

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Readington Middle School
Regular Meeting 5:30 p.m.
October 14, 2025

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

Mr. Rizza called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and announce 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. Cassidy, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Lopes, Mr. Pieros, Mrs. Rad, Mrs. DePinto, Mr. Rizza

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

Absent: Mrs. Mencer, Mrs. Ryan

Mrs. Mencer arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Mrs. Ryan arrived at 6:30 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. BOARD REFERENDUM TOURS

- Dr. Hart thanked everyone for coming for the referendum tours at RMS and HBS schools and introduced Mr. Charleston, RMS Principal, who walked attendees through capital upgrades in the middle school. He introduced Dr. Moss, HBS Principal, who then led a tour of the track and intermediary school proposed improvements. Following tours of each of the buildings, Mr. Settembrino, Architect of Record, went through the finer details of the projects and funding mechanisms such as state aid component.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart recognized the following staff members who helped the district and each building achieve silver status for all four buildings, the highest level possible, as well as Digital Star for three buildings (RMS, TBS and WHS) within Sustainable Jersey for Schools:
 - RMS: Tim Charleston and Betsy Freeman
 - HBS: Dr. Moss and Theresa Amster
 - TBS: Dr. Higgins. Anne Romano and Tiffany Barca
 - WHS: Dr. DeRosa, Wendy Reardon and Dr. Bengels
 - District-Level: Mr. Bohm, Dr. Brown, Mr. Race, Ms. Pauch, Ms. Krial, and Mr. Belske
 - Dr. Hart also thanked all members of the board-level Green Committee for their hard work and dedication to support sustainability efforts
- Dr. Hart provided an overview of the State of New Jersey NJSLA Assessment and introduced district administrators to share specific building and district-level data. Supervisors Dr. Brown and Ms. Pauch, Director of Pupil Services Ms. Burns, as well as Principals Mr. Charleston, Dr. Moss, Dr. Higgins and Dr. DeRosa presented detailed information as well as interventions and supports in place to help students succeed. The board engaged in questions and answers on the topic, desiring continued review in the Ed/Tech Committee and through other mechanisms.

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

- Parents and community members thanked the Educators, Administrators and Board of Education for all their hard work and dedication. They also discussed their concert about school bus pickup and requested the bus come into their cul-de-sac.

- Dr. Hart thanked the audience for their patience in waiting through a longer than normal Superintendent's Report to share their thoughts and concerns. Ms. Cole, Supervisor of Transportation, and Dr. Hart rode a bus through the cul-de-sac before a trial run monitoring time. The bus drive is already 45 minutes, and this would extend it to 53 minutes. The bus was getting to Whitehouse School when the bell was ringing. Police stayed at the bus stop to monitor safety for concerns. This topic will be reviewed in the Finance Committee in more detail.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email J. K. - Introduction

VII. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.02
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Rad** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
 (Mrs. Ryan left the meeting briefly at 9:15 p.m.)
- 1.01 Motion to approve Enrollment and Drill Reports September 2025.
 (Attachment 1.01)
- 1.02 Motion to approve Board Goals for the 2025-2026 school year.
 (Attachment 1.02)

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Rad** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes**
 (Mrs. Mencer abstained)
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes September 30, 2025.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Ms. Mencer provided minutes of the meeting held on October 3, 2025.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.12
Motion: Mrs. Mencer **2nd: Mrs. DePinto** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
 (Mrs. Ryan returned to the meeting at 9:17 p.m.)
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **October 2, 2025 through October 15, 2025** for a total amount of **\$1,847,637.88.**
 (Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **Travel Expenditures October 14, 2025** In the amount of **\$1,240.35.**
 (Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **September 2025** for a total amount of **\$2,476,218.39.**
 (Attachment 3.03)
- 3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for September 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.**
 (Attachment 3.04-3.04a)
- 3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for September 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.**
 (Attachment 3.05)
- 3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS September 30, 2025 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of September 30, 2025 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 September 30, 2025 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 September 30, 2025.
(Attachment 3.06-3.06a)

3.07 Motion to approve the 2025-2026 M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan.
(Attachment 3.07)

3.08 Motion to approve the following resolution: Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property:
WHEREAS, the Board of Education is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of selling said surplus property in an "as-is" condition without express or implied Warranties;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Readington Township Board of Education as follows: (1) The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through GovDeals pursuant to State Contract A-70967/T2481 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with GovDeals is available online at govdeals.com and also available from the Board of Education. (2) The sale will be conducted online and the address of the auction site is govdeals.com. (3) The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9. (4) A listing of the surplus property to be sold is attached.
(Attachment 3.08)

3.09 Motion to approve the attached Tuition Agreement between Readington Township Board of Education and the Branchburg Township Board of Education for the month of October 2025.
(Attachment 3.09)

3.10 Motion to approve the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2025-2026 school year.
(Attachment 3.10)

3.11 Motion to adopt the revised standard intra-district mileage rate per attached.
(Attachment 3.11)

3.12 Motion to approve Pediatric Speech-Language Services, LLC, professional services, to conduct speech and language services for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:

SERVICES	FEE
Speech-Language Therapy	\$60.00 per 30 minute session
Speech-Language Evaluation	\$150.00 per hour

Board members discussed a potential crosswalk on Readington Road, with some support for a crosswalk if a grant or other funding is available. There are people crossing already and would be beneficial to the Community making existing crossing safer.

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: Mrs. Fiore provide minutes of the meeting held on October 6, 2025.

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.03
Motion: Mrs. DePinto 2nd: Mrs. Mencer Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

4.01 Motion to approve the attached updated list of Holland Brook School clubs for the 2025-2026 school year.
(Attachment 4.01)

4.02 Motion to approve the following fundraisers for the 2025-2026 school year:

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Holland Brook School	Baseball Equipment Drive	Morris County Cubs
Whitehouse School	Salute to Heroes	Whitehouse Fire Company
Whitehouse School	Cheesecake & Pie Sale	WHS Student Activity Fund

4.03 Motion to adopt the following additional field trips for the 2025-2026 school year:

GROUP/GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	APPROXIMATE COST TO PARENT
HBS-RMS/Life Skills	Doyle's Farm	Flemington, NJ	- 0 -
RMS	Mirota Senior Center	Whitehouse Station, NJ	- 0 -

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: None

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.09

Motion: Mrs. Cassidy

2nd: Mr. Pieros

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Daniel Wasserman	Preschool Bus Aide (Transp.) 40-04-D3/bdj	\$25.00/hr.	10/15/2025
Susan Lauck	Preschool Bus Aide (Transp.) 40-06-D3/bcx	\$25.00/hr.	10/16/2025
Keri Morabito	Preschool Bus Aide (Transp.) 40-06-D3/bej	\$25.00/hr.	10/15/2025
Beth Heiart-Hanrahan	Preschool Bus Aide (Transp.) 40-04-D3/bdo	\$25.00/hr.	10/15/2025
Elizabeth Eckel	Preschool Bus Aide (Transp.) 40-04-D3/bek	\$25.00/hr.	10/15/2025
Kimberly Saini	Preschool Bus Aide (Transp.) 40-04-D3/bel	\$25.00/hr.	10/15/2025
Amparo Villa	Teacher/Spanish (RMS) 20-01-D2/afn	\$62,530.00 BA+15 Step 3-4 (4) (prorated)	10/15/2025 - 06/30/2026
Bobbie Friedhoff	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/azd	\$20.86/hr. Aide NC Step 5	10/15/2025 - 06/30/2026

- 5.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute Teacher/Aide/Nurse/Bus Driver for the 2025-2026 school year, paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township District, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements:

NAME	POSITION
Kavera Dewkar	Substitute Bus Aide
Jennifer Sanchez	Substitute Aide
James Sheeley	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Mazhar Khan	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Marian Gaestelo	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Alba Tumminia	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Mackenzie Fuchs	Substitute Teacher/Aide

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

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Alexa Cesaro	Speech (HBS & RMS) 20-02-D2/aur	On or before 11/22/2025

- 5.04 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve stipend payments for the attached list of teachers facilitating 2025 Fall Teacher Academy sessions.
(Attachment 5.04)

- 5.05 Motion to amend motion 5.08 from the July 22, 2025, agenda as follows:

STAFF MEMBER	SEASON	STIPEND POSITION
From: Coron Short To: Yolanda Lima	Winter	Girls B Basketball Coach

- 5.06 Motion to approve teachers for Home Instruction for the 2025-2026 school year, at the contractual rate:

NAME
Emily Bengels
Walter Burkat
Andrea DeCampos
Patricia Dowden
Christine Lewis
Yolanda Lima
Colleen Ogden
Chad Schubert

5.07 Motion to approve Christine Lewis to provide home instruction to student H-202122 from October 23, 2025 through November 12, 2025 for 5 hours per week at the contractual rate.

5.08 Motion to approve the following mentor for the 2025-2026 school year:

STAFF MEMBER	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Erica Ward	WHS	Preschool Teacher	Elizabeth Lewis

5.09 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve special skills stipend of \$1,000.00 for Daria Fisher 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 2025-2026 school year.

D. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: None

6. Motion to adopt 6.01

Motion: Mrs. Cassidy

2nd: Mrs. DePinto

Roll Call Vote: Carried: 9 Yes

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

- Policy 0173 – Duties of Public School Accountant
- Policy 0174 – Legal Services
- Policy 0177 – Professional Services
- Policy 1570 – Internal Controls
- Policy 2210 – Curriculum Development
- Policy 2220 – Adoption of Courses
- Policy 2230 – Curriculum Guides
- Policy 5339.01 – Student Sun Protection
- Policy 6111 – Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
- Policy 6220 – Budget Preparation

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mrs. Fiore provided Green committee Meeting Minutes of the meeting held on October 1, 2025.

X. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

XI. ADJOURNMENT – 9:30 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. DePinto

2nd: Mrs. Cassidy

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

Mr. Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education