READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
December 9, 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 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. Cassidy, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Lopes, Mrs. Mencer, Mr. Pieros, Mrs. Rad, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. DePinto, Mr. Rizza

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

Absent: None

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart shared the district recently completed its previous five-year strategic plan. Kathy Prouria and Mary Ann Friedman, NJSBA Field Representatives, presented on the strategic planning process and their direct proposal to help facilitate the process with key stakeholders and the community. Details of the plan were provided to each board member with specifics including cost and processes involved with options.
- Dr. Hart announced that unfortunately Judith Wilson, former Superintendent and private consultant, could not be present this evening but the board should review her proposal submission previously shared for consideration along with her past work directly with the board over the past several years. Dr. Hart shall invite her to an alternative meeting to present to the board. The hope is to have the board vote on January 20, 2025 on which vendor to move forward with for the spring process kickoff.

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

- None

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email E. F. - Dress Code
- Email D. R. - Dress Code
- Email D. L. - Air Conditioner
- Email D. R. - Air Conditioner
- Email B. W. - Dress Code

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.04
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Mencer** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

1.01 Motion to approve Enrollment and Drill Reports November 2025.
(Attachment 1.01)

1.02 RMS Quarterly Discipline Reports Quarter 1/September 2 - November 12, 2025
(Attachment 1.02)

1.03 School Safety System Submission - Report period: September 2024 - June 2025
(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	10/29/2025	Yes

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Rad** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
(Mrs. Mencer abstained)

2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes November 11, 2025.

2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes November 11, 2025.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: None

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.10
Motion: Mrs. Mencer **2nd: Mrs. DePinto** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **November 13, 2025 through December 10, 2025** for a total amount of **$3,944,372.78.**
(Attachment 3.01)

3.02 Motion to approve **Travel Expenditures December 9, 2025** in the amount of **$3,486.03.**
(Attachment 3.02)

3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **October 2025** for a total amount of **$2,447,900.75** and the month of **November 2025** in the amount of **$2,517,144.40**
(Attachment 3.03-3.03a)

3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for October 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025 and November 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025**.
(Attachment 3.04-3.04c)

3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for October 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025 and November 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025.**
(Attachment 3.05-3.05a)

3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS October 31, 2025 and November 20, 2025 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of October 31, 2025 and November 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.

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Jason M. Bohm, Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 and 4, we certify that as of October 31, 2025 and November 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 October 31, 2025 and November 30, 2025.
(Attachment 3.06-3.06c)

3.07 Motion to approve the Final Eligible Costs for the Referendum projects for the Readington Township District Schools per attachments.
(Attachment 3.07)

3.08 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INVEST FUNDS IN THE NEW JERSEY ASSET & REBATE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Readington Township Board of Education Members of the Readington Township Board of Education as follows:

1. The Readington Township Board of Education Members hereby finds and determines that (a) the Business Administrator has received and reviewed (i) the Information Statement dated as of December 9, 2025 describing the New Jersey Asset & Rebate Management Program (NJ/ARM) and (ii) the Amended and Restated Interlocal Services Investment Agreement governing the NJ/ARM Program ("Program Agreement") and (b) the Business Administrator has been afforded the opportunity to discuss NJ/ARM with the Investment Administrator and Special Counsel to NJ/ARM and the Readington Township Board of Education Members has determined that it is in the best interests of the Readington Township Board of Education to authorize the Readington Township Board of Education members to participate in NJ/ARM.

2. The Program Agreement is hereby approved and the Business Administrator is authorized to execute the Program Agreement on behalf of the Readington Board of Education Members

3. U.S. Bank, N.A., as Custodian for the NJ/ARM Program, is hereby approved to act as a depository of Public Funds for the Readington Township Board of Education.

4. The Readington Township Board of Education Members to acknowledge that its decision to authorize the participation in NJ/ARM is based solely on the information set forth in the Information Statement and in the Program Agreement.

5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

3.09 Motion to approve the following resolution: Resolution Authorizing Disposal of a 24-Passenger Van:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is the owner of a 24-passenger van which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of selling said 24-passenger van 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 24-passenger van shall be conducted through HCESC. The HCESC shall be utilized for cooperative auctioning at no cost to the district as 10% commission for HCESC services is paid by the buyer on top of price bid. (2) The sale will be conducted online and the address of the auction site is through Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission. 3) The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9. (4) A description of the 24 passenger van to be sold is attached.
(Attachment 3.09)

3.10 Motion to accept a donation of $1,000.00 in $25.00 Kings gift cards through Gift Card Bank, on behalf of Kings Food Markets Foundation's Nourishing Neighbors Program to assist families in need.

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: Mrs. Fiore provided minutes of the meeting held on November 17, 2025.

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.02
Motion: Mr. Lopes **2nd: Mrs. DePinto** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

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

GROUP/GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	APPROXIMATE COST TO PARENT
RMS/Spanish Grade 7	Los Chilitos	Lebanon, NJ	$15.00
RMS/SS Grade 6	Oakwood Lanes	Washington, NJ	$27.00

4.02 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
Melanie Belanger	TCNJ/Student Teacher	Three Bridges School/ Rachel Tomson	01/28/2026 - 05/28/2026
Gina Nelessen	Grand Canyon University/ Observation	Three Bridges School/ Lisa O'Connor	04/09/2026 - 05/20/2026
Jennifer Monteiro	Centenary University/ Student Teacher	Readington Middle School/ Shaina Mirsky & Victoria Fulmer	01/20/2026 - 05/11/2026
Madalynn Briskie	Eastern University/ Observation	Holland Brook School/ Jessica Weiss, Krista Pachuta, Kelly Neuberger, David deVelder	01/12/2026 - 02/22/2026

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: Mrs. Ryan provided minutes of the meeting held on December 8, 2025.

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.07
Motion: Mrs. Cassidy **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

Motion to adopt 5.08
Motion: Mr. Rizza **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
Lisa Crowe	LTS Teacher/Grade 1 (WHS) 20-04-D2/ayi	Sub rate for the first 20 days, $66,530.00 MA Step 3-4 (4) per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	12/03/2025 - 06/30/2026
Alexander Laurella	LTS Teacher/Math (RMS) 20-01-D2/sec	Sub rate for the first 20 days, $60,430.00 BA Step 1 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	12/15/2025 - 06/30/2026

5.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation and accept the following resignation:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Maria Llinas	Custodian (RMS) 70-01-D5/api	11/28/2025

5.03 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
Alexander Laurella	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Aidan Harris	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Deirdre Meyer	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Spring Zuegner-LeFevre	Substitute Teacher
Lauren Hall	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Jennifer Monteiro	Substitute Teacher/Aide

5.04 Motion to approve Colleen Ogden as Summer Enrichment Coordinator for the Summer of 2026 at a stipend of $4,000.00.

5.05 Motion to approve Michele Adamitis as a chaperone for students S-190 and S-024 to work on the Spring Musical set design, from January 1, 2026 through January 31, 2026, not to exceed 30 hours at the contractual rate.

5.06 Motion to ratify and approve Maria Durka to ride the bus as a shared aide, for the 2025-2026 school year, not to exceed 5 hours per week at the contractual rate.

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

STAFF MEMBER	SEASON	STIPEND POSITION
From: Marybeth Schwarz To: Lauren Visco	Spring	Girls Lacrosse Assistant Coach

5.08 **WHEREAS**, on December 2, 2025, 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 December 16, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator shall provide the Employee with notice of the Board’s action.

D. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: Mrs. DePinto provided minutes of the meeting held November 24, 2025.

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.02

Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Mencer** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

Policy 2330 – **4 Yes 5 No** (Did not pass)

The board discussed policy 2330 with varying thoughts and viewpoints, and indicated it will go back to committee for further analysis.

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

- Policy 2240 - Controversial Issues
- Policy 2312 - Class Size
- Policy 2360 - Use of Technology
- Policy 8442 - Reporting Accidents

6.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following policies for first reading
(Attachment 6.02)

- Policy 2330 - Homework
- Policy 2340 - Field Trips
- Policy 2414 - Programs and Services for Students in High Poverty and in High Need School Districts
- Policy 2430 - Co-Curricular Activities
- Policy 2440 - Summer School
- Policy 2551 - Musical Instruments

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Dr. Hart shared 2026 board meeting dates that will be on the January reorganization board meeting for a public vote unless conflicts raised by the board to modify such dates are shared in the next few weeks.
- Mrs. Cassidy and Mrs. DePinto shared the status of the 2025-2026 Board Goals and provided key steps undertaken to date and future actions. The goals and their status shall be on the board website for the public, with another update in the spring. Board members engaged in dialogue on the goals and steps undertaken.
- Mrs. Fiore provided minutes of the Green Committee meeting held on December 2, 2025.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mrs. Cassidy provided information from the Garden State Coalition of Schools meeting. The ideas will be shared with the appropriate committees for consideration

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- A teacher, residents, parents and community members all spoke about book, homework and resources policies including the new book log protocols. Many of the views expressed a desire to help the children of the township grow and develop, but with differing aspects on how to achieve such. Examples and specific information were shared. The board thanked the public for their input, which expanded upon their earlier dialogue during the Policy section of the board meeting.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 9:14 pm

Motion: Mr. Rizza **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** **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 and a legal 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. XII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - 9:49 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rizza **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

XII. ADJOURNMENT - 9:52 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Cassidy **2nd: Mr. Paulo** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

Mr. Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education