READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.
February 10, 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 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 Courier News and TAPinto. Effective March 1, 2026, all legal notices and board meeting dates shall only be posted on the district website in conformity with state code. Formal action was taken.

Present: Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. DePinto, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Pieros, Mrs. Rad, Mrs. Ryan Mr. Rizza

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

Absent: Mr. Lopes, Mrs. Mencer

Mrs. Mencer arrived at 6:05 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart welcomed everyone and shared an overview of the budget process and constraints for the 2026-2027 school year.
  - Ms. Pauch and Dr. Brown, Supervisors, presented the Curriculum, Professional Development Department budget.
  - Mr. Belske, Supervisor, presented Technology Department budget.
  - Mrs. Burns, Director and Dr. Anthony Tumulo presented Pupil Services Department budget.
  - Mr. Race, Facilities Manager, presented Facilities Department budget
  - Ms. Cole, Supervisor, presented Transportation Department budget.
  - Mr. Bohm, Business Administrator, presented the Central Administration budget and shared a brief overview of the Personnel and Benefits budget, which shall be discussed in more detail in executive session due to nature of matter. Public information on personnel and benefits shall be shared with the public at the March board meeting.
- Dr. Hart shared open enrollment for free state-funded 3- and 4-year-old preschool programming in township boundaries is next month, inviting the public to register.
- Dr. Brown and Ms. Pauch, Supervisors, presented NJSLA and achievement data in comparison to peer groups, growth and strategies implemented to support academic success.

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

- Many community members and parents provided their thoughts and concerns regarding policy 2535 and regulation 2535. The Policy and Communications Chair also read out loud, 2 emails on the same topic. The board further received well over 100 emails on the topic which shall appear as communication on its next board agenda.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email K. F. - Persuasive letter
- Email A. W. - Persuasive letter

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.02
   Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Mencer** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

1.01 Motion to approve Enrollment and Drill Reports January 2026.
(Attachment 1.01)

1.02 RMS Quarterly Discipline Report Quarter 2/November 10, 2025 - January 28, 2026.
(Attachment 1.02)

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes January 20, 2026.

2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes January 20, 2026.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Mrs. Mencer provided minutes of the meeting held on January 28, 2026.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.13
Motion: Mrs. Mencer **2nd: Mrs. DePinto** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **January 22, 2026, through February 11, 2026** for a total amount of **$2,594,365.49.**
(Attachment 3.01)

3.02 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency** for the month of **December 2025** for a total amount of **$2,574,678.22.**
(Attachment 3.02)

3.03 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for December 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.**
(Attachment 3.03-3.03a)

3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for December 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.**
(Attachment 3.04-3.04a)

3.05 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS December 31, 2025 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of December 31, 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 December 31, 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 December 31, 2025.
(Attachment 3.05-3.05c)

3.06 Motion to approve a Professional Services Contract with Settembrino Architects for Referendum projects and architectural fees in the amount of $1,996,589.00 per attached.
(Attachment 3.06)

3.07 **WHEREAS,** the voters of Readington passed the Referendum on November 4, 2025 in the amount of $38,247,117.00; and

WHEREAS, the district included smartboard replacements and upgrades in the list of qualifying projects in the Referendum; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Readington Township Board of Education approves Keyboard Consultants, Inc. to replace and update smartboards at its Holland Brook School, Three Bridges School, and Whitehouse School in the amount of $427,895.00 through state contract #HCESC-CAT-23-07; and

FURTHER, the Readington Township Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to submit any qualifying costs to the State of New Jersey for 40% reimbursement by the State of New Jersey. (Attachment 3.07)

3.08 **WHEREAS,** the voters of Readington passed the Referendum on November 4, 2025 in the amount of $38,247,117.00; and

WHEREAS, the district included playgrounds at Whitehouse School and Three Bridges School replacements and upgrades in the list of qualifying projects in the Referendum; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Readington Township Board of Education approves River Valley Landscapes and Playcraft Systems/Playcore Company to replace and update playgrounds at its Three Bridges School in the amount of $560,554.00 and Whitehouse School in the amount of $539,022.00, as well as a preschool playground at Three Bridges School in the amount of $139,313.00 through state contract #T0103/16-FLEET-00133/24-FOOD-118207 and OMNIA National Coop Contract #R220203/R#22-02; and

FURTHER, the Readington Township Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to submit any qualifying costs to the State of New Jersey for 40% reimbursement by the State of New Jersey. (Attachment 3.08-3.08b)

3.09 Motion to authorize the district to participate in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative for the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with state regulations as over mandated threshold of 40 eligible students.

3.10 Motion to approve the submission of a SEMI alternate reimbursement revenue projection for the 2026-2027 school year to the Executive County Superintendent no later than 45 days prior to the submission of the district's proposed budget, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5(c) and N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-39.

3.11 Motion to approve the corrective action plan for Special Education Medicaid Initiative relating to the 2024-2025 school year district's program performance as the district was unable to achieve 100% revenue requirement instituted by the state of New Jersey.
(Attachment 3.11)

3.12 Motion to approve the Special Education Medicaid Initiative Certification of Implementation for the 2025-2026 school year. The district has implemented corrective measures through January 2026 and fully achieved its revenue requirement instituted by the State of New Jersey.

3.13 Motion to authorize the Business Administrator to bid, or solicit proposals through state contract, Educational Service Commissions, and cooperatives for the district-wide fire alarm system in all 4 buildings funded by the referendum passed on November 4, 2025.

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: Mr. Rizza provided minutes of the meeting held on January 16, 2026.

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.06
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Rad** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

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

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Readington Middle School	Principal for a Day	Student Activities Fund

4.02 Motion to approve the attached updated list of Readington Middle School and Holland Brook School Life Skills field trips for the 2025-2026 school year.
(Attachment 4.02)

4.03 Motion to ratify and approve home instruction for student S-204, for January 21, 2026 and January 22, 2026, not to exceed 10 hours.

4.04 Motion to amend motion 4.08 from the January 20, 2026 meeting to as follows:
Motion to ratify and approve Stepping Forward Counseling Center, LLC to provide home instruction to student S-204, for 10 hours per week, from January 23, 2026 through June 19, 2026, at a rate of $100.00 per hour.

4.05 Motion to ratify and approve Learn Well to provide home instruction for student, H-202126, for 5 hours per week, from January 28, 2026 through February 28, 2026 at a rate of $61.70 per hour.

4.06 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
Chelsea Sorg	Western Governors University/Observation	Three Bridges School/ Amy Kokoskza	On or about 02/11/2026 - 02/26/2026

E. PERSONNEL
Committee Report: Mrs. Ryan provided minutes of the meeting held on January 23, 2026.

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.08
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

5.01 Motion to approve the following salary increase in recognition of the following employees attainment of additional credits for lateral movement per RTEA Guide effective February 1, 2026:

NAME	SCHOOL	FROM STEP	SALARY	TO STEP	REVISED SALARY	INCREASE
Sara Chatman	RMS	B+15 Step15-16	$77,350.00	MA Step 15-16	$81,350.00	$4,000.00
Emily Obenauer	RMS	B Step 4	$60,930.00	BA+15 Step 4	$62,530.00	$1,600.00

5.02 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve stipend payments for the attached list of teachers facilitating 2026 Spring Teacher Academy sessions.
(Attachment 5.02)

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

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Alexandra Magliaro	Aide/Special Education (TBS) 30-03-D3/awk	02/06/2026

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Gary Kropilak	Preschool Bus Aide (TBS) 40-03-D3/bdm	$25.00/hr.	02/11/2026 - 06/30/2026

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

STAFF MEMBER	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Amparo Villa	RMS	Spanish Teacher	Yolanda Lima

5.06 Motion to approve a change in hours for the following bus driver, effective February 16, 2026:

NAME	HOURS
Samantha D'Antuono	From: 4.5 hrs./day To: 5 hrs./day

5.07 Motion to ratify and approve Sheryl Ottenstroer as a chaperone for student S-218, to participate in Color Guard, from January 28, 2026 through April 1, 2026, not to exceed 20 hours at the contractual rate.

5.08 Motion to approve the following coaching assignment:

NAME	SEASON	STIPEND POSITION
Colleen Caballero	Spring	Head Track and Field Coach

D. COMMUNICATION
Committee Report: None

Motion: Mrs. Fiore **2nd: Mrs. Mencer** **Roll Call Vote: 5 No; 3 Yes**

Motion to remove Policy 2535 and Regulation 2535 from 6.01 and send back to Policy/Communication Committee and to Education/Technology Committee for further review.

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.02
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Rad** **Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes; 3 No** (No just on policy 2535 and regulation 2535)

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

- 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

6.02 Motion to approve the revised 2025-2026 district calendar.
(Attachment 6.02)

Board members and Dr. Hart discussed Policy 2535 and regulation 2535 providing their thoughts, concerns and suggestions.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD
- Mr. Rizza congratulated Justina Ryan on achieving her NJSBA Certified Board Member Certification
- Mr. Rizza spoke about the newly elected Governor of New Jersey impacting timelines for state funding which causes issues with March 10, 2026 board meeting. The budget is still due on March 20, 2026 to the County Office, but the County Office is allowing later board meetings to be cognizant of public input/dialogue. A special

board meeting would need to occur. And the date shall be posted publicly once confirmed.

- Mrs. Cassidy provided information from the Garden State Coalition of Schools meeting. Items discussed were school finances, formula funding and Student Funding Reform Act, and other pressures on budgets.
- Mr. Rizza announced that the ad hoc committee for strategic planning will be Mrs. Cassidy, Mr. Pieros, Mrs. Rad and himself. The first meeting was on February 9, 2026

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Community members and staff further discussed their concerns regarding policy 2535 and regulation 2535, and the public vote by the board to adopt.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:33 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rizza | **2nd: Mr. Pieros** | **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 2 HIBs, a legal matter, and personnel and benefits budget for approximately 45 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where 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 - 9:05 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rizza | **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** | **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

XI. ADJOURNMENT - 9:06 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rizza | **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** | **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

Mr. Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education