

The February 22, 2016, meeting of the Moon Area Board of Education was held in the High School Board Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m., for general purposes. The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President Jerry Testa. The following directors were present:

Mr. Testa	Mr. Hauser	Mr. LaRue	Mr. Scappe
Mrs. Wolowicz	Mrs. Zieger	Mr. Bogatay	Mr. Harper
Mr. Bussard			

Also seated at the Board table: Dr. Milanovich, Mrs. Johns, Mr. Haslett, Mr. Addy, Mr. Bielby and Mr. Cambest, Solicitor.

Administrators present: Mr. Lanna, Ms. Conti Dinello and Mrs. Beeson

There were approximately 60 people in the audience during the evening, including administrators.

Mr. Testa announced that prior to this evening's meeting, the board met in executive session to discuss personnel items, possible litigation matters and real estate.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Milanovich recognized three Moon Area School District teachers who have achieved National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards:

- Julie Briggs, high school mathematics teacher
- Kyle Burgess, high school English teacher
- Nichole Wilson, English as a second language K-12 program specialist.

Moon Transportation Authority/Allegheny County Airport Authority presented "An Investment in the Economic Future of Moon Township and Moon Area School District". The Municipal Authority was created by Moon Township in 1986 in partnership with Moon Area School District and Allegheny County. Dr. Milanovich commented that the district is happy to continue working with the MTA and thanked them for their presentation this evening.

Mr. Joseph Muscatello, Boenning & Scattergood, Inc., updated the board on a summary of outstanding debt for Moon Area School District.

Mr. Testa recognized the Gymnastics team. Moon hosted the WPIAL championships this past weekend and the team performed very well. Overall the Tigers finished in second place.

Audience Recognition (Agenda Items Only)

None.

Correspondence – Mrs. Wolowicz

No correspondence this evening.

Payment of Bills

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Scappe, “that the Board of Education approve the bills for payment as listed below in the amounts totaling \$797,024.48 for the period February 8, 2016, to February 19, 2016, as attached:

General Fund	\$ 789,550.72
Activity Fund	\$ 4,565.02
Food Service Fund	\$ 598.74
2015 Bond Fund	\$ <u>2,310.00</u>
Total	\$ 797,024.48.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Elementary Building Configuration

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education take action to approve the resolution to authorize the district administration to implement the reconfiguration of the district elementary program from the current center model (K-2 / 3-4 grade level configuration) to a neighborhood K-4 grade level configuration including the re-opening of the Richard J. Hyde Elementary School for the 2016-2017 school year.”

Mr. Bogatay would like the motion amended to split the two decisions into separate motions. The presentation by the teachers made it clear that these are all different decisions. It is not a self-executing decision where we cannot move to the K-4 configuration without Hyde as a building. From an accountability and transparency standpoint, he feels that it is two separate decisions. Fair for public to discern where we stand on each of those issues instead of putting them together.

Mr. Testa commented that we have talked before about K-4 and all five (5) neighborhood elementary schools remaining open. There are a number of reasons to re-open Richard J. Hyde as an elementary school—which the school was never closed, it was repurposed. He is okay leaving the motion as is.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. LaRue, “that the Board of Education amend the motion to split the two decisions into separate motions.”

All directors voted in disfavor with the exception of Mr. LaRue, Mr. Bussard and Mr. Bogatay who voted in favor. Motion fails.

Mr. Bussard asked if anything has been looked at in terms of redistricting if we go back to five elementary buildings. Are there any preliminary plans? He commented that the previous redistricting plan was unacceptable. We are going to have to come up with a new redistricting plan to try and even out the populations among the five buildings. Mr. Harper asked Mr. Bussard which previous redistricting plan was unacceptable. Mr. Bussard replied when we had

five buildings that were open previous to last year—that redistricting, not what we currently have. Mr. Testa commented that to have perfect redistricting, we would have to redistrict every single year. We will never have perfect equalization out there. However, we are going to take a look at redistricting, and there are other options to look at. There is no guarantee that redistricting will occur.

Mr. Harper commented that Mr. Bussard’s statement that we closed a school and we redistricted, there are 22 kids in each classroom, is a half true. Disparity still exists, when you move to tier groups you can have anywhere from 6 – 28 students in a classroom. Mr. Bussard commented that there are two districts – the Allard/Bon Meade and Brooks/McCormick districts – district runs down the line of University Boulevard. When you move to five buildings, you will have five new districts and will need to redistrict. He asked again if anyone has looked into this and how are we going to separate the districts?

Mr. Scappe commented that this is not new to the district. We have history of all five elementary buildings functioning as a K-4. Dr. Milanovich can quickly pull her administration team together and organize a redistricting to facilitate all five elementary buildings. Unlike last year when we moved into the centers too quickly and didn’t have a solid plan as we’ve heard from the teachers and administrators through their presentations. The implementation of the centers was rushed. He believes going back to a K-4 will be simple. He believes Dr. Milanovich will be able to make a recommendation of what the team comes up with before the June deadline.

Mr. Hauser commented that Dr. Milanovich will work in conjunction with the board, her administrators, the community, and the staff. Everything will be taken into consideration. Committees are now operating in conjunction with administration. Things are not hidden or obscure. Things will be communicated in a timely manner. Moving forward after the motion is voted on, he’s sure the district will effectively and efficiently accomplish the goals it needs to work towards. This is a new/old way of doing business the right way.

Mr. Testa agreed that we have years of experience operating five buildings with K-4. We are going back to what we know was successful. That was not done last year when a plan was thrown together. Operating under the current model, children are losing core instruction time. The teachers also gave recommendations of what is working today and what they can incorporate if we move back to K-4. Bussing situation is also concern.

Mr. Bogatay commented on redistricting. If the issue is overcrowding in one school and empty classrooms throughout the district, that is a problem that screams redistricting. When Mr. Bussard commented that we spent \$26 million to even out classrooms, and confine all the empty classrooms to one building, Mr. Bogatay’s argument was that we could have done it for free. Brooks and Allard definitely needed renovations. The public begged the board to move forward with redistricting in the beginning to see if this issue was really even an issue. The right thing to do is put in the work and make the district best it can be. Back and forth change has to stop. The first redistricting may be little bit more involved because it hasn’t been done in a long time. We have not redistricted in a decade. There was no failure; it was not revisited. Possibly need to move toward a model that is digitally based, takes into account populations as we map the families and residents in the district once, and then every year use tax data, census data to update that system. It will give immediate alerts where there may be population growth throughout the

district. Regarding the K-4 reconfiguration, he has spoken in favor of moving back to K-4. He feels that it makes a big difference in formative years to stay in neighborhood schools. Take away from the presentation in the previous model K-4 model teachers got to know families in a level that cannot be attained in the centers model. We were #1 in the SPPs two years ago in Allegheny County. Bussing issue cannot be easily remedied with the centers, loss of instructional time. Clarify the Hyde repurposing – he wanted to separate the motion into two motions for the reasons stated. However, he does not have a huge issue making this decision without separating those two things. We will not be incurring any new debt.

Original motion: All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote with the exception of Mr. LaRue and Mr. Bussard who voted in disfavor.

Calendar

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education modify the 2015-2016 school calendar to make March 7, 2016 a regular student day. This will serve as the make-up day for the recent closing due to inclement weather. March 7 was originally scheduled as a Parent/Teacher conference day. Parents will be able to schedule conferences with teachers outside the regular school day.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Acceptance of SACP, Elementary/Middle School Equipment Grant

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. LaRue, “that the Board of Education accept a \$500 grant from the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) for science equipment for a bottle rocket project. The grant was written by Frank Todd, middle school science teacher.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Females in STEM + C Program

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. LaRue, “that the Board of Education accept the proposals detailed in the presentation, Females in STEM + C program, as presented at the February 8, 2016 board meeting by Robert Morris University.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

AIU 3 Allegheny Connect Regional Wide Area Network Renewal (RWAN)

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the attached Service Order and sign the E-rate Letter of Agency with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3 at a cost not to exceed \$1,167 per month effective July 1, 2016 through June 20, 2021.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Moon Area Tigers Rugby Club

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education approve the Moon Area Tigers Rugby Club as a Moon Area High School Club Sport.”

Mr. Testa commented that the public may be wondering we are approving this now after it has been around for 3 years. We have rules and procedures in place for district sports and club sports that they need board approval and that did not happen the last two years. The district does support the Rugby club and the kids that play the sport. We just need to make sure everything is done correctly.

Mr. Scappe commented that the Rugby committee came to the Student Activities Committee meeting and made a presentation. They presented all of the documentation that was required to become a club sport. They have complied with all requirements and are fully aware they have to maintain for both the boys and girls teams. The school district was not protected the last two years from liability.

Mr. Bogatay agrees with Mr. Testa that the Rugby program has gotten a lot of interest from the students and they seem to enjoy it. He is very disturbed, though, that we had an organization operating as a club sport that was not a school affiliated club sport. Need to have liability coverage.

Mr. Hauser commented that in the past, it was always clear to administrators that certain processes needed to be followed for club sports. Certain approvals had to be sought and given before any sport could operate to the benefit of our kids. This was dangerous for the kids and reckless to put kids and their families and the district at potential risk of liability.

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Moon Area Tigers Rugby Field Trip

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education approve the Moon Area Tigers Rugby teams to travel to Charlotte, North Carolina, March 4 – 6, 2016, to participate in a rugby tournament. This tournament develops technical playing skills and accelerates the development of team dynamics in preparation for the upcoming rugby season. The Carolina Youth Rugby Festival is among the largest youth rugby tournaments in the nation. There are no anticipated costs to the district.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Conferences

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

Kim Prevost: PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAM COORDINATORS CONFERENCE in Seven Springs, Pennsylvania on May 1, 2016 thru May 4, 2016; approximate cost to the district is \$1,188.25; purpose – This conference provides professional development to inform federal programs coordinators about federal guidelines and laws concerning the upcoming year. Federal grant allocations for the 2016-2017 year will be provided.

Beth Southwood: PASA READING & MATH SCORING CONFERENCE in Hershey, Pennsylvania on April 15, 2016 thru April 17, 2016; April 22, 2016 thru April 24, 2016; May 13, 2016 thru May 15, 2016 and May 20, 2016 thru May 20, 2016; approximate cost to the district is \$360.00; purpose – to score the math and reading alternate state assessments, connections to the state assessment process so that she stays involved with creating Common Core assessment anchors and revisions to testing processes.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Personnel

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve the items listed, which includes the supplemental agenda that was submitted:

I. Approval of Spring Event Staff

“that the Board of Education approve the following as Spring Event Staff for the 2016 Spring Sports Season pending receipt and review of clearances with the recommendation of the Athletics Director:

Track

Announcer Chuck Herbert
Console Operator James Mangan
Workers Bill Bacu
Brian Silvis
Marie Lyle
Monica Ianarelli
Ken Firmstone

Boys Volleyball

Event Manager Sue White
Crowd Control Judy McCutcheon
Scorekeeper/Clock Karen Neptune

Softball

Event Mgr (Vars/JV) Maureen Spezialetti
Scoreboard/Crowd Christine Engle
Event Manager (7/8) Jeff Osegueda

Baseball

Event Mgr (Vars/JV) John Trapizona
Scoreboard/Crowd Tracey Spinelli
Event Mgr (9th) Grace Mackin

Substitutes

Jason Persing
Judy McCutcheon
Joe Sekanick
Katy Temple
C.J. Sekanick
Scott Slater.”

II. Acceptance of Resignation from Extra Pay for Extra Duty

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Lauren McCutcheon from her extra pay for extra duty position of Breakfast Monitor at McCormick Elementary School effective 2/12/2016.”

III. Approval of Extra Pay for Extra Duty

“that the Board of Education approve Rachael Kamicker to the extra pay for extra duty position of Breakfast Monitor at McCormick Elementary School effective 2/15/2016.”

IV. Approval of Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to Terri Bruzzese from her position as a Learning Support Assistant at Brooks Elementary School retroactive to November 9, 2015, with return to work pending release from her physician.”

V. Approval of Extended Sick Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve an Extended Sick Leave of Absence to Nancy Burgunder from her position as a Computer Teacher at the Middle School per Article 24 Section B of the Collective Bargaining Agreement retroactive to January 23, 2016, with an anticipated return of March 8, 2016.”

VI. Approval of Building Based Substitute

“that the Board of Education approve Matthew Diehl, 4039 Turnwood Lane, Moon Township, PA 15108, to the position of Building Based Substitute for the High School for the remainder of the 2015/2016 school year effective February 23, 2016. The salary for this position will be \$110/day.”

VII. Approval of Substitute

“that the Board of Education approve the following substitutes for the 2015/2016 school year, pending the receipt and review of clearances:

Teacher
Arielle Withers
201 Serendipity Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108.”

VIII. Approval of School/Community Relations Coordinator

“that the Board of Education approve Nina Rizos, 112 Walnut Ridge, Drive Beaver Falls, PA 15010, to the position of School/Community Relations Coordinator for the Moon

Area School District pending the receipt and review of clearances. The salary for this position will be \$50,000.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Audience Recognition (non-agenda items)

Basil Masry, 1849 Madison Drive, Moon Township, commented on Mr. Bussard’s comment of feeling attacked earlier in the evening for asking a question. Mr. Masry thinks the correct emotion is frustration as he and other people have been very frustrated over the last few years, when asking questions of the board and not getting an answer. He also recalled the evening the Hyde presentation was made that Mr. Bussard said this a great idea and thought they were innovative ideas. Yet, the ideas given that evening were presented a year before and the board chose to ignore them. The repurposing of Hyde was to be budget neutral and when he asked to see the numbers, he did not receive them from Mr. Baker.

Sean McCurdy, Moon Township, thanked the board for voting tonight to approve the Rugby Club and the field trip request for the teams to travel to North Carolina. The club has supplied the district with the necessary paperwork required. Dr. Milanovich, staff and board members have been very accommodating. Thanked the community for their donations that will support the club to travel to North Carolina. The kids really enjoy this program.

Dave Hendrickson, 119 Dover Drive, Moon Township, thanked the board for the decision to return to the neighborhood schools. He feels that teachers in the schools make the neighborhood schools great. Thanked teachers and administration for their hard work and time they put into their presentations over the past 6 months. He also expressed his frustrations that in the past four years, Allard has had four principals and it is hard for the teachers, students, and parents to adjust. Looking forward, he hopes there is stability in the principal position for that building to bring consistency.

Sharon Cisar, 604 Fieldstone Drive, Moon Township, said the Allard Science Fair was fabulous and there were 100 presentations there. The fair was led by two seniors for their senior projects and they did an outstanding job from start to finish.

Rhonda DiDomenico, 106 Philomena Drive, Moon Township, appreciates the board doing their due diligence, putting time in and involving the people who make the difference in our kids’ lives. The PTCs worked really hard to keep stability in the schools. She was appalled that the previous board members allowed what happened in the last two year to happen. She appreciates Mr. Testa and Mr. Hauser for fighting for the good the last few years. If the PTC can do anything to help, please let them know.

Corbin Bender, 242 LaRue Drive, Moon Township, is a junior at Moon this year and he didn’t think there was anything wrong with the elementary schools when he went there. He thanked the board for going back to the system that worked before.

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Lou Cisar, 604 Fieldstone Drive, Moon Township, thinks the MASD community should thank Dr. Milanovich for coming back into a bad situation and trying to find some stability from chaos. He also thanked Mr. Testa and Mr. Hauser for sitting at the meetings over the last two years and dealing with what was going on. He commented that the principals and teachers have done a fantastic job in a bad situation and they should be congratulated.

Robin Reisdorf, 111 Snell Drive, Moon Township, thanked the board members for taking time to talk to her and their willingness answer her questions. She asked that the board allow community input and notify everyone early enough so they know where they will be going next school year. She also urged the board to keep being open to public input, being transparent and open to discussions with parents.

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 9:15 pm.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Brown
Clerk, Board of Education

Lisa A. Wolowicz
Secretary, Board of Education