

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

February 10, 2026

Call to order by Board President

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: 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.

- Acceptance of Minutes of January 27, 2026 closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report Minutes – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

- Acceptance of Correspondence None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

- Superintendent's Report

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Mr. Knipper introduced Luz Johnson, ESL Teacher to announce the Students of the Month. Mr. Knipper then stated that a community update will be going home soon to inform parents of the upcoming Literacy Night, STEM Night in April, and a Curriculum Expo in May events. He also announced that school planning has begun for the Extended School Year program and Summer Recreation.

Mr. David Vaccaro congratulated the Students of the Month and thanked them and their parents for all their hard work in helping achieve student success.

▪ **Students of the Month**

| <u>February</u> | <u>Grade</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| William Yoon | MS Social Studies |
| Diana Velecela Ludizaca | MS ELA |
| Chrisopher Lopez Rosas | MS Math |
| Matias Molina | Physical Education |
| Dina Ali | ESL |
| Athaliah Ayub | ESL Graduate |
| Travis Dokum | 5 |
| Annabella Mariluz | 4 |
| Emely Gonzalez | 3 |
| Jace Dentzau | 2 |
| Hailey Batres Quevedo | 1 |
| Juliana Palmieri | Kindergarten |
| Rahaf Al Darwish | Pre-K |

• **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: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
 Discussion: Budget

Mrs. Spadavecchia informed the Board and the public of the healthcare adjustment and banked cap that is available to the district to use in the 2026-2027 school year budget. She will present the preliminary budget on March 17, 2026.

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 2026 for a total of \$419,698.05 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of January 2026 for \$770,061.43 – Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for January 31, 2026 for \$120,674.43 with gross pay wages of \$208,616.11 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for February 2026 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 2026 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 that the Moonachie Board of Education request that the County Executive Superintendent of Schools grant a waiver excusing the district from participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2026-2027 school year – Attachment 2.6
7. Resolved to approve the Revised DMR Proposal #: M-2025-124 to conduct architectural and engineering services and construction administration for the bathroom renovation projects

Whereas, the Moonachie Board of Education acknowledges that the required documentation must be submitted to New Jersey Department of Education for the Toilet Renovations at Robert. C. Craig School, 20 West Park Street, Moonachie, New Jersey, which is consistent with the current approved Long Range Facility Plan.

Whereas, The Moonachie Board of Education acknowledges that the Project will be funded out of Capital Reserve and that it is not seeking Grant Funding.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Moonachie Board of Education authorizes DMR Architects to prepare and submit to the New Jersey Department of Education documentation for Schematic Approval for the Toilet Renovations at the Robert L. Craig School – Attachment 2.7

8. Resolved to approve the renewal of Action Data Services Payroll and Accounting services effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028–Attachment 2.8

9. Resolved to approve check #1224 to Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education in the amount of \$15,212.70 from the Milk and Lunch account for December 2025 meals.
 10. Resolved to approve the Treasurer’s Report for month ending January 2026 – Attachment 2.10
 11. Resolved to approve the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for the month ending January 2026 – Attachment 2.11
 12. Resolved to approve the Monthly Transfer Report for January 2026– Attachment 2.12
 13. Motion to approve the cancellation of the March 10, 2026 and March 31, 2026 Board of Education meetings and replace them with a meeting to be held on March 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Robert L. Craig School cafeteria.
3. Policy None.
Motion:
Seconded:
Action taken:
 4. Personnel
Motion: Edmond Monti
Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia
Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
Discussion: Head Custodian
Mr. Knipper and Mrs. Spadavecchia presented to the Board their evaluation of the Head Custodian services provided by Ryan Jones as a stipend position since January 2025. It was their recommendation to appoint Mr. Jones as the full-time Head Custodian. The Board discussed it but noted that since the state aid figures and preschool education grant allotment were not available at this time, they would like to curb this recommendation until the budget has been presented to the Board.
 1. Resolved to approve the extension of an unpaid leave of absence for employee #4331 through the Family Leave Act from February 22, 2026 through March 30, 2026.
 2. Resolved to approve Colleen O’Neill Paternity Leave Replacement Teacher from March 1, 2026- March 27, 2026, at BA Step 1 for a pro-rated annual salary of \$54,500.
 3. Resolved to approve Kanyaka Chowdhury Dey as Part-Time Aide at an hourly rate of \$18.00, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
 5. Curriculum
Motion: Radley Macalintal

- Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
1. Resolved to approve the 2026-2027 Moonachie Board of Education Holiday Calendar – Attachment 5.1
 2. Resolved to approve the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar – Attachment 5.2
6. Facilities
 Motion: Matthew Vaccaro
 Seconded: Radley Macalintal
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.
1. Resolved to accept the State of New Jersey Bureau of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Compliance Certificate of Inspection – Attachment 6.1
7. Old Business None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
8. New Business None.
 Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:
9. Information Items
 1. Average Monthly Attendance from 1/1/26 – 1/31/26 – Attachment 9.1
 2. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer for the month of January 2026 – Attachment 9.2
10. Discussion Items None.
11. Public Comments None.
 Open: 7:48 p.m.
 Closed: 7:49 p.m.
12. Adjournment at 7:50 p.m.
 Motion: Radley Macalintal
 Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Board Secretary