# READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holland Brook School - Cafeteria
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.
October 13, 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 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. Rad, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. DePinto, Mr. Rizza

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

**Absent:** None

## II. FLAG SALUTE

## III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Mr. Rizza reviewed the agenda and shared protocols for tonight's meeting including open public sessions. Mr. Rizza spoke about policy and regulation 2535 and book challenge processes. The board shall not vote on the matter this evening, which is anticipated at the November board meeting. Mr. Rizza spoke about bus routes and methodologies in development of such, and a request to modify moving forward.

## IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Hart shared the Strategic Plan website and video launch
- Dr. Hart reviewed the Book Review Committee Report in detail and processes. The recommendations were to retain the material and review opt-out processes. Statutory alignment was met with literary value and parent choice remains available with opt-out provisions.

## V. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (LIMITED TO THE BOOK REVIEW REPORT)

(Limit of 60 minutes)

- Residents, teaching staff, and members of the nearby community spoke about the book challenge and book review report expressing thoughts. The majority of those who spoke requested the book remain in the library for various reasons, with a few stating books of this nature are inappropriate for students.

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

- A couple community members discussed Policy and Regulation 2535.

## VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email A. Q. - Freedom to Read Act
- Email B. G. - Review of District Wide Afternoon Bus Routing
- Email B. L. - Book Censorship
- Email C. C. - Support Book Challenge
- Email C. C. - Perks of Being a Wallflower and Freedom to Read Act
- Email D. D. - Regarding My Vote
- Email J. B. - Support Book Challenge
- Email J. C. - Book Challenge
- Email J. F. - Continued Book Debate
- Email K. L. - District Calendar Request
- Email L. H. - Current Discussion on Books in Library

- Email P. B. - Media Inquiry
- Email P. W. - Books and Buses
- Email P. D. - Presentation
- Email B. K. - Sanderson Court
- Email R. B. - Oppose Book Removal

## VIII. BOARD ACTION

### A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Motion to adopt 1.01 - 1.03
**Motion: Mr. Lopes** **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

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

1.02 Motion to approve District Goals for the 2026-2027 school year.
(Attachment 1.02)

1.03 Motion to approve the Bus Drill Evacuation Reports for Readington Township School District for the 2026-2027 school year.
(Attachment 1.03)

### B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to adopt 2.01
**Motion: Mr. Lopes** **2nd: Mrs. Ryan** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

2.01 Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes September 8, 2026.

### C. FINANCE/FACILITIES

**Committee Report:** Mr. Pieros provided minutes of the meeting held on October 9, 2026.

3. Motion to adopt 3.01 - 3.12
**Motion: Mr. Pieros** **2nd: Mr. Lopes** **Roll Call vote: Carried 9 Yes**

3.01 Motion to approve the **Bill List** for the period from **September 10, 2026, through October 14, 2026** for a total amount of **$3,631,971.50.**
(Attachment 3.01)

3.02 Motion to approve the **Travel Expenditures October 13, 2026** in the amount of **$6,217.20.**
(Attachment 3.02)

3.03 Motion to ratify and approve **Payroll and Agency for the month of August 2026** for a total amount of **$1,268,974.22.**
(Attachment 3.03)

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

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

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

3.07 Motion to approve the sale of a 54 Passenger Bus, Blue Bird (Vin # 1BAKFCPA0AF274489) through Hunterdon County Education Services Commission.

3.08 Motion to approve the 2026-2027 M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan.
(Attachment 3.08)

3.09 Motion to approve the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2026-2027 school year.
(Attachment 3.09)

3.10 **WHEREAS**, the Readington Township Board of Education desires to become a member of the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System, #2-SOCCP, and such membership shall be recurring, unless elected to formally withdraw from the system;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Business Administrator and the County of Somerset are hereby authorized to execute the attached agreement for such membership.
(Attachment 3.10)

3.11 **WHEREAS,** the voters of Readington passed the Referendum on November 4, 2025 in the amount of $38,047,117.00; and

**WHEREAS,** the district included District Wide PA System 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 ePlus Technology, Inc., for the District Wide PA System in the amount of $1,711,023.48 through state contract; and NJ-HCESC-CAT-25-06-R Services: NJ-NJEdge_269EMCPS-23-006-EM-EPS

**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 3.11)

3.12 Motion to approve Settlement Agreement between Readington Township Board of Education and the parents of student, S-190 in the amount of $350.00, for the purpose of reimbursement for independent educational evaluations.
(Attachment 3.12)

## D. EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

**Committee Report:** Mr. Lopes provided minutes of the meeting held on September 28, 2026.

4. Motion to adopt 4.01 - 4.12

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Motion: Mr. Lopes** | **2nd: Mr. Pieros** | **Roll Call Vote: Carried** |

Motion to adopt 4.13

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Motion: Mrs. Cassidy** | **2nd: Mrs. Fiore** | **Roll Call Vote: 2 Yes; 6 No** |

(Mr. Lopes abstained)

4.01 Motion to approve a donation from Bryan Kraker of an upright piano to the Three Bridges School music program.

4.02 Motion to approve student S-225 to attend The Center School for the 2026-2027 school year, at the tuition rate of $88,406.56.

4.03 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following student placements in the Readington Township School District as follows:

| STUDENT NAME | UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE PLACEMENT REQUEST | SCHOOL/COOPERATING TEACHER | EFFECTIVE DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carrie Bendik | Observation/Immaculate Conception School | Three Bridges School/ Tiffany Barca | 10/14/2026 - 11/25/2026 |
| Raegan Robb | Internship/Hunterdon County Polytech | Three Bridges School/ Biernet Henskens | 10/15/2026 - 12/23/2026 |
| Peyton Brand | Internship/Hunterdon County Polytech | Three Bridges School/ Caroline Robb | 10/15/2026 - 12/23/2026 |
| Liberty Schak | Internship/Hunterdon County Polytech | Three Bridges School/ Andrea DeCampos | 10/15/2026 - 12/23/2026 |
| Emily Siegel | Internship/Hunterdon County Polytech | Whitehouse School/ Elizabeth Lewis & Laura Terranova | 10/15/2026 - 12/23/2026 |
| Thalia Bhavan | Internship/Hunterdon County Polytech | Whitehouse School/ Donna Urbanowicz & Lori Yukniewicz | 10/15/2026 - 12/23/2026 |
| Ava Readie | Internship/Hunterdon County Polytech | Whitehouse School/ Mary Shea & Heather Higgins | 10/15/2026 - 12/23/2026 |

4.04 Motion to approve the following fundraisers for the 2026-2027 school year:

| SCHOOL | FUNDRAISER | RECIPIENT |
|---|---|---|
| Whitehouse School | Salute to Heroes | Whitehouse Fire Company |
| Three Bridges School | School Store | Student Activity Account |
| Holland Brook School | HBS Annual Turkey Trot | Student Activity Account |
| Holland Brook School | Pie-A-Staff Member | Student Activity Account |
| Readington Middle School | Halloween Bash Merch | Student Council |
| Readington Middle School | Delicious Bites Donuts | 8th Grade Graduation |
| Readington Middle School | RMS Penny Wars | 8th Grade Graduation |

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

| GROUP/GRADE | TRIP | LOCATION | APPROXIMATE COST TO PARENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| HBS/RMS-Life Skills 4-8 | Reading Cinemas & McDonald's | Manville, NJ | - 0 - |
| RMS-Chorus/6-8 | Ryland Inn Tree Lighting Performance | Whitehouse Station, NJ | - 0 - |

4.06 Motion to approve the following research projects for the 2026-2027 school year: iReady Correlation Study, Logic Games NCTM Study, and GeoMath.
(Attachment 4.06-4.06b)

4.07 Motion to accept an additional $1,000.00 from the Society of American Foresters Fund grant to support student learning experiences connected to the Readington Middle School Tiny Forest/Living Lab.

4.08 Motion to accept a $500.00 donation for district-wide low-income meal assistance in conformity with Policy 7230 from an anonymous donor in the 2026-2027 school year.

4.09 Motion to approve Branchburg Pediatric Dentistry to visit each of our Preschool and Kindergarten locations to present a dental health educational program, at no cost to the district.

4.10 Motion to approve Vocal Point, LLC to provide professional development to the Speech Department on November 20, 2026 in-service day, at a cost of $350.00.

4.11 Motion to approve Bergen County Special Services School District to provide an AAC+Language Workshop on October 13, 2026 in-service day at a cost of $1,500.00.

4.12 Motion to ratify and approve, Affirmed Home Care, Inc. to provide nursing services for the 2026-2027 school year, on an as needed basis, at a rate of $80 per hour.

4.13 Motion to accept the determination of the Book Review Committee to maintain book, The Perks of Being a Wallflower, in library.

## E. PERSONNEL

**Committee Report:** Mrs. Ryan provided minutes of the meeting held on September 11, 2026.

5. Motion to adopt 5.01 - 5.21

**Motion: Mr. Pieros** **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
(Mrs. Rad abstained from motion 5.17 only)

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

| NAME | POSITION | SALARY/STEP | EFFECTIVE DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anthony Avin | Aide/Special Education (HBS) 30-02-D3/ayu | $21.02/hr. Aide NC Step 3 | 10/14/2026 - 06/30/2027 |
| Evelyn Amaya | Preschool Bus Aide (Transp) 40-06-D3/bez | $25.00/hr. | On or about 10/19/2026 - 06/30/2027 |
| John Miller Jr. | Preschool Bus Aide (Transp) 40-06-D3/bdo | $25.00/hr. | On or about 10/19/2026 - 06/30/2027 |
| Monica Prescott-Stedman | Preschool Bus Aide (Transp) 40-06-D3/bfe | $25.00/hr. | On or about 10/19/2026 - 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alaina Sviderskis | Secretary/Curriculum (BOE) 50-05-D4/amu | $60,000.00 | 10/01/2026 - 06/30/2027 |
| Wanda Figueroa | Preschool Bus Aide (Transp) 40-06-D3/dcy | $25.00/hr. | 09/01/2026 - 06/30/2027 |

5.03 Motion to amend motion 5.01 on the September 8, 2026 agenda for the following appointment:

| NAME | POSITION | SALARY/STEP | EFFECTIVE DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brian Micco | LTS Teacher/PE/Health (RMS) | Sub rate for the first 20 | 09/01/2026 - 12/4/2026 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 20-01-D2/agi | days, **$61,940.00 BA Step 2-3 (2)** per diem rate thereafter (prorated) | |

5.04 Motion to amend motion 5.02 from the September 8, 2026 agenda to the following:

| 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 - **12/23/2026** |

5.05 Motion to amend motion 5.01 from the September 8, 2026 agenda to the following:

| NAME | POSITION | SALARY/STEP | EFFECTIVE DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 - **12/23/2026** |

5.06 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and ratify the following Substitute Teachers/ Aides/Nurses/Bus Drivers/Computer Support 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 |
|---|---|
| Jay Kim | Substitute Teacher/Aide |
| Erik Livingston | Substitute Teacher/Aide |
| Walker Heller | Substitute Teacher/Aide |
| Willow Connolly | Substitute Teacher/Aide |
| Christian Manley | Substitute Teacher/Aide |
| Lisa Magliaro | Substitute Teacher/Aide |
| Chelsea Sorg | Substitute Teacher/Aide |

5.07 Motion to approve Daniel Kimple as substitute computer technician for the 2026-2027 school year at $20.00/hour not to exceed 15 hours per month after his paraprofessional working hours.

5.08 Motion to accept the change in hours for the following bus drivers, effective 09/21/2026:

| NAME | HOURS |
|---|---|
| Samantha D'Antuonio | From: 5 hrs./day To: 2.5 hrs./day |
| Earl Gonzales | From: 0 hrs./day To: 2.5 hrs./day |

5.09 Motion to ratify and approve David Rycyk as a bus aide with student, S-180, for the 2026-2027 school year, not to exceed 15 hours per week, at the contractual rate.

5.10 Motion to ratify and approve Gary Kropilak as a bus aide with student S-277, for the 2026-2027 school year, not to exceed 18 hours per week.

5.11 Motion to ratify and approve Alison Manley to provide home instruction for student, S-225 from September 2 through September 8, 2026, not to exceed 10 hours per week at the contractual rate.

5.12 Motion to approve Kimberly Saini to chaperone student S-197 for clubs from October through May, not to exceed 35 hours, at the contractual rate.

5.13 Motion to approve Renee Delia to chaperone student S-096 to attend Graphic Design club from October through May, not to exceed 20 hours, at the contractual rate.

5.14 Motion to approve Renee Delia and Olivia Baxevana to chaperone student, S-136 to attend Kindness Crew from October through April, not to exceed 15 hours collectively, at the contractual rate.

5.15 Motion to approve Alison Manley and Olivia Baxevana to chaperone student, S-049 to attend Kindness Crew from October through April, not to exceed 15 hours collectively, at the contractual rate.

5.16 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 the preschool program, or who provide extraordinary services as defined by the RTEA agreement for the 2026-2027 school year.
(Attachment 5.16)

5.17 Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the following job description:
(Attachment 5.17)

- Behavioral Health Counselor

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

| STIPEND POSITION | STAFF MEMBER CHANGE |
|---|---|
| Cross Country Girls Head Coach | From: Craig Tipton To: .5 Craig Tipton & .5 Jennifer Rourke |
| Cheerleading Head Coach | From: Marybeth Schwarz To: Colleen Caballero |
| Cheerleading Assistant Coach | From: Colleen Caballero To: Michele Adamitis |
| Boys Basketball Assistant Coach | From: Vacancy To: Austin Piscitelli |
| Girls Basketball Assistant Coach | From: Craig Tipton To: Stacey Skene |

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

| STAFF MEMBER | STIPEND POSITION |
|---|---|
| Craig Tipton | Track Assistant Coach |

5.20 Motion to approve the 2027-2028 holiday schedules for custodians/maintenance, secretaries, administrators, and technology staff.
(Attachment 5.20)

5.21 Motion to accept the following Resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Readington Township Board of Education approves a Side Bar Agreement with the Readington Township Education Association regarding the district calendar.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Side Bar Agreement, and any other documents necessary to effectuate same.
(Attachment 5.21)

## D. COMMUNICATION

**Committee Report:** Mrs. DePinto provided minutes of the meetings held on October 5, September 15 and September 28, 2026.

6. Motion to adopt 6.01 - 6.02
**Motion: Mrs. DePinto** **2nd: Mrs. Barton** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**
(Mrs. Cassidy and Mrs. Fiore voted No to Policy and Regulation 2535 only)

Motion to adopt 6.03
**Motion: Mrs. DePinto** **2nd: Mr. Rizza** **Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes; 2 No**

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

- Bylaw 0167 - Public Participation in Board Meetings
- Policy 2535 - Library Materials
- Regulation 2535 - Library Materials
- Policy 8660 - Transportation by Private Vehicles - To and From School-Related Activities
- Policy 8662 - Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles - To and From School

6.02 Motion to approve the district calendar for the 2027-2028 school year.
(Attachment 6.02)

6.03 Motion to amend Policy 6.01 Regulation 2535 revert back to September 15, 2026 Policy Committee language reflected in the committee minutes.

## IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Mr. Rizza shared that the 2026-2027 Board Goals would be on each board committee meeting for modifications, before bringing to the November board meeting for adoption.
- Mrs. Cassidy provided the final update on the prior year goals sharing outcomes and actions.

## X. NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD

- Mrs. Cassidy provided the Green Committee minutes of the meeting held on September 29, 2026.
- Mr. Rizza announced that November 10, 2026 Board Meeting start time is 6:00 p.m. to review NJSLA.
- Dr. Hart spoke about ribbon cuttings at WHS and TBS playgrounds.

## XI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Residents and community members shared their thought and concerns regarding Sanderson Court.
- Residents shared their thoughts on the book challenge and potential removal.

## XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 11:15 p.m.

**Motion: Mr. Rizza** **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 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 HIB, Special Education Legal Matter, Superintendent Evaluation/Goals for approximately 60 minutes at which time the Board expects to return to Public Session where action shall not 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.

## XIII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - 11:42 p.m.

**Motion: Mr. Rizza** **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

## XIV. ADJOURNMENT 11:43 p.m.

**Motion: Mr. Rizza** **2nd: Mrs. Cassidy** **Roll Call Vote: Carried 9 Yes**

**Mr. Jason M. Bohm**
**Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**Mr. David Rizza**
**President, Board of Education**