

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

September 8, 2020

Call to order by Board President

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro

James Campbell

Charles Pallas

Edmond Monti

Members Absent: Matthew Vaccaro

Also Present: James Knipper, Acting Superintendent

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Rachel Smith, 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.

1.

• Resolved to move to Executive Session

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the Moonachie Board of Education shall conduct a closed executive session pursuant to the exception(s) prescribed by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and legal matters which are attorney-client privileged. It is anticipated that the length of time of this executive session will be 30 minutes and that the discussion undertaken in this closed session can be made public at the time official action is taken.

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: James Campbell

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of August 25, 2020, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: James Campbell

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

- Acceptance of Correspondence

1. State of New Jersey Department of Education district school re-opening plan for the 2020-2021 school year approval letter – Attachment 1.2

Motion: James Campbell

Seconded: Edmond Monti

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

- Superintendent's Report

Mr. Knipper announced the district is ready for the re-opening of the school. Today and tomorrow are virtual learning days for all students for the purpose of ensuring all technology is in place for both the virtual and in-person learner. Some parents had called the school for clarity in the plan, but nothing was asked that wasn't already presented to the public in previous dissemination of information. Mr. Knipper stated Mrs. Genatt has done a wonderful job in organizing and planning as well as Ms. Raguseo with all the special education concerns.

Mr. Knipper announced that devices for remote learning have gone out to those in need. The district ordered 60 more devices to distribute through both the CARES grant and the Digital Divide grant. Mr. Pallas asked how many devices for each grant to which Mr. Knipper replied 30 devices were purchased through the CARES grant and 30 devices were purchased through the Digital Divide grant. He announced the MyMedBot app has been very successful the reporting of daily health screening for employees, and students will be required to complete it as well starting with the first day of school. He also reported that no visitors will be allowed in school without prior approval and all visitors allowed in will also be screened before entry. Overall, the district is ready and excited to re-open. He commented it was nice to see the students on the screens and they are excited to come back as well.

Mr. Pallas asked about the lunch procedure to which Mr. Knipper replied that meals are distributed as grab and go with lunch being given out at dismissal along with the following day's breakfast. Students not attending school will also be able to come to the school to pick up meals daily. The Department of

Agriculture also announced on Friday that all meals will be free to all students daily through December 31, 2020.

Mr. Campbell asked how remote learners will have access to teachers. Mr. Knipper replied that remote learners will be given instruction alongside in-person learners for the first 15 minutes of each period for new content. Remote learners will then have access to teachers from 1:45 – 3:00 pm while in-person learners have gone home to work on extension packages. Mr. Pallas then asked how tests will be administered to which Mr. Knipper replied that tests will be given through Google Classroom and teachers will respond back with grades through the same application. Remote learners can schedule 1:1 time with the teacher to go over results. Mr. Monti asked if the district was continuing to grade on a pass/fail basis, which Mr. Knipper replied no.

Motion: James Campbell
Seconded: Edmond Monti
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

- **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: Charles Pallas
Seconded: Edmond Monti
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, and for work performed for August 2020 for a total of \$136,597.09 –Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of July 2020 for \$248,376.26 - Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for August 31, 2020 for \$61,443.63 to include \$32,797.95 in Summer Savings Payroll plus \$172.46 in interest, and \$14,340.00 for employee #4048 retirement unpaid sick leave – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to charge Motion to charge the following amounts to the 2020-2021 Preschool Education Aid (PEA) grant:

Employee	Position	Salary
Kathleen Reilly 20-218-100-101	Teacher	\$97,275
Allison Cuccarese 20-218-100-101	Teacher	\$56,590
Lauren Barnaba 20-218-100-101	Teacher	\$50,195
Jaime Migliorino 20-218-100-106	Aide	\$21,234
Melanie Vocatura 20-218-100-106	Aide	\$21,802
Amanda Mulvaney 20-218-100-106	Aide	\$20,000
Kathleen Kinsella 20-218-200-176	(.5)Master Teacher	\$55,075
Dana Genatt 20-218-200-102	Director of Curriculum	\$9,600
James Knipper 20-218-200-103	Superintendent	\$15,075
Alyssa Spitaleri 20-218-200-105	Secretary	\$7,850
Corey Sherman 20-218-200-100	Custodian	\$4,500
Employee Benefits 20-218-200-200		\$154,340
Transportation 20-218-200-511		\$60,000
Instructional Supplies 20-218-100-600		\$25,000
Purchased Professional 20-218-100-321		\$29,020
Supplies and Materials 20-218-200-600		\$10,619
Total PEA Allocation:		\$638,175
Less Transfer from General Fund:		<u>(98,055)</u>
PEA Grant		\$540,120

5. Resolved to accept the Digital Divide 2020-2021 Grant award of \$15,824 for the purchase of technology devices.

6. Resolved to approve the auditing firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, CPA to prepare the School District Audit, and to perform other duties as directed during the 2020-2021 school year at standard billing rates – Attachment 2.6
7. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreements between the Moonachie Board of Education and The Community School, Inc. for the 2020-2021 school year – Attachment 2.7
8. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and The Children’s Therapy Center for the 2020-2021 school year – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreements between the Moonachie Board of Education and The South Bergen Jointure Commission for the 2020-2021 school year – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to approve the Cintas Fire Protection proposal to replace 2 missing recessed chrome escutcheon plates to the sprinkler system – Attachment 2.10

3. Policy None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

4. Personnel

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: James Campbell

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

1. Resolved to approve Walgreens Company to provide the Influenza Standard Injectable Quadrivalent to staff members on Thursday, October 1, 2020. Participants will need to provide a copy of their insurance card for payment purposes.
2. Resolved to approve Jessica Donemon as Full-time Teacher Aide at an annual salary of \$20,000 for the 2020-2021 school year effective September 1, 2020, pending the outcome of Criminal History Background Screening.
3. Resolved to approve Dana Genatt as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the 2020-2021 school year, effective September 1, 2020 – Attachment 4.3
4. Resolved to approve the resignation of Tereza Mossad as Part-Time aide – Attachment 4.4
5. Resolved to approve the Side Bar Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and employee #4293, effective September 14, 2020 for an unprescribed period of time – Attachment 4.5

5. Curriculum

Motion: Charles Pallas
Seconded: James Campbell
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the following workshops:

Destination	Date	Cost
NJ Association for School Business Officials	9/29/20 10/28/20	\$100.00
Online Academy Program	12/8/20 1/21/21	
Laurel Spadavecchia		

2. Resolved to approve the Robert L. Craig School Parent/Student Handbook for the 2020-2021 school year on display in the Curriculum Office.

6. Facilities

Motion: Edmond Monti
Seconded: James Campbell
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Cintas Fire Protection Service Report and Site Survey Report – Attachment 6.1
2. Resolved to accept the State of New Jersey Department of Health Right to Know Survey for Survey Year 2019 – Attachment 6.2
3. Resolved to approve the List of Items Being Discarded – Attachment 6.3

7. Old Business

Motion:
Seconded:
Action taken:

8. New Business

Mr. Pallas informed the Board that he gave them a memo with respect to report cards for grades 1 and 2. He believes percentage grades should be given to these grades instead of the current assessment system of 1-4 points. Mr. David Vaccaro asked how other districts graded to which Mr. Pallas responded that they also use the 1-4 point system. However, Mr. Pallas disagrees with this grading system and would like to poll the Board to change it back to a percentage system. He feels that parents don't accurately understand how their children are performing in school under our grading system. Mr. Knipper replied that the 1-4 assessment was implemented at a majority of schools because the skills that are being assessed are not something that can be determined with a paper and pencil test and are often not quantifiable. The point system allows parents to know how the student is achieving success by the following scores: 4 = Exceeds standards, 3 =

Achieves standards, 2 = Approaching standards, and 1 = Needs support. The Board supported continuing the current grading system at this time.

9. Information Items

10. Discussion Items

Mrs. Spadavecchia announced that Mrs. Finch had mentioned to Dr. Ponds before the end of the last school year that she would prefer to have books donated to the library in her name in lieu of a retirement plaque. The Board supported that decision.

11. Public Comments None.

Open: 7:12

Closed: 7:13

12. Adjournment at 7:14 p.m.

Motion: Edmond Monti

Second: James Campbell

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary