

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

September 16, 2025

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

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro

Matthew Vaccaro

Candace Tarabocchia

Members Absent: Radley Macalintal

Edmond Monti

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator

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 August 26, 2025, regular session and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

- NJ Department of Education District Emergency Plan for Virtual or Remote Instruction for 2025-2026 School Year approval letter – Attachment 1.2

- Superintendent's Report

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

Mr. Knipper announced that the district is off to a great start to the new school year. He thanked the PTO for hosting the welcome back breakfast to the entire staff. He announced Back to School Night will be held on September 17 and he thanked Candace Tarabocchia for posting it on social media.

Benchmark testing will start this week with 4 hours of field testing. Mr. Knipper and Mrs. Genatt will be attending training regarding the new testing platform in a few weeks.

Mr. Knipper and Mrs. Spadavecchia attended QSAC training for the upcoming monitoring and evaluation review. They have been meeting with the Leadership Team to prepare for the QSAC review.

Lastly, Mr. Knipper announced that district will receive \$1,000 from Grow NJ Kids for our preschool quality rating. The funds will be used for preschool supplies.

- 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: 3 Ayes. 2 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 August 2025 for a total of \$286,336.45—Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of July 2025 and UnPosted Checks for \$349,575.55 - Attachment 2.2

3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for August 28, 2025 for \$87,076.88 with gross pay wages of \$40,441.92 to include \$58,919.72 in Summer Savings Payroll – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for September 15, 2025 for \$109,709.16 with gross pay wages of \$205,936.75 – Attachment 2.4
5. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for September 2025 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 September 2025 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 to continue to participate as a member of the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission for the purchase of goods and services for the 2025-2026 school year.
8. Resolved to approve the Moonachie Board of Education to participate as a member of the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance for the purchase of goods and services for the 2025-2026 school year.
9. Resolved to approve the renewal of the LanSchool Subscription License and Technical Support for the 2025-2026 school year for \$942.50 – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to approve the renewal of Renaissance Star Testing for the 2025-2026 school year for \$4,908.80– Attachment 2.10
11. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Agreement for Extended School Year Summer 2025 – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the revised Extraordinary Aid State School Aid in the amount of \$167,796 for the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 2.12
13. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the Ridgefield Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.13
14. Resolved to approve the Tuition Contract for Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities between the Moonachie Board of Education and Holmstead School for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.14
15. Resolved to accept the Report of the Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for month ending July 2025 – Attachment 2.15
16. Resolved to accept the Treasurer’s Report for month ending July 2025 – Attachment 2.16

17. Resolved to accept the Monthly Transfer Report for July 2025 – Attachment 2.17
18. Resolved to approve the Tuition Contract for Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities for the 2025-2026 school year– Attachment 2.18
19. Resolved Motion to approve the Tuition Contract for Special Education Tuition Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.19

3. Policy

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for the 2025-2026 School Year – Attachment 3.1
2. Resolved to approve the 2025-2026 Moonachie School District Nursing Services Plan – Attachment 3.2
3. Resolved to approve the submission of the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for School Year 2024-2025 – Attachment 3.3
4. Resolved to approve the submission of the Gifted & Talented Services Report 2025.

4. Personnel

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve Dana Genatt as the district Homeless Liaison and Register for the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Resolved to approve Kristina Ritovska as Substitute Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
3. Resolved to approve Grace Macalintal as Lunch Aide at an hourly rate of \$17.64 for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Resolved to approve Jasmine Iris Castillo as Part-Time Aide at an hourly rate of \$18.00 for the 2025-2026 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
5. Resolved to approve Michael Lia and Kimberly Schmidt at the contractual rate of \$54.48 per hour, and Rajwinder Ghotra at the rate of \$22.86 per hour, for bus coverage and dismissal duties on an as needed basis.

5. Curriculum

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

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

Destination	Date	Cost
2025 SNAP Conference “How Normalizing Risk Puts Teens in Danger” Garfield, NJ ~ Dana Genatt, Deborah Maiorano	October 7, 2025	No Cost
Camp Bernie 8 th Grade Field Trip ~Greg Keelen, Lee Ten Hoeve, Guiseppina Altilio, Joseph Gingerelli	October 17, 2025	Tickets: \$250 Bus Cost:\$TBD
Art ED Now Conference ~Lee Ten Hoeve	January 30, 2026	\$149.00
Trunk or Treat & Halloween Dance - Cafeteria ~PTO	October 25, 2025 9:00am-2:00pm	Custodian Cost Only
Wizards Assembly – Gymnasium ~PTO	October 9, 2025	No Cost
Movie Night – Gymnasium ~PTO	November 14, 2025	No Cost
Social Media Seminar by Tik Tok, NJSP and NJDOE, Mahwah NJ ~Deborah Maiorano	September 29, 2025 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	No Cost
Strauss Esmay HIB Training ~ Dana Genatt	December 3, 2025	No Cost
9/11 Memorial & Museum 7 th Grade Field Trip ~Greg Keelen, Taylor Trause, Daniel Alonso, Caitlyn Henrickson, Guissepina Altilio	November 10, 2025	Tickets:\$150 Bus Cost: \$TBD

2. Resolved to recognize the first week in October, the 6th – 10th, as the 2025 WEEK OF RESPECT in connection with the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying State Legislation.
3. Resolved that the Moonachie School District observe School Violence Awareness Week, October 20 – 24, 2025 in accordance with annual obligations as defined by the NJ State Department of Education.
4. Resolved to approve the submission of the District Professional Development Plan and Mentoring Statement of Assurance – Attachment 5.4

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

11. Public Comments

Open: 6:41 p.m.

Closed: 6:44 p.m.

Noel Werdann, 5 Henry Street, stated her concerns for higher traffic on Henry Street due to the new road at the school directing the flow of traffic in one direction. Mr. David Vaccaro stated he would bring up her concerns with the Borough to discuss possible solutions.

12. Adjournment at 6:45 p.m.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 3 Ayes. 2 Absent. Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary