



EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2026

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Paulo Lopes, Chair (abs.)

Linda Rad, David Rizza, Justina Ryan, Beth Fiore (alt.)

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Dr. Rebecca Burns, Director of Pupil Services (abs.)

Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor

Katie DaQuisto, Early Childhood Supervisor (abs.)

Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor

Dr. Anthony Tumolo, Special Projects Supervisor

Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator (abs.)

Agenda

1. **Curricular Revisions**

- Reviewed documents that listed changes to the Science (K-5), Social Studies (K-8) and Language Arts (4-5) and ESL (K-8).
- **Science K-5**
 - The updates primarily removed specific references to climate change in early grade levels (K-3) to focus on immediate environmental impacts, weather hazards, and to allow for curriculum flexibility.
- **Social Studies**
 - The Act concerning instruction on Latinos and Hispanics in public schools (A3871) requires school districts to provide instruction on the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in grades K-12 as part of the implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
 - Kindergarten: Read-alouds added to Unit 2: Module 4
 - Grade 1: Tags added to existing curriculum to identify areas already covering Latino and Hispanic history in Unit 1: Module 5 and the Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills section. Addition of tags to existing curriculum to identify areas already covering Latino and Hispanic history, and new read-alouds added to Unit 2
 - Grade 2: Tags added to the existing curriculum to identify areas that already cover Latino and Hispanic history in Unit 3, Modules 3 and 4, Interdisciplinary Connections, and Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills.
 - Grade 3: Tags added to the existing curriculum to identify areas that already cover Latino and Hispanic history in Unit 2: Module 4, Module 5, and the Interdisciplinary Connections Section.
 - Grade 4: Activity added to Unit 1: Interdisciplinary Connections Section. Tags added to the existing curriculum to identify areas that already cover Latino and Hispanic history in Unit 2: Interdisciplinary Connections Section.
 - Grade 5: Tags added to the existing curriculum to identify areas that already cover Latino and Hispanic history in Unit 3: Interdisciplinary Connections Section.

- Grade 6: No Changes
- Grade 7: Tags added to the existing curriculum to identify areas that already cover Latino and Hispanic history in Unit 2: Understandings, Essential Questions, and Students will know/learn sections. Tags added to the existing curriculum to identify areas that already cover Latino and Hispanic history in Unit 3: Understandings section and Unit 6: Students will be able to section
- Grade 8: Tags added to the existing curriculum to identify areas that already cover Latino and Hispanic history in Unit 3: Learning Activities and Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills sections.
- **Language Arts**
 - An overview of cursive was added to the 4th and 5th grade ELA curricula's Purpose and Overview Section. Cursive slides were listed as a Supporting Material & Teacher Resource. State law mandate. Material is already in grade 3.
- **ESL**
 - This is a complete revision of the curriculum and represents first change in many years.
 - The district has completed a comprehensive revision of the K–8 English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum, replacing the previous curriculum that had remained largely unchanged since 1998. The original curriculum consisted of a broad K–8 overview with general strategies and skills, while the revised curriculum provides a structured, standards-based framework organized into grade bands (K–3, 4–5, and 6–8). Each grade band is aligned to the district's English Language Arts units of study and is specifically designed to meet the linguistic and academic needs of multilingual learners. The updated curriculum emphasizes the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through culturally responsive instruction, while fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and academic success across content areas. Student progress is monitored through ongoing classroom assessments and the annual WIDA ACCESS for ELLs® assessment to ensure instruction is responsive to each student's language development needs.

2. **NJSLA-A Update**

- Results of the NJSLA testing were expected in mid-July but have not been received yet. High schools will get NJGPA results in late fall and NJSLA for all schools is expected to follow, with expected date in December. Due to receiving data later than usual, the reporting of results to the Ed/Tech committee and full board will not occur in October (as done in years past) and will be scheduled when data is available. The committee discussed the cause of delay, with one suggested reason being the switch from static to adaptive testing. Other items discussed were that there may be additional time needed to assess the writing section against rubrics or how to map the current adaptive based scores to previous years static based scores to allow year-to-year comparisons.

3. **Draft Welcome Back Agendas**

- Reviewed draft agendas for the September 1st and 2nd meetings.

4. **Field Trips 2026-2027**

- Reviewed the list of planned trips while noting that not all trips listed may occur.

5. **Draft Strategic Plan**

- The co-chairs and Dr. Hart created draft action plans for each of the four strategic plan goals. The action plans are still being finalized, and the goals will be on the August 18th BOE agenda for approval.
- At Readington Township Public Schools, we believe in a future where every student is empowered to become a deeply engaged thinker, creator, and resilient citizen. Our plan is built upon four foundational focus areas designed to support the growth of our school community:

Academic Rigor: We hold high expectations for every learner. By meeting students where they are and providing essential supports, we ensure that rigor serves as a bridge to their future success.

- This year's focus will be on developing a framework to foster academic responsibility and independence along with a review of curriculum to identify areas for student-led and choice-based learning activities.

Belonging and Human Connection: We believe belonging is the catalyst for achievement. We are dedicated to creating a culture where every student feels supported and empowered to shape our collective success.

- This year belonging will be anchored in the Universal Design for Learning (UDL), the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), and Morning Meeting.

Future Preparedness: We are equipping our learning community to act with confidence and ethical discernment. Our curriculum will emphasize digital literacy, critical thinking, and sustainability to prepare students for an evolving world.

- This year the district focus will be promoting responsible digital citizenship.

Fiscal Stewardship: We remain committed to responsible budgeting and proactive monitoring of costs. Our goal is to protect the long-term financial health of the district while sustaining the high-quality education all children deserve.

- This year the district will focus on preparing the budget with plans to address the double digit increases in health benefits – plan for it and present solutions. RTAA cycle is this year, and RTEA is in 2 years.

Agenda items: curricular revisions, field trips, strategic goals

Next Meeting: September 28, 2026 at 8:30 am.