

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

March 17, 2026

Call to order by Board President

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro
Matthew Vaccaro
Radley Macalintal
Candace Tarabocchia

Members Absent: Edmond Monti

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 February 10, 2026, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

- Acceptance of Correspondence

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

1. School Ethics Commission Approved Personal Financial Disclosure Statements – Attachment 1.2

2. New Jersey Department of Education SEMI Waiver Request Approval letter for 2026-2027– Attachment 1.3

- Superintendent's Report

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

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

Mr. Knipper presented the Students of the Month and congratulated the recipients and their families. He announced the district has been busy preparing the preliminary budget for the 2026-2027 school year which will be presented to the public tonight. The district is also preparing for the summer recreation and ESY programs. Flyers with this information has gone home to parents. He also thanked the PTO for their continued support of the district in sponsoring a STEM assembly for the students today. Lastly, he announced that many 8th grade students have received acceptances to private high schools, many with full tuition scholarships and one half-tuition scholarship. The schools they have been accepted to are amongst the best in the nation and he congratulated them on their academic achievement. The admission decisions for the Bergen Academies will be released in April for those students who applied. Mr. Knipper also thanked Mr. Radley Macalintal for his guidance, his dedication and his time in helping the 7th and 8th graders every year during the application process. He has been a driving force for these students in having choices for their high school experience.

Mr. David Vaccaro also congratulated the Students of the Month and thanked the parents for the good work they are also doing to help their children reach academic success and are being recognized for their hard work.

Students of the Month

<u>March</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Juan Barreto	MS Science
Alyna Gutierrez	MS ELA
Sarai Rosas Juarez	MS Math
Natalie Youhana	Music
Riley Reid	5
Jayden Aguilar	4
Vani Nakrani	3
Wyatt Remsa-Hunt	2
Clara Goralczyk	1
Ibrahim Bitar	Kindergarten
Neizan Gutierrez	Pre-K

Submission of HIB Cases – February 2026

<u>Investigations</u>	<u>Confirmed Cases</u>
1	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: Matthew Vaccaro
Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. SUBMISSION OF PRELIMINARY 2026-2027 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the preliminary 2026-27 school budget was approved for submission to the Executive County Superintendent by the Board of Education on March 17, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Moonachie Board of Education authorized the submission of the 2026-2027 Preliminary School Budget to the Bergen County Executive Superintendent of Schools with the following Fund Allocations and requested waivers:

<u>Budget Totals:</u>	<u>2026-2027 Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$ <u>14,238,002</u>	<u>10,862,784.00</u>
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ <u>967,933</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ <u>0.00</u>	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Totals	\$ <u>15,205,935</u>	\$ <u>10,862,784.00</u>

BE IT RESOLVED that the General Fund tax levy \$10,862,784.00 is approved to support the 2026-2027 school year budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Moonachie Board of Education authorize the inclusion of \$140,000 from Maintenance Reserve into the preliminary 2026-2027 budget for required maintenance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Moonachie Board of Education authorize the inclusion of \$1,000,000 from Capital Reserve into the preliminary 2026-2027 budget for paving and parking lot renovation, repair to the sewer system, repair structural damage to the plumbing system, repair of hallway flooring, bathroom renovations and repair or replacement of older HVAC units of the Robert L. Craig School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Moonachie Board of Education authorize the use of the Enrollment Adjustment in the amount of \$139,572 for use in the 2026-2027 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Moonachie Board of Education authorize the use of the Healthcare Adjustment in the amount of \$280,462 for use in the 2026-2027 school year.

2. Resolved that the Moonachie Board of Education establish the school district travel maximum expenditure amount for the 2026-2027 school year as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2 (b) not to exceed \$20,000. The maximum amount for the 2025-2026 school year was budgeted at \$20,000 and the amount spent as of March 17, 2026 for the 2025-2026 school year is \$8,811.69. The Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.
3. 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 2026 for a total of \$719,978.19 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for February 12, 2026 for \$124,937.03 with gross wages of \$213,156.36 – Attachment 2.4
5. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for February 27, 2026 for \$122,315.67 with gross wages of \$208,904.20 – Attachment 2.5
6. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of February 2026 for \$419,698.05 - Attachment 2.6
7. Resolved to accept the donation of school store supplies from Prologis, Inc. with a value of \$300.00.
8. Resolved to approve participation in the coordinated transportation between the Moonachie Public Schools and the Warren County Special Services School District in consideration of pro-rated contract costs plus a 5.5% administrative fee for the 2026-2027 school year – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for March 2026 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.
10. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for March 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.
11. Resolved to approve the transportation contract between the Moonachie Board of Education and South Bergen Jointure Commission, an approved Coordinated Transportation Services Agency, for the purposes of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 for the school year 2026-2027. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to, The Coordinated Transportation for non-public, out of district special education, vocational and summer programs. Be it further resolved, that the Moonachie Board of Education agrees to abide by the Transportation Services Agreement as published by the South Bergen Jointure Commission and attached to this resolution – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to approve the Fastest Labs Drug Testing Proposal for the Moonachie School District – Attachment 2.12

13. Resolved to approve the Realtime Student Management Database renewal quote for the 2026-2027 school year – Attachment 2.13
14. Resolved to set tuition and Related Services for the 2026-2027 school year as follows – Attachment 2.14

Regular Education Student Tuition

PreK/K	\$21,926
Grades 1-5	\$19,830
Grades 6-8	\$19,519

Special Education Student Tuition

Full Day – Pre-K Dis.	\$19,218
LLD	\$54,304
Multiple Disability	\$75,517
Related Services	\$80.00 /session

15. Resolved to approve the Hall Pass Pro Annual Subscription 17 month term for \$1,113.85 – Attachment 2.15
16. Resolved to approve the amendment to the Long Range Facility Plan whereas the Moonachie Board of Education acknowledges that it must submit documentation for a Major Amendment to update the Current Long Range Facility Plan every 5 years.

Whereas, the Moonachie Board of Education has hired DMR Architects to submit the Major Amendment for the Long Range Facility Plan;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Moonachie Board of Education authorizes DMR Architects to prepare and submit the Long Range Facility Plan Major Amendment to the New Jersey Department of Education for approval.

17. Resolved to approve check #1225 to Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education in the amount of \$16,816.90 from the Milk & Lunch account for January 2026 Meals.
18. Resolved to approve the Contracted Services Agreement with the South Bergen Jointure Commission for Summer 2026 – Attachment 2.18
19. Resolved to approve check #1226 from the Milk & Lunch account in the amount of \$293.98 for the purchase of a battery replacement to the POS machine.
20. Resolved to approve travel to the New Jersey School Board Association Workshop in Atlantic City from October 19-22, 2026 for a group rate of \$2,300.00 for the following:

James Knipper	David Vaccaro	Edmond Monti
Matthew Vaccaro	Candace Tarabocchia	Radley Macalintal
Laurel Spadavecchia		
21. Resolved to approve the submission of the Moonachie School District 2026-2027 Preschool Education Aid (PEA) Budget Planning Workbook and accept

the subsequent funds of \$689,374 for 41 general education full-day preschool students for the 2026-2027 school year.

3. Policy None

Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:

4. Personnel

Motion: Radley Macalintal
 Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia
 Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve Colleen O’Neill as Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher from approximately March 30, 2026– June 30, 2026 at BA Step 1 for a pro-rated annual salary of \$54,500.
2. Resolved to approve the resignation of Elizabeth Connolly, Teacher, effective April 19, 2026 – Attachment 4.2
3. Resolved to approve the resignation of Fabiola Tapia, Classroom Aide, effective January 23, 2026 – Attachment 4.3
4. Resolved to approve Melanie Miller from Montclair State University as Child Study Intern for the 2026-2027 school year at no cost, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
5. Resolved to approve Grace Schmitt from Ramapo College as Child Study Intern for the 2026-2027 school year at no cost, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
6. Resolved to approve Charlee Marshall as Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.

5. Curriculum

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia
 Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Extended School Year program starting June 23, 2026 for staff. The program will run from June 29- July 30, 2026, Monday-Thursday 8:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. for a total of 24 days.
2. Resolved to approve the following field trips/workshops:

Destination	Date	Cost
Region V Council for Special Education “Special Education Monitoring: What Will It Look Like?” Seminar Cresskill, NJ ~Natasha Dillon	April 1, 2026	\$50 plus Travel

NJASBO Annual Conference ~Laurel Spadavecchia	June 2-5, 2026	\$650 plus hotel and travel
Essex County Zoo 1 st Grade Field Trip – Anne Marie Frascella, Savannah Whelan, Giuseppina Altilio, Molly Ward, Kanyaka Chowdhury Dey	June 3, 2026	Tickets \$240 Bus Approx.. \$700
West Point Academy 6th Grade Field Trip - Greg Keelen, Joseph Gingerelli, Luz Johnson	June 5, 2026	Bus cost Approx. \$675
Sterling Hill Mining Museum – Brian DeSantis, Gabriela Vega, Gabriela Ocasio, Paul Orlowicz, Guiseppina Altilio	June 17, 2026	Tickets: \$156 Bus: Approx. \$650
Spring Leadership Seminar, Summit NJ ~James Knipper	March 31, 2026	Travel costs only
PBS and Revolution NJ “Teaching the American Revolution Using Visual Storytelling “Seminar Manalapan NJ ~Greg Keelen	March 31, 2026	No Cost

6. Facilities

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

Discussion of DPW preparing baseball field for the little league.

Mr. Knipper informed the Board that Mr. James Campbell, Moonachie council member, is requesting use of the baseball field on school grounds to hold practice and will have the DPW prepare and maintain the field with new sand and groundskeeping. The Board will allow the town the use of the field.

1. Resolved to approve the facility request from the Borough of Moonachie for the Summer Recreation Program 2026 – Attachment 6.1
2. Resolved to approve the following facility requests:

Event	Date	Time	Cost
PTO sponsored Science Assembly	March 17, 2026 Gymnasium	8:00 am – 11:30 am	No Cost
SEPAG Meeting for Special Education Parents ~Natasha Dillon	March 25, 2026 Cafeteria	6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	No Cost
3 rd Grade Culture Day ~Amanda Sokol, Jessica Sansone	March 27, 2026 Cafeteria	9:05 am – 10:15 am	No Cost
Moonachie/Wood-Ridge Little League Softball Practice in the Gym ~Wood-Ridge Borough	March 14-26, 2026 4 Saturdays 3 Weekdays	8:00am - 12:00pm 6:30pm - 9:00pm /As scheduled based on availability	No Cost
Easter Egg Hunt ~ PTO/Moonachie Borough	4/04/2026	10:30am–12:30pm	N/A
Moonachie/Wood-Ridge Little League Softball Practice in the Field ~Moonachie Borough	April 1, 2026– June 30,2026 /As scheduled	4:00pm - 8:00pm - /As scheduled	No Cost

7. Old Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

8. New Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

1. Average monthly attendance from 2/1/26 – 2/28/26 – Attachment 9.1

2. Monthly report of attendance officer for the month ending February 2026–
Attachment 9.2

10. Discussion Items None.

11. Public Comments None.

Open: 6:50 p.m.

Closed: 6:51 p.m.

12. Adjournment at 6:52 p.m.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Board Secretary