

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

September 22, 2020

Call to order by Board President

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro
James Campbell
Charles Pallas
Matthew Vaccaro

Members Absent: Edmond Monti

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.

• Resolution 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: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of September 8, 2020, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: James Campbell

Seconded: Charles Pallas

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

- Acceptance of Correspondence None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

- Superintendent's Report

Mr. Knipper thanked the Moonachie Education Association and the teaching staff for working remotely and keeping the students engaged. The district will be utilizing the Seesaw application which is a more developmentally appropriate digital learning platform for the Kindergarten through second grades while still participating in the Google Classroom environment. He is investigating a gradual phase-in full day sessions for Pre-Kindergarten – 2nd grades, starting on October 13. The second phase will be for 3rd -8th grades with the start date dependent upon the success of phase one.

Mr. Knipper also announced that more students are returning to in-person instruction and are approved on a case-by-case basis. 9 Students returned last week and 4 students returned so far this week.

Mr. Knipper also thanked Mrs. Genatt for her hard work with the virtual Back to School Night. She did a wonderful job in planning it and we had many families in attendance.

Mr. Knipper thanked Ms. Raguseo and her team for doing a wonderful job in identifying and meeting the students' social and emotional needs. They are also bringing back the mentor program for students to check-in with an adult. Mr. Knipper also announced that the YMCA will start a virtual Saturday school starting in October. Mr. Campbell asked how many students are attending in person. Mr. Knipper stated that 209 out of 345 are attending in person, which is over 60%.

Mr. Pallas thanked Mr. Knipper on his report that broke down the percentage of in-person versus remote only learners. He is asking whether a report could be created indicating student performance based on live or remote instruction. Mr. Knipper will begin working on that and report back.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

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

- Submission of HIB Cases – August 2020

Investigations

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Confirmed Cases

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- 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: James Campbell

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

1. Resolution to approve the Bills and Claims against the Board of Education for equipment, materials and supplies furnished and delivered, and for work performed for September 2020 for a total of \$153,304.16 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolution to approve the Check Register for the month of September 2020 for \$136,597.09 - Attachment 2.2
3. Resolution to approve the Payroll Check Register for September 15, 2020 for \$92,290.36 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolution to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for September 2020 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.
5. Resolution to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for September 2020 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. Resolution to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreements between the Moonachie Board of Education and South Bergen Jointure Commission Board of Education for the 2020-2021 school year – Attachment 2.6
7. Resolution to approve the Moonachie Board of Education to continue to participate as a member of the Hunterdon County Educational Services

Commission for the purchase of goods and services for the 2020-2021 school year.

8. Resolution to approve the Moonachie Board of Education to participate as a member of the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance for the purchase of goods and services for the 2020-2021 school year.
9. Resolution to approve the Monthly Transfer Report for August 2020 – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolution to accept the Report of the Secretary of the Moonachie Board of Education for August 2020 – Attachment 2.10
11. Resolution to accept the Treasurers Report August 2020– Attachment 2.11

3. Policy

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Charles Pallas

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

1. Resolution to the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff 2020-2021 School Year – Attachment 3.1

4. Personnel

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

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

1. Resolution to approve Alyssa Spitaleri as the district Homeless Liaison and Register as part of her annual salary for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Resolution to approve Mary Tirado as a Part-Time Aide at hourly rate of \$14.66 for the 2020-2021 school year pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
3. Resolution to approve James Knipper as School Safety Specialist for the 2020-2021 school year.
4. Resolution to approve Maternity Leave of Absence for Lauren Ramos commencing on or about October 5, 2020 as per Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) regulations to be supplemented by use of sick leave; and for Leave of Absence to continue approximately November 1, 2020 through March 15, 2021 without pay – Attachment 4.4

5. Curriculum

Motion: Charles Pallas

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

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

1. Resolution to recognize the first week in October, the 5th – 9th, as the 2020 WEEK OF RESPECT in connection with the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying State Legislation.

2. Resolution that the Moonachie School District observe School Violence Awareness Week, October 19 – 23, 2020 in accordance with annual obligations as defined by the NJ State Department of Education.
 3. Resolution to approve the 2020-2021 Moonachie School District Nursing Services Plan – Attachment 5.3
6. Facilities
1. Resolution to approve the Karl & Associates Environmental Group EPA AHERA Six Month Surveillance – Attachment 6.1
 Motion: Matthew Vaccaro
 Seconded: James Campbell
 Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.
7. Old Business
- Mr. Pallas would like to re-address the grading system for Kindergarten – Grade 2 again as he feels it is not clear for parents to assess how their children are doing in school. Mr. David Vaccaro acknowledged his concern, however as per the information provided at the last board of education meeting, the grading system for these students is appropriate to their age level and as was previously discussed, will not change.
- Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
8. New Business
- Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
9. Information Items
10. Discussion Items
- Mr. David Vaccaro asked if the district was experiencing anyone coming into the building sick to which Mr. Knipper replied that the staff and students are required to complete the MyMedBot questionnaire daily along with getting their temperatures checked before allowing entry into the building. He noted the app was a great tool and parents and staff have been wonderful in complying. If anyone reports any sickness or symptom on the app, the school nurse directs them to seek medical attention and clearance before allowed to come back into the building. The district has seen only one negative Covid test since inception.

Mr. James Campbell noted how pleased he was with the district's seeking and receiving grant funding opportunities and he thanked Mr. Knipper and his staff for their hard work.

11. Public Comments

Open: 6:50 p.m.

Closed: 6:52 p.m.

Mr. Anthony Cirillo thanked the staff and stated to keep up the good work.

12. Adjournment at 6:53 p.m.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Second: James Campbell

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary