

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

January 7, 2025

Call to order by Board President Meeting opened at 7:03 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 December 10, 2024 closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report Minutes – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

- Superintendent's Report

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

PRESENTATION: Annual Financial Audit of 2023-2024 – Paul Lerch, CPA

Mr. Knipper congratulated Mrs. Spadavecchia on her audit. He wished Donna Gallo a happy retirement and thanked her for her dedication and years of service to the community.

Mr. David Vaccaro thanked Mrs. Spadavecchia and the Administration team for a great audit. He also congratulated Ms. Gallo stating that it is tough to see someone leave who has worked in the district for so long. He sent best wishes to her in her retirement.

- **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 December 2024 for a total of \$752,457.70 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of November 2023 and Unposted Checks for \$516,607.58 - Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for December 13, 2024 for \$116,370.00 with gross wages of \$202,221.63 - Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for December 20 2024 for \$117,106.65 with gross wages of \$202,373.52 – Attachment 2.4
5. Resolved to accept the Treasurer’s Report for month ending November 2024 – Attachment 2.5
6. Resolved to accept the Report of the Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for month ending November 2024 – Attachment 2.6
7. Resolved to accept the Monthly Transfer Report Expense Account Adjustment Analysis for November 2024 – Attachment 2.7
8. Resolved to approve the Child Study Team Shared Services Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the Wood-Ridge Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve check #1370 from the Payroll Agency account to Taylor Trause in the amount of \$550.00 for mentor fees owed from Gabriella Ocasio.

10. Resolved to approve Natasha Dillon as PIRT Coordinator for the PEA grant for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$23,757.30 allocated to the grant from her regular salary, no additional compensation.
  11. Resolved that the Moonachie Board of Education accept the audit presentation expressed by the auditing firm of Lerch, Vinci and Bliss, LLP as cited in their reports entitled Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Auditor's Management Report (AMR) for year ending June 30, 2024 with no findings– On file in the Business Office and Attachment 2.11
  12. Resolved to approve the Pre-K Instructional Coach Shared Services Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the Little Ferry Board of Education – Attachment 2.12
3. Policy                      None  
Motion:  
Seconded:  
Action taken:
  4. Personnel  
Motion:                      Radley Macalintal  
Seconded:                      Candace Tarabocchia  
Action taken:                      5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
    1. Resolved to approve the salary rate increase to \$15.49 as the minimum wage rate effective January 1, 2025.
    2. Resolved to approve Allison Macarrone for a maternity/child rearing leave of absence to begin on or about January 2, 2025 through on or about May 16, 2026. During this period, applicable leave pursuant to FMLA and/or NJFLA shall run. The employee plans to use sick days as communicated to the Business Office during this leave – Attachment 4.2
    3. Resolved to approve the resignation due to retirement for Donna Gallo effective June 30, 2025 – Attachment 4.3
  5. Curriculum  
Motion:                      Candace Tarabocchia  
Seconded:                      Radley Macalintal  
Action taken:                      5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
    1. Resolved to approve the following updated Moonachie School District curricula and pacing guides for the 2024-2025 school year on display in the Curriculum Office:
      - Math K-8
      - English/Language Arts K-8
      - Visual & Performing Arts K-8
      - Comprehensive Health and Physical Education K-8
      - Science K-8

Social Studies K-8  
World Language K-8

2. Resolved to approve the following workshops:

Destination	Date	Cost
Winter 2025 Now Conference ~ Lee Ten Hoeve	Online January 31- February 2, 2025	\$149
Strauss Esmay Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying Training Program ~Natasha Dillon	January 21, 2025 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	Travel Costs only

6. Facilities

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

David Vaccaro mentioned that the façade project is underway and going smoothly.

7. Old Business        None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

8. New Business

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

1. Average monthly attendance from 12/1/24 – 12/30/24 - Attachment 9.1

2. Monthly report of attendance officer for the month ending December 2024  
Attachment 9.2

10. Discussion Items

David Vaccaro congratulated the reelected board members and thanked them for volunteering their time to serve their community.

11. Public Comments

Open: 6:58 p.m.

Closed: 7:02 p.m.

Mr. Greg Keelen, Social Studies Teacher Room 26, spoke on behalf of the Moonachie Education Association as he wished everyone a new year filled with great memories and plenty of prosperity. He highlighted Teacher Elizabeth Connolly for her wonderful job of bringing stability, wonder and educational growth as she was a midyear replacement last year in second grade. Her assignment as Kindergarten Teacher this year has her students

thriving and making great progress. The MEA is deeply appreciative of the profound difference she is making in the lives of our students.

12. Adjournment at 7:03 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