

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

April 14, 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: Jacklyn Morgese, 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 March 17, 2026, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1  
Motion: Radley Macalintal  
Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia  
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.
- Acceptance of Correspondence  
Motion: Matthew Vaccaro  
Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia  
Action taken: 4 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion Approved.
  1. New Jersey Department of Agriculture 2026 Summer Food Service Program approval letter – Attachment 1.2
  2. New Jersey Department of Education Preschool Program Plan Approval letter for 2026-2027– Attachment 1.3

- Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Knipper invited Ms. Deborah Maiorano and Ms. Luz Johnson to announce the Students of the Month. He then acknowledged the Teacher of the Year recipient and Team Member of the Year recipient.

Mr. Knipper announced that grades 3-8 state testing letters went out to parents explaining the new state tests. He also announced that 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been receiving their acceptance letters for high school placements. This is the largest 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to graduate the Robert L. Craig School, and of the 53 students in that class 34 students have been offered acceptances into alternative high schools. Mr. Knipper thanked Mr. Macalintal for opening the doors of private high schools to our student population, and he thanked the students, parents and staff for their hard work in achieving this huge accomplishment. Mr. David Vaccaro also congratulated the Students of the Month and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

He also announced that the district is finalizing the budget and planning for the 2026-2027 school year. There will be a budget presentation given by Ms. Laurel Spadavecchia at the next board meeting, May 5.

Mr. Knipper announced that the district has been in the process of meeting with DMR Architects to move forward with the bathroom renovation project that will take place over the next three summers.

Lastly the Board wished Candace Tarabocchia a very happy birthday!

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

- **Teacher of the Year 2026-2027** Danielle Abbruzzesi
- **Team Member of the Year 2026-2027** Melanie Vocaturo
- **Students of the Month- April** **Grade**
  - Izabella Turbay** MS Social Studies
  - Kerala Verghese** MS ELA
  - Daniella Scheuer** MS Math
  - Naomy Rivera** Art Education
  - Ashton Reid** CST
  - Alexander Munoz** ESL
  - Serena Sulka** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Jordi Gutierrez** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
  - Oliver Turro** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
  - Aarvi Patel** 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
  - Avery Schwarz** Kindergarten
  - Adriana De Dato** Pre-Kindergarten

▪ <b>Submission of HIB Cases – March 2026</b>	
<u><b>Investigations</b></u>	<u><b>Confirmed Cases</b></u>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- **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: Radley Macalintal  
 Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia  
 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, for work done and performed for April 2026 for a total of \$631,114.87 – Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for March 15, 2026 for \$121,543.61 with gross wages of \$208,570.38 – Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for March 31, 2026 for \$124,132.04 with gross wages of \$211,772.41 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of February 2026 and UnPosted Checks for \$719,978.19 - Attachment 2.4
5. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for April 2026 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which 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 of April 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.
7. Resolved to approve the Contracted Services with the South Bergen Jointure Commission for the 2026-2027 school year – Attachment 2.7
8. Resolved to approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement between the Moonachie Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure Commission Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year, effective February 9, 2026 for the remainder of the school year - Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve check #1227 from the Milk & Lunch account for \$15,223.60 for February 2026 meals.

10. Resolved to approve the Public Consulting Group check in the amount of \$1000.00 for Grow NJ Kids recognition of the Robert L. Craig School preschool 3-Star Rating performance.
11. Resolved to approve a Moonachie Board of Education \$1,000.00 Scholarship for a Moonachie student with the highest average graduating Wood Ridge High School in June, 2026. The Board will be notified of the recipient when the award winner is determined.
12. Resolved to approve the Cintas Annual Sprinkler Inspection quote – Attachment 2.12
13. Resolved to approve the Contract for Substitute Nursing Services between Starlight Homecare Agency d/b/a Star Pediatric Home Care Agency and the Moonachie Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year – Attachment 2.13
14. Resolved to approve the Shared Services Agreement Superintendent Services between the Board of Education of the Township of Mansfield and the Moonachie Board of Education – Attachment 2.14
15. Resolved to approve the Treasurer’s Report for month ending February 2026 – Attachment 2.15
16. Resolved to approve the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for the month ending February 2026 – Attachment 2.16
17. Resolved to approve the Monthly Transfer Report for February 2026 – Attachment 2.17

3. Policy

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

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

1. Resolved to appoint Dana Genatt as the Affirmative Action Officer and Team Member Brian DeSantis to conduct a Needs Assessment and develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan.
2. Resolved to approve the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill report (in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2) as follows: On April 1, 2026 at 8:02 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. all bus students participated in a bus emergency evacuation drill. The drill took place in front of the school and included IN308A RLC Bus 1 (Leckie), IN308B RLC Bus 2 (Leckie) and IN241 RLC Bus 3 (Mayor Transportation), Pre-Kindergarten IN203 (Leckie) and Bus 36 - 6061 (Mayor Transportation) Special Education Busing. James Knipper and Michael Lia supervised the drill – Attachment 3.2

4. Personnel

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

1. Resolved to reappoint tenured professional staff for the 2026-2027 school year – Attachment 4.1
2. Resolved to approve the termination of employment contract for cause of employee #4385 effective April 30, 2026.
3. Resolved to approve a Maternity Leave of Absence for Lisa Selle commencing approximately on April 20, 2026 through October 30, 2026 per Family Leave Act (FMLA) regulations without pay, to be supplemented by use of sick leave – Attachment 4.3
4. Resolved to approve a Paternity Leave of Absence for Jason Selle commencing approximately April 27, 2026 through June 22, 2026 per Family Leave Act (FMLA) regulations without pay, to be supplemented by use of sick leave as applicable – Attachment 4.4
5. Resolved to approve Natasha Dillon as the 504 Coordinator, effective July 1, 2026.
6. Resolved to accept the resignation of James Knipper as Superintendent/ Principal, effective June 30, 2026 – Attachment 4.6
7. Resolved to approve Ria Panchal as Instructional Interventionist at an hourly rate of \$25.00 effective March 30, 2026 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
8. Resolved to approve Paul Orlowicz as part-time leave replacement at step BA/1 \$54,500 prorated for half-days effective April 13, 2026 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
9. Resolved to approve extra compensation for Taylor Trause for leave replacement coverage for one class per day at the contractual rate of \$50.00 per class effective April 20, 2026 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
10. Resolved to approve Taylor Trause as 8<sup>th</sup> grade advisor for 12 hours of the remaining 2025-2026 school year at an hourly rate of \$54.48.
11. Resolved to approve Taylor Trause as mentor for Colleen O’Neill effective April 16, 2026 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
12. Resolved to approve Settlement Agreement and General Release for employee #4481 effective February 25, 2026 – Attachment 4.12

5. Curriculum

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

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

1. Resolved to approve the revised 2025-2026 textbook and Reading List – Attachment 5.1
2. Resolved to approve the following workshops, field trips and facility requests:

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Morris County Public Safety Academy Autism and Threat Assessment Training, Morristown, NJ ~ Deborah Maiorano, Yahnique Dawson	May 14, 2026	Travel cost only
Moonachie Municipal Building and Joseph Street Park Walking Field Trip – Kindergarten ~ Kim Samarelli, Danielle Abbruzzesi, Jasmine Castillo, Elizabeth Gonzales, Amanda Mulvaney, Molly Ward	May 21, 2026 9:15 am–12:00 pm	No Cost
Youth & Government – Borough Hall ~Greg Keelen, Guiseppina Altilio	April 23, 2026 10:30 am – 1:30 pm 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	No Cost
Wood-Ridge Blue Devil Band and Glee Club Spring Concert ~Gymnasium	April 24, 2026 1:15 p.m. -2:00 p.m.	No Cost
Museum of Natural History – 4th Grade ~ Anna Dalton, Nicholas Telle, Giuseppina Altilio, Allison Stanisci	June 3, 2026	Tickets: \$160 Bus: approx.. \$750
Statue of Liberty – 3rd Grade ~ Jessica Sansone, Amanda Sokol, Michael Lia, Ria Panchal	June 5, 2026	Tickets: \$280 Bus: approx.. \$750

6. Facilities

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

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

1. Resolved to accept the Department of Health Services Sanitary Inspection Report – Attachment 6.1
2. Resolved to approve the J&J Flooring 10-Year Gymnasium Floor Resurfacing quote of \$24,500.00 to be completed in August 2026.

7. Old Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

8. New Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

1. Average Monthly Attendance from 3/1/26 – 3/31/26 – Attachment 9.1
2. Monthly Report of Attendance officer for the month of March 2026 – Attachment 9.2

10.Discussion Items None.

11.Public Comments None.

Open: 6:57 p.m.

Closed: 6:58 p.m.

12.Adjournment at 6:59 p.m.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Laurel Spadavecchia*

Laurel Spadavecchia, Board Secretary