

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Readington Middle School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
November 11, 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 7:00 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. Ryan, Mrs. DePinto, Mr. Rizza

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

Absent: Mrs. Mencer

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD

- Mr. Rizza welcomed the new student representatives to the Board of Education. Mr. Daly, RMS Teacher, thanked the board members for willingness to allow this partnership with student representatives. Mr. Daly shared vision for the representatives with suggested quarterly updates and the 8th grade civics election unit update, among more. Ishaan Nandu, Aaira Rana, Jimmy Dudley, 8th grade students, shared their passion for the opportunity and presented the fall sports results to kick off the first update from students, guest speakers they interacted with as part of the civics program, and the recent public election season locally and statewide.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mr. Rizza thanked veterans and celebrated Veterans Day, sharing that Board member, Mr. Lopes, is a veteran and is appreciative of his service.
- Mr. Rizza shared information on 6 candidates that ran for the school board and thanked them for their hard work and commitment to the school district, further congratulating the 3 candidates with the highest vote count.
- Mr. Rizza thanked the over 8 thousand voters who participated in the recent referendum election, and for the trust they have provided to the district with these funds to better the school district and community as a whole. The board plans to coordinate with stakeholders and communicate progress as capital projects are completed.
- Dr. Hart shared exciting news that the public capital project referendum for 83 projects at the 4 buildings totaling approximately \$38 million dollars passed a public ballot on November 4, 2025. The district anticipates commencing construction in summer 2026 onwards. Dr. Hart thanked the community for coming together to support the school district, students and staff. A celebration event was proposed to say thank you for all the stakeholders who helped with conveying critical information to the taxpayers. The referendum website shall transparently show the status of the progress.
 - The Policy and Communication Committee and Finance Committees shall be reviewing the referendum as it progresses with monthly public reports to the public also.
- Dr. Hart recognized Sadie Pirez, HBS student, for being honored as MLB Network Player of the Month, a feat that only 6 youth softball players are selected annually, highlighting her dedication in character and hard work both on and off the field.

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

- A resident and teacher thanked the Board and Dr. Hart for their hard work to secure the future of the district with referendum success.
- A resident congratulated the Board for the referendum although she voted against it, sharing she hopes the Board is transparent in its efforts and fiscal responsibility. The resident also questioned the Branchburg \$10K stipend on the agenda. Dr. Hart explained, we have a shared services agreement for transportation. Ms. Cole is helping

Branchburg for a staff member who is going on leave. Branchburg is paying the stipend in full.

- A resident thanked the Board for their hard work with answering questions and responsive nature. He said his children have been through the schools and is happy with the staff efforts.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email M. H. - Commendation of Exceptional Educators

VII. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.02
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mr. Lopes** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
- 1.01 Motion to approve Enrollment and Drill Reports October 2025.
(Attachment 1.01)
- 1.02 Motion to approve the Bus Drill Evacuation Reports for Readington Township School District for the 2025-2026 school year.
(Attachment 1.02)

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01
Motion: Mrs. Rad **2nd: Mr. Lopes** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes October 14, 2025.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: None

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.04
Motion: Mr. Lopes **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

(Mrs. DePinto abstained to 3.01 check #065949 & #065998; Mrs. Fiore abstained to 3.01 check #066000; Mrs. Ryan abstained to 3.01 check #066016 and 3.03; Mr. Rizza abstained to 3.01 check #066015)
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **October 16, 2025 through November 12, 2025** for a total amount of **\$2,871,810.83**.
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **Travel Expenditures November 11, 2025** In the amount of **\$1,670.26**.
(Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to approve the attached Shared Services Agreement for NJ Stride for the 2025-2026 school year.
(Attachment 3.03)
- 3.04 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 3.04)

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: None

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.07
Motion: Mr. Lopes **2nd: Mrs. DePinto** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
(Mrs. Rad abstained from 4.01 only)

- 4.01 Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Nursing Service Plan.
(Attachment 4.01)

- 4.02 Motion to amend motion 4.04 from the September 9, 2025 agenda regarding a field trip for Three Bridges School, as follows:

	GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	APPROXIMATE COST TO PARENTS
Remove Trip:	Grade 1	Turtleback Zoo	West Orange, NJ	\$15.00
Add Trip:	Grade 1	Buck's County Children's Museum	New Hope, PA	\$7.00

- 4.03 Motion to approve the following fundraiser for the 2025-2026 school year:

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Holland Brook School	HBS Annual Turkey Trot	HBS Student Activity Account – Field Day

- 4.04 Motion to approve the Preschool Program Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.
(Attachment 4.04)

- 4.05 Motion to approve the Preschool Enrollment Projection for the 2026-2027 school year.
(Attachment 4.05)

- 4.06 Motion to approve Speech Source, LLC, professional services, to conduct speech and language services for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:

SERVICE	RATE
Therapy	\$175.00/hr.
Consultation with Staff/Parents	\$150.00/hr.
Training	\$350.00/hr.
Meetings	\$150.00/hr.
Evaluations (travel, evaluation, testing, scoring and report writing)	\$400.00/hr.

- 4.07 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
Bria Whatley	Western Governors University/ Student Teacher	Three Bridges School/ Jenna Nagel Readington Middle School/ Kaitlyn Rega	11/14/2025 - 02/27/2026

Jennifer Monteiro	Centenary University/ Observation	Holland Brook School/ Gianna Crotty	11/14/2025 - 12/15/2025
Gina Nelessen	Grand Canyon University/ Observation	Three Bridges School/ Caroline Robb and Lori Gabrielsen	11/14/2025 - 04/08/2026

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: Mrs. Ryan provided minutes of the meeting held on November 5, 2025.

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.09

Motion: Mrs. Cassidy

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Maxwell Mailer	Maintenance Mechanic (BOE) 70-05-D5/aoo	\$69,000.00 Unaligned (prorated)	11/10/2025 - 06/30/2026

5.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following position control change and designated transfer from 10/27/2025 - 06/30/2026:

NAME	CHANGE	POSITION	LOCATION	SALARY
Gary Kropilak	From: To:	40-04-D3/bdm 40-06-D3/bel 40-01-D3/bdl	(Transp) Preschool Bus Aide (OOD) Bus Aide -Student #S-277 -not to exceed 18 hrs./wk. Cafe Aide (RMS) 40-01-D3/bdl	No Change \$16.00/hr. Step 1

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Eva Pelczer	Bus Driver (Transp.) 80-06-D6/ach	\$27.75/hr. Step 7	11/12/2025 - 06/30/2026
Allison Manley	Aide/Special Education (HBS) 30-02-D3/akx	\$26.31/hr. Aide C Step 17	12/03/2025 - 06/30/2026
Rachel Meyer	Speech (WHS/RMS) 20-02-D2/aur	\$67,280.00 MA Step 5 (prorated)	12/01/2025 - 06/30/2026

5.04 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
Wenjing Feng	Substitute Teacher/Aide

Sarah Pecoraro	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Michelle Florczah	Substitute Clerical/Secretary
Brianna Medina	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Brianna Atsu-Swanzy	Substitute Nurse
Nicolas Borella	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Rylee Batten	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Earl Gonzalez	Substitute Bus Driver

- 5.05 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve special skills stipend of \$1,000.00 for Jeanne Dombrowski 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.
- 5.06 Motion to approve Marci Cole, Transportation Supervisor, to assist Branchburg Township School District for the 2025-2026 school year for a stipend of \$10,000.00, per the attachment. (Attachment 5.06)
- 5.07 Motion to accept the Superintendent recommendation and approve other leave for staff member #6668 for the period of 10/01/2025 - 11/21/2025.
- 5.08 Motion to approve Jill Komosinski, School Nurse, to attend home wrestling matches from November through March, not to exceed 25 hours, at the contractual rate.
- 5.09 Motion to ratify and approve Stephanie Armstrong, School Nurse, to review preschool medical files for an additional 15 hours, during the 2025-2026 school year, at the contractual rate.

D. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: Mrs. DePinto provided meeting of the meeting held October 27, 2025.

6. Motion to adopt 6.01
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Rad** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
- 6.01 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following policies for first reading:
 (Attachment 6.01)
- Policy 2240 - Controversial Issues
 - Policy 2312 - Class Size
 - Policy 2360 - Use of Technology
 - Policy 8442 - Reporting Accidents

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

IX. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Board members and Dr. Hart shared information from the workshops they attended at NJSBA Convention and highlighted the time to connect to other board members including Hunterdon Central.
- Mr. Rizza spoke about strategic planning that two vendors shall present on their proposals in December or January's board meeting before strategic planning kicks off in late winter.
- Mrs. Fiore announced that the Hunterdon County School Boards Meeting at JP Case about budgeting will be on December 1, 2025.
- Mrs. Ryan recommended the district to present at the next NJSBA conference in October, and Dr. Hart highlighted Superintendent conference in May too as possibly given the district's great work recently.

X. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- A community member asked questions about the district policies and Strauss Esmay. She thought one policy was very vague and wanted to know the protocols taken before Board approval. She also congratulated the Board on the referendum. She commented about health benefits and staff raises impacting next year's budget. Dr. Hart spoke about policy protocols the district undertakes before board approval. Our board is also reviewing all policies, not just updates from Strauss Esmay. It is a first read tonight. Board members also provided feedback on the topic

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:07 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rizza

2nd: Mrs. Ryan

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 a HIB and contractual legal matters for approximately 45 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where no action shall 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 - 8:52 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Cassidy

2nd: Mr. Lopes

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - 8:53 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Cassidy

2nd: Mr. Pieros

Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes

Mr. Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education