

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

February 22, 2022

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

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro
James Campbell
Charles Pallas
Edmond Monti

Members Absent: Matthew Vaccaro

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator
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 February 9, 2021, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: James Campbell

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

- Acceptance of Correspondence

1. Letter from the New Jersey Department of Education approving the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Waiver for the 2022-2023 school year – Attachment 1.2

Motion: James Campbell

Seconded: Charles Pallas

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

- Superintendent’s Report

Motion: James Campbell

Seconded: Charles Pallas

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

Mr. Knipper congratulated all Students of the Month. He announced the Summer Recreation is being finalized and information will be dispersed shortly. He announced the Board will be moving to mask optional status following the release of the Governor’s address. He stated Read Across America program occurs next week with the theme being Art and Literacy. There will be different activities each day and information will go out to parents. Saturday School will also continue starting at 9am-11am for free tutoring. Any parents interested in signing up their children are asked to contact the school.

Mr. David Vaccaro congratulated the Students of the Month and thanked the students and parents for being at the meeting and supporting their children as it is so important in their growth.

- **Students of the Month**

<u>January</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Jason Cruz	Grade Pre-K
Bianca Ocello	Grade Kindergarten
Stella Vocaturo	Grade 1
Daniella Scheuer	Grade 2
Daniella Migliorino	Grade 3
Juliana Genuario	Grade 4
Valentina Arias	Grade 5
Timothy Velez	MS Social Studies
Sayed Shah	MS ELA
Gianna Camporeale	MS Math
Alexandra Silvera	Spanish

- **Submission of HIB Cases – February 2022**

<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: Edmond Monti

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 February 2022 for a total of \$125,492.00 –Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for February 15, 2022 for \$114,213.56 – Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of February 2022 for \$358,865.52 - Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for February 2022 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 February 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.
6. Resolved to approve a Moonachie Board of Education \$1,000.00 Scholarship for a Moonachie student graduating Wood Ridge High School in June, 2022. The Board will be notified of the recipient when the award winner is determined.
7. Resolved to approve check #1170 to Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education in the amount of \$28,661.76 from the Milk and Lunch account for January 2022 meals.
8. Resolved to approve the Treasurer's Report for month ending January 2022 – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for the month ending January 2022 – Attachment 2.9

3. Policy

Motion: James Campbell

Seconded: Charles Pallas

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

1. Resolution for mask policy.

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order 103 establishing a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, various Executive Orders were enacted for purposes of mitigating the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2021, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 251 (“EO 251”), which provided that the District “must maintain a policy regarding mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises;” and

WHEREAS, the Moonachie Board of Education (the “Board”) has followed all prior guidance and Executive Orders issued by the Office of the Governor, Department of Education, and state and local health officials related to COVID-19 restrictions including mask requirements for students and staff; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2022, Governor Murphy announced “that masks and facial coverings will no longer be mandated for students, staff, or visitors in schools and childcare centers effective March 7, 2022”; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy’s February 7, 2022 announcement provides that “schools that do not impose universal masking should revise their COVID policies to utilize masking among other prevention strategies under certain circumstances”; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy’s February 7, 2022 announcement provides that “schools will not be permitted to bar the use of facial coverings by individuals and will be expected to take disciplinary action in instances of bullying should they arise due to an individual’s choice to continue wearing a mask”; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy’s February 7, 2022 announcement provides that “Prior to the mandate being lifted, the Department of Health will release guidance to help school districts update their policies to align with the risks and unique needs of their setting and student population to ensure safe learning environments”; and

WHEREAS, the Board will monitor the issuance of guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health to effectively revise its Policy regarding Covid-19 for prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Board will revise its Policy regarding Covid-19 prevention strategies upon the issuance of guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board will not impose universal masking in school effective March 7, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board will revise its Policy regarding Covid-19 prevention strategies to include the following: utilizing masking among other prevention strategies under certain circumstances; that the Board may not bar the use of facial coverings by individuals; that disciplinary action will be taken in instances of bullying should they arise due to an individual’s choice to continue wearing a mask; and any other information included in Guidance issued by the New Jersey Department of Health.

2. Resolved to approve Donna Gallo as the Affirmative Action Officer and Team members–Brian DeSantis and Dana Genatt for the 2022-2023 school year and to conduct a Needs Assessment and develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan.
3. Resolved to approve the following new and revised policies and regulations:

P2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing, or Treatment	Revised
P2431.4	Prevention & Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions & Head Injuries	Revised
R2431.4	Prevention & Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions & Head Injuries	Revised
R2460.30	Additional/compensatory Special Education & Related Services	New
P2622	Student Assessment	Revised
R2622	Student Assessment	Revised
P3233	Political Activities	Revised
P5541	Anti-Hazing	New
P7540	Joint Use of Facilities	Revised
P8465	Bias Crimes & Bias-Related Acts	Revised
R8465	Bias Crimes & Bias-Related Acts	Revised
P9560	Administration of School Surveys	Revised

4. Personnel

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

1. Resolved to approve Emely Vargas for Pre-service teacher hours through the Fairleigh Dickinson University Teacher Preparation Program at no cost.

5. Curriculum

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

1. Resolved to approve workshops:

Destination	Date	Cost
2022 Annual NJAHPERD Convention - Joseph Gingerelli	February 14-16, 2022	No Cost

6. Facilities None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

7. Old Business

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

1. Honor Roll Discussion

Mr. Knipper reported back regarding Mr. Pallas' previous concern regarding a majority of students earning honor roll status. He stated that Low Honors means students can achieve all B's. If the Board would like to raise that criteria, they can meet with Mr. Knipper during Curriculum Committee meetings held in the summer. He stated that the Wood-Ridge low honor roll criteria is all A's and only 1 B. Mr. Monti and Mr. David Vaccaro agreed that this should be discussed during Curriculum Committee meetings in the summer. Mr. Pallas then asked how specials are graded to which Mr. Knipper stated that as per the Parent Handbook, Specials Teachers have the autonomy to assess student performance and grade to the best of the student's ability. Mr. Pallas asked about the removal of the minimum number of tests required per grading period. He stated that educational leaders agree that test scores are the best indicator of student learning. Mr. Knipper stated that while there is no minimum number of tests, student learning is assessed using various methods. Mr. Vaccaro ended the discussion by agreeing to meet during Curriculum Committee meetings and discuss both concerns.

8. New Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

10. Discussion Items

11. Public Comments

Ms. Paula Hill stated that as the new Director of Child Study Team, she notices all the hard work our students and families do and all the effort the teachers put in to motivate their students and show them when they're successful.

Open: 7:08 p.m.

Closed: 7:09 p.m.

12. Adjournment at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. David Vaccaro announced that at the next board meeting, masks will be optional.

Motion: James Campbell

Seconded: Edmond Monti

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary