READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
September 8, 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 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. 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. Barton, Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Fiore, Mr. Lopes, Mr. Pieros, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. DePinto, Mr. Rizza

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

Absent: Mrs. Rad

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. OATH OF OFFICE

- Mr. Bohm, Board Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to new Board Member, Mrs. Barton.
    - Mr. Rizza announced that Mrs. Barton shall be appointed to the Finance Committee. Mr. Pieros will be Finance Committee Chair due to Mrs. Mencer's resignation, who previously held that position.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart shared an update on the opening week of school, highlighting all the wonderful things going on.
- Dr. Hart presented district goals including associated action steps and measurement tools to help guide them forward during the 2026-2027 school year, including:
    - Human Connection & Belonging
    - Academic Rigor
    - Future Preparedness
    - Fiscal Stewardship.
- Dr. Tumolo provided WIDA/ACCESS for ELLs information and Dr. Burns and conveyed DLM Assessment results from the 2025-2026 school year.

V. BOARD GOALS

- Catherine Pouria, NJSBA provided information on setting board goals reflective of the past year's goal and strategic planning. Following discussion by the board, tentative goals as follows to be fine tuned before adoption in a future board meeting.
    - Strategic Plan Support
    - Governance - Board Culture and Governance / Board Norms / Board Communications
        - Listen to Stakeholders and Community Feedback
    - Academic Achievement
    - Referendum and Safety

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

- None

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email S. S. - Comments on Request to Remove
- Email J. M. - Oppose Removal

VIII. BOARD ACTION

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes**
(Mrs. Barton abstained)

1.01 Motion to submit an HIB Assessment Report for the 2025-2026 school year.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01 - 2.02
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes**
(Mrs. Barton Abstained)

2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes August 18, 2026.

2.02 Motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes August 18, 2026.

C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Committee Report: Mr. Rizza provided minutes of the meeting held on August 28, 2026.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.09
Motion: Mr. Lopes **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
(Mrs. DePinto abstained check #066915)

3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **August 18, 2026, through September 9, 2026** for a total amount of **$4,674,418.82.**
(Attachment 3.01)

3.02 Motion to approve the **Travel Expenditures September 8, 2026** in the amount of **$5,760.53.**
(Attachment 3.02)

3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency for the month of July 2026** for a total amount of **$1,219,473.98.**
(Attachment 3.03)

3.04 Motion to ratify and approve the following **Account Transfers for July 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026**.
(Attachment 3.04-3.04a)

3.05 Motion to ratify and approve the **Student Activities Account for July 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026**.
(Attachment 3.05)

3.06 Motion to accept the FINANCIAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS July 31, 2026 pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of July 31, 2026 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.

_____
Jason M. Bohm, Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 and 4, we certify that as of July 31, 2026 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 July 31, 2026.
(Attachment 3.06-3.06a)

3.07 Motion to approve the Shared Services Agreement between the Readington Township Board of Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2026-2027 school year.
(Attachment 3.07)

3.08 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) 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 3.08)

3.09 **WHEREAS,** the Readington Township Board of Education ("Board") successfully passed a capital improvement referendum in November 2025, which includes various embedded facility and energy-related capital projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board is deeply committed to fiscal responsibility, maximizing taxpayer dollars, and advancing the school district’s ongoing sustainability initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) approves and oversees utility-administered energy efficiency programs designed to reduce energy consumption in public facilities; and

WHEREAS, Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) administers an approved Direct Install program that partners with a closed network of approved contractors to provide energy-saving incentives covering up to 80% of the cost of eligible equipment and infrastructure updates; and

WHEREAS, Donnelly Energy is a fully approved, authorized closed-network contractor under the JCP&L Direct Install program; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of an approved utility program contractor for these evaluation and implementation services is subject to and compliant with the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.) and all applicable State of New Jersey public procurement regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Readington Township Board of Education in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, as follows:

1. **Appointment:** The Board hereby appoints Donnelly Energy to evaluate, assess, and prepare the qualifying capital projects embedded in the November 2025 referendum for participation in the JCP&L Direct Install program.

2. **Scope of Work:** Donnelly Energy is authorized to identify energy-saving opportunities, audit district facilities, and secure utility incentives up to 80% of the equipment and update costs, ensuring alignment with the district's sustainability goals.

3 **Compliance:** This appointment and any resulting contractual agreements shall strictly adhere to New Jersey Public School Contracts Law and State procurement standards.

4. **Authorization:** The Board President, Superintendent, and School Business Administrator are hereby authorized to execute any necessary applications, agreements, and documents to effectuate this resolution. All projects identified, cost of the capital project and incentives are subject to future board approval apart from this appointment.

D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

Committee Report: None

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.05
Motion: Mr. Lopes **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**

4.01 Motion to approve the following fundraiser for the 2026-2027 school year:

SCHOOL	FUNDRAISER	RECIPIENT
Readington Middle School	Jersey Mike's Fundraiser	RABC

4.02 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
Alexandra Veglatte	Student Teacher/ TCNJ	Whitehouse School/ Lori Gabrielsen	09/09/2026 - 12/31/2026
Janet Ribau	Nursing Preceptorship/ Western Governors University	Readington Middle School/ Maureen Sjonell	11/01/2026 - 12/31/2026
Tania Dasilva	Student Teacher/ TCNJ	Holland Brook School/ Dawn LoCalio	09/09/2026 - 12/31/2026

4.03 Motion to apply for and accept a $4,000.00 grant from the Society of American Foresters Fund to support student learning experiences connected to the Readington Middle School Tiny Forest/Living Lab.

4.04 Motion to accept a donation in the amount of $500.00 from the State of New Jersey for district wide cybersecurity software protection.

4.05 Motion to adopt the following additional field trip for the 2026-2027 school year:

GROUP/GRADE	TRIP	LOCATION	APPROXIMATE COST TO PARENT
RMS/Grade 8 G&T	YMCA of the Pines	Medford, NJ	- 0 -

E. PERSONNEL

Committee Report: None

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.20
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 8 Yes**
(Mr. Lopes abstained motion 5.14)

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Julie Jay	LTS Teacher/Kindergarten (TBS) 20-03-D2/abf	Sub rate for the first 20 days, $74,720.00 BA Step 13 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	09/01/2026 - 12/4/2026
Brian Micco	LTS Teacher/PE/Health (RMS)	Sub rate for the first 20 days, $67,040.00	09/01/2026 - 12/4/2026

	20-01-D2/agi	MA Step 1 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	
Nascha Smith	LTS Teacher/Special Education (RMS) 20-01-D2/ahj	Sub rate for the first 20 days, $61,440.00 BA Step 1 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	09/01/2026 - 12/4/2026
Allison Crecca	Aide/Special Education (WHS) 30-04-D3/bdk	$24.23/hr. Aide NC Step 15	On or before 09/22/2026 - 06/30/2027
Kavera Dewar	Preschool Bus Aide (Transp) 40-06-D3@bcx	$25.00/hr.	09/01/2026 - 06/30/2027
Lisa Maslankowski	School Nurse (HBS) 20-02-01@bew	$90,930.00 BA +15 Step 21	On or Before 11/08/2026 - 06/30/2027

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

NAME	POSITION	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATE
Lisa Buhl	LTS Teacher/Special Education (HBS) 20-02-D2/aye	Sub rate for the first 20 days, $82,720.00 MA+30 Step 13 per diem rate thereafter (prorated)	09/01/2026 - 11/30/2026

5.03 Motion to rescind the following appointments from the August 18, 2026 agenda, motion 5.01:

NAME	POSITON	SALARY/STEP	EFFECTIVE DATES
Christina Aulisio	Aide/Special Education (HBS) 30-02-D3/ayw	$20.82/hr. Aide NC Step 2	09/01/2026 - 06/30/2027
Artesha Dumes	Bus Aide/Preschool (Transp) 40-06-D3/bcx	$25.00/hr.	09/01/2026 - 06/30/2027

5.04 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute Teachers/ Aides/Nurses/Bus Drivers for the 2026-2027 school year, paid at the applicable substitute rates, in the Readington Township District, pending satisfactory completion of employment requirements:

NAME	POSITION
Lisa Magliaro	Substitute Aide
Laurel Reese	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Anthony Avin	Substitute Teacher/Aide

5.05 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following retirements with appreciation for years of service:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Matilda Cangiano	Secretary (RMS) 50-01-D4/amz	06/30/2027
Janet Sulick	Teacher/Special Education (WHS) 20-04-D2/ail	06/30/2027

5.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following resignations:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Tara Maher	Nurse (HBS) 20-02-01@bew	On or before 11/01/2026
Bianca Polizzi	Bus Aide/Preschool (Transp) 40-06-D2/bdj	09/09/2026

5.07 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve stipends for all staff facilitating on the Readington Township October 12-13, 2026 In-Service Days, not to exceed $5,000.00.

5.08 Motion to ratify and accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the stipend payment for the following teacher's participation in the 2026 Summer Teacher Academy session.

STAFF MEMBER NAME	SESSION	STIPEND
Kristy Pieloch	Read Aloud Reboot: Engaging Students Through Text, Talk, and Thinking	$45.00

5.09 Motion to approve the following salary increases in recognition of the employees' attainment of additional credits for lateral movement on the RTEA guide, effective September 1, 2026:

NAME	SCHOOL	FROM STEP	SALARY	TO STEP	REVISED SALARY	INCREASE
Kelly Petersen	HBS	BA+15 Step 5	$64,290.00	MA Step 5	$68,290.00	$4,000.00
Samantha Lestrange	RMS	MA Step 14	$82,580.00	MA+30 Step 14	$84,980.00	$2,400.00
Megan Sloan	HBS	BA Step 12	$72,530.00	BA+15 Step 12	$74,130.00	$1,600.00
Olivia Iglesias	RMS	BA+15 Step 9	$68,145.00	MA Step 9	$72,145.00	$4,000.00
Adriana White	WHS	BA+15 Step19	$85,780.00	MA Step 19	$89,780.00	$4,000.00
Stephanie Sperone	RMS	BA+15 Step13	$76,320.00	MA Step 13	$80,320.00	$4,000.00

5.10 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the attached list of club advisors for the 2026-2027 school year at their contractual rate.
(Attachment 5.10)

5.11 Motion to approve the following mentor for the 2026-2027 school year:

NEW STAFF MEMBER	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Adriana White	WHS	Media Specialist	Anne Romano

5.12 Motion to approve Maryann Schultz as a bus aide with students, S-185 and S-208, from September through June, not to exceed 15 hours per week, at the contractual rate.

5.13 Motion to approve Maureen Carroll as a bus aide with student, S-228, from September through June, not to exceed 15 hours per week, at the contractual rate.

5.14 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve special skills stipend of $1,000.00 for the full-time aides who are 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 2026-2027 school year. (Attachment 5.14)

5.15 Motion to amend motion, 5.07 from the May 12, 2026 agenda as follows:
Motion to approve all General Education and Special Education Teachers to attend Special Education Planning, Eligibility and IEP meetings between July 1-August 30, 2026 at their contractual rate, for an additional 40 hours collectively.

5.16 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Board of Education ("Board") employs Employee Id. No. 5723 as a tenured teaching staff member in the Readington Township Public Schools ("District"); and

WHEREAS, the District has been advised that criminal charges are presently pending against the employee in Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, the criminal charges remain pending and the Board makes no determination through this Resolution as to the employee's guilt or innocence or as to the ultimate merits of the criminal allegations; and

WHEREAS, in light of the nature and seriousness of the pending charges, the employee's responsibilities as a teaching staff member, and the Board's obligation to protect the safety and welfare of its students and staff and the integrity of District operations, the Superintendent has recommended that the employee be placed on paid administrative leave pending further review; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is appropriate and in the best interests of the District to place the employee on paid administrative leave pending further action by the Board and/or resolution or material development of the pending criminal proceedings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Readington Township Board of Education as follows:

- **Paid Administrative Leave.** The Board hereby approves the placement of Employee No. 5723 on paid administrative leave, effective immediately, for an indefinite period and until further written notice from the District, subject to all applicable laws, regulations, Board policies, and contractual obligations.

- **Salary and Benefits.** During the paid administrative leave, the employee shall continue to receive his regular salary and benefits, subject to applicable deductions, employee contributions, and other lawful adjustments.

- **No Access to District Property.** During the administrative leave, the employee shall not enter or otherwise access any District school, building, facility, property, grounds, or District-sponsored activity without the prior express written authorization of the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

- **No Contact.** During the administrative leave, the employee shall have no contact or communication with District students or their parents or guardians in connection with District matters and no contact or communication with District employees, administrators, Board members, volunteers, or other District personnel concerning District business, students, the pending criminal matter as it relates to the District, or any District investigation, except through or as expressly authorized by the Superintendent, Board counsel, the employee's Association representative, or the employee's private legal counsel.

- **District Systems and Records.** The employee shall not access District email, computer systems, student information systems, electronic records, files, databases, or other District resources without prior written authorization. The employee shall preserve all District records and information in his possession or control and shall not alter, destroy, delete, conceal, or modify any potentially relevant District record or electronically stored information.

- **Availability.** The employee shall remain reasonably available to the Superintendent or other authorized District representative during normal business hours for legitimate employment-related purposes, subject to the employee's applicable statutory, contractual, and representational rights.

- **Non-Disciplinary Status.** The employee's placement on paid administrative leave is non-disciplinary at this time and shall not constitute a finding by the Board regarding the truth of the pending criminal allegations or a determination concerning the employee's guilt or innocence.

- **Reservation of Rights/Tenure Charges.** The Board expressly reserves all rights and remedies available under N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10 et seq., Title 18A, applicable New Jersey Department of Education regulations, Board policy, the collective negotiations agreement, and other applicable law, including the right to investigate the underlying conduct and, if legally and factually warranted, to institute and certify tenure charges at the appropriate time. Nothing in this Resolution shall constitute the filing, certification, or prejudgment of any such tenure charges.

- **Independent Employment Action.** The Board reserves the right to take appropriate employment action based upon the underlying conduct and information obtained by the District, where permitted by law, regardless of the ultimate disposition of the criminal proceedings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution and the Board's action are without prejudice to any rights, claims, defenses, or remedies available to the Board and District, all of which are expressly reserved.

5.17 Motion to amend motion 5.05 from the June 9, 2026 agenda and approve the following coaching assignment changes for the 2026-2027 school year at the contractual rate:

STIPEND POSITION	STAFF MEMBER CHANGE
Boys Soccer Head Coach	From: David deVelder to Bruno Somma
Boys Soccer Assistant Coach	From: Bruno Somma to Austin Piscitelli
Girls Soccer Head Coach	From: Yolanda Lima to Kevin Sanders
Girls Soccer Assistant Coach	From: Kevin Sanders to Sheryl Ottenstroer

5.18 Motion to rescind the following coaching assignment for the 2026-2027 school year:

STAFF MEMBER	STIPEND POSITION
Yolanda Lima	Girls Basketball Assistant Coach

5.19 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve Emma Weger as Field Hockey Assistant Coach for Readington Middle School at the contractual rate for 2026-2027 school year.

5.20 Motion to approve Maureen Sjonell, School Nurse, and Jill Komosinski, Nurse, to attend home wrestling matches from November through March for the 2026-2027 school year, not to exceed 25 hours, at the contractual rate.

D. COMMUNICATION

Committee Report: None

6. Motion to adopt 6.01
Motion: Mrs. DePinto **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes**
(Mrs. Barton abstained)

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

- Bylaw 0162 - Notice of Board Meetings

- Bylaw 0162.01 – Legal Notices
- Policy 1643 - Family Leave
- Policy 2260 - Equity in School and Classroom Practices
- Policy 4324 - Right to Privacy
- Policy 4340 - Grievance
- Policy 4410 – Compensation
- Policy 5561 – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities
- Policy 6112 – Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures
- Regulation 6115.01 – Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs
- Policy 6115.02 – Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Mandatory Disclosures
- Policy 6311 – Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants
- Policy 6422 - Budget Transfers, Emergency Purchases, and Overexpenditure of Funds
- Regulation 6422 – Budget Transfers
- Policy 6740 - Capital Reserve Accounts
- Policy 7440 - School District Security
- Regulation 7440 – School District Security
- Policy 7523 - School District Provided Technology Devices to Students
- Policy 8335 - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
- Policy 8561 – Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs
- Policy 8613 - Transportation Waiver
- Policy 8820 - Opening Exercises
- Policy 9700 - Special Interest Groups

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Board members discussed various topics which included the discharge of the Strategic Planning Committee, Mr. Pieros chairing Finance Committee with Mrs. Baron being a committee member, legal fees, among other topics.

X. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- None

Mr. Lopes left the meeting at 9:15 p.m., returning at 9:17 p.m. in the audience as a member of the community only. Mr. Lopes did not return to his board seat.

XI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Many residents discussed their concerns and suggestions regarding the Sanderson Court bus route.
- Many community members offered their thoughts on the on the book Perks of Being a Wildflower, under a book challenge.
- Mr. Rizza and Dr. Hart spoke about the bus routes being reviewed by the Finance Committee. They also spoke about the Book Committee reading the book before the next meeting, in conformity with policy and timelines publicly communicated.

XII. ADJOURNMENT 9:59 pm

Motion: Mr. Rizza **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 7 Yes**

Mr. Jason M. Bohm
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. David Rizza
President, Board of Education