

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

March 23, 2021

Call to order by Board President

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro

Charles Pallas

Matthew Vaccaro

Edmond Monti (Virtual Attendance)

James Campbell

Members Absent: None

Also Present: James Knipper, Acting Superintendent

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Dana Genatt, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Connor Kimmel, 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 March 9, 2021, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence None.

- Superintendent's Report

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- **Presentation of Plaque for Dedication of Service: Corey Sherman**

Mr. Knipper presented a plaque to Corey Sherman, Jr. in honor of his recently deceased father who wholeheartedly served the Moonachie School District as a custodian for over 15 years. Corey Sr. was a dedicated employee. He was a very hardworking gentleman who always had a smile on his face. We are so sorry for this loss.

Mr. Pallas added that as a board member, he doesn't see staff that often, but when he did see Corey he was always a gentleman and a pleasure to talk with.

Mr. Knipper continued his Superintendent report by announcing that the district is working on the planning budget for the ESSER II funds and will be submitting a grant application shortly. A portion of these funds will go towards a 1:1 technology initiative to support every student in the district. Mr. Knipper has also joined a county focus group to examine best practices in spending the remaining funds through 2023.

Mr. Knipper also announced the district is in the process of streamlining the data information services that are currently spread amongst several vendors into one centralized student database called Realtime. Realtime offers all the services we currently use, however, information can be retrieved in one source. Mr. Knipper will formally present this to the board at a later date.

Mr. Knipper also announced that today the district met its goal set 3 ½ years ago of becoming a fully inclusive district. There are currently no more self-contained classrooms which means every student regardless of their disability is now included with their general education peers.

The CDC announced today that social distancing can now be reduced to 3 feet versus 6 feet. However, the district must first wait until the Bergen County Health Department adopts these guidelines for our district to follow. With the implementation of vaccines on the rise (our district currently has over 77% of staff partially or fully vaccinated), he envisions moving back to 5 days a week of live instruction starting in May. Mr. David Vaccaro asked what percentage of students are attending school in person to which Mr. Knipper replied approximately 74-76% and he expects that to rise to 80% after the spring break.

Mr. Knipper announced upcoming events such as the Easter Drive-by on April 3 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., the YMCA garden project, the National Junior Honor Society. Also, Tremco came out to conduct a roof scan and will present the results to the board at a later date

- **Students of the Month**

<u>February</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Daniel Nesheiwat	1
Analiha Sanchez	6
Hailey Friedman	7

- **Presentation of SAVVAS Curriculum**

Mrs. Genatt presented the features of the Math and ELA SAVVAS curriculum. The district is still in the stage of obtaining pricing and at a later date will submit for board approval their recommendation of the curriculum intended for use in the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Monti inquired if SAVVAS will come out to formally present to which Ms. Genatt and Mr. David Vaccaro and stated this is the formal presentation and Ms. Genatt will forward samples of the curriculum to the board members for their review.

- **Submission of HIB Cases – March 2021**

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

- 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 March 2021 for a total of \$340,518.90 –Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of February 2021 for \$634,551.19 - Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for March 15, 2021 for \$98,437.42 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to authorize the submission of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) CARES grant application for period ending September 30, 2023 and accept the grand award of \$287,575 for the

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, \$25,000 for Learning Acceleration Grants, and \$45,000 for Mental Health Grants.

3. Policy None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

4. Personnel

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve Kenneth Freschi as Substitute Custodian at an hourly rate of \$13.50 per hour for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
2. Resolved to approve Debra Finch as Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
3. Resolved to approve employee #4285 for paid administrative leave effective March 9, 2021 until further notice

5. Curriculum

Motion: James Campbell

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the revised Moonachie Public Schools 2020-2021 Calendar – Attachment 5.1
2. Resolved to approve the revised Moonachie Public Schools 2021-2022 Calendar – Attachment 5.2
3. Resolved to approve the following workshop:

Destination	Date	Cost
Handle with Care Instructor Recertification Program - Clarksburg, NJ - Kathleen Reilly	April 16, 2021	\$450.00 plus travel reimbursement
Institute for Multi-Sensory Education: Orton-Gillingham Training – Nathasha Dillon	April 19-23, 2021	\$1275.00 plus travel to be paid out of Title I SIA Part A

6. Facilities

1. Resolved to accept the EPA AHERA Three Year Reinspection report conducted by Karl & Associates, Inc. – Attachment 6.1

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: James Campbell

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

7. Old Business
Motion:
Seconded:
Action taken:
8. New Business
Motion:
Seconded:
Action taken:
9. Information Items
10. Discussion Items
Mr. David Vaccaro wanted to thank the administration staff not only as a Board Member, but also as a member of the community, for all their hard work in getting the school up and running and having 75-77% turn out is outstanding.
11. Public Comments None.
Open: 7:03 p.m.
Closed: 7:04 p.m.
12. Adjournment at 7:05 p.m.
Motion: Matthew Vaccaro
Seconded: Edmond Monti
Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary