

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Media Center

February 19, 2019

Call to order by Board President Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Jonathan Ponds, Superintendent/Principal
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
James Knipper, Director of Curriculum
Kathleen Nestor 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 January 22, 2019 closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report Minutes – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Charles Pallas

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence

1. Letter from the New Jersey Assembly congratulating the Moonachie School District on their Preschool Education Expansion Aid award – Attachment 1.2

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Ponds announced that he was so thankful for the parents, grandparents and guardians who support the children. “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.”

Motion: James Campbell

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Students of the Month

<u>December</u>	<u>Grade</u>
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Penelope Jaconetta	1
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Alexander Lopez	5
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Marc Youhana	8
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<u>January</u>	<u>Grade</u>
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Milan Gutierrez	Pre-K
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Gabriele Leka	4
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Zachary Macalintal	7
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- Submission of HIB Cases – January 2019

<u>Investigations</u>	<u>Confirmed Cases</u>
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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.

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 2019 for a total of \$454,493.00 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the revised budgetary line-item transfers for December 2018 – Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the revised Treasurer’s Report for month ending December 2018 – Attachment 2.3

4. Resolved to approve the revised Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for the month ending December 2018 – Attachment 2.4
5. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of January 2019 for \$354,320.61 – Attachment 2.5
6. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for January 31, 2019 for \$87,709.12 – Attachment 2.6
7. Resolved that the Moonachie Board of Education request that the County Executive Superintendent of Schools grant a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2019-2020 school year – Attachment 2.7
8. Resolved to approve the Moonachie Board of Education Guide for Standard Operating Procedures and Internal Controls – Available for review at the Board Office.
9. Resolved to approve the 2018 Lowe’s Toolbox for Education grant in the amount of \$5000.00 for the Robert L. Craig School Community Garden Project from the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation to be deposited in the Warrant General Fund for the Special Revenue Account.
10. 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% administrative fee – Attachment 2.10
11. 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, 2018 – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the Audit Findings/Recommendations Corrective Action Plan addressing the audit recommendations listed under Financial Planning Accounting and Reporting, School Food Services, and Student Body Activities – Attachment 2.12

3. Policy

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff 2018-2019 School Year – Attachment 3.1

4. Personnel

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve Maternity Leave of Absence for Lauren Ramos commencing on or about April 1, 2019 until the end of the 2018-2019 school year per Family Leave Act (FMLA) regulations without pay, to be supplemented by use of sick leave; and for Leave of Absence to commence on September 1 through December 2019 without pay – Attachment 4.1
2. Resolved to approve the job posting of a Maternity Leave of Absence Teacher – Attachment 4.2
3. Resolved to approve Allison Cuccarese as Pre-School Teacher at a BA Step 1 for an annual salary of \$49,045, pro-rated for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year effective January 30, 2019.
4. Resolved to approve the resignation of Mariaelena Soto as Part-Time Aide, effective February 22, 2019.
5. Resolved to approve Amanda Sokol as Part-Time Teacher Aide at an hourly rate of \$13.85 for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year, pending the outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
6. Resolved to approve Claudia Gil Liriano as Substitute Custodian at an hourly rate of \$10.00, pending the outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
7. Resolved to approve Blanca Diaz as Spanish Teacher at a BA Step 1 for an annual salary of \$49,045, pro-rated for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year pending the outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
8. Resolved to approve the following staff members to attend the May 13-15, 2019 8th grade Washington D.C. Field Trip:

Greg Keelen Lisa Perez Lee Ten Hoeve Donna Gallo

5. Curriculum

Motion: Charles Pallas
 Seconded: James Campbell
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the following field trip:

Destination	Date	Cost	
Wood-Ridge High School Bus for Testing	2/20/19	\$100.00	
Philadelphia 7 th Grade Trip	5/20/19	\$700 bus	\$125 Tickets
Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC- 5 th Grade	5/29/19	\$450 bus	\$60 Tickets

2. Resolved to approve the following workshop:

Destination	Date	Cost
School Nurses Best, Current Practices for School Medical Emergencies - Donna Gallo	February 27, 2019	\$269.00 plus travel reimbursement

101 Best Strategies for Teaching Social Studies, Newark NJ – Greg Keelen	March 28, 2019	\$269.00 plus travel reimbursement
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6. Facilities

Mrs. Spadavecchia informed the Board that the heat exchanger in the Kindergarten wing was replaced by Pennetta Industrial Automation, LLC, the lowest cost bidder. They also checked the inducer motors and noted they were in good working condition. Mrs. Spadavecchia also informed the Board that Ryan Jones, Sandy Diaz, and Laurel Spadavecchia passed their Black Seal Boiler License exam.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

7. Old Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

8. New Business

Mr. Pallas requests the following to be inserted into the minutes:

“Dr. Ponds gave us a report indicating that there are 65 school districts in NJ that have a District Factor Grouping of two or B. In ELA, we were ranked 13th in growth rate, and in math 2nd. Those are accomplishments that should be recognized. It is due to the efforts of Dr. Ponds and Mr. Knipper who has also worked hard and long to increase the performances of our students.”

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

1. Average Monthly Attendance from 1/1/19 – 1/31/19 – Attachment 9.1
2. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer for the month of January 2019 – Attachment 9.2

10. Discussion Items

Mr. Monti announced that the Wood Ridge Board of Education meeting is scheduled for next week.

Mr. David Vaccaro announced that the next Moonachie Board of Education will be held on March 5, 2019 as the meeting on February 26 has been cancelled.

11. Public Comments

Crystal Lopez of 11 W. 4th Street inquired as to whether installing air conditioning in the lower grade wings is being considered. David Vaccaro addressed this issue by stating that this has been explored in the past and that it is not cost effective at this time. Ms. Lopez asked if there could be fundraising to assist in the cost and Kathleen Nestor recommended that Ms. Lopez address this with the Moonachie PTO group.

Open: 6:47 p.m.

Closed: 6:49 p.m.

12. Adjournment at 6:50 p.m.

Motion: James Campbell

Second: Edmond Monti

Action Taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

The Board returned to closed session with no further action taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia

Board Administrator/Board Secretary