

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

April 22, 2025

Call to order by Board President

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro

Edmond Monti

Matthew Vaccaro

Radley Macalintal

Candace Tarabocchia attended through Superintendent Report

Members Absent: Candace Tarabocchia after Superintendent Report

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator

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 11, 2025, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Radley Macalintal

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. New Jersey Department of Education SEMI Waiver Request Approval letter for 2025-2026– Attachment 1.2
2. New Jersey Department of Education Preschool Program Plan Approval letter for 2025-2026– Attachment 1.3

3. New Jersey Department of Agriculture 2025 Summer Food Service Program approval letter – Attachment 1.4

- Superintendent's Report –

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Mr. Knipper announced the Teacher and Team Member of the Year and Mrs. Genatt announced the Students of the Month. Mr. Knipper thanked the PTO and the Borough and Candace Tarabocchia for the wonderful Easter celebration held at the school.

He stated that NJSLA testing is upcoming and a schedule was sent home to each student. He advised students to eat a good breakfast and get plenty of rest before the test. He reminded students that attendance matters and please come to school everyday.

Mr. Knipper announced that Youth in Government Day will be held on April 24 at Borough Hall and he thanked the Mayor and Council for their participation. Also, LEAD graduation will be on April 23. He also announced that Summer Recreation applications are now available.

Mr. Knipper announced that high school acceptances have started to be issued and, to date there were eight students accepted into the Bergen Academies and one student into parochial school. Also, to note there were three 7th grade students accepted into NJSeeds which will allow them to attend a private high school of their choice at income-based tuition costs. Mr. Knipper thanked the staff who helped to make this happen for our students.

Mr. Knipper also thanked the Phi Sigma Sigma for their generous contribution to the Moonachie community and for their time and commitment as well. The members were present at the meeting and presented the school with their donation of school supplies and a financial contribution as well.

Lastly, Mr. Knipper announced Ms. Giuseppina Altilio and Ms. Schwarz who both were in attendance, as the nurse and teacher for next year.

Mr. David Vaccaro thanked the staff, students of the month and their parents for their great efforts. He appreciates the parental involvement in their children's lives and underscores how far that will go in their lives.

- **Teacher of the Year 2024-2025**
- **Team Member of the Year 2024-2025**

Taylor Trause
William Mildon

▪ **Students of the Month**

<u>April</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Ethan and Eileen Montero	MS Social Studies
Nicole Haddad	MS ELA
Evan Farley	MS Math
Joanna Romero	Physical Education
Anna Souza Ferreira	ESL
Najhely Sibri	5 th Grade
Fayza Sarama	4 th Grade
Bianca Tarabocchia-Ocello	3 rd Grade
Kevin Chimbay	2 nd Grade
Monroe Minervini	1 st Grade
Ashira Sanyal-Evans	Kindergarten
Benjamin Genatt	Pre-Kindergarten

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

<u>Investigations</u>	<u>Confirmed Cases</u>
1	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: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. 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 2025 for a total of \$1,053,219.66 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for March 14, 2025 for \$117,239.24 with gross wages of \$202,685.47 – Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for March 31, 2025 for \$116,912.65 with gross wages of \$202,191.54 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for April 11, 2025 for \$120,258.45 with gross wages of \$207,368.33 – Attachment 2.4
5. Resolved to approve the Check Register Part 1 for the month of February 2025 for \$696,782.32 - Attachment 2.5
6. Resolved to approve the Check Register Part 2 for the month of February 2025 for \$40,897.46 - Attachment 2.6

7. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for April 2025 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.
8. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of April 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.
9. Resolved to approve the Treasurer's Report for month ending February 2025 – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to approve the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for the month ending March 2024 – Attachment 2.10
11. Resolved to approve the Monthly Transfer Report for February 2025 – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve check #1214 from the Milk & Lunch account for \$17,578.26 for February 2025 meals.
13. Resolved to approve check #1215 from the Milk & Lunch account for \$20,446.59 for March 2025 meals.
14. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure Commission Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year, effective April 2, 2025 - Attachment 2.14
15. Resolved to approve the financial donation in the amount of \$3202.95 as well as the school store donations as listed, from the Phi Sigma Sigma Philanthropy Week organization to support the Robert L. Craig School – Attachment 2.15
16. Resolved to approve a Moonachie Board of Education \$1,000.00 Scholarship for a Moonachie student with the highest average graduating Wood Ridge High School in June, 2025. A ceremony will take place to award the recipient on June 10, 2025. The Board will be notified of the recipient when the award winner is determined.
17. Resolved to approve the transportation contract between the Moonachie Board of Education and South Bergen Jointure Commission, an approved Coordinated Transportation Services Agency, for the purposes of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 for the school year 2025-2026. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to, The Coordinated Transportation for non-public, out of district special education, vocational and summer programs. Be it further resolved, that the Moonachie Board of Education agrees to abide by the Transportation Services Agreement as published by the South Bergen Jointure Commission and attached to this resolution – Attachment 2.17
18. Resolved to approve the Realtime Student Management Database renewal quote for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.18

19. Resolved to set tuition and Related Services for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:

Regular Education Student Tuition

PreK/K	\$20,030
Grades 1-5	\$17,512
Grades 6-8	\$17,817

Special Education Student Tuition

Full Day – Pre-K Dis.	\$15,234
LLD	\$32,160
Multiple Disability	\$58,357
Related Services	\$80.00 /session

3. Policy

Motion: Radley Macalintal

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

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

1. Resolved to appoint Dana Genatt as the Affirmative Action Officer and Team Member Brian DeSantis to conduct a Needs Assessment and develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan.

4. Personnel

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

1. Resolved to reappoint tenured professional staff for the 2025-2026 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 Lisa Schwarz as Teacher at MA/12 for the 2025-2026 school year, current year 2024-2025 salary of \$82,185 will be determined upon the ratification of the Moonachie Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
4. Resolved to accept the resignation of Danielle DeStefano as Teacher, effective March 17, 202 – Attachment 4.4
5. Resolved to approve Giuseppina Altilio as School Nurse at BA+15/16 at an annual salary of \$95,105.00 prorated for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, with Sidebar Agreement, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening – Attachment 4.5
6. Resolved to approve Giuseppina Altilio as School Nurse at BA+15/16 for the 2025-2026 school year. Salary will be determined upon the ratification

- of the Moonachie Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, current year 2024-2025 salary is \$95,105.00.
7. Resolved to approve Matthew Paddock as Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
 8. Resolved to approve a Maternity Leave of Absence for Gabriela Vega-Minda commencing on September 1, 2025 through January 2, 2026 per Family Leave Act (FMLA) regulations without pay, to be supplemented by use of sick leave – Attachment 4.8
 9. Resolved to approve a Maternity Leave of Absence for Caitlin Henrickson commencing approximately May 2, 2025 per Family Leave Act (FMLA) regulations without pay, to be supplemented by use of sick leave – Attachment 4.9
 10. Resolved to approve Melanie Vocaturo as Administrative Assistant for an annual salary of \$42,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.
 11. Resolved to approve Liliana Bravo as Preschool Full-Time Aide at an annual salary of \$20,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.
 12. Resolved to approve Natasha Dillon as the 504 Coordinator, effective July 1, 2025.
 13. Resolved to approve Alessia Pansini as Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.

5. Curriculum

Motion: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the revised 2024-2025 Moonachie Public School Calendar – Attachment 5.1
2. Resolved to include Donna Gallo as nurse for the 2nd Grade field trip to Doyle's Farm.
3. Resolved to approve the Moonachie School District Performance Report – Attachment 5.3
4. Resolved to approve the following workshops, field trips and facility requests:

Destination	Date	Cost
Interaction Between Mental Health and Social Media, Kenilworth, NJ ~ Yahnique Dawson	April 9, 2025	No cost
Metropolitan Medical Corporation First Aid/CPR Training - Allison Maccarrone, Lauren Barnaba, Lori Schmatz, Amanda Mulvaney, Liliana Bravo, Alexandra Acosta, Ariana Acosta, Jaime Migliorino, Teresa Meyers,	April 29, 2025	Not to exceed \$600

Bergen County Van Saun Park & Zoo – 1st Grade ~ Anne Marie Frascella, Jessica Sansone, Gabriela Ocasio, Brooke Boswell, Donna Gallo	May 16, 2025	Tickets: \$118 Bus: \$600
Sterling Hill Mining Museum -5 th Grade Field Trip ~Brian DeSantis, Gabriela Vega, Joan Boniello, Concetta Accetta	June 6, 2025	Tickets: \$202 Bus: TBD
Wood-Ridge High School Spring Concert ~Wood-Ridge High School	April 25, 2025 1:15 – 2:00pm	N/A
Curriculum Expo ~MEA	May 29, 2025 6:30 – 8:00pm	N/A
Youth & Government – Borough Hall ~Greg Keelen	April 24, 2025 10:30AM	N/A

6. Facilities

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

1. Resolved to accept the Department of Health Services Sanitary Inspection Report – Attachment 6.1
2. Resolved to approve the 2024-2025 Statement of Assurance (SOA) for c – Attachment 6.2
3. Resolved to approve the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and NJ Department of Education Site Assessment Report for the 2024-2025 School Year – 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 3/1/25 – 3/31/25 – Attachment 9.1
2. Monthly Report of Attendance officer for the month of March 2025 – Attachment 9.2

10. Discussion Items

11. Public Comments

Open: 7:00 p.m.

Closed: 7:01 p.m.

12. Adjournment back into closed with no action taken at 7:02 p.m.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

Adjournment from closed at 7:25 p.m.

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary