

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School  
Cafeteria

February 11, 2025

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  
Laurel Spadavecchia  
Joseph Baldofsky, Esq., 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 January 28, 2025 closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report Minutes – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

- Superintendent's Report

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Ms. Gianna Vitetta announced the Students of the Month. Mr. Knipper announced the staff and students have been working very hard. He congratulated Mr. Keelen and the students inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. The first year of the program had 8 inductees, and this year's ceremony welcomed 19 inductees. Mr. Knipper also announced that he has been very focused on chronic absenteeism and has been working with parents to decrease the number of student absences. He announced the PTO has an upcoming middle school movie night, and he stated he met with Phil Facendola and Mayor Vaccaro regarding the summer recreation program and flyers will be coming out shortly.

David Vaccaro congratulated the students of the month and thanked them and their parents for their hard work and involvement.

▪ **Students of the Month**

<u>February</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Eden Moore Lamy	MS Social Studies
Felipe Franco	MS ELA
Arianna Eaddy	MS Math
Isabella Franco	ESL
Yanely Peralta Flores	5
Ryan Olivares	4
Victoria Galindo	3
Milana Brattoli	2
Oliver Turro	1
Arlet Hernandez Rojas	Kindergarten
Shanvi Patel	Pre-K
Natalie Youhana	Technology

▪ **Submission of HIB Cases – February 2025**

<u>Investigations</u>	<u>Confirmed Cases</u>
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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: 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, and for work done and performed for January 2025 for a total of \$457,683.58 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of January 2025 for \$741,769.09 – Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for January 31, 2025 for \$117,987.14 with gross pay wages of \$202,716.07 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve check #1213 to Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education in the amount of \$20,666.56 from the Milk and Lunch account for January 2025 meals.
5. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for February 2025 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.
6. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for February 2025 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.
7. Resolved to approve the South Bergen VII Workers' Compensation Pool bylaw amendment - Attachment 2.7

**WHEREAS**, The School District of Moonachie is a member of the South Bergen VII Workers' Compensation Pool, hereinafter the "POOL"; and

**WHEREAS**, The "POOL" Bylaws appear to have been last amended in 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, The "POOL" Attorney has recommended that the "POOL'S" Bylaws to be revised; and

**WHEREAS**, The "POOL" Attorney has put forth the following proposed Bylaw amendments:

3.1 <sup>1</sup>Any New Jersey school board may apply to become a participant in this pool provided it agrees to comply with the standards for membership, including risk management programs, which shall be established by the South Bergen Region VII Workers Compensation Pool, and may be a member as long as it complies with the standards for membership. Application for participation must be made in writing and sent to the Board of Trustees at least forty-five days prior to the start of the new pool year, July 1. Prior to acceptance of an application, the Trustees will require prospective participants to provide such other information as the Trustees deem necessary. Each new application may incur a one-time administrative evaluation and safety inspection fee to be set by Resolution of the Board of Trustees.

8.3 (c) Trustees shall be paid compensation not to exceed \$200.00 for any day or portion of a day at meetings pertaining to the business of the Fund but in no event to exceed \$2,000 annually.

8.4 (d) All meetings, including special meetings, shall be noticed and held in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et. seq., and applicable State Statutes and Administrative Code regulations.

12.6 (d) The within Bylaws can be amended by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the Fund’s members.

**WHEREAS**, After a public hearing conducted on January 21, 2025 the Board of Trustees of the “POOL” adopted revised Bylaws which are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**; and

**WHEREAS**, These revised Bylaws must be ratified by at least three fourths of the sixteen member school districts before they can become effective.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of Moonachie Board of Education that the revised Bylaws are hereby ratified.

8. Resolved to approve the submission of the Division of Early Childhood Services 2025-2026 Enrollment and Budget Workbook and 2025-2026 Budget Narrative Amendment.
9. Resolved that the Moonachie Board of Education request that the County Executive Superintendent of Schools grant a waiver excusing the district from participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to approve the Treasurer’s Report for month ending January 2025 – Attachment 2.10
11. Resolved to approve the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for the month ending January 2025 – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the Monthly Transfer Report – Attachment 2.12

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

4. Personnel  
Motion:                      Edmond Monti  
Seconded:                      Candace Tarabocchia  
Action taken:                      5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve Victoria Lopez Cepeda as a student teacher through Fairleigh Dickinson University Teacher Certification Program, on a part-time basis for the Spring of 2025 and a full-time basis in the Fall of 2025 at no cost to the Moonachie Board of Education.

2. Motion to rescind Motion 4.2 of the January 28, 2025 Board of Education meeting for the resignation of Fabiola Tapia as she wishes to remain an employee of the Moonachie School District.

5. Curriculum

Motion: Radley Macalintal

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the 2025-2026 Moonachie Board of Education Holiday Calendar – Attachment 5.1
2. Resolved to approve the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar – Attachment 5.2
3. Resolved to approve the Extended School Year program starting on June 20, 2025 for staff. The program will run from June 23-July 24, 2025, Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for a total of 20 student days.

6. Facilities

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved/

1. Resolved to accept the State of New Jersey Bureau of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Compliance Certificate of Inspection – Attachment 6.1
2. Resolved to accept the EPA AHERA Six Month Surveillance Report from Karl Environmental & Associates, Inc. – Attachment 6.2

7. Old Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

8. New Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

1. Average Monthly Attendance from 1/1/25 – 1/31/25 – Attachment 9.1
2. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer for the month of January 2025 – Attachment 9.2

10. Discussion Items

11. Public Comments

Open: 6:47 p.m.

Closed: 6:49 p.m.

Mr. Greg Keelen, Social Studies Teacher Room 26, spoke on behalf of the Moonachie Education Association as he congratulated the Board on their outstanding decision to create an in-house Child Study Team. He noted how having a full-time staff dedicated to solely Robert L. Craig students has provided consistency in services for students and a stronger collaboration between staff. He is delighted to share that the Peer Buddy program initiative involving 8<sup>th</sup> grade National Junior Honor Society members paired with younger students to provide guidance, friendship and assistance, has been reimplemented with this new Child Study Team.

12. Adjournment at 6:50 p.m.

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Laurel Spadavecchia*

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary