

**The January 13, 2014, meeting** of the Moon Area Board of Education was held in the High School Board Meeting Room, 7:00 p.m., for general purposes. The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President A. Michael Olszewski. The following directors were present:

Mr. Olszewski	Mr. Harbaugh	Mrs. Schisler	Mrs. Tatone	Mr. Testa
Mr. Tranter	Mr. Bussard	Mr. Hauser	Mr. LaRue	

Also seated at the Board table: Mr. Baker, Mrs. Johns, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Haslett, Mr. Heck and Mr. Maiello.

There were 65 people in the audience.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Baker announced that each year in January, we celebrate the nine elected school board members who serve our students and educational system as part of the Pennsylvania School Board Association's School Director Recognition month. School directors volunteer many hours of their time to help run the schools in our community. The school board makes difficult decisions for the betterment of our students. He thanked the directors for being a wonderful crew by bringing in another crew of a much different sort to entertain them for a few minutes. At that time, Moon Area Middle School Principal Mrs. Melissa Heasley, introduced a group of students who are ready to set sail on their voyage.

Mr. Baker announced that the Tiger Spirit Award focuses on honoring positive character traits and recognizes students for personal achievements and excellent classroom behaviors that often reach beyond academics. Thank you to our award sponsors, Clearview Federal Credit Union and Wendy's. For January, our award recipients are McCormick Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders Sarah Santicola & Amanda Koren. The first student that we would like to recognize is Sarah Santicola, nominated by kindergarten teacher Miss DiBenedetto. Sarah is a model student who consistently demonstrates acts of kindness and generosity to McCormick students and staff, not because she's asked to do so, but simply because it is part of her nature. She's been active in helping McCormick kindergarten student's transition from home to full day schooling, talking with those who may be having a tough time adjusting about her good experiences. Two other examples related to this: (1) During a recent holiday project in which fourth graders worked with kindergarten partner, Sarah was not only kind and sweet to her partner, but once they finished with theirs, she offered help to all of the other groups and the teacher. (2) After a recent fundraiser at school, the item that one kindergarten student wanted sold out, causing tears. Noticing this situation while passing by, Sarah quietly offered her own purchased item to that student. We are proud to have students like Sarah in our school system, and know that she will continue to be a great example and mentor for others.

The other McCormick student that we would like to bring to your attention, nominated by art teacher Mr. Izzo, is Amanda Koren. Amanda is a friendly, very outgoing student who always volunteers to lend a hand in the classroom. She brings positivity to McCormick that is contagious – starting in the morning as she reads the morning announcements with enthusiasm and rigor, getting the entire school excited for their day and ready to learn. Recently, she was especially

energetic as she introduced special guests from WTAE at a weather assembly – the professional news team was even impressed with her ability to speak in front of her peers in such a confident and positive manner. During independent work time in art class, it's not uncommon for Amanda to sing quietly to herself, cheering the spirit of others around her. They say to surround yourself with positive people, and we can only hope that all of our students will be influenced by Amanda's unwavering spirit and love for life.

Tonight Mr. Baker recognized three of our coaches for recent achievements – Football Coach Mark Washington, Girls Soccer Coach Bill Pfeifer, and Track Coach Nick Bulat.

Mr. Baker began by introducing head football coach Mark Washington who has led the Tigers for three seasons now and was recently honored as "Coach of the Year," not just once, but three times. He was named the Parkway Conference "Coach of the Year," the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette West Section's "Coach of the Year," and the MAC Coaches Association "Coach of the Year." This past season, Washington led the program to its first playoff appearance since 2006. The Tigers finished the season 6-4, a major improvement from a record four years ago of 0-9. Their playoff game versus West Mifflin was a close match at a final score of 47-42. Coach Washington encourages teamwork for his Moon players both on and off the field – the team is active in volunteering at organizations such as the Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County. On the field, he has high standards and expects players to get better with every practice, and every game. Congratulations to Coach Washington on receiving these honors!

Head girls soccer coach Bill Pfeifer has been a Moon coach 13 years. He was recently named the PA Soccer Coaches Association AA Coach of the Year for the state of Pennsylvania. Coach Pfeifer, who led the Moon Girls Soccer Team to the first-ever Girls' Soccer state championship in the school's history in 2012, continued on a successful run this past season, leading the Lady Tigers team to a final and impressive record of 20-3-0. In addition to these accomplishments on the field, Coach Pfeifer's support and encouragement of his team is reflected off the field as well. Out of this year's team, 28 players maintained a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and a team as a whole maintained a GPA of 3.77. His overall career stats include a combined record of 239-41-13, 13 WPIAL playoff appearances in 13 years, 6 PIAA Playoff appearances, 2 WPIAL Titles, and 1 PIAA Titles. Congratulations to Coach Pfeifer on receiving this honor!

Nick Bulat has had one heck of a run as the Moon Boys/Girls Head Track Coach since 1984. In 2013, he made the decision to retire, marking three decades of his life devoted to coaching. Throughout his 30 years as the Head Coach for the Track program in grades 7-12, he was able to build a program that constantly had between 220-300 kids participation on an annual basis. Between both the boys and the girls varsity teams, he retires with an overall record of 613-160-2, 26 Section Championships, had a team make the WPIAL playoffs 27 out of 30 seasons, 2 WPIAL Championships, and 13 individual WPIAL championships. It became standard for Coach Bulat and his athletes to make the annual Memorial Day trip to the PIAA Championships. In this day, it is extremely rare to find someone who is dedicated to one team for such a long period of time. We would like to thank Coach Bulat for his dedication and service to the students and the district as Head Coach for the last 30 years. With so much time invested, we would like to give you some of that time back. Mr. Rich presented Mr. Bulat with a clock.

Mr. Baker's superintendent's report included the following:

Moon Area School District is one of 477 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 4th Annual AP District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.

Congratulations to the MAHS musicians who qualified to attend district-level music events this month. There were eight from choir, seven from orchestra, eight from band, and one from jazz band.

WTAE chief meteorologist Mike Harvey visited McCormick Elementary on Wednesday, December 18 for a weather assembly. The school raised \$1,500 for WTAE's Project Bundle-Up, an initiative which brings warm winter coats to children and seniors in Western PA.

U.S. Congressman Tim Murphy visited MAHS students in December. Senior U.S. AP and Politics students found their local Congressman and Senators, researched their biographies and policy issues, and wrote emails to them supporting or disagreeing with a policy. Congressman Murphy spent an hour thoroughly answering student questions in-person that he received on topics ranging from healthcare to the military.

### **Elementary Capital Improvement Program Presentation**

Mr. Baker made the presentation to the board regarding the milestone schedule and approach for the Elementary Capital Improvement Program.

Some questions and concerns raised were as follows:

Mr. Testa asked if this presentation will be on the website for the public to view? Mr. Baker said that yes the presentation will be on the website and hard copies are available for the audience.

Mr. Testa asked that in the presentations from RMU, the Professional Development School (PDS) was slated for Allard, is that no longer an option or is that still being considered? Mr. Baker commented that in the discussions with RMU, what was agreed was that we want to work together for a professional development school. They were fully cognizant that we are looking at a range of elementary alternatives and indicated that their timetable is not so severe that they would want to enter into something hastily and will work the PDS in tandem with the elementary improvement program. Currently working toward a letter of intent with RMU and MASD to move forward with a PDS.

Mr. Testa also asked if the district has approached RMU about costs being shared by RMU and the district? Mr. Baker replied that at this time RMU did not have the proposals on the table, but that is certainly something we can look at.

Mr. Testa asked if there will be any opportunities for the public to put forth any other options? Mr. Baker replied that as we proceed along the pathway, ideas are more than welcome. We need to try and really narrow down these options.

Mr. Hauser posed the question, no matter which option the board chooses, do we assume there will be re-districting occurring within the district? Mr. Baker commented that the odds of that are exceedingly high. At this point it's hard to see a case that may not result in some level of redistricting. That is a premature definitive assertion without doing further analysis.

Mr. LaRue asked about the meetings scheduled for January 27, February 10 and 24--are we going to have those as focused-specific topics? Mr. Baker replied that is correct and the intent would be that these would have a moderator to help to keep us on the particular subject.

Mr. Harbaugh asked that if we keep 5 buildings open, option 8a for example, we use all of Hyde for a pre-k building for a renovation fee, wouldn't it be better to at least consider working with Rhema or finding another use for Hyde instead of adding another \$9 million to our fee for pre-k? Mr. Baker commented that we can reconfigure at will, this presentation is just to show a range of options and alternatives. There is no advocacy for any of the proposals at this time. We will talk about capacity and future growth at future meetings.

Mrs. Tatone asked if the parent pays for the Pre-K tuition, would that be revenue for the district to help swallow these costs or would that be a break even cost for materials and supplies? Mr. Baker commented that an analysis needs to be done more completely. The parameters of the analysis: 1) is to understand what current market rate is for the equivalent market rate is for services, 2) we would look at the labor component associated with cost side 3) what would be the carrying cost for a classroom that we are dedicating to Pre-K.

Mr. Testa appreciates the different options. Something else to think about, would there be an opportunity to use one of our classrooms in the evening for adult education as well? Can we expand PACE program? A second classroom would be a definite possibly according to Mr. Haslett.

### **Approval of Reports**

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Tatone, SECONDED by Mr. Testa, "that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meetings of December 2, 2013 and December 30, 2013, and the following reports as reflected in the January Financial Report:

- Treasurer's Report
- Investment Report
- Board Summary Report
- High School/Middle School Activities Fund Report
- Food Service Profit and Loss Report."

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

**Payment of Bills**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Tranter, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the bills for payment as listed in the January Financial Report as follows:

General Fund	\$ 2,503,859.11
Activities Fund	\$ 63,685.16
Food Service	\$ 60,994.27
Investment Account	\$ 19,984.82
Capital Project Fund	\$ <u>68,078.56</u>
Total	\$ 2,716,601.92.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

**Correspondence – Mrs. Tatone**

No correspondence.

**Education Committee – Mrs. Tatone**

No report.

**Finance Committee – Mrs. Schisler**

No report.

**Policy Committee – Mrs. Schisler**

No report.

**Student Activities Committee – Mr. Hauser**

No report.

**Facilities Committee – Mr. Harbaugh**

No report.

**Legislation Committee – Mr. Bussard**

No report.

**Moon Transportation Authority – Mr. Bussard**

No report.

**Transportation Committee – Mr. Testa**

No report.

**Parkway West Career and Technology Center – Mr. Tranter**

No report due to cancellation of meeting due to severe weather.

**Solicitor’s Report – Mr. Maiello**

Mr. Maiello announced that he will be submitting a written report to the Board.

**Audience Recognition (Agenda Items)**

None.

**Varsity Baseball Field Trip**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mrs. Tatone, “that the Board of Education approve the High School Varsity Baseball team to travel to Disney Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida, March 19 through March 24, 2014, for baseball spring training which is attended each year for competition and practice. There is no anticipated cost to the district.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

**National Schools Safety and Security Services**

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Schisler, SECONDED by Mrs. Tatone, “that the Board of Education approve the proposal from National School Safety and Security Services to perform a school security emergency preparedness and communication strategy review of the Moon Area School District.”

Mr. Testa commented that he is pleased to see this on the agenda. Questions, how many other proposals did we receive? Mr. Baker replied that we did not receive any other proposals. Mr. Testa’s concerns would be (1) we are looking at spending \$36,000 of taxpayer money and (2) we want to make sure that we are getting the best firm out there today. He thinks this is a situation for a request for proposals.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education table this motion until we have time to conduct further studies and go through the request for proposal process.”

After a roll call vote, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Testa, Mr. Hauser and Mr. LaRue voted in favor of tabling this motion. Mr. Harbaugh, Mrs. Tatone, Mrs. Schisler and Mr. Tranter voted in disfavor of tabling this motion. Motion to table this item failed. Motion is now open to board discussion.

Mr. Tranter commented that he checked further into this security services company and the reply he received was that he's a top dog in the industry, this company is one of the best, firm is highly recommended.

Mr. Testa's vote is not against not hiring this firm or spending the money, it's about how we can move forward to gather a number of proposals to review. Safety and security is paramount. Thinks it requires that we look at more than one firm and wants to get the best for the district.

Mrs. Schisler questioned how long will this take us to review proposals and is it worth it since we've been talking about this for a long time.

Mrs. Tatone commented that we have been talking about this a long time before Sandy Houk occurred. Thinks we need to get the ball rolling. Feels that this is a professional agency, 25 letters of recommendation--one of the top firms in the country.

Mr. Testa would like administration to gather quotes to review. Would like to have time to study information and bring in at least three (3) presenters to see what we learn. Time frame – possibly 2 weeks to identify firms – collaborate with Moon police, involve them heavily – 2 - 3 weeks to write proposals and have them submit proposals about a 6 week time frame. Need to do our due diligence.

Mrs. Schisler asked Mr. Baker what type of ground work he did to come up with this firm? Mr. Baker responded that he personally believes that in this particular instance an RFP will turn up that this should have been a sole source. It extends in three distinct realms, one is in the realm of the physical plant security itself, second piece is around protocols and procedures that interlink with the physical plant to assure safety and security, and the third piece goes to crisis communication, a piece which in the event something would occur we prepared and ready from a communications perspective to deal with that event taking place. Past history suggests strongly that there is no firm that is able to bring those together as a single firm. He has worked with this firm in the past and has seen no one out there who has comparable experience.

Mr. Hauser appreciates this discussion saying he did not want to vote one way or another without having additional information. This was very helpful hearing Mr. Baker's explanations.

Mrs. Schisler added that this is one of those areas for the security of the district isn't generally discussed in public for obvious reasons.

Mr. LaRue asked if there is an overarching risk assessment for other items that would be included in this RFP with this company to perform as well? The preparedness does extend into that realm.

Mr. Harbaugh asked what would be the benefit in trying to develop the elementary feasibility process a little further and find out what buildings we're affecting and looking at before moving forward with the study? Mr. Baker commented that the timing is to have the work done because we will have these buildings for some time. It greatly informs the decision-making process regarding this plan.

Mr. Testa made the motion to table this item to engage in an RFP process. Motion failed. Original motion to be voted on.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Tranter, SECONDED by Mrs. Schisler, “that the Board of Education approve the proposal from National School Safety and Security Services to perform a school security emergency preparedness and communication strategy review of the Moon Area School District.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote, with the exception of Mr. Testa who voted in disfavor.

**Policies First Reading Approval**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. LaRue, SECONDED by Mrs. Schisler, “that the Board of Education approve the first reading of the following policies that are new and/or revised by PSBA and MASD:

Policy 216.1	Supplemental Discipline Records	Enc. #3 – Policy 216.1
Policy 219	Student Complaint Process	Enc. #4 – Policy 219
Policy 221	Dress Code	Enc. #5 – Policy 221
Policy 223	Use of Motor Vehicles	Enc. #6 – Policy 223
Policy 224	Care of School Property	Enc. #7 – Policy 224
Policy 228	Student Government	Enc. #8 – Policy 228
Policy 229	Student Fundraising	Enc. #9 – Policy 229
Policy 229 AT	Fundraising Application/Report Date	Enc. #10 – Policy 229 AT
Policy 230	Public Performances by Students	Enc. #11 – Policy 230
Policy 231	Social Events and Class Trips	Enc. #12 - Policy 231
Policy 232	Participation in School Affairs	Enc. #13 – Policy 232
Policy 234	Pregnant Students	Enc. #14 – Policy 234.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

**Audit Engagements**

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Tatone, SECONDED by Mr. Harbaugh, “that the Board of Education accept the proposals for Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood to perform the following audits:

Real Estate Tax Collectors 2013 Taxes	\$ 1,300.00
2013-14 Annual Audit	<u>\$17,200.00</u>
Total	\$18,500.00

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.



**Budget Transfers**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Harbaugh, SECONDED by Mr. Tranter, “that the Board of Education approve the attached revisions to the General Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 in accordance with Sections 609 and 687 of the School Laws of PA, 1949, as amended.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

**Conferences**

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Schisler, SECONDED by Mrs. Tatone, “that the Board of Education approve conferences costing over \$500 or requiring an overnight’s stay:

Ricci Rich: PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION 45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE in Hershey, Pennsylvania, on March 19, 2014 thru March 21, 2014; cost to the district is approximately \$883.00; purpose – Continuing development and growth in athletic administration by attending seminars, workshops and leadership courses.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

**Personnel**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Harbaugh, SECONDED by Mrs. Schisler, “that the Board of Education approve the personnel items listed:

**I. Approval of Long-Term Substitute Teacher**

“that the Board of Education approve Bethany Knicely, 726 Gaywood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, to the Long-Term Substitute Grade 4 teacher position at Hyde Elementary School effective retro to September 4, 2013 through the last day of school of the 2013-2014 school year. The salary for this position will be \$181.22 per day, along with individual health coverage.”

**II. Approval of Long-Term Substitute Teacher**

“that the Board of Education approve Chelsea Wisniewski, 8300 Reagan Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, to the Long-Term Substitute Special Education teacher position at the High School effective retro to November 26, 2013 through the last day of school of the 2013-2014 school year. The salary for this position will be \$181.22 per day, along with individual health coverage.”

**III. Approval of Dishwasher/Server**

“that the Board of Education approve Janet Kaminski, 361 Indian Ridge Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108, to the Dishwasher/Server position at Allard Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year.”

**IV. Approval of Dishwasher/Server**

“that the Board of Education approve Megan Wensel, 204 Randy Lane, Moon Township, PA 15108, to the Dishwasher/Server position at the Middle School for the 2013-2014 school year.”

**V. Approval of Childbearing/Childrearing Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave of Absence to Angela DeCecco, from her position as Grade 3 teacher at McCormick Elementary School, beginning March 3, 2014 through June 4, 2014.”

**VI. Approval of Unpaid Medical Leave of Absence Extension**

“that the Board of Education approve an Unpaid Medical Leave of Absence extension to Debra Sherwood, from her position as Custodian at the High School, beginning January 2, 2014 through June 30, 2014.”

**VII. Approval of Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence to Diane Bruzio from her position as Custodian at the Middle School beginning January 6, 2014 through the last day of school of the 2013-2014 school year. The purpose of the leave is to care for a family member.”

**VIII. Approval of Mentor**

“that the Board of Education approve the following mentor for the 2013-2014 school year:

**Mentor**

Cynthia Yount

(Ms. Wisniewski is the long term substitute teacher for Mr. Prigorac)”

**Inductee**

Chelsea Wisniewski

**IX. Approval of Extra Pay for Extra Duty Position**

“that the Board of Education approve the following extra pay for extra duty position at the High School for the 2013-2014 school year:

Musical Orchestra Director

Nicholas Barthen.”

**X. Resignation**

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Brittany Jones from the extra pay for extra duty position of Bus Monitor (pm) at Brooks Elementary School effective December 20, 2013.”

**XI. Resignation**

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Brenda Vachino from her position as Dishwasher/Server at the High School effective January 3, 2014.”

**XII. Approval of Fall Sports Coaching Staff**

“that the Board of Education approve the following coaches for the 2014 fall sports season per the recommendation of Mr. Ricci Rich:

**Football**

Head Coach Mark Washington – 4<sup>th</sup> Yr

**Boys Soccer**

Head Coach Graeme Eastgate – 1st Yr\*

**Girls Soccer**

Head Coach Bill Pfeifer – 14<sup>th</sup> Yr

**Cross Country**

Head Coach Kyle Burgess – 3<sup>rd</sup> Yr

**Girls Tennis**

Head Coach Nick Wilson – 9<sup>th</sup> Yr

**Golf**

Head Coach Jason Persing – 8<sup>th</sup> Yr

**Girls Volleyball**

Head Coach Sam Woods – 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr

**\*Pending receipt and review of clearances.\***

**XIV. Approval of Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence to Cheryl Stroup from her position as Grade 2 teacher at McCormick Elementary School, beginning January 20, 2014 through the last day of school of the 2013-2014 school year. The purpose of the leave is for medical reasons.”

**XV. Approval of Substitutes**

“that the Board of Education approve the following substitutes for the 2013-2014 school year:

**Cafeteria**

Mildred Nuccetelli  
1614 Lilac Lane  
Crescent, PA 15046

(pending receipt & review of clearances)

**XIII. Approval of Substitutes**

“that the Board of Education approve the following substitutes for the 2013-2014 school year:

**Teachers**

Sean Hunt  
614 Golf Course Road  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

Rachel Saber  
106 Bradley Drive  
Moon Township, PA 15108

Lauren Ellis  
136 Lakeview Drive  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Jenny Fyalkowski  
1011 Thorn Run Road  
Moon Township, PA 15108

Stavroula Pantelakis  
509 Ritchie Place  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**Nurse**

Gail Piolo  
56 West Calvin Drive  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

**Audience Recognition (non-agenda items)**

None.

**Board Comments**

Mr. LaRue and Mrs. Schisler had no comment.

Mr. Hauser congratulated the coaches that were recognized this evening, regionally and statewide. He thanked the coaches, staff and students, for their service, leadership and character building over the years. Coach Bulat will be sorely missed.

Mr. Tranter feels that regarding the safety issue, we are taking a gigantic step moving forward.

Mr. Harbaugh thanked Mr. Baker for his diligent work at MASD, after being here just a short period of time. The Board had given him a charge to make Moon the best school, top 1%. Mr. Baker has taken on the leadership role, is exploring safety options, and has implemented a program at Hyde.

Mr. Testa congratulated athletes Cole Blake, who was named to the PG West Top 22 and Girls Soccer player, Sydney Chipani who was named a PG West All Star too. Congratulations on their accomplishments. He thinks Moon is one of the elite schools in the area with our test scores, etc. Also, congratulations to another seniors, Connor Evans, who recently earned an appointment to the US Naval Academy.

Mrs. Tatone wishes everyone a very happy 2014 and believes Moon scored 12 in the top 50 Pittsburgh schools ' scores for SAT scores.

Mr. Rich introduced Mr. Graeme Eastgate, Boys Head Soccer Coach, to the Board.

Mr. Olszewski thanked Mr. Baker on his level of preparedness and thoroughness. Said that Mr. Baker rystalizes a lot of thoughts and Mr. Olszewski applauds his open-line of communication. He congratulated to Coach Mike Maines, middle school head wrestling coach, thankig him for years and years of hard work. Moon tied for first with West Allegheny in a recent tournament.

**Adjournment**

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Tatone, SECONDED by Mr. Tranter, that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 8:45 p.m.”

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Brown  
Clerk, Board of Education

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Gia R. Tatone  
Secretary, Board of Education