

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School
Cafeteria Meeting
October 15, 2024

Call to order by Board Secretary

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro
Matthew Vaccaro
Candace Tarabocchia
Edmond Monti

Members Absent: Radley Macalintal

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent/Principal
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dennis McKeever, 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.

- **Acceptance of Minutes of September 17, 2024**, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

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

- **Acceptance of Correspondence**

1. NJ Department of Education IDEA Final Expenditure Report approval letter – Attachment 1.2

2. NJ Department of Education ESEA Final Expenditure Reports for Title I, Title II, Title III Immigrant, and Title IV approval letters – Attachment 1.3

3. State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement Certificate of Registration – Attachment 1.4

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

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

- **Superintendent’s Report**

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Edmond Monti

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

Mr. Knipper congratulated all the Students of the Month and ESL graduates. He announced that the district will immediately begin offering Algebra to all students in the 8th grade to better prepare them for success in high school. He thanked Mr. Jason Selle and Mr. Daniel Alonso for their support and efforts in getting this up and running.

Mr. Knipper also announced that Saturday tutoring will begin in November.

Lastly, Mr. Knipper asked for a moment of silence to remember Dr. Jonathan Ponds, former Superintendent/ Principal of the Moonachie School District. We as a staff, Board of Education, and community were rattled at the announcement of his passing. His leadership and vision allowed the students of Moonachie to grow, and his vision has also become Mr. Knipper and Mrs. Genatt’s vision for the future. The district’s Art teacher, Ms. Lee Ten Hoeve, envisioned the students creating a mural in the garden in his honor and this vision will be realized in the Spring with a ceremony to follow. The Board expressed their gratitude for having known Dr. Ponds and their deepest sympathy to his family.

- Submission of HIB Cases – September 2024

Investigations

0

Confirmed Cases

0

- Submission of HIB Cases – October 2024

Investigations

0

Confirmed Cases

0

- **Students of the Month**

October

Ariella Syed

Aarush Shah

Giuliana Tripodi

Nina Meza Mangual

Emmanuel Castano

Vir Patel

William Yoon

Olivia Dengelegi

Brian Alfaro

Jessica Chimbay

Grade

Pre-K

Kindergarten

1

2

3

4

5

Middle School Math

Middle School ELA

Middle School Social Studies

ESL Graduation

Sara Cedeno	1
Danett Calixto Quispe	3
Alana Ramos	5

- PRESENTATION – State Assessment Performance Data by Dana Genatt

- 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: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

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 performed for October 2024 for a total of \$435,077.88–Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of August 2024 and Unposted Checks for a total of \$265,134.14 –Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for September 30, 2024 for \$121,449.03 with gross pay wages of \$209,003.55 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for October 15, 2024 for \$126,607.59 with gross pay wages of \$216,558.29 – Attachment 2.4
5. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for October 2024 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in 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 for October 2024 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 Moonachie Board of Education Guide for Standard Operating Procedures and Internal Controls – Available for review at the Board Office.
8. Resolved to approve 2024-2025 Budget/Election Calendar – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve the submission of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report for FY 23-24 Actual, FY 24-25 Budgeted, and FY 25-26 Planned, documenting required maintenance activities for a period of three years whereas all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use in compliance with New Jersey Department of Education requirements – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to approve the Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP engagement letter to audit the financial statements of the Moonachie Board of Education – Attachment 2.10
11. Resolved to accept the Treasurer’s Report for month ending August 2024 – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to accept the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for month ending August 2024 – Attachment 2.12
13. Resolved to approve the Monthly Transfer Report and budgetary line-item transfers for month ending August 2024 – Attachment 2.13
14. Resolved to approve the Contract for Nursing Services For Substitute Nurse between the Moonachie Board of Education and Starlight Homecare Agency for the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 2.14
15. Resolved to approve the submission of the amendment for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) carryover funds and accept the subsequent awarded funds for the 2024-2025 school year in the following amounts: Attachment 2.15

Title IA	\$6,520
Title IV Part A	\$1,988

16. Resolved to approve the request for financial assistance of \$75.00 for a student to attend the 8th Grade Camp Bernie Field Trip.
17. Resolved to approve check #1206 from the Milk & Lunch account for \$15,974.78 for September 2024 meals.
18. Resolved to approve the sent/receive tuition agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the Wood-Ridge Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year for \$1,470,832 calculated by \$16,714.00 per student for an estimated 87 full-time students and 2 shared-time students attending Wood-Ridge High School.
19. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and Bergen County Special Services Board of Education – Visions Emerson for the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 2.19

20. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure Commission Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 2.20

3. Policy

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

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

1. Resolved to approve the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance School Year 2024-2025–Attachment 3.1
2. Resolved to approve the submission of the New Jersey Department of Education Performance Report to NJ Smart.
3. Resolved to approve the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for School Year 2023-2024 – Attachment 3.3
4. Resolved to approve the Moonachie Public School District Early Childhood Advisory Council Bylaws – Attachment 3.4
5. Resolved to approve the Chronic Absenteeism Corrective Action Plan for the 2024/2025 School Year based on 2022-2023 school year data – Attachment 3.5

4. Personnel

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

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

1. Resolved to approve Randall Rueger as Custodian at an annual salary of \$48,000 prorated for the 2024–2025 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
2. Resolved to approve the resignation of Laurel Lahullier as Teacher – Attachment 4.2
3. Resolved to approve Jaclyn Kim as Teacher at MA+30/ Step 10 at an annual salary of \$82,515 prorated for the 2024–2025 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
4. Resolved to approve the following employees as Substitute Teachers:
Jeanne Corrado Caitlin Schiro Maria Palacios
Chime Chodon Klevisa Loci Kathleen Kinsella
Meagan Macalintal Roy Krieger
5. Resolved to appoint Dana Genatt as District Liasion to Law Enforcement for the 2024-2025 school year.
6. Resolved to approve the following list of employees to provide home instruction at an hourly rate of \$52.64 for the 2024-2025 school year:
Allison Stanisci Joan Boniello Allison Maccarrone

Michael Lia Gabriella Minda Gianna Vitetta

7. Resolved to approve the following staff members for After-School Programs for the 2024-2025 school year to be paid at an hourly rate of \$52.64:

Position	Allotted Hours	Employee
RLC TV	85 hours	Greg Keelen
Performing Arts/Drama	70 hours	Greg Keelen
Yearbook	70 hours	Linda Esposito/TBD
Student Council	35 hours	Caitlin Henrickson
8 th Grade Advisors (2)	100 hours shared	Greg Keelen/Lisa Selle

5. Curriculum

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

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

1. Resolved to approve the following workshops, field trips and facility requests:

Destination	Date	Cost
Bureau of Education & Research “Using AI Tools to Increase Social Studies Learning and Enhance Productivity – Grades 6-12 Online Seminar ~ Greg Keelen	November 6, 2024	\$295.00
Bureau of Education & Research “Strengthening Students; Social Studies Skills While Decreasing Grading Time Online Seminar ~ Greg Keelen	December 9, 2024	\$295.00
Crisis Prevention and Intervention CPI Training ~ Allison Stanisci, Amanda Mulvaney, Michael Lia, Gabriela Ocasio	October 9 & 10, 2024	\$623.96
NJAEYC Annual Conference Professional Development Credits ~ Elizabeth Connelly	October 4, 2024	No Cost
AOEU Winter 2025 NOW Conference ~Lee Ten Hoeve	January 31-February 3, 2025	\$149.00
8 th Grade Philadelphia Trip – Greg Keelen, Lisa Selle, Donna Gallo	May 16, 2025	Student Collected
Movie Night for Grades Pk – 5 ~PTO	November 15, 2024 5:30am - 8:00pm	No Cost
Breakfast with Santa ~PTO	December 7, 2024 10:00am - 2:00pm	No Cost
Holiday Shop ~PTO	Dec. 9, - 11, 2024 9:00am - 6:00pm	No Cost

6. Facilities

Motion: Edmond Monti
Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Department of Health Sanitary Inspection Report – Attachment 6.1
2. Resolved to approve the quote from CJ Vanderbeck to perform a Boiler Cleaning/ Annual Maintenance Service on 3 Laars hot water boilers for \$1,830.00 – Attachment 6.2
3. Resolved to approve the 5 Year Water-Based Fire Protection Systems Inspection Report from Cintas Fire Protection – Attachment 6.3
4. Resolved to approve the Fire Protection Service Report from Cintas Fire Protection – Attachment 6.4
5. Resolved to award the masonry construction project bid – Attachment 6.5

WHEREAS, a recommendation was made by the Superintendent of Schools to the Moonachie Board of Education (“Board”) to seek a contract for construction services for a Project entitled Masonry Restoration at Robert L. Craig School (hereinafter “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Project was properly advertised to prospective bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2024 the Board received the following bids from potential bidders at 1:00 p.m. in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et seq.;

Bidder	Base	Alt. No 1	Alt. No 2	Total
Punjab Restoration, LLC	\$230,000	\$40,000	\$18,000	\$288,000
Hi Point Restoration Inc.	\$386,786	\$22,500	\$12,500	\$421,786
Hear Construction Inc.	\$410,000	\$45,000	\$11,000	\$466,000
Spartan Construction Inc	\$395,000	\$100,000	\$60,000	\$555,000
Cypreco Industries, Inc.	\$373,823	\$123,963	\$69,000	\$566,786
A1 Construction Service	\$530,000	\$56,000	\$76,000	\$662,000
GM Builders Group	\$565,875	\$135,000	\$145,000	\$845,875
Academy Construction Inc.	\$593,000	\$175,000	\$90,000	\$858,000

WHEREAS, the apparent low bidder, Punjab Restoration LLC, has submitted a letter indicating that they made an error in the calculations of their bid and they now seek to withdraw same; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the bid submitted, the Board has determined that the bid submitted by Hi Point Restoration, Inc. contains material non-waivable defects; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the bid submitted by third lowest bidder Hear Construction, Inc., together with the bid specifications and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., and in consultation with the Design Professionals for the Project, the Board has determined that the bid submitted by Hear Construction, Inc. is the lowest responsible bidder; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby grants Punjab Restoration LLC's request to withdraw its bid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board hereby rejects the bid submitted by Hi Point Restoration Inc as unresponsive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board awards the Project to Hear Construction, Inc. at a total contract amount of \$466,000.

7. Old Business None.
8. New Business None.
9. Information Items
 1. Average monthly attendance from 9/1/24 – 9/30/24 - Attachment 9.1
 2. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer for the month ending September 2024– Attachment 9.2
10. Discussion Items None.
11. Public Comments

Open: 6:46 p.m.
Closed: 6:47 p.m.

Mr. Greg Keelen, Social Studies Teacher, would like to commend Senora Luz Johnson for being an instrumental member of the RLC family and empowering our vision of excellence. Senora Johnson is more than a multilingual educator, she is an unflinching advocate to our port of entry students. She empowers her students to face the challenges of a new language and culture and come out stronger academically and socially. Her innovative teaching and compassionate advocacy make a difference for our students while they are in school and in their lives beyond.
12. Adjourned back to Closed Session with Action Taken at 6:48 p.m.

Motion: Edmond Monti
Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary