

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 20, 2026

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 Courier News and TAPinto. Formal action was taken.

Effective March 1, 2026, all legal notices and board meeting dates shall only be posted on the district website in conformity with state code.

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. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD

- Mr. Daly, Readington Middle School Teacher, thanked the board for their dedication and hard work particularly during School Board Recognition Month. James Dudley, Ishann Nandu, and Aaira Rana provided an update on the clubs, academics, music, field trips, among more happenings at the middle school. Students are now providing articles to the CHronicle for posting publicly.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart presented on housing developments in the township and the impact of enrollment in the district. He further highlighted universal free preschool for the residents through 16 classrooms the district operates through funding by the State of New Jersey in partnership with 4 private providers: Berry Patch Learning Center, Global Pioneer Academy/ REN, Stanton Learning Center, and Whitehouse Preparatory School.
- Dr. Hart spoke about pressures on the budget for the upcoming year, and recent referendum passage without tax impact thanking the community. Mrs. Mencer highlighted no audit comments and more information shall be shared publicly in Finance Committee minutes.
- Dr. Hart thanked the board for their tremendous work and volunteering their time, while highlighting January is School Board Recognition month.

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

- None

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email A. S. - Exploring School Regionalization Efficiency Program Funding
- Email N. M. - Possible Banning of Books

VII. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01
Motion: Mrs. DePinto 2nd: Mrs. Ryan Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes
- 1.01 Motion to approve Enrollment and Drill Reports December 2025.
(Attachment 1.01)

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01
Motion: Mrs. DePinto 2nd: Mrs. Mencer Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes
- 2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes January 6, 2026.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Mrs. Mencer provided minutes of the meeting on December 17, 2025.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.06
Motion: Mrs. Mencer 2nd: Mrs. DePinto Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes
- 3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **December 11, 2025 through January 21, 2026** for a total amount of **\$6,155,398.55**.
(Attachment 3.01)
- 3.02 Motion to approve **Travel Expenditures January 20, 2026** in the amount of **\$1,940.32**.
(Attachment 3.02)
- 3.03 Motion to approve the following Resolution:
- WHEREAS**, the Readington Township Board of Education is in receipt of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report FY 2024-2025 (ACFR) and the Auditor's Management Report as prepared and submitted by Bedard, Kurowicki & Co., CPA and
- WHEREAS**, the Board of Education is required to accept the report and approve no corrective action plans recommendations from the auditing firm,
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Readington Township Board of Education accepts and files with the Department of Education the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Management Report on Administrative Compliance and Performance for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025.
(Attachment 3.03-3.03a)
- 3.04 Motion to approve a Professional Services Contract with Settembrino Architects for the following project and fees:
- Early Childhood Barrier Free Single Occupancy Toilet Room Additions \$57,500.00
Ancillary fees/reimbursables \$500.00
Total Cost \$58,000.00
- WHEREAS**, it was necessary to incur costs for professional architectural services during the current year in preparation for construction in the summer of 2026; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Readington Township Board of Education approves the withdrawal of the above amounts from capital reserve effective immediately.
(Attachment 3.04)
- 3.05 Motion to approve the Final Eligible Cost issued for PreK Regular Operating District (ROD) grant architectural fees in the amount of \$208,363.20 for the state share, \$312,544.80 for local district share, totaling \$520,908.00. The Board authorizes the Business Administrator to seek state contract and ESC Coop proposals to complete the construction by August of 2027. The Board shall approve vendor proposals at future board meetings.
- 3.06 Motion to authorize the Business Administrator to seek competitive contracting proposals for a food service management company regarding cafeteria operations for the 2026-2027 school year, not to exceed a term of 5 years with renewals. Competitive contracting proposal must be approved by the N.J. Department of Agriculture prior to solicitation.

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: Mr. Lopes provided minutes of the meeting held on December 18, 2025.

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.10
Motion: Mrs. DePinto 2nd: Mrs. Mencer Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

4.01 Motion to apply for and accept the STEM Next Community in Nature grant in the amount of \$3,500.00 to be used for the Readington Middle School EcoAmbassadors student activity fund.

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

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Readington Middle School	Barnes & Noble Book Fair	RMS Media Center
Holland Brook School	Sweet Messages Project	Salvation Army

4.03 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
Kaitlynn Kurtzo	Grand Canyon University/ Observation	Three Bridges School/ Julia Fillebrown	02/09/2026 - 04/05/2026
Kaitlynn Kurtzo	Grand Canyon University/ Observation	Three Bridges School/ Jenna Nagel	04/06/2026 - 05/31/2026

4.04 Motion to approve the attached updated list of Three Bridges School clubs for the 2025-2026 school year. (Attachment 4.04)

4.05 Motion to approve the Special Education Extended School Year classes to occur Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. beginning July 6, 2026 through August 6, 2026.

4.06 Motion to ratify and approve home instruction for student # 503030 from January 5, 2026 through January 30, 2026 for up to 5 hours per week.

4.07 Motion to ratify and approve home instruction for student H-202124 from January 6, 2026 through June 19, 2026 for up to 5 hours per week, not to exceed 105 hours.

4.08 Motion to approve Stepping Forward Counseling Center, LLC to provide home instruction to student, S-204, for 10 hours per week from January 14, 2026 through February 14, 2026, at the rate of \$100.00 per hour.

4.09 Motion to approve Temple University to conduct a student study of spatial reasoning at Readington Middle School during the 2025-2026 school year with parental consent.

4.10 Motion to approve Judith Wilson, LLC as strategic planning facilitator for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$18,000.00.

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: None

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.09
Motion: Mrs. Mencer 2nd: Mr. Pieros Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

5.01 Motion to approve a doctorate stipend of \$1,000.00 to Dr. Anthony Tumolo.

5.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute Teachers/Aides/Nurses/Bus Drivers 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
Kristen Weingart	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Tyler Rodriguez	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Alexandra Fisher	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Ava VanGlahn	Substitute Teacher/Aide

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

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Meredith Kane	Aide/Special Education (RMS) 30-01-D3/bba	01/26/2026

5.04 Motion to approve the following staff members to facilitate the Science Fair at the contractual rate:

NAME	SCHOOL	HOURS
Jill Nabozny	Three Bridges School	4 hours
Leslie Martinez	Whitehouse School	4 hours

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Christine Dudley	Bus Aide/Preschool (TBS) 40-06-D3/bdj	\$25.00/hr.	01/21/2026 - 06/30/2026
Kathleen Tompkins	Aide/Special Education (RMS) 30-01-D3/bba	\$22.08/hr. Aide NC Step 10	On or about 02/06/2026 – 06/30/2026

5.06 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent recommendation and approve special skills stipend of \$1,000.00 (prorated) for Alison Manley, who is assigned to a self contained Autism classroom and provides extraordinary services as defined by the RTEA agreement and stated in the IEP, effective on 12/3/2025.

5.07 Motion to rescind the following coaching assignment:

NAME	STIPEND POSITION
Coron Short	Head Track & Field Coach

5.08 Motion to approve the following coaching assignment:

NAME	SEASON	STIPEND POSITION
Christopher Schultz	Spring	Boys Lacrosse Head Coach

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

STAFF MEMBER	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Alexia Laurella	RMS	LTS-Math Teacher	Olivia Young

D. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: Mrs. DePinto provided minutes of the meetings held on December 22, 2025 and January 12, 2026.

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.04

Motion: Mrs. DePinto

2nd: Mrs. Ryan

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

(Mrs. Cassidy voted no to Policy 2535 and Regulation 2535; Mrs. Fiore voted no Regulation 2535; Mrs. Mencer voted no to Regulation 2535)

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

- 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

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

- Bylaw 0142.1 - Nepotism
- Bylaw 0143 - Board Member Election and Appointment
- Policy 1220 - Employment of Chief School Administrator
- Policy 2535 - Library Materials
- Regulation 2535 - Library Materials
- Policy 2530 - Resource Materials
- Policy 9130 - Public Complaints

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

- Policy 2452 - Community Education

6.04 Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, New Jersey's public schools serve approximately 1.4 million children from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, The direction of public education in New Jersey is charted locally by individual school boards, whose 5,000 members serve as advocates for public education as they work with administrators, teachers, parents and local residents; and

WHEREAS, Boards of Education provide accountability to the public, they communicate the needs of the school district to the community, and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the school district; and

WHEREAS, School board members receive no remuneration for their services; and

WHEREAS, The Readington Township Board of Education is justly proud of the academic, athletic and social achievements of the students in our community; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Readington Township Board of Education does hereby commend the service of local school board members and its members to our community and its children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Readington Township Board of Education proclaims January 2026 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH in New Jersey and urges all citizens to join in recognizing the dedication of local school board members, past and present, as we work together to advance educational opportunities for our children.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

IX. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mr. Rizza announced the mandatory Governance Training is due by December 31, 2026.

X. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Meryl Vance, RTEA President, thanked the board for all they do, and volunteering their time to serve the community. She discussed the board's roles and duties under the School Ethics Act as a policy making entity as well as the desire for collaboration and mutual respect between the board, administration and staff to serve in their own individual roles to best educate the students of Readington.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:35 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. DePinto

2nd: Mrs. Mencer

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 legal matter and Superintendent's evaluation (mid-year update) for approximately 30 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action shall 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 - 9:12 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rizza

2nd: Mrs. Cassidy

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - 9:11 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rizza

2nd: Mrs. Cassidy

Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes

Mr. Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education