

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Virtual/In-Person Available at Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.
February 7, 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 6:00 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. Podgorski, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Wolf, Dr. Cerciello, Mrs. Hample

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

Absent: None

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart recognized four (4) students, Henry Schwartz, Jason Roscher, Thomas Ambio, Jaden Chen in a semi-annual competition surrounding math. Jaden Chen, tied for highest 4th grade score overall. Dr. McGibbon and Mrs. Ogden who helped the students in their effort also shared in congratulations.
- Ms. Pauch, Supervisor of Math, Science, Technology, Health & Physical Education, Dr. Brown, Supervisor of Humanities, Mrs. Krial, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, and District School Safety Specialist, and Mr. Tumolo, Supervisor of Social & Emotional Learning, presented jointly the 2023-24 Curriculum Department budget.
- Mrs. Beegle, Director of Pupil Services, presented the 2023-24 Pupil Services Department budget.
- Mr. Belske, IT Supervisor, presented the 2023-24 IT Department budget
Board Members asked various questions regarding the budget to the administration.
- Dr. Brown and Ms. Pauch presented the results from the Start Strong assessment results. Intervention strategies were shared to assist in closing learning gaps. Questions were posed by Board Members on test results, with Supervisors providing answers as appropriate.
- Dr. Hart shared a draft 2023-2024 school calendar for feedback. This shall appear on the next board meeting's agenda for a public vote. Questions regarding holidays, virtual days, state mandated 180 day count, back-to-school night, among other topics were discussed.

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

- A community member asked the district's capacity to absorb enrollment particularly due to new housing development without increasing staff or infrastructure impacting the budget. Dr. Hart provided thoughts in a response.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email S.B. - Thank you
- Email L.S. - Book Review
- Email J.F. - Book

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

- 1.01 Enrollment and Drill Reports January 2023
(Attachment 1.01)
- 1.02 RMS Quarterly Discipline Report Quarter 2/November 16, 2022 - January 30, 2023
(Attachment 1.02)

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes January 17, 2023.
- 2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes January 17, 2023.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Dr. Cerciello provided minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2023.

- 3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.03
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **January 19, 2023 through February 9, 2023** for a total amount of **\$1,928,233.97**.
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **District Travel Schedule February 7, 2023** for a total amount of **\$3,721.47**.
(Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to award the E-Rate request for proposal (RFP) to ePlus Technology as the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$142,203.18 for Cisco Meraki network switches, components and installation.
(Attachment 3.03)

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: Mrs. Fiore provided minutes of the meeting held on February 6, 2023.

- 4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.04
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
- 4.01 Motion to ratify and approve home instruction for student: H-202111 to receive home instruction for 10 hours per week from January 17, 2023 through January 31, 2023.
- 4.02 Motion to revise the Extended School Year for the Preschool Disabilities Program to occur Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. from July 10, 2023 through August 3, 2023.
- 4.03 Motion to revise the Extended School Year Literacy Program to occur Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. from July 10, 2023 through August 3, 2023.
- 4.04 Motion to approve partnership with Huntington Learning Center to provide math tutoring in grades 6-8 to be funded by ESSER/ARP, per attached.
(Attachment 4.04)

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: None

- 5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.09
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Wolf** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
Motion to adopt 5.10
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes**
(Mrs. Mencer abstained 5.10 only)

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Krystal Gould	Aide/Special Education (WHS) 30-02-D3/alo	\$20.88/hr. Aide NC Step 11	02/06/2023 - 06/30/2023

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Amanda Sullivan	Teacher/Special Education (WHS) 20-04-D2/ajc	\$63,085.00 MA Step 2 (prorated)	02/08/2023 - 06/30/2023

5.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following **Substitute Teachers/Aide/Nurses/Bus Drivers** paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township District, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements:

NAME	POSITION
Debra Passafuime	Substitute Secretary/Clerical
Katarina Stefanik	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Sylvia Shultz	Substitute Aide/Clerical
Amy Horensky	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Marianne Schultz	Substitute Aide

5.04 Motion to approve the following salary increases in recognition of the following employees' attainment of additional credits for lateral movement per RTEA Guide effective February 1, 2023:

NAME	SCHOOL	FROM STEP	SALARY	TO STEP	REVISED SALARY	INCREASE
Michelle Hodge	RMS	MA Step 12-13	\$71,895.00	MA +30 Step 12-13	\$74,295.00 (prorated)	\$2,400.00
Caroline Robb	TBS	BA+15 Step 18	\$78,770.00	MA Step 18	\$82,770.00 (prorated)	\$4,000.00

5.05 Motion to approve Leslie Martinez to facilitate the Science Fair for Whitehouse School on February 28, 2023 for a total of 4 hours at the contractual rate.

5.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following club advisor for the 2022-2023 school year at the contractual rate:

CLUB	ADVISOR	REPLACING
Lighting Technician for the Musical	Denise Birmingham	Mary McGivney

- 5.07 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve stipend payments for the attached list of teachers facilitating 2023 Spring Teacher Academy Sessions.
(Attachment 5.07)
- 5.08 Motion to ratify and approve Beth McGivney and Colleen Ogden to provide home instruction for student: H-202111 for 10 hours per week collectively from January 17, 2023 through January 31, 2023 at their contractual rate.
- 5.09 Motion to approve the following mentor for the 2022-2023 school year:

NEW STAFF MEMBER	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Amanda Sullivan	WHS	SE Teacher	Deanna Schwaiger

- 5.10 **WHEREAS**, on February 3, 2023, an employee of the Readington Township Board of Education, whose name is on file in the Board Office (the “Employee”), was provided with a notice of termination; and **WHEREAS**, the Superintendent has recommended that the Board terminate the Employee’s individual employment contract; and **WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that there is a good and sufficient cause to terminate the Employee. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby terminates the Employee’s individual employment contract, effective immediately; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator shall provide the Employee with notice of the Board’s action.

F. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: Mrs. Wolf provided minutes of the meeting held on January 24, 2023.

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| 6. | Motion to adopt 6.01
Motion: Mrs. Fiore | 2nd: Mrs. Podgorski | Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes |
| 6.01 | Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following policies for first reading:
(Attachment 6.01) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bylaw 0152 - Board Officers ● Bylaw 0161 - Call, Adjournment, and Cancellation ● Bylaw 0162 - Notice of Board Meetings ● Policy 2423 - Bilingual and ESL Education ● Policy 2560.01 - Therapy Dog | | |

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Dr. Hart and Mrs. Hample announced tours in March of 2023 for Board Members to walk through the four school buildings to view programs and facilities, inclusive of planned capital projects this coming summer.

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- A member of community and staff member thanked the Board for the time and effort to look at the therapy dog policy to help with the students and staff.
- Community members provided thoughts on a book in the Readington Middle School library.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:52 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 personnel matter regarding employee # 6797 and RTEA negotiations 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.

Dr. Hart left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Mrs. Wolf left the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

XI. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - 9:11 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

XII. ADJOURNMENT - 9:12 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**