

MOONACHIE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

December 12, 2023

Call to order by Board President Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro
Edmond Monti
Candace Tarabocchia
Radley Macalintal

Members Absent: Matthew Vaccaro

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent/Principal
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Jaclyn Morgese, Board Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance

State of Compliance:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the rights for the public to have advance notice of, and to attend, the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary has caused notice of this meeting to be sent, announcing time and place thereof, and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting to the following: Borough of Moonachie and Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

1.

- Acceptance of Minutes of November 28, 2023, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence

- Thank you letter from Wood-Ridge High School Senior – Attachment 1.2
- NJ Department of Education Title I Comparability Report approval letter – Attachment 1.3
- NJ Department of Education Board Representation letter – Attachment 1.4

- NJ Department of Health Services congratulatory letter of 100% vaccination compliance – Attachment 1.5

Motion: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia
 Action taken 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

- Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Knipper announced the Students of the Month. He then announced Saturday School has been in session for two weeks and continues to grow in students. He thanked the PTO for their time in coordinating the Holiday Shop as well as Breakfast with Santa this Saturday. He also thanked the Borough of Moonachie, Board of Education, Robert L. Craig School staff and the Moonachie community for helping with the Giving Tree this year, which helps Moonachie families during the holidays. Anyone interested in participating can use the SignUpGenius link that can be obtained in the school main office.

Mr. Knipper also announced that the district has been awarded the NJ High Impact Tutoring grant and will be starting Afterschool Academy with the funds starting in January.

The Holiday Concert will take place on Thursday, December 21 and class Holiday parties will be on Friday, December 22 with a 1:00 pm dismissal.

Mr. David Vaccaro congratulated the Students of the Month as well as their parents for being involved with their children’s academic success. He thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Motion: Radley Macalintal
 Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia
 Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

- **Students of the Month**

<u>December</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Siona Shah	Pre-Kindergarten
Lilly Bairami	Kindergarten
Zohaib Ahmed	1st
Valentina Zhinin-Munoz	2nd
Valentina Morales	3rd
Najhely Sibri	4th
Daniella Migliorino	5th
Samantha Cruz	Middle School Social Studies
Abby Vicioso	Middle School ELA
Lyla Camporeale	Middle School Math
Justin Zero	Music

▪ **Submission of HIB Cases – December 2023**

Investigations

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Confirmed Cases

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• Public Comments - (Agenda Items Only)

In addition, please be aware that employees of this School District retain the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The Board shall not be held liable for comments made by members of the public and, in order to protect the privacy rights of employees in the District, the Board shall not respond to statements made by the public of or about District employees.

2. Finance

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Bills and Claims against the Board of Education for equipment, materials and supplies furnished and delivered, and for work performed for November 2023 for a total of \$240,541.01– Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of November 2023 for \$703,730.50 - Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for November 30, 2023 for \$114,988.60 with gross wages of \$196,091.20 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for December 2023 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.
5. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for December 2023 that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the Moonachie Board of Education’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
6. Resolved to approve Apple as a proprietary vendor with no direct competition and therefore the purchase of Apple equipment does not have the ability to secure competitive bids against.
7. Resolved to accept the Treasurer’s Report for month ending October 2023 – Attachment 2.7
8. Resolved to Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for month ending October 2023 – Attachment 2.8

9. Resolved to approve the renewal of BrainPOP School Combo for the 2023-2024 school year – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to approve the renewal of Teaching Strategies Gold Bundle with the use of the PEA grant funds – Attachment 2.10
11. Resolved to approve the Resolution to Purchase Electric Generation Services Through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801– Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the Resolution to Purchase Natural Gas Services Through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801– Attachment 2.12

3. Policy None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:

4. Personnel
 Motion: Radley Macalintal
 Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia
 Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to move Gabriela Ocasio from Full-Time Classroom Aide to Teacher BA/Step 1 at an annual salary of \$51,240 effective January 2, 2024 prorated for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Resolved to approve Eric Drotos as Substitute Teacher, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
3. Resolved to approve additional hours for Melanie Vocaturo to complete the NJ Family Care Report at a rate of \$21.78 per hour.
4. Resolved to approve minimum wage rate increase to \$15.13 per hour for the following staff:

Alexandra Acosta	Arianna Acosta
Elizabeth Gonzalez	Jonathan Hernandez

5. Curriculum
 Motion: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia
 Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the submission of the Updated American Rescue Plan Act LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

6. Facilities None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:

7. Old Business None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
8. New Business None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
9. Information Items
 1. Average monthly attendance from 11/01/23– 11/30/23 - Attachment 9.1
 2. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer for month ending November 2023
 -Attachment 9.2
10. Discussion Items
 Mr. Radley Macalintal was curious about how the district was contemplating handling issues arising from the use of Artificial Intelligence. Mr. Knipper responded stating that the topic has mostly been discussed at the high school level, however the district has been keeping a lookout for any new Strauss Esmay policy updates regarding AI. Ms. Jaclyn Borgese stated that most policies are not specific to AI but are very generic and mostly address plagiarism in general or the use of technological sources or licensing agreements. Policies regarding AI can be at the discretion of the Board and she will forward over to the Board any new policies that are on the horizon.
- Mr. Monti asked about the absenteeism rate from the last meeting’s presentation. He was wondering if that number is growing over past years. Mr. Knipper said he would do an analysis and get that information back to the Board.
11. Public Comments
 Open: 6:50 p.m.
 Closed: 6:51 p.m.
12. Adjournment 6:52 p.m.
 Motion: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia
 Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

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