

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.
October 17, 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

Absent: None

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. BOARD GOALS DISCUSSION

- Mrs. Hample reviewed Board Goals for the 2023-2024 school year.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart introduced Dr. Brown, Supervisor of Humanities, Ms. Pauch, Supervisor of Math, Science and Technology, and Mrs. Beegle, Director of Pupil Services, who presented results of NJSLA and district assessments. Details of proficiency by program, subcategories, and so forth were reviewed along with interventions and support actions to assist students. Principals Dr. DeRosa, Whitehouse School, Dr. Kathleen Suchorsky, Three Bridges School, Paul Nigro, Holland Brook School, and Tim Charleston, Readington Middle School, along with Dr. Moss, Assistant Principal, shared areas of focus for their respective buildings and efforts to assist students and staff with academic achievement. Questions and answers occurred with the board members on the data and actions presented, along with thoughts on academic achievement since the pandemic. The board and Dr. Hart thanked the administration and staff for their hard work.

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

- A parent and community member shared wonderful thoughts about Mr. Paul Nigro, HBS Principal, who is planning retirement in August 2024, and thanked Mr. Nigro for his hard work and dedication to the students and school district as a whole.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- J.L. Email - Topic on Agenda
- K.M. Email - Media Request

VII. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.03

Motion: Mrs. Fiore
(Mr. Peach abstained)

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

- 1.01 Motion to approve Enrollment and Drill Reports September 2023.
(Attachment 1.01)

- 1.02 Motion to approve District Goals for the 2023-2024 school year.
(Attachment 1.02)
- 1.03 Motion to approve the Bus Drill Evacuation Reports for Readington Township School District for the 2023-2024 school year.
(Attachment 1.03)

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes**
(Mrs. Mencer and Mr. Peach abstained)
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes September 12, 2023.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Dr. Cerciello provided minutes of the meeting held on September 27, 2023.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.14
Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Podgorski** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **September 14, 2023 through October 18, 2023** for a total amount of **\$4,716,989.78**.
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **District Travel Schedule October 18, 2023** for a total amount of **\$13,147.00**.
(Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **August 2023** for a total amount of **\$493,872.31** and for the month of **September 2023** for a total amount of **\$2,287,314.62**.
(Attachment 3.03-3.03a)
- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for August 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023** and **September 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023**.
(Attachment 3.04-3.04c)
- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for August 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023** and **September 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023**.
(Attachment 3.05-3.05a)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS August 31, 2023 and September 30, 2023 Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of August 31, 2023 and September 2023 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 August 31, 2023 and September 30, 2023 and 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 August 31, 2023 and September 30, 2023.
(Attachment 3.06-3.06c)

- 3.07 Motion to approve the 2023-2024 M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan.
(Attachment 3.07)

- | CHECK # | ACCOUNT | DATE | AMOUNT |
|---------|-----------|----------|---------|
| 2417 | Cafeteria | 06/26/23 | \$46.15 |
| 2419 | Cafeteria | 06/26/23 | \$76.35 |
| 2435 | Cafeteria | 06/26/23 | \$26.90 |
| 2438 | Cafeteria | 06/26/23 | \$26.00 |
| 61484 | Operating | 01/13/23 | \$27.26 |
| 61896 | Operating | 04/05/23 | \$32.76 |

- ESSA carry over from 2022-2023:

3.13 Motion to apply for and accept Supply Chain Assistance funding for cafeteria program in amount of \$33,488.00 for 2023-2024 school year.

3.14 Motion to apply for and accept an Emergency Connect Fund Grant in the amount of \$68,080.00 to be used to purchase Chromebooks for the 2023-2024 school year.

Committee Report: Mrs. Fiore provided minutes of the meeting held on October 11, 2023.

- 4.01 Motion to adopt the following fundraisers for the 2023-2024 school year:

4.02 Motion to apply for and accept the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Grant in the amount of \$3,587.50 for programs and workshops at all Readington Township schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

4.03 Motion to approve the out of district contracts for the 2023-2024 school year:

STUDENT #	SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL YEAR TUITION
S-223	Shepard School	\$54,526.14
520733	East Amwell	\$18,900.02
483235	East Amwell	\$18,900.02

4.04 Motion to apply for and accept a grant from the Readington Township Home and School Association in the amount of \$950.00 to be used for the Screenagers film.

4.05 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following student placement in the Readington Township School District as follows:

STUDENT NAME	UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE/ PLACEMENT REQUEST	SCHOOL/ COOPERATING TEACHER	EFFECTIVE DATES
Jenny Schneider	Warren County Community College	Three Bridges School/ Jenna Nagel	10/20/2023 - 11/24/2023

4.06 Motion to adopt the following additional field trip for the 2023-2024 school year.

GROUP/GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	COST TO PARENT
HBS/Music	RMS – Chorus Day	Readington	- 0 -

4.07 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and adopt following curricula for the 2023-2024 school year:
(Attachment 4.07)

CURRICULA
Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies & Civics
Visual and Performing Arts
World Language

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: Mrs. Podgorski provided minutes of the meeting held on September 15, 2023.

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.13

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Podgorski

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

5.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute Teachers/Aides/Nurses/Bus Drivers paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township District pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements for the 2023-2024 school year.

NAME	POSITION
Barbara Friedhoff	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Susan Sacco	Substitute Nurse
Krista Pachuta	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Toby Hill	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Danielle Grasso	Substitute Teacher/Aide

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Marc Florio	Bus Driver (Transportation) 80-06-P6/bbc (New Position)	\$26.73/hr. Step 1	09/20/2023 - 06/30/2024
	Cafeteria Aide (TBS) 40-03-D3/akq	\$18.00/hr. Step 5	09/28/2023 - 06/30/2024
Alexis Ulloa	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/awk	\$21.51/hr. Aide C Step 4-5 (4)	10/02/2023 - 06/30/2024
Janet Schierloh Howard	Teacher/PE/Health (RMS) 20-01-D2/agk	Sub rate for the first 20 days, \$77,155.00 MA Step 15 per diem rate thereafter	10/04/2023 - 10/31/2023
	Teacher/Enrichment (RMS) 20-01-D2/abb		11/01/2023 - 12/22/2023

5.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve stipend payments for the attached list of teachers facilitating 2023 Fall Teacher Academy Sessions.
(Attachment 5.03)

5.04 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following position control changes and designated transfers for the 2023-2024 school year:

NAME	CHANGE	POSITION	LOCATION
Renee Whitman	Transfer From: To:	30-02-D3/azh 30-04-D3/azh	HBS Aide/Special Education WHS Aide/Special Education

- 5.05 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following retirements with appreciation for their years of service:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Debra Vasnelis	Clerical Aide (HBS) 50-02-D4/amq	12/31/2023
Paul Nigro	Principal (HBS) 10-02-01/aak	08/31/2024

- 5.06 Motion to ratify and approve 13 additional hours for Maureen Sjonell and Jill Komosinski for completing sports physicals during the summer at their summer hourly rate.
- 5.07 Motion to ratify and approve Maryann Schultz, as a bus aide for student S-093, not to exceed 9 hours per week, starting on October 11, 2023 through January 31, 2024 at the contractual rate.
- 5.08 Motion to ratify and approve Marcel Vasques and Kristi Dauernheim as bus aides for student S-049 not to exceed a total of 10 hours per week in total, effective September 13, 2023 through January 31, 2024 at the contractual rate.
- 5.09 Motion to approve Marybeth Schwarz and Denise Hawkins as chaperones for students S-011 and S-008, to participate in field hockey and soccer, at the contractual rate, not to exceed 90 hours each.
- 5.10 Motion to approve Marybeth Schwarz, Denise Hawkins, and Dave deVelder as chaperones for student S-253 to attend art club and soccer, not to exceed 25 hours total, at the contractual rate.
- 5.11 Motion to ratify and approve extra pay for additional training on October 9-10, 2023 for the attached list of paraprofessionals, at the contractual rate, not to exceed 6.5 hours as approved and directed by the Director of Pupil Services.
(Attachment 5.11)
- 5.12 Motion to approve the following changes to the Readington Middle School coaching assignment for the 2023-2024 school year:

ASSIGNMENT	REMOVE	ADD
Assistant Track & Field Coach	Bruno Somma	Colleen Caballero
Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach	Colleen Caballero	Marybeth Schwarz

- 5.13 Motion to ratify and approve Elizabeth Eckel to ride the bus with student #S-020, not to exceed 60 hours for the 2023-2024 school year at the contractual rate.

F. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: Mrs. Wolf provided minutes of the meeting held on October 12, 2023.

- | | | | |
|------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6. | Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.04 | | |
| | Motion: Mrs. Fiore | 2nd: Mrs. Wolf | Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes |
| 6.01 | Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following policy for second reading:
(Attachment 6.01) | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy 1642.01 - Sick Leave | | |
| 6.02 | Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following policies for first reading:
(Attachment 6.02) | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy 3212 - Attendance | | |

- Policy 4212 - Attendance

6.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and abolish the following policies :

- Policy 3432 - Sick Leave
- Policy 4432 - Sick Leave

6.04 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following resolution:

SAFE AND SECURE HOMES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

WHEREAS, An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;

WHEREAS, Every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70% of these incidents take place inside a home;

WHEREAS, Another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member;

WHEREAS, Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85% reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

WHEREAS, In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, up to 80% of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons;

WHEREAS, Across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns that encourage secure gun storage practices and highlight the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

WHEREAS, School districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices;

WHEREAS, Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

WHEREAS, State law imposes penalties on adults when a child gains unsupervised access to improperly stored firearms;

WHEREAS, In the interest of student health and safety, it is imperative that local boards of education inform the school community of the importance of gun safety and secure firearm storage;

WHEREAS, School- and community-based programs that provide counseling and mental health support, reduce conflict and promote a healthy school climate contribute to the well-being of our students.

WHEREAS, the third week of October is Safe Schools Week and the fourth week of October is National Red Ribbon Week and the Readington Township School District has planned school safety activities in coordination with our partners at the Readington Township Police;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Readington Township School District will continue to address gun safety, including how students should respond if they come across a firearm, where such instruction is appropriate in the educational program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board and Superintendent will continue to support school-based and community-wide programs and services that promote a healthy school climate and help to reduce conflict, including counseling and mental health services for students and families along with social-emotional learning, and partnership with our local police force.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

IX. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mrs. Bettermann provided minutes of the Green Committee meeting held on September 26, 2023. She reviewed the strategic plan developed by the Green Committee for the 2023-2024 school year with the full board.

X. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- None

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:25 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 interview Attorneys for approximately 90 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action will 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.

XII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - 10:31 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Wolf

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - 10:32 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Fiore

2nd: Mrs. Wolf

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Carol Hample
President, Board of Education