

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

March 11, 2025

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

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro
 Candace Tarabocchia
 Radley Macalintal

Members Absent: Edmond Monti
 Matthew Vaccaro

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent
 Laurel Spadavecchia
 Jaclyn Morgese, 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 February 11, 2025, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Radley Macalintal

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. School Ethics Commission Approved Personal Financial Disclosure Statements – Attachment 1.2
2. New Jersey Department of Education approval letter for the 2024-2025 Bilingual Program Waiver Request – Attachment 1.3

- Superintendent's Report

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

Mrs. Dana Genatt announced the Superintendent's Report provided by James Knipper. Students and families were congratulated for their awards tonight. It was announced that budget planning for the 2025-2026 is well underway and the Business Office was commended for their hard work during this stressful time. The Preschool Education Aid will continue in the next school year, providing funding for our 45 full-time preschool students. The PTO was thanked for hosting the Mobile Planetarium assembly last Friday, noting that the students really enjoyed it. Summer Recreation registration packets were sent home yesterday. And to conclude, it was encouraged that students continue to attend school daily as attendance matters!

Mr. David Vaccaro also congratulated the students and their parents.

- **Students of the Month**

<u>March</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Juan Barreto	MS Science
Aliyah Claros	MS ELA
Dayana Arias	MS Math
Dina Ali	ESL
Daniel Nesheiwat	5
Brianne Weinberg	4
Samuel Bolanos-Londono	4
Bradley Ramos	3
Matteo Mazier	2
Sophia Smith	1
Kloart Ljukovic	Kindergarten
Adriana De Dato	Pre-K

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

<u>Investigations</u>	<u>Confirmed Cases</u>
0	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: Candace Tarabocchia
Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. SUBMISSION OF PRELIMINARY 2025-2026 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the preliminary 2025-26 school budget was approved for submission to the Executive County Superintendent by the Board of Education on March 11, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Moonachie Board of Education authorized the submission of the 2025-2026 Preliminary School Budget to the Bergen County Executive Superintendent of Schools with the following Fund Allocations and requested waivers:

<u>Budget Totals:</u>	<u>2025-2026 Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$ 13,618,501	10,235,253.00
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 970,690	0.00
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Totals	\$ 14,589,191	\$ 10,235,253.00

Be it resolved that the General Fund tax levy \$10,235,253.00 is approved to support the 2025-2026 school year budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Moonachie Board of Education authorize the inclusion of \$140,000 from Maintenance Reserve into the preliminary 2025-2026 budget for required maintenance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Moonachie Board of Education authorize the inclusion of \$1,000,000 from Capital Reserve into the preliminary 2025-2026 budget for paving and parking lot renovation, repair to the sewer system, repair structural damage to the plumbing system, repair of hallway flooring, bathroom renovations and repair or replacement of older HVAC units of the Robert L. Craig School.

2. Resolved that the Moonachie Board of Education establish the school district travel maximum expenditure amount for the 2025-2026 school year as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2 (b) not to exceed \$20,000. The maximum amount for the 2024-2025 school year was budgeted at \$15,000 and the amount spent as of March 11, 2025 for the 2024-2025 school year is \$14,305.00. The Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

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

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1. Resolved to approve the resignation due to retirement for Joan Boniello effective June 30, 2025 – Attachment 4.1
2. Resolved to accept the termination of Employee #4454 for cause, effective March 31, 2025 – Attachment 4.2
3. Resolved to approve Melanie Vocaturo for extra clerical hours for the Child Study Team at an hourly rate \$24.40 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
4. Resolved to approve Yusra Ali as Substitute Teacher, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
5. Resolved to approve Joseph Scalzo as Substitute Teacher, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.

Motion 4.6: Radley Macalintal

Seconded 4.6: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken 4.6: 3 Nays. 2 Absent. Motion Denied.

6. Denied: Motion to approve employee #4027 leave of absence extension request.

5. Curriculum

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the following workshops:

Destination	Date	Cost
Educational Policy and School Law Seminar ~Laurel Spadavecchia, James Knipper	June 6, 2025	\$0 Travel
School Alliance Cyber Liability Coverage	March 4	
NJ State School Nurse Association Spring Conference - Donna Gallo	March 28-29, 2025	\$199 plus travel
NJAHPERD Annual Convention – Forrestal Village, Princeton, NJ - Joseph Gingerelli	February 24-25, 2025	\$350 plus travel

6. Facilities

Motion: Radley Macalintal

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

Discussion of road paving project.

1. Resolved to approve the Institute for Reading Development classroom rentals for the period of June 24, 2025 through July 23, 2025 at a charge of \$100 per day for 10 days for a total income to the district of \$1000.00 – Attachment 6.1
2. Resolved to accept the School Alliance Insurance Fund Loss Control Survey – Attachment 6.2
3. Resolved to approve the facility request from the Borough of Moonachie for the Summer Recreation Program 2025 – Attachment 6.3

4. Resolved to approve the following facility requests:

Event	Date	Time	Cost
Moonachie/Wood-Ridge Little League Softball Practice in the Gym ~Wood-Ridge Borough	Saturdays Wednesdays /As scheduled	8:00am - 12:00pm 6:30pm - 9:00pm /As scheduled	No Cost
PTO Public Meeting in the cafeteria	4/2/2025	6:00pm - 8:00pm	No Cost
Easter Egg Hunt ~ PTO/Moonachie Borough	4/19/2025	10:30am–12:30pm	N/A
Mother's Day Sale ~PTO	4/28/25 4/29/25 4/30/25	6:00pm - 8:00pm 9:00am - 6:00 pm 9:00am - 3:00 pm	No Cost
Father's Day Sale ~PTO	5/27/25 5/28/25 5/29/25	6:00pm - 8:00pm 9:00am - 3:00 pm 9:00am - 8:00 pm	No Cost

7. Old Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

8. New Business

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

1. Average monthly attendance from 2/1/25 – 2/28/25 – Attachment 9.1
2. Monthly report of attendance officer for the month ending February 2025– Attachment 9.2

10. Discussion Items

Mrs. Spadavecchia announced that the March 25, 2025 Board of Education meeting will be cancelled.

Mr. David Vaccaro announced that the road and paving project is moving forward with the Borough and the Board will be updated when the final details are available.

Ms. Tarabocchia announced that the PTO Bag Bingo was successful and the profits will allow the PTO to continue to hold events for the entire student body. She also announced that the Borough of Moonachie will coordinate with the PTO for the planning of the 70th year Birthday Bash which will take place in October 2025.

11. Public Comments None.

Open: 6:53 p.m.

Closed: 6:54 p.m.

12. Adjournment at 6:55 p.m.

Motion: Radley Macalintal

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary