

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

April 23, 2024

Call to order by Board President

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro  
Edmond Monti  
Matthew Vaccaro  
Candace Tarabocchia  
Radley Macalintal

Members Absent: None

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent/Principal  
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Dennis McKeever, 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.

- Acceptance of Minutes of March 26, 2024, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1  
Motion: Edmond Monti  
Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro  
Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved
- Acceptance of Correspondence  
Motion: Candace Tarabocchia  
Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro  
Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
  1. New Jersey Department of Education Preschool Program Plan Approval letter for 2024-2025– Attachment 1.2

2. New Jersey Department of Agriculture 2024 Summer Food Service Program approval letter – Attachment 1.3

- Superintendent’s Report – School Performance Report 2022-2023 – Attachment 1.4

Mr. Knipper stated the district is actively planning for the next school year and that the 2024-2025 school budget has been approved by the county. The public hearing on the budget will be at the May 7 Board of Education meeting at 6:30 p.m. The district is also interviewing staff for the new year.

He also announced that the 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade testing schedule is out and he asked that parents please make sure their children are well-rested and prepared to take their tests. He also announced that Summer Recreation registration is open and lastly, he gave a shoutout to Ms. Samarelli and Mr. Lia, both Kindergarten teachers, for their outstanding work in Kindergarten.

Mr. David Vaccaro announced that the Students of the Month presentations are his favorite part of the Board meetings as he gets to congratulate the students and meet the parents to thank them for their involvement in their children’s education.

Motion: Edmond Monti  
Seconded: Radley Macalintal  
Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- **Students of the Month**

<u>April</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Emma Rose	Pre-Kindergarten
Lorenzo Mesa	Kindergarten
Kevin Chimbay	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Logan De La Cruz	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Lucas Feliciano	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
Gabriella Galindo	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Jacob Magbag	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Charlie Dambrosio	MS Social Studies
Matias Vargas	MS ELA
Astrid Closier Castillo	MS Math
Miguel Olivares	Physical Education

- **Submission of HIB Cases – April 2024**

<u>Investigations</u>	<u>Confirmed Cases</u>
2	2

- **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: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Bills and Claims against the Board of Education for equipment, materials and supplies furnished and delivered, for work done and performed for April 2024 for a total of \$467,048.99 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for March 31, 2024 for \$118,134.99 with gross wages of \$200,678.42 – Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for April 2024 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.
4. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of April 2024 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.
5. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of March 2024 for \$316,956.16 - Attachment 2.5
6. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for April 15, 2024 for \$123,287.92 with gross wages of \$209,271.27 – Attachment 2.6
7. Resolved to set tuition and Related Services for the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

**Regular Education Student Tuition**

PreK/K	\$20,547
Grades 1-5	\$15,347
Grades 6-8	\$17,072

**Special Education Student Tuition**

Full Day – Pre-K Dis.	\$14,644
LLD	\$28,706
Multiple Disability	\$66,478
Related Services	\$80.00 /session

8. Resolved to approve the Treasurer’s Report for month ending March 2024 – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for the month ending March 2024 – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to approve check #1199 from the Milk & Lunch account for \$20,071.60 for March 2024 meals.
11. Resolved to approve the renewal of Follett School Solutions, LLC Single Site Hosted Service Renewal – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the renewal of Systems 3000 Accounting and Personnel software modules at a license/support fee of \$14,701 and a hosting fee of \$4,409, plus a data storage fee for the Payroll module of \$1,367 for the 2024-2025 school year.
13. Resolved to approve the Linkage Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure Commission for the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 2.13
14. Resolved to approve the Addendum to the Linkage Agreement for the Use of Classrooms for the Extended School Year Program July 2024 – Attachment 2.14

3. Policy

Discussion of TruView Residency Results and Analysis

Mr. Knipper and Mrs. Spadavecchia reported that the results of the residency check indicate that a small percentage of families are in need of further analysis to determine their residency status. Mr. Knipper will be reviewing their information and will report back to the Board if there are any concerns with their status. Mr. Dennis McKeever will aid in the residency hearings in the event any are warranted.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

4. Personnel

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Abstain: Radley Macalintal, Motion 4.7 only

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

1. Resolved to reappoint tenured professional staff for the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 4.1
2. Resolved to approve the staff assignments for the Extended School Year Program – Attachment 4.2
3. Resolved to approve the Kenneth Pino as Part-Time Lunch Aide at an hourly rate of \$17.50, effective April 16, 2024 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

4. Resolved to approve Maria Palacios as Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
5. Resolved to approve Scout Schiro as Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
6. Resolved to approve a Maternity Leave of Absence for Danielle DeStefano commencing on April 15, 2024 through June 30, 2024 per Family Leave Act (FMLA) regulations without pay, to be supplemented by use of sick leave – Attachment 4.6
7. Resolved to approve the Superintendent/Principal Contract of Employment for James Knipper effective for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028 – Attachment 4.7
8. Resolved to approve the job description for Director of Special Services/Assistant Principal – Attachment 4.8
9. Resolved to approve the job description for School Psychologist – Attachment 4.9
10. Resolved to approve the job description for Social Worker– Attachment 4.10
11. Resolved to approve Deborah Maiorano as Social Worker for the 2024-2025 school year at MA Step 7 at an annual salary of \$65,260 and to include the ability to carry over her sick bank from the Wood-Ridge Board of Education.
12. Resolved to approve Gabriele Diaby as School Psychologist for the 2024-2025 school year at MA30 Step 8 at an annual salary of \$74,900 and to include the ability to carry over her sick bank from the Wood-Ridge Board of Education.
13. Resolved to approve a reduction in force  
WHEREAS, the Moonachie Board of Education is empowered by applicable law to effectuate a Reduction in Force and reduce a position or positions based on reasons of economy, efficiency, organizational supervision or other good cause; and  
  
WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends that the Board effectuate a Reduction in Force and eliminate General Education Counselor based on reasons of economy, efficiency, organizational supervision or other good cause; and  
  
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board that good cause does exist to eliminate General Education Counselor based on reasons of economy, efficiency, organizational supervision or other good cause.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board that the Superintendent shall take such action as is necessary to effectuate this Reduction in Force and provide notice to the affected employee of the Reduction in Force.

5. Curriculum

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

- Resolved to approve the following workshops, field trips and facility requests:

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Moonachie Municipal Building and Police Station Kindergarten Field Trip ~Kim Samarelli, Michael Lia, Allison Cahill	May 10, 2024 Rain date: May 17, 2024	\$0
Bergen County Van Saun Park & Zoo – 1st Grade ~ Anne Marie Frascella, Jessica Sansone, Natasha Dillon, Dixie Romero, Liliana Bravo	May 31, 2024	Tickets: \$128 Bus: \$400
Preschool Family Night ~ Preschool	April 17, 2024 6:00 – 7:00pm	N/A
Wood-Ridge High School Spring Concert in the Gym ~Wood-Ridge High School	April 19, 2024 1:15 – 2:00pm	N/A
PTO Ice Cream Social ~ PTO	April 26, 2024 9:00am–3:00pm	N/A
Travel Basketball Practice ~Little Ferry	Every Thurs. until May 28, 2024 6:30-7:30pm	N/A
Middle School Dance ~PTO	May 3, 2024 6:30-8:30pm	N/A
Mother’s Day Sale in the gym ~PTO	May 6, 2024 - May 8, 2024 9:00-6:00pm	N/A
Active Shooter Training ~Moonachie Police	May 18, 2024 8:00am–12:00pm	N/A
Active Shooter Training ~Moonachie Police	May 23, 2024 5:00 -9:00pm	N/A
Curriculum Expo ~MEA	May 30, 2024 6:30 – 8:00pm	N/A

6. Facilities

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

- Resolved to approve the facilities request from the Little Ferry Board of Education for the use of the Robert L. Craig School gymnasium to conduct a travel basketball program one night a week through May 28, 2024.

2. Resolved to approve the Academy Construction Inc estimate of \$4,140.00 for excavation and site testing to the outdoor area surrounding the gymnasium and cafeteria in preparation of the façade project undertaking, using Capital Reserve funds for the 2023-2024 school year – Attachment 6.2
3. Resolved to approve the Karl Environmental Group Right to Know Services for 2022-2023, Proposal No. P-230549 – Attachment 6.3
4. Resolved to accept the Cintas Fire Protection Annual Water-Based Fire Protection Systems Inspection Report – Attachment 6.4

7. Old Business

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

8. New Business

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

1. Average Monthly Attendance from 3/1/24 – 3/31/24 – Attachment 9.1

2. Monthly Report of Attendance officer for the month of March 2024 – Attachment 9.2

10. Discussion Items

Mr. Knipper thanked the Board for supporting him and stated that it continues to be an honor to serve the Moonachie School District.

Mrs. Spadavecchia announced the dates of the NJ School Board Association annual convention and asked the Board to let her know who plans on attending.

Mr. David Vaccaro also thanked Mr. Knipper and his team for their hard work and stated that it makes their job as School Board members much easier when there is a good staff and a great team to guide the school.

11. Public Comments

Open: 7:08 p.m.

Closed: 7:09 p.m.

Mr. Anthony Cirillo also thanked Mr. Knipper for his excellent work.

12. Adjournment to Closed Session with No Action taken 7:10 p.m.  
Motion: Matthew Vaccaro  
Seconded: Radley Macalintal  
Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
13. Adjournment 8:12 p.m.  
Motion: Edmond Monti  
Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro  
Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laurel Spadavecchia*

Laurel Spadavecchia