

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

August 26, 2025

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

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro
Matthew Vaccaro
Candace Tarabocchia
Edmond Monti
Radley Macalintal

Members Absent: None

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator

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 July 22, 2025, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Radley Macalintal

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Department of Agriculture School Nutrition Program Approval Letter – Attachment 1.2

- NJ Department of Education Comprehensive Equity Plan Approval Letter – Attachment 1.3
- NJ Department of Education Annual Certification of School Bus Drivers and Aides for 2025-2026 Approval Letter – Attachment 1.4

- Superintendent’s Report

Presentation: 2025 ACCESS for ELLS Assessment Results – James Knipper

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Mr. Knipper presented the ELLS Assessment Results and will have a follow-up presentation in October. He stated that the NJSLA is changing to a new testing format and will no longer be using Pierson Educational Assessments. Mr. Knipper will attend mandatory trainings on the new format and the dates will be forthcoming.

Mr. Knipper also thanked the custodial staff, the summer staff and the Moonachie DPW for their hard work in preparing the school for the new year.

- 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: Edmond Monti

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 performed for August 2025 for a total of \$349,575.55 –Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of July 2025 for \$304,114.50 - Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for July 31, 2025 for \$97,384.76 with gross wages of \$54,857.10 including direct deposit for Teacher Summer Savings Plan – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for August 15, 2025 for \$93,504.35 with gross wages of \$48,749.09 including direct deposit for Teacher Summer Savings Plan – Attachment 2.4

5. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for August 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 August 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 accept the Extraordinary Aid State School Aid in the amount of \$167,598 for the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 2.7
8. Resolved to approve the Reimbursement of Nonpublic School Transportation Costs in the amount of \$15,878.00 for the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve the following list of petty cash accounts to be used for small purchases only, not to exceed the total amount in the fund, and not to subvert the intent of the regular purchasing procedures. All expenditures shall be established by board approved vouchers and all unused cash will be returned to the depository at the close of the school year. The fund amounts and their custodians for the 2025 – 2026 school year are:

Board Secretary's Office	\$200.00	Business Administrator
Superintendent's Office	\$200.00	Superintendent
10. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreements between the Moonachie Board of Education and Ridgefield Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.10
11. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract between the Moonachie Board of Education and Bergen County Special Services Board of Education – NOVA North Emerson for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract between the Moonachie Board of Education and Bergen County Special Services Board of Education – NOVA North Emerson for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.12
13. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract between the Moonachie Board of Education and Bergen County Special Services Board of Education – Springboard Program for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.13
14. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contracts between the Moonachie Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure

Commission Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year – Attachment 2.14

15. Resolved to approve the Tuition Contract for Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities between the Moonachie Board of Education and Windsor Prep High School for the 2025-2026 school year–Attachment 2.16
16. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and Bergen County Special Services for Extended School Year Summer 2025 – Attachment 2.17
17. Resolved to approve check #1373 in the amount of \$437.50 from the Payroll Agency account to Natasha Dillon for July 31, 2025 Summer Savings.
18. Resolved to approve the submission of the Literacy Initiative for Families and Thriving Communities grant and accept the subsequent award of \$20,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.
19. Resolved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and Rochelle Park Board of Education and Wood-Ridge Board of Education to form an ESEA Title III Consortium – Attachment 2.19
20. Resolved to approve check #1220 in the amount of \$10,316.00 from the Milk & Lunch account to Nu-Way Concessionaires for June, July and August 2025 summer meals.
21. Resolved to accept the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grant award of the following for the 2025-2026 school year:

Title IA	\$135,699
Title IIA	\$16,325
Title III	\$3,505
Title III Immigrant	\$1,684
Title IVA	\$10,044

22. Resolved to charge the following salary amounts to the 2025-2026 ESEA Title I grant for the provision of Basic Skills instructional services:

	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Benefits</u> <u>to State</u>	<u>Total</u>
Martha Morales(@65% of Salary \$101,450)	\$65,206	\$36,750	\$101,956
Susan Sartoga Support Salary	\$33,743	0	33,743
Total ESEA Title I			\$135,699

23. Resolved to charge the following amounts to the 2025-2026 Preschool Education Aid (PEA) grant:

Employee	Position	Salary
Lauren Barnaba 20-218-100-101	Teacher	\$63,000

Lori Schmatz 20-218-100-101	Teacher	\$61,000
Amanda Mulvaney 20-218-100-101	Teacher	\$54,500
Jaime Migliorino 20-218-100-106	Aide	\$24,861
Lilliana Bravo 20-218-100-106	Aide	\$20,000
Teresa Meyers 20-218-100-106	Aide	\$21,363
Dixie Romero 20-218-100-101	Relief Teacher	\$23,805
Allison Maccarrone 20-218-200-173 20-218-200-176	Family Liaison Instructional Coach	\$13,750 \$55,000
Dana Genatt 20-218-200-102	Director of Curriculum	\$11,900
James Knipper 20-218-200-103	Superintendent	\$16,480
Melanie Vocaturo 20-218-200-105	Secretary	\$4,100
Linda Esposito 20-218-200-105	Secretary	\$4,500
Ryan Jones 20-218-200-110	Custodian	\$6,000
Moonachie Borough: William Mildon 20-218-200-110	Security	\$4,200
Guisepina Altilio 20-218-200-104	Nurse	\$10,000
Yannique Dawson 20-218-200-104	Child Study Team PIRT	\$8,800
Deborah Maiorano 20-218-200-104	Child Study Team PIRT	\$7,300
Natasha Dillon 20-218-200-104	Child Study Team PIRT	\$11,000
Employee Benefits 20-218-200-200		\$296,400
Supplies 20-218-100-600		\$6,000
Purchased Professional Education Svcs 20-218-200-511		\$2,753

Staff Trainings, Home Visits, Family Engagement, Supplies		\$3,773
Total PEA Allocation:		\$730,485
Less Transfer from General Fund:		(64,932)
PEA Grant		\$665,553

24. Resolved to approve the Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP engagement letter to audit the financial statements of the Moonachie Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year – Attachment 2.24
25. Resolved to approve the disposal of non-repairable electronic items with \$0 value – Attachment 2.25

3. Policy

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the submission of the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness K-12 Site Assessment – Attachment 3.1
2. Resolved to approve the 2025-2026 Professional Development Plan – Attachment 3.2
3. Resolved to approve the Moonachie School District Goals and Objectives 2025-2026 Short & Long Term Goals – Attachment 3.3
4. Resolved to approve the 2025-2026 Emergency Manual and School Safety Plan available on display in the Robert L. Craig School Main Office.
5. Resolved to approve the following policies:

P0173	Duties of Public School Accountant	Revised
P0174	Legal Services	Revised
P0177	Professional Services	Revised
P1570	Internal Controls	Revised
R1570	Internal Controls	Revised
P1620	Administrative Employment Contracts	Revised
P6111	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program	Revised
R6111	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program	Revised
P6220	Budget Preparation	Revised
R6220	Budget Preparation	Revised
P0143	Board Member Election and Appointment	Revised
P1636.01	Notificaton of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities	New
P1648.15	Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings -COVID-19	Abolished
P2422	Statutory Curricular Requirements	Revised
P5339.01	Student Sun Protection	New

4. Personnel

Motion: Edmond Monti
Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
Abstain: Radley Macalintal Motion 4.6
Action taken: 5 Ayes, 1 Abstain 4.6. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve Nicholas Telle as Teacher at BA/4 for an annual salary of \$60,250.00 effective September 1, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
2. Resolved to approve Mercedes Haines as Part-Time Instructional Aide at a per diem of \$250, not to exceed 140 days for the 2025/2026 school year.
3. Resolved to approve the resignation of Fabiola Tapia as Part-Time Aide effective August 30, 2025 – Attachment 4.3
4. Resolved to approve Jaime Migliorino to participate in the training and certification process to become a Registered Behavior Therapist and upon completion, to receive a stipend in the amount of \$200 per pay for services provided to students in the ABA program.
5. Resolved to approve the hourly rate increase of Marialynn Sparacia, Part-Time Aide, to \$20.00 based on experience years of service.
6. Resolved to approve the resignation of Grace Macalintal, Part-Time Aide, effective August 31, 2025 – Attachment 4.6
7. Resolved to approve the resignation of Brooke Boswell, Full-Time Aide, effective August 31, 2025 – Attachment 4.7
8. Resolved to approve the following employees to attend Kindergarten Orientation in August 2025 not to exceed 12 hours at a rate of \$54.48:
Kim Samarelli Elizabeth Connolly
9. Resolved to approve the following staff to conduct Preschool Home Visits on Monday, August 25, 2025, at the rate of \$54.48 per hour paid from the PEA grant, not to exceed 7 hours each:
Lauren Barnaba
Allison Maccarone

10. Resolved to approve the following staff as mentors:

Mentor	Mentee
Danielle Abbruzessi	Isabella Morra
Brian DeSantis	Nicholas Telle
Michael Lia	Molly Ward
LisaMarie Selle	Colleen O’Neill

11. Resolved to approve movement of the salary guide for the following staff members effective September 1, 2025 upon completion of all coursework and submission of passing grades:

Employee	Step	2025-2026 Salary
Joseph Gingerelli	MA30/9	\$84,276
Michael Lia	MA30/5	\$73,741
Danielle Abbruzzesi	MA30/18	\$114,759 + \$2175 Longevity
Luz Johnson	MA30/11	\$90,278
Jessica Kuch	MA15/1	\$61,000
Taylor Trause	MA15/9	\$79,805
Jessica Sansone	MA15/6	\$72,074
Deborah Maiorano	MA15/6	\$72,074

12. Resolved to approve Erika Coreas as Part-Time School Aide at an hourly rate of \$15.49 for the 2025-2026 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
13. Resolved to approve Deborah Maiorano for 10 additional extra hours for Child Study Team duties over the summer 2025.
14. Resolved to approve Ria Panchal as Part-Time School Aide at an hourly rate of \$17.00 for the 2025-2026 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
15. Resolved to approve the resignation of Sandra DeGirolamo as Instructional Aide effective August 1, 2025 – Attachment 4.15
16. Resolved to approve Anayansi Hurtado as Classroom Aide at an annual salary of \$23,000 for the 2025-2026 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.

5. Curriculum

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Discussion of Middle School sports: Mr. Knipper apprised the Board of a parent who would like their child to participate in middle school sports with the Wood-Ridge middle school teams. Mr. Knipper contacted Wood-Ridge and was informed there would be a fee per student to participate. Students would need to try-out for the teams and parents would have to provide their own transportation. The Board would need to provide an insurance rider if the district wanted to send students. After a discussion amongst the Board of Education, it was determined that the Moonachie School District does not have a middle school sports program and will not send students to participate in Wood-Ridge middle school sports.

1. Resolved to approve the adoption of the 2025-2026 Moonachie District Curriculum on display on the website and Director of Curriculum Office.
2. Resolved to approve the following Moonachie School District curricula and pacing guides for the 2025-2026 school year on display in the Curriculum Office:

Math K-8
 English/Language Arts K-8
 Visual & Performing Arts K-8
 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education K-8
 Science K-8
 World Language K-8
 ESL K-8

3. Resolved to approve the Moonachie School District Teacher Mentoring Plan Revised 2025 – Attachment 5.3
4. Resolved to approve the following workshops:

Destination	Date	Cost
BCASBO Monthly Meetings – Laurel Spadavecchia 15 Rivervale Road, Rivervale, NJ	9/18/25, 10/16/25 11/20/25, 12/12/25 1/22/26, 2/26/26 3/26/26, 4/23/26 5/21/26, 6/25 TBD	\$275.00
Strauss Esmay Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB) Training ~ Dana Genatt	9/30/2025 9:00 am – 12:30 pm	\$165.00 Plus Travel
Educator Evaluation Guidance Bergen Community College, Lyndhurst ~Dana Genatt, Natasha Dillon	8/05/25 8:00 am-3:00 pm	No Fee Travel Costs
QSAC County Training ~James Knipper, Dana Genatt	8/21/25 8:00 am – 3:00 pm	No Fee Travel Costs
QSAC District Performance Review ~James Knipper, Laurel Spadavecchia	9/16/25 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Location TBD	No Fee Travel Costs
NJAAP 34 th Annual School Health Conference ~ Giuseppina Altilio	10/22/25 8:00 am -3:00 pm	\$250.00 plus Travel

6. Facilities

Motion: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Radley Macalintal
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Discussion of Bathroom Renovations: The Board will continue to monitor the district finances as federal and state aid funding sources have recently been determined. They are interested in renovating the bathroom in sections over multiple years, but they aren't ready to move forward at this time.

1. Resolved to accept the EPA AHERA Six Month Surveillance Report from Karl & Associates Environmental Group – Attachment 6.1
2. Resolved to approve the Facility Use Request Form from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NY District for use of the gymnasium to conduct a public information session regarding flooding issues – Attachment 6.2

3. Resolved to approve the Facility Use Request Form from Moonachie Recreation for the use of the gymnasium every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. for the basketball program – Attachment 6.3
7. Old Business None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
8. New Business None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
9. Information Items
 Mr. David Vaccaro announced that the paving project is still underway and is anticipated to break ground in November. He also stated that Back to School Night is September 17 at 6:30 p.m.
10. Discussion Items
11. Public Comments None.
 Open: 7:19 p.m.
 Closed: 7:20 p.m.
12. Adjournment at 7:20 p.m.
 Motion: Edmond Monti
 Second: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action Taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary