



POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2026

Virtual Meeting - 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members: Ellen DePinto, Chair

Pamela Cassidy, Beth Fiore, Linda Rad (abs.), David Rizza (alt.)

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Minutes

1. 2027-2028 Calendar Draft - Dr. Hart introduced the proposed 2027–2028 school calendar, noting that its development was guided by stakeholders including the HSA Leadership and teaching staff. Under the proposed timeline, the first week of school will commence on August 30, dedicating the first two days to staff development before welcoming students on September 1. The district will observe the Labor Day holiday on September 3 and September 6. Additionally, the revised schedule consolidates October's professional development into a single day, shifting the second day to January. Due to the earlier August start, the school year will conclude earlier than usual on June 16th. The Teachers' Association needs an isolated agreement for the August start. This will be placed on the agenda for approval. One board member asked if there was any feedback from staff or the community on the school year starting the week before Labor Day this year, and Dr Hart shared that it was agreed to by the RTEA, announced long in advance, and there were no communications from parents on the topic.
2. Policy & Regulation 2535 - Library Materials - Revised Language - The committee continued their discussion on further revising the policy. They reviewed three options. Two committee members preferred reverting to Strauss Esmay's standard language, however the majority of the committee were able to compromise on the language revision. The proposed language is:
Policy: The Board of Education, in consultation with school library staff members, shall have discretion in selecting, purchasing, or acquiring library material for inclusion in the school library. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:34A-4 or this Policy shall be construed to require the Board of Education to purchase, or otherwise acquire, library material for a school library. To that end, the Board of Education will provide the school library staff member with the tools and professional development to ensure materials are developmentally appropriate for the PreK-8 students served. Materials with significant educational value that may also be rated for grades 9-12 or ages 16 and up must prioritize the educational, literary, artistic, and scientific merit over any adverse content. All materials selected shall be consistent with student

interests, the district curriculum and be developmentally appropriate for the reading levels, interest levels, and/or grade levels served. This language is intended to guide future selections. Removal of any material is guided by regulation 2535.

Regulation: The Board recognizes that as children age they will require access to more advanced reading material. As texts become increasingly advanced and complex they may address mature themes. When it comes to texts that are rated for grades 9-12 or ages 16 and up, additional considerations may be incorporated into the library staff member's analysis in order to determine the appropriateness for a grade PreK to 8 district. Therefore, the Board of Education empowers the Superintendent to collaborate with appropriate certificated staff to develop a purchasing rubric criteria that will ensure additional consideration is taken into account when purchasing texts rated for grades 9-12 or ages 16 and up. The administrative protocol shall not censor or restrict the purchase of materials based on disagreements with the content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the material.

Dr. Hart will share this revised language with the librarians for their input on the rubric. It was suggested that this rubric be available to parents upon request. The revised language will be shared with the attorney for information purposes for an upcoming meeting.

3. Alert 238 - Tabled due to time constraints
 - a. Policy 8660 - Transportation by Private Vehicles – To and From School-Related Activities (rev.)
 - b. Policy 8662 - Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles – To and From School (new)
4. Bylaw 0174 - [Legal Fees](#) - Tabled due to time constraints
5. Open to the Public Statement Review - Tabled due to time constraints
 - a. "In accordance with Local Finance Notice (LFN) 2020-21, public comments can be submitted before remote public meetings through electronic mail or by written letter. Please email the Board Secretary at jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the board meeting. Comments shall be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting."
 - b. Bylaw 0164.6 governing this has been abolished, LFN 2020-21 is outdated
 - c. Proposal to remove this from our BOE agendas and website
6. Policy 7650 - [School Vehicle Assignment, Use, Tracking, Maintenance, and Accounting](#) - Tabled due to time constraints
7. [Policy Tracking Document](#) - Tabled due to time constraints
 - a. [Strauss Audit Link](#)

Agenda items: School Calendar

Next Meeting: Monday September 28, 2026 @ 3:30 - to address the tabled items from this meeting.