

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

January 28, 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
Dennis McKeever, 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 7, 2025 Re-organization session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence

- New Jersey Department of Education approval letter of the Language Instruction Educational Program– 1.2

Motion: Radley Macalintal

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Superintendent’s Report

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

Mrs. Genatt announced the Students of the Month. Mr. Knipper announced that the student benchmark assessment test results are in and have been reviewed and will be sent home. He stated the district is currently in the budget process for the 2024-2025 school year. He also announced that the National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony will be held on February 3, 2025 at 6:30 pm and he invites all to attend. The NJHS project for their class is to adopt a school affected by the fires in California and help fundraise for their needs. Lastly, Mr. Knipper announced that the YMCA will begin a new Personal Financial Literacy club that will be starting soon for students.

Mr. David Vaccaro congratulated the students of the month and their parents for their involvement in their children’s lives every day.

- **Students of the Month**

January

Devansh Nakrani

Arvina Akhrorova

Lilly Bajrami

Vani Nakrani

Danett Calixto Quispe

Lucas Feliciano

Amy Cabrera

Penelope Jaconetta

Ayse Tunceroglu

Cosimo Camacho

Leah Allocco

Donia Ali

Grade

Grade Pre-K

Grade Kindergarten

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3

Grade 4

Grade 5

MS Science

MS ELA

MS Math

Art

ESL

ESL Graduates

Isaac Urgilez

Grade Kindergarten

- **Submission of HIB Cases – January 2025**

Investigations

0

Confirmed Cases

0

- **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: Radley Macalintal

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 \$741,769.09 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of December 2024 for \$516,607.58 – Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for January 15, 2025 for \$115,136.39 with gross pay wages of \$199,844.96 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for January 2025 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 January 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.
6. Resolved to continue to participate as a member in the Educational Data Services Commission of New Jersey for cooperative purchasing for the 2024-2025 school year.
7. Resolved to approve the Treasurer's Report for month ending December 2024 – Attachment 2.7
8. Resolved to approve the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for the month ending December 2024 – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve the Monthly Transfer Report and Request for Approval of Transfers for the Year 2024-2025 for the transfer in total of \$28,350.00 from account lines 11-000-223-104 in the amount of \$23,350.00 and 11-401-100-890 in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing 21 SmartBoards that has a total cost of \$58,905.00 – Attachment 2.9

10. Resolved to approve the Right to Know Services Proposal from Karl Environmental for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of \$1,095.00 – Attachment 2.10
11. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure Commission for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, effective January 3, 2025 – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the 1:1 Aide Contracted Services Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure Commission prorated for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 2.12
13. Resolved to approve check #1211 to Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education in the amount of \$14,042.34 from the Milk and Lunch account for December 2024 meals.
14. Resolved to approve check #1212 to Amazon Capital Services in the amount of \$199.98 from the Milk and Lunch account for the purchase of two lunch carts.

3. Policy

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff 2024-2025 School Year – Attachment 3.1

2. Resolved to approve the following policies:

P5512	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (M)	Revised
P5533	Student Smoking (M)	Revised
P&R	Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and on School Grounds (M)	Revised
P&R9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M)	Revised
P2365	Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)	New
P5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M)	Revised
P5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices	New
P5701	Academic Integrity	Revised
P8500	Food Services (M)	Revised
P9164	Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events (M)	New

3. Resolved to accept the 2024-2025 Incidents Report on Violence, Vandalism, Substances, Weapons, and HIB Confirmed for Report Period 1: September 1-December 31, 2024 – Attachment 3.3

4. Personnel

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Amended Motion: Candace Tarabocchia
 Amended Seconded: Edmond Monti
 Action Taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

David Vaccaro requested to amend Personnel 4.1 to read as follows:

1. Resolved to approve an extended Leave of Absence for employee#4027 through March 10, 2025 with no pay and no benefits.
2. Resolved to approve the resignation of Fabiola Gonzalez Tapia as Part-Time Aide effective February 17, 2025 – Attachment 4.2
3. Resolved to approve Gianna Vitetta to complete her educational leadership internship, under the mentorship of Dana Genatt, at no cost to the board from January – June 2025– Attachment 4.3
4. Resolved to approve Lisa Selle for Yearbook Club Advisor for 35 hours at a rate of \$52.64 for the 2024-2025 school year.

5. Curriculum

Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:

1. Resolved to approve the following field trips/workshops:

Destination	Date	Cost
National Theatre for Children Dental Health In-House Assembly – Donna Gallo	March 11, 2025	No Cost
Frog and Toad Show, Mayo Performing Arts, Morristown, NJ ~Melissa Plaza, Anna Dalton, Paul Orlowicz, Francine DeNaro, Gabrielle Ocasio, Melanie Vocaturo	March 10, 2025	\$145.00 Tickets \$600 Bus

6. Facilities

Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:

1. Resolved to approve the items to be discarded at no salvageable value. – Attachment 6.1

7. Old Business None.

Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:

8. New Business None.

Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:

9. Information Items None.

10. Discussion Items

Mr. David Vaccaro welcomed the Board to attend the National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony. He announced that the façade project has been progressing nicely.

Mr. Monti asked whether the school has had any issues with ICE and whether the district had any written instructions from the state on how to address it. Mr. Knipper replied that the district has not had any interactions with ICE at this point and that the state has provided guidelines only, no written directives. Mr. McKeever, Esq., stated the government has released a memo that all federal grant spending is frozen, however they did not mention ICE in this memo. Mr. Macalintal asked if the grant spending freeze will impact Moonachie, to which Mr. Knipper and Mrs. Spadavecchia stated that the memo was written in general terms and that the Association of Business Officials' interpretation of the freeze is that funds for the FY24 have already been encumbered and will continue to be paid, but grants for the FY25 school year are not guaranteed. Mr. McKeever, Esq., also stated that a federal judge in New Jersey has lifted the freeze until next week.

11. Public Comments

Open: 6:55 p.m.

Closed: 6:59 p.m.

Mr. Greg Keelen, Social Studies Teacher Room 26, spoke on behalf of the Moonachie Education Association as he congratulated all the students of the month and stated that RLC is an outstanding success story being written within the lives of our students and community. He highlighted the outstanding contribution from our 2nd grade Teacher, Ms. Dominique Fina, for crafting a curriculum of hands-on highly engaging activities that make complex topics come alive. The Moonachie Education Association is proud of the contextual and engaging learning activities in her classroom and is appreciative of the profound difference she is making in the lives of students.

12. Adjournment at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary