

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

April 26, 2022

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, Superintendent
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator
Dana Genatt, Director of Curriculum
Dennis McKeever, Board Attorney
Anthony Russo, 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.

• Motion 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: Legal issues for MEA contract negotiations and staffing for the 2022-2023 school year for budgeting purposes. It is anticipated that the length of time of this executive session will be 30 minutes.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Charles Pallas

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of April 12, 2022, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

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

- PRESENTATION – Public Hearing 2022-2023 School Budget
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator, presented the 2022-2023 Budget.

Mr. Brad Haberlin, 232 Moonachie Road, asked what happens to Capital Reserve projects that aren't completed, to which Mrs. Spadavecchia replied that unspent funds out of Capital Reserve are returned to the Capital Reserve account and are available for use in subsequent years.

- Acceptance of Correspondence None.

- Superintendent's Report

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

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

Mr. Knipper thanked Mrs. Spadavecchia for her informative presentation and mentioned that enrollment has been steadily increasing. There has also been increased behaviors amongst students stemming from Covid isolations and students reacclimating to socially accepted behavior. He has arranged to have a Bullying assembly in the next few weeks to address this.

Mr. Knipper also announced that several of our 8th grade students have been accepted into alternate high schools such as 4 students attending BCA Academy – Hackensack, 4 students attending BCA Academy – Teterboro, 5 students attending BCA Academy – Applied Tech, 2 students attending BCA Academy Paramus Tech, 2 private boarding schools and a few others attending parochial schools.

▪ **Submission of HIB Cases – April 2022**

Investigations

4

Confirmed Cases

2

- 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: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved

1. Resolved to adopt the final 2022-2023 school year budget.

SUBMISSION OF FINAL 2022-2023 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the preliminary 2022-23 school budget was approved for submission to the Executive County Superintendent by the Board of Education on March 22, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the Moonachie Board of Education authorized the submission of the 2022-2023 Preliminary School Budget to the Bergen County Executive Superintendent of Schools with the following Fund Allocations and requested waivers:

<u>Budget Totals:</u>	<u>2022-2023 Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$ 11,876,323	\$ 9,510,870.00
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 821,497	0.00
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Totals	\$ 12,697,820	\$ 9,510,870.00

Be it resolved that the General Fund tax levy \$9,510,870.00 is approved to support the 2022-2023 school year budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Moonachie Board of Education authorize the inclusion of \$130,000 from Maintenance Reserve into the preliminary 2022-2023 budget for required maintenance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Moonachie Board of Education authorize the inclusion of \$1,000,000 from Capital Reserve into the preliminary 2022-2023 budget to repair/replace the roof, for HVAC rooftop units, repair to the sewer system, repair to exterior building façade, replace gymnasium bleachers, replace stage flooring and hallway flooring, and to repair structural damage to the plumbing system of the Robert L. Craig School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Moonachie Board of Education authorize the inclusion of Use of Banked Cap in the amount of \$172,723. In accordance with the N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3 (b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to accommodate increasing enrollment in the general education, special education and preschool education population and the subsequent associated costs. The Moonachie Board of Education will complete this by the end of the 2022-2023 budget year and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a larger period of time.

2. Resolved that the Moonachie Board of Education establish the school district travel maximum expenditure amount for the 2022-2023 school year as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2 (b) not to exceed \$15,000. The maximum amount for the 2020-2021 school year was budgeted at \$15,000 and the amount spent as of March 22, 2022 for the 2021-2022 school year is \$1,763.20. The Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.
 3. 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 April 2022 for a total of \$191,576.24 –Attachment 2.3
 4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for April 15, 2022 for \$114,211.97 – Attachment 2.4
 5. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for April 2022 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.
 6. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of April 2022 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.
 7. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of April 2022 for \$367,628.40 - Attachment 2.7
3. Policy None.
Motion:
Seconded:
Action taken:
 4. Personnel
Motion: Matthew Vaccaro
Seconded: James Campbell
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.
 1. Resolved to approve Kiara Chavez as Lunch Aide at an hourly rate of \$15.00 pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
 5. Curriculum None.
Motion:
Seconded:
Action taken:
 6. Facilities None.
Motion:
Seconded:

Action taken:

7. Old Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

8. New Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items None.

10. Discussion Items None.

11. Public Comments

Open: 7:05 p.m.

Closed: 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Brad Haberlin, 232 Moonachie Road, asked the Board what their stance was on teaching the new Health and Physical Education state standards which address sex education. Mr. Knipper informed him that state standards must be covered, but the way it is covered is up to each individual Board of Education. Mr. Knipper stated that he fully believes in parent choice with an “opt-in” component. Mr. David Vaccaro also stated that the Board will be closely monitoring how these standards are being met. Mr. Haberlin also inquired about how history is being taught and whether events in history are being eliminated from the curriculum. Mr. Knipper address this concern by stating that our district’s teaching practices are to disseminate information from many different viewpoints and teach students critical thinking skills so that they can make informed decisions and form their own opinions and beliefs.

Ms. Ernestino Cristo, 53 Helen Drive, informed the Board that her daughter came home with a fermented apple. Mr. Knipper stated that he will inform the Director of Food Services to inspect the food packages for any spoilage before they are sent home.

12. Adjournment 7:17 p.m.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary