

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School  
Cafeteria  
January 31, 2023

Call to order by Board Secretary

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro  
James Campbell  
Edmond Monti  
Charles Pallas

Members Absent: Matthew Vaccaro

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent/Principal  
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Dana Genatt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
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.

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: James Campbell

Seconded: Edmond Monti

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of January 3, 2023 closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report Minutes – Attachment 1.1

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

▪ Acceptance of Correspondence

1. NU Department of Education HVAC Replacement Other Project Determination letter – Attachment 1.2
2. County of Bergen Office of the County Executive congratulatory letter to Mr. Charles Pallas for a successful election – Attachment 1.3
3. New Jersey General Assembly Office of the Policy Chair congratulatory letter to Mr. Charles Pallas on his re-election – Attachment 1.4

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

▪ Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Genatt presented the Students of the Month. Mr. Knipper announced that students have taken their winter benchmark assessments and data will be sent out to the parents shortly. The YMCA has begun to provide dinner to students and served an average of 120 students daily. Mr. Knipper congratulated Ms. Kinsella and her preschool team for a wonderful family event last Friday. Lastly, Mr. David Vaccaro congratulated the students of the month and thanked the parents for their involvement with their children.

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

▪ **Students of the Month**

<u>January</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Alexandra Perez	Grade Pre-K
Brian Sulka	Grade Kindergarten
Annabella Mariluz	Grade 1
Brianne Weinberg	Grade 2
Zachary Yoon	Grade 3
Felipe Franco	Grade 4
Juliana Genuario	Grade 5
Lizbet Gonzalez	MS Science
Yuvraj Phonsia	MS ELA
Analiha Sanchez	MS Math
Valentina Arias	Art

- ESL Graduation
 

Cristian Aguilar Pacheco	8
Luis Tapia Pacheco	6
Ana Velez	5
Brian Alfaro	4
Edy Santacruz	4
José Perez	1

- **Submission of HIB Cases – January 2023**

<u>Investigations</u>	<u>Confirmed Cases</u>
0	0

- **Start Strong Data Presentation – Dana Genatt**  
 Mr. Knipper commended Mrs. Genatt on her deep dive into the data and her dedication to sit with teachers to create a data plan for each student.

- 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: Edmond Monti  
 Seconded: James Campbell  
 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 done and performed for January 2023 for a total of \$784,700.33 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of January 2023 for \$225,841.54 – Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for January 15, 2023 for \$113,202.09 with gross pay wages of \$196,308.80 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for January 2023 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.

5. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for January 2023 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. Resolved to approve check #1182 to Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education in the amount of \$15,519.00 from the Milk and Lunch account for November 2022 meals.
7. Resolved to approve the renewal of Finalsite (formerly Blackboard) Creative Services Package and Core Communications Platform – Attachment 2.7
8. Resolved to approve participation in the coordinated transportation between the Moonachie Public Schools and the Warren County Special Services School District in consideration of pro-rated contract costs plus a 4.5% administrative fee – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve the 2022 BCUA Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 on behalf of the YMCA for deposit to the YMCA Garden Project account – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to continue to participate as a member in the Educational Data Services Commission of New Jersey for cooperative purchasing for the 2022-2023 school year.
11. Resolved to approve the Treasurer's Report for month ending December 2022 – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for the month ending December 2022 – Attachment 2.12
13. Resolved to approve the Monthly Transfer Report for December 2022 – Attachment 2.13
14. Resolved to approve the Teaching Strategies, LLC Subscription Services Agreement for pre-school curriculum to be paid from the Preschool Education Aid grant – Attachment 2.14
15. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure Commission – Attachment 2.15
16. Resolved to approve the use of \$30,000 in Capital Reserve funds for the local share of the new playground project after applying the \$25,000 Pritikin Foundation donation, as per approval by the County Business Administrator in lieu of plumbing repairs for the 2022-2023 school year.

3. Policy

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

1. Resolved to accept the 2022-2023 Incidents Report on Violence, Vandalism, Substances, Weapons, and HIB Confirmed for Report Period 1: September 1-December 31, 2022 – Attachment 3.1
2. Resolved to approve the following new, revised, abolished policies and regulations:

P1648.11	The Road Forward COVID-19 – Health & Safety	Abolished
P1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements	Abolished
P0152	Board Officers	Revised
P0161	Call, Adjournment & Cancellation	Revised
P0162	Notice of Board Meetings	Revised
P2423	Bilingual & ESL Education	Revised
R2423	Bilingual & ESL Education	Revised
P2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instructional Program	Revised
R2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instructional Program	New
P5200	Attendance	Revised
R5200	Attendance	Revised
P5512	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying	Revised
P8140	Student Enrollment	Revised
R8140	Enrollment Accounting	Revised
P8330	Student Records	Revised
R8330	Student Records	Revised
R8420.2	Bomb Threats	Revised
R8420.7	Lockdown Procedures	Revised
R8420.10	Active Shooter	Revised

4. Personnel

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: James Campbell

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

Mr. David Vaccaro wished the retirees best wishes for the future and thanked them for their years of service. They will be tough to replace.

Mr. Campbell asked about the replacement of the Technology Teacher to which Mr. Knipper replied that he is in the process of interviewing three applicants and hopes to fill the position quickly.

1. Resolved to approve the resignation for purpose of retirement for Kathleen Kinsella as Master Teacher/ Interventions effective June 30, 2023 – Attachment 4.1
2. Resolved to approve the resignation for purpose of retirement for Jean Gaito as Teacher effective June 30, 2023 – Attachment 4.2
3. Resolved to approve the William Paterson University distributive learning experiences clinical placement for senior nursing students to be assigned to the Robert L. Craig school for the Spring 2023 session – Attachment 4.3
4. Resolved to approve the transition of Jenna Millar as Full-Time Teacher at step MA/10 for a prorated annual salary of \$75,780 from a Part-Time .6 Teacher at MA/13, effective February 1, 2023.

5. Resolved to approve Maternity Leave of Absence for Allison Maccarrone commencing on or about March 13, 2023 through June 2, 2023 per Family Leave Act (FMLA) regulations without pay, to be supplemented by use of sick leave – Attachment 4.5
6. Resolved to approve Lori Ann Schmatz as Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher at MA/Step 1 effective March 1, 2023 for an annual rate of \$56,163 prorated for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
7. Resolved to rescind the Technology Teacher job offer to Megan Yar who has declined the position – Attachment 4.7

5. Curriculum

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

1. Resolved to approve the 2023-2024 Moonachie Board of Education Holiday Calendar – Attachment 5.1
2. Resolved to approve the 2023-2024 school year calendar– Attachment 5.2
3. Resolved to approve the following field trips/workshops:

Destination	Date	Cost
Statue of Liberty – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip - Gianna Vitetta, Amanda Sokol, Joan Boniello	March 24, 2023	\$200 Tickets \$600 Bus
2023 Annual SHAPE NJEU Conference – Joseph Gingerelli	February 27-28, 2023	\$275

6. Facilities

- HVAC Update – Henry Ossi, DMR Architects  
Mr. Ossi updated the Board on the bid results for the HVAC project. Upon his recommendation the Board approved the award to Teo Technologies.
  - Discussion of School Development Authority SDA Grant for Bleachers  
Mrs. Spadavecchia presented three quotes for the installation of new gymnasium bleachers. The Board accepted her recommendation to award Nickerson as the state-approved vendor.
1. Resolved to award Teo Technologies, upon recommendation from DMR Architects, as the vendor for the upgraded air quality ventilation project at the base bid and 2 alternate bids, with the option to accept the deduct at a later date. – Attachment 6.1
  2. Resolved to approve the disposal of a broken pallet jack which is unsalvageable.
  3. Resolved to approve Nickerson as the state-approved vendor for the bleacher project, using the SDA grant award of \$7,952 towards the \$45,451

project cost and the balance to come from Capital Reserve funds – Attachment 6.3

Motion: Edmond Monti  
Seconded: Charles Pallas  
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

7. Old Business

Motion:  
Seconded:  
Action taken:

8. New Business

Mr. Pallas stated the following:

*There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that 4 factors are responsible for the wonderful results of our students on the 21-22 NJSLA results, namely 64.3% proficient and advanced in ELA and 52.3% in math, unprecedented results. In my opinion, those results are attributable to the hiring of Dr. Ponds, who had faith in the abilities of our students to increase their results on the NJSLA tests, the hiring of Mr. Knipper and his innovative programs, the hard work of Mrs. Genatt to grow our teachers and belief in every kid, and the YMCA after school program. If we are not a blue ribbon school, we are very close to being one.*

*I also want to thank Mr. Macalintal and his team for helping our students in grades 7 going into grade 8 preparing them for HS applications, testing, and interviews.*

9. Information Items

10. Discussion Items

Mr. Monti inquired about the Board representation at the Ridgefield Board of Education meetings to which Mr. Knipper replied that he was informed by the County Superintendent, Mr. Louis DeLisio, that the letter was sent out in error and the district is to do nothing at this time.

11. Public Comments None.

Open: 6:50 p.m.  
Closed: 6:52 p.m.

12. Adjourned into Closed Session with No Action Taken at 6:43 p.m.

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

Adjournment at 7:04 p.m.

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: James Campbell

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Laurel Spadavecchia*

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary