

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

January 3, 2023

Call to order by Board Secretary Meeting opened at 6:45 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro
James Campbell
Matthew Vaccaro
Edmond Monti
Charles Pallas

Members Absent: None

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent/Principal
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Anthony Russo, 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 12, 2022 closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report Minutes – Attachment 1.1
Motion: Edmond Monti
Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
- Acceptance of Correspondence
Motion: James Campbell
Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
 - NJ Department of Education American Rescue Plan Safe Return Plan approval letter – Attachment 1.2

- Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Knipper wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated Mr. Pallas on his successful re-election as a School Board Member. He thanked Mr. Pallas for his service and for making the lives of the children of Moonachie better for it.

Mr. David Vaccaro also congratulated Mr. Pallas, stating that he has more energy than most of our past board members ever had and that he is glad to sit on the Board with him.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Submission of HIB Cases – December 2022

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: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Mr. Knipper once again thanked Teterboro Airport and the Kunis family for the donation and delivery of the baby grand piano.

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 2022 for a total of \$225,841.54 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of December 2022 for \$467,566.07 - Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for December 15, 2022 for \$111,597.77 with gross wages of \$193,290.74 - Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for December 23, 2022 for \$108,816.27 with gross wages of \$190,204.14 – Attachment 2.4

5. Resolved to approve the donation of a baby grand piano from Teterboro Airport at no cost with the exception of delivery services of \$450.00 from Kunis Piano Moving.
6. Resolved to accept the submission of the Certification of School District Superintendent or Business Administrator in Support of Receipt of FY2023 Funding for Emergent and Capital Maintenance Needs Grant Program and accept the subsequent funds of \$7,952 – Attachment 2.6
7. Resolved to authorize the submission of the Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant application by DMR Architects for the following projects listed in the district’s Long Range Facility Plan dated November 2, 2022 to the New Jersey Department of Education on the district’s behalf:
 - a) HVAC repair and replacement
 - b) Exterior façade repair and replacement
 - c) Sewer system repair or replacement
 - d) Plumbing upgrades
 - e) Bathroom renovations
8. Resolved that the Moonachie Board of Education accept the findings expressed by the auditing firm of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins, LLP as cited in their reports entitled Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Auditor’s Management Report (AMR) for year ending June 30, 2022 – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve the Audit Findings/Recommendations Corrective Action Plan addressing the audit recommendations listed under Financial Planning Accounting & Reporting – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to approve the Tuition Contract Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the Wood-Ridge Board of Education for the 2022-2023 school year for \$1,506,100 calculated by \$15,061 per student for an estimated 100 students attending Wood-Ridge High School. An additional \$65,156 is due to Wood-ridge Board of Education for prior year credit owed by the Moonachie Board of Education – Attachment 2.10
11. 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 2022-2023 school year – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the Resolution to Purchase Electric Generation Services Through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801– Attachment 2.12
13. Resolved to approve the Resolution to Purchase Natural Gas Services Through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801– Attachment 2.13

3. Policy
- Resolved to approve the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff 2022-2023 School Year – Attachment 3.1

Motion: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

4. Personnel
- Resolved to approve Alyssa Spitaleri Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) absence from January 17, 2023 through approximately January 31, 2023 to be supplemented by use of sick leave – Attachment 4.1

- Resolved to approve Shana Gafner as Part-Time Aide at an hourly rate of \$15.00 effective January 3, 2023, pending outcome of Criminal History Background Screening. Mr. Knipper announced that Ms. Gafner declined the offer of employment earlier today.
- Resolved to increase the hourly rate of Teresa Meyers as Part-Time Aide to \$14.13 per hour to reflect the increase in the minimum wage, effective January 1, 2023.
- Resolved to increase the hourly rate of Romina Grishaj as Part-Time Aide to \$14.13 per hour to reflect the increase in the minimum wage, effective January 1, 2023.

Motion: James Campbell
 Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

5. Curriculum

Motion: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Resolved to approve the following workshops and field trips:

Destination	Date	Cost
NJTESOL/NJBE, Inc. Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages 2023 Spring Conference ~Luz Johnson	May 24, 2023	Tickets - \$400

- Resolved to approve the following updated Moonachie School District curricula and pacing guides for the 2022-2023 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

6. Facilities None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
7. Old Business None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
8. New Business
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
9. Information Items
 1. Average monthly attendance from 12/1/22 – 12/30/22 - Attachment 9.1
 2. Monthly report of attendance officer for the month ending December 2022
 Attachment 9.2
10. Discussion Items None
11. Public Comments
 Open: 6:50 p.m.
 Closed: 6:52 p.m.
 Mr. Anthony Cirillo wished everyone a Happy New Year and offered congratulations to Mr. Pallas, wishing him a successful next 3 years and for everyone else a successful new year.
- Mrs. Spadavecchia announced that the next public Board of Education meeting will be held on January 31, 2023 at 6:30 in the cafeteria. The new dates for public meetings will be listed on the school website.
12. Adjournment 6:51 p.m.
 Motion: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

