

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

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School

Cafeteria

May 5, 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
Edmond Monti

Members Absent: None

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent/ Principal
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 April 14, 2026, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Radley Macalintal

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Abstain: Edmond Monti

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

- Acceptance of Correspondence

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. NJ Department of Education High Impact Payments Report approval letter – Attachment 1.2

2. NJ Department of Education Long-Range Facilities Plan, Major Amendment Approval letter – Attachment 1.3

- Superintendent's Report

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Mr. James Knipper introduced Ms. Dana Genatt to announce the Student of the Month awards. He also thanked Mrs. Laurel Spadavecchia and the Business Office for creating a fiscally responsible 2026-2027 school budget that was approved by the county office. He cautioned the district to continue to budget for fund balance as future revenue sources might change.

He then congratulated Mr. Jason Selle and Mrs. Lisa Selle for the birth of their son. Next, he announced that NJSLA testing is up and running and grades 5-8 will begin testing in Science this week. The following week begins Math and ELA testing and notices will go out to parents.

Mr. Knipper followed up by stating that planning for the next school year is well underway. He has been interviewing new staff for vacant positions. He also announced that there are a few remaining spots for pre-school education if any parents are interested. Preschool night will be held on May 14.

Mr. Knipper then announced that the PTO is sponsoring a Family Night on June 5. Shoprite has graciously donated hot dogs and hamburgers for the event. He thanked the leadership team for their assistance during his transition to a new school district. Also, the Curriculum Expo will be on May 21.

Lastly, Mr. David Vaccaro congratulated Mrs. Spadavecchia and her team for a great job with the budget. He then congratulated the Student of the Month and thanked their parents for their help and hard work in supporting their child.

- **Students of the Month**

May

Max Minervini

Grade

4

- PRESENTATION – Public Hearing 2026-2027 School Budget
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator

- 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.

1. SUBMISSION OF FINAL 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	\$ 14,238,002	10,862,784.00
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 967,933	0.00
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Totals	\$ 15,205,935	\$ 10,862,784.00

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 May 2026 for a total of \$624,844.23 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for April 15, 2026 for \$136,038.70 with gross wages of \$227,150.26 – Attachment 2.4
5. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for April 30, 2026 for \$118,789.41 with gross wages of \$204,434.76 – Attachment 2.5
6. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of March 2026 and Unposted Checks for \$631,114.87 - Attachment 2.6
7. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for May 2026 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.
8. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of May 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.
9. Resolved to accept the Treasurer's Report for month ending March 2026 – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to accept the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for month ending March 2026 – Attachment 2.10
11. Resolved to approve the Monthly Transfer Report for March 2026 – Attachment 2.11
12. Resolved to renew Follett Software, LLC Hosted Service – Attachment 2.12
13. Resolved to approve check #1375 from Payroll Agency account to Lisa Selle for mentor fees for Colleen O'Neill.
14. Resolved to approve the School Tax Levy Payment Schedule for the 2026-2027 school year – Attachment 2.14
15. Resolved to approve the Breakfast and Lunch Program Meal Prices for the 2026-2027 School Year as follows:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Cost to District</u>	<u>Full Price</u>	<u>Reduced Price</u>
Breakfast	\$3.20	\$3.00	\$.30
Lunch	\$5.35	\$5.00	\$.40
Milk	\$.35	\$.35	----

And approve a vended meals agreement with Carlstadt-E.Rutherford Regional High School District for vended meals to include delivery, set up and steamtable at a cost of \$3.20 per breakfast and \$5.35 per lunch for a total estimated cost of \$245,070.00 – 2.15

3. Policy

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the New Jersey Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades und the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and School Grade Report for 2024-2025 – Attachment 3.1

4. Personnel

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Abstain: Motion 4.9 Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 5 Ayes Motions 4.1-4.8; 4.10-4.11 Approved

4 Ayes, 1 Abstain 4.9, Motion 4.9 Approved.

1. Resolved to reappoint the following non-tenured professional staff for the 2026-2027 school year – Attachment 4.1
2. Resolved to approve Dana Genatt as Homeless Liaison for the 2026-2027 school year.
3. Resolved to reappoint Ernest Turner as Treasurer of School Monies for the 2026-2027 school year at an annual fee of \$6,500.00.
4. Resolved to approve Marisa Abbruzzesi as Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year at step BA/1 for an annual rate of \$56,000.00, pending certification and outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
5. Resolved to approve Joan Boniello as Substitute Teacher, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
6. Resolved to approve the resignation of Randall Rueger as Custodian effective May 15, 2026 – Attachment 4.6
7. Resolved to approve Wilmer Rivera as Custodian at an annual salary of \$45,000.00, effective upon successful completion of the Criminal History Background Screening for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
8. Resolved to approve the staff assignments for the Extended School Year Program – Attachment 4.8
9. Resolved to approve Meagan Macalintal as Paternity Leave Replacement Teacher at step BA/1 at an annual salary of \$54,500.00 prorated for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, effective April 27, 2026.
10. Resolved to accept the resignation of Laida Kubaj as Part-Time Classroom Aide effective May 1, 2026.

11. Resolved to approve Anthony Martinez as Part-Time Classroom Aide at an hourly rate of \$18.00 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.

5. Curriculum

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Moonachie School District Preschool Intervention & Referral Team (PIRT) Handbook – Attachment 5.1

6. Facilities

Motion: Candace Tarabocchia

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Discussion of Bathroom Renovation Project Bids

1. Resolved to accept the NJ Health Right to Know Hazardous Substance Survey Year 2025 – Attachment 6.1
2. Resolved to approve the following field trips:

Event	Date	Time	Cost
Spring Concert ~ Kimberly Schmidt	June 10, 2026	9:00 am –11:30am	No Cost
Preschool Walking Trip to the Park ~ Allison Maccarrone, Lauren Barnaba, Lori Schmatz, Jaime Migliorino, Theresa Meyers, Lilliana Bravo	May 19, 2026	9:00 am–11:30 am	No Cost

3. **WHEREAS**, a recommendation was made by the Superintendent of Schools to the Moonachie Board of Education ("Board") to seek a contract for construction services for a Project entitled Toilet Room Renovations at Robert L. Craig School (hereinafter "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project was properly advertised to prospective bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2026 at 11:30 a.m., the Board received bids from potential bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4, et seq. as follows:

BIDDER	BASE BID	ALT. NO. 1	TOTAL BID
Northeastern Interior Services, LLC	\$315,800	\$82,000	\$397,800
Molba Construction	\$347,000	\$93,000	\$440,000
GJG Construction & Consulting, LLC	\$352,000	\$94,000	\$446,000
K&B Contractors LLC	\$380,981	\$110,641	\$491,622
Pal-Pro Builders, LLC	\$448,000	\$100,000	\$548,000
Salazar & Associates	\$404,000	\$163,000	\$567,000
K&D Contractors, LLC	\$472,000	\$180,000	\$652,000

WHEREAS, upon review of the bid submitted by the numerical low bidder, Northeastern Interior Services, LLC, the Board has determined that the bid submitted by Northeastern Interior Services, LLC contains a material, non-waivable defect; and

WHEREAS, the second numerical low bid is provided by Molba Construction;
and

WHEREAS, upon review of the bid submitted by the apparent second low bidder, Molba Construction, together with the bid specifications and N.J.S.A 18A:18A-1 et seq., and in consultation with the design professionals for the Project, the Board has determined that the bid submitted by Molba Construction is the lowest responsible bidder; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby rejects the bid submitted by Northeastern Interior Services, LLC, as unresponsive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board awards the Project to Molba Construction at a total contract amount of \$440,000.

Laurel Spadavecchia, SBA/BS

Dated:

7. Old Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

8. New Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

1. Average monthly attendance from 4/1/26 – 4/30/26 – Attachment 9.1

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

10. Discussion Items None.

11. Public Comments None.

Open: 7:08 p.m.

Closed: 7:09 p.m.

12. Adjournment at 7:10 p.m.

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Radley Macalintal

Action taken: 5 Ayes. Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia, Board Secretary