an annual tuition of \$54,900.00, prorated to correspond with start date.

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: Mrs. Wolf provided minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 2024.

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.12

Motion: Mrs. Wolf 2nd: Mrs. Podgorski Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

(Mrs. DePinto voted No to 5.08 only)

5.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute
Teachers/Aides/Nurses/Bus Drivers 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	
Cheryl Magill	Substitute Teacher/Aide/Secretary	
Megan Heckman	Substitute Teacher	

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Megan Heckman	Teacher/Special Education (TBS) 20-03-D2/aij	\$92,645.00 BA Step 23 (prorated)	On or before 02/11/2025 - 06/30/2025

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Rosemarie Perna	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/baz	\$21.22/hr. Aide NC Step 9	11/18/2024 - 06/30/2025

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

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Staci Beegle	Director of Pupil Services (BOE) 10-05-02/bbd	June 30, 2025

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

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Mary Scarpa	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/baz	11/15/2024
Mackenzie Storms	Teacher/Special Education (TBS) 20-03-D2/aij	01/14/2025

5.06 Motion to approve the following mentor for the 2024-2025 school year:

STAFF MEMBER	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Christina Lilly	Readington Middle School	LTS Teacher/LA	Erica Applegate

- 5.07 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve other leave for staff member #6673 for the period 02/04/2025 05/09/2025.
- 5.08 Motion to approve the following staff members for completion of the Sustainable Jersey School activities and applications:

NAME	SCHOOL	STIPEND
Anne Romano	Three Bridges School	\$500.00
Tiffany Barca	Three Bridges School \$500.00	
Wendy Reardon	Whitehouse School	\$1,000.00
Betsy Freeman	Readington Middle School	\$1,000.00
Theresa Amster	Holland Brook School	\$1,000.00

- 5.09 Motion to ratify and approve Katazyna Pinto, Aide/Special Education/Preschool, to attend preschool department meetings, from October 2024 through June 2025, not to exceed 10 hours, at the contractual rate.
- 5.10 Motion to approve Jill Komosinski, Nurse, to attend Readington Middle School home wrestling matches from December 4, 2024 through February 1, 2025, not to exceed 25 hours, at her contractual rate.
- 5.11 Motion to amend motion 5.03 from the July 23, 2024 agenda and ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following appointment:

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Kirsten Baron	LTS Teacher/PE & Health (RMS) 20-01-D2/agj	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$64,960.00 MA Step 2 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	09/01/2024 - 12/10/2024

5.12 Motion to amend motion 5.02 from the September 10, 2024 agenda and ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following appointment:

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jennifer Hardison	LTS Aide Special	\$21.49/hr. Aide C	09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025

Education (TBS) 30- 03D3/alu	ep 1
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F. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: Mr. Peach provided minutes of the meeting held on December 2, 2024.

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.04

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2nd: Mrs. Podgorski Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

- 6.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and adopt the following policy for second reading: (Attachment 6.01)
 - Policy 5350 Student Suicide Prevention
- 6.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and adopt the following policy for first reading: (Attachment 6.02)
 - Policy 8505 Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards For Meals And Other Foods
- 6.03 Motion to approve the revised 2024-2025 district calendar. (Attachment 6.03)
- 6.04 **WHEREAS**, the Newark Morning Ledger Company, owner of The Star-Ledger, announced that the newspaper will cease print publication in February 2025; and

WHEREAS, the New Morning Ledger Company owns the Star-Ledger and Hunterdon County Democrat, two of the three official newspapers of the Readington Board of Education for the 2024 calendar year, which shall be impacted and cease print publication in February 2025; and

WHEREAS, all school districts including the Readington Township School District need two newspapers of record with sufficient statutory notification criteria to comply with Title 35 of New Jersey law, and the cessation of two of its three official newspapers are detrimental to its ability to comply with legal advertisements and meet its statutory obligation including but not limited to public notices; and

WHEREAS, other print newspapers available may not fully satisfy the requirements of Title 35 of New Jersey law; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey School Boards Association has joined with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Association of Counties have jointly sent a letter to the Legislature of the State of New Jersey to act on this immediate crisis to prevent non-compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township School District desires to affirm its support of these entities' efforts requesting the Legislature to act expeditiously to address this issue; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Readington Township School District is desirous to pass a public board resolution to call upon the Legislature to allow local governing bodies with the opportunity to electronically publish any legally required notices and loosen restrictions for the use of local township print publications to meet regulatory standards, and direct administration to effectuate this means by issuing similar letters to legislative leadership and other governing officials and entities in support of this overall effort.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

• Dr. Hart highlighted tentative board meeting dates for the 2025 calendar year.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mrs. Fiore provided minutes of the Green Committee meeting held on November 24, 2024.
- Dr. Hart highlighted the Policy Committee discussing the potential formation of Governance Committee, which
 could include quarterly meetings on aspects like efficiencies of the Board of Education, hear grievances or
 petitions, monitor Superintendent and NJSBA self-evaluation processes, operations of the board and goals,
 among others. It could include Board President, Vice President, Policy Chair and another board member. General

consensus after board dialogue was these tasks are already handled and could continue to be handled through existing committees or processes; therefore, no Governance Committee formation shall appear on the reorganization meeting agenda.

- Dr. Cerciello made a statement welcoming new board members, and transfer at the reorganization meeting on January 7, 2025. given President and Vice President are both departing the Board of Education. Dr. Cerciello discussed roles and responsibilities of each of these positions and time requirements for thought for potential future leaders.
- Mrs. Fiore mentioned the NJSBA County Meeting in December and that Dr. Hart represented the district well for
 professional development and achievement. She also mentioned the New Board Member Orientation and the
 County Meetings that will be virtual if anyone would like to attend.
- Mrs. Fiore heard about legislative matters discussed at the Delegate Assembly. Print media passed on new policy language into NJSBA supporting of notices electronically in addition to current methods. NJSBA shall be advocating for this.

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:35 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2nd: Mrs. Podgorski 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 student matter for approximately 30 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action may 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 - 8:51 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore 2nd: Mr. Peach Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

XII. ADJOURNMENT - 8:52 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Wolf 2nd: Mr. Peach Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Jason M. Bohm Business Administrator/Board Secretary

President, Board of Education