



POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

PUBLIC Minutes

September 28, 2026

Virtual Meeting - 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members: Ellen DePinto, Chair (abs)

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

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Agenda

1. Alert 238

- 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)

The committee discussed changes to policies 8660 and 8662. Discussion noted that no staff or district vehicle is currently impacted by either policy.

The committee recommended moving both policies to first read.

Policy 8660 – Transportation by Private Vehicles – To and From School-Related Activities

Policy Guide 8660 addresses the requirement in N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6(a) that a school district develop a policy adopted by the Board of Education which clearly outlines the procedures for the safe transportation of students in private vehicles to and from school-related activities. Policy Guide 8660 only covers transportation to and from school-related activities in a private vehicle, without the driver possessing a CDL, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-20.1. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6(a). There are no provisions in the statutes or administrative code that allows a district to transport students to and from school-related activities in a district-owned vehicle without the staff member driving the district-owned vehicle possessing a CDL.

Policy Guide 8660 is mandated for any district that permits the transportation of students to and from school-related activities in a private vehicle in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6(a).

Policy 8662 – Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles – To and From School

The NJDOE released “Guidance on Designating CDL-Exempt Drivers” on July 23, 2025 pursuant to recent revisions to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-20.1. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6(b) that now permits school districts to designate qualified school personnel who do not have a CDL to transport students between home and school in private or district-owned vehicles with a maximum capacity of eight or fewer passengers, excluding the driver. These designated school staff members are not required to possess a CDL.

The NJDOE is requiring districts that opt to designate school staff members to drive students to and from school in a private or school district-owned vehicle (without a CDL) to have a Board-adopted policy in place. Policy Guide 8662 meets the NJDOE’s policy requirements for this subject. A district must submit a list of school Strategic Plan: Academic Rigor (AR), Human Connection & Belonging (HC&B), Future Preparedness (FP), Fiscal Stewardship (FS)

personnel designated to provide student transportation to and from school to the Executive County Superintendent no later than August 15th each year.

Policy Guide 8662 is mandated for a district that transports students in a private or district-owned vehicle to and from school in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6(b).

2. Requested Update to Policy 2431 (HC&B)

The committee discussed Policy 2431 and recommended further follow-up prior to recommending changes. The policy will not be on the BOE agenda for first reading.

The committee discussed modifying the policy to allow exceptions for 5th graders to participate in the middle school wrestling program. The wrestling program is currently seeking additional athletes at a younger age level to develop skills. Discussion included if the policy should be modified to include all sports, with consideration to student safety in allowing 5th graders to compete with older students, with acknowledgement that this could be sport and student dependent. Another consideration was that for cut-sports, should a 5th grader be eligible to take a roster position from a middle-school student. Discussion also noted that 5th grade students participate in some middle-school sports, sport dependent, in a few neighboring districts. The administration will look further into items raised and report back in a future committee meeting.

3. Open to the Public Statement: Review of Current Protocol

The committee discussed the current process of allowing public comments sent by email to the Board by 12:00 pm on the date of BOE meeting to be read aloud during the BOE meeting. This process originates from emergency actions (LFN 2020/21 and bylaw 164.6) enacted during Covid. In September 2024, the bylaw 164.6 was abolished by the BOE. Previously, LFN 2020/21 was made not actionable when Governor Murphy ended the public emergency.

- a. The agendas for BOE meetings contain the wording: "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. The BOE Website contains the wording: "Per Bylaw 0164.6, 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."

Prior to the meeting, the BOE President notified the superintendent that since bylaw 164.6 is abolished and LFN 2020/21 is not in force, that the process is not supported by current BOE bylaws and recommended that the process should not be followed unless supported by an active bylaw. The BOE president recommended that if the process were to continue, bylaw 0167 should be modified to support the process. The committee discussed bylaw 0167 and recommended that Dr. Hart incorporate wording changes in the policy, such as email word count, to support the process and present it at the next policy committee meeting.

2. Bylaw 0174 - Legal Fees (FS) - Did not discuss due to time constraints.

Strategic Plan: Academic Rigor (AR), Human Connection & Belonging (HC&B), Future Preparedness (FP), Fiscal Stewardship (FS)

3. Policy 7650 - School Vehicle Assignment, Use, Tracking, Maintenance, and Accounting - **Did not discuss due to time constraints.**
4. Policy Tracking Document - **Did not discuss due to time constraints.**
 - a. Strauss Audit Link

Agenda items: Policy 8660 and 8662

Next Meeting: October 5, 2026