

The October 28, 2019, meeting of the Moon Area Board of Education was held in the High School Board Meeting Room 7:10 p.m., for general purposes. The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President, Jerry Testa. The following directors were present:

Mr. Testa	Mr. Hauser	Mrs. Wolowicz	Mrs. Zieger
Mr. Harper	Mr. Bogatay	Mr. Dugan	

Mr. Scappe and Mrs. Blair were absent.

Also seated at the Board table: Mr. Haslett, Ms. Regan and Mr. Cambest, Solicitor.

There were approximately 10 audience members.

Superintendent's Report

No report.

Add Motion to Agenda – Moon Area Education Foundation Audit

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Dugan, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education add the following motion to the agenda as Item 5.17:

“that the Board of Education approve \$2,500 for an audit review of the Moon Area Education Foundation.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Add Motion to Agenda – Settlement and Release Agreement

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education add the following motion to the agenda as Item 5.18:

“that the Board of Education approve a Settlement and Release Agreement between the Moon Area School District and L.S. contingent upon the execution of a Settlement and Release Agreement.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

This item will be removed, as there is already a motion on the agenda regarding this topic, Item 5.08.

Add Motion to Agenda – Release and Settlement Agreement with First American Equipment Finance

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education add the following motion to the agenda as Item 5.19:

“that the Board of Education approve a Release and Settlement Agreement between the Moon Area School District and First American Equipment Finance, at G.D. 19-005121.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Mr. Testa announced that prior to this evening’s meeting the Board met in executive session to discuss personnel and litigation.

Audience Recognition (Agenda Items Only)

None.

Payment of Bills

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Wolowicz, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve the bills for payment as listed below in the amounts totaling \$3,059,076.26 for the period October 11, 2019 to October 24, 2019, as attached:

General Fund	\$ 822,002.14
Activity Fund	7,995.34
Food Service	26,999.92
General Fund	<u>2,202,078.86</u>
Total	\$ 3,059,076.26.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Support Letter for PCCD Grant

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education accept the letter of board support for the PCCD grant application regarding safety and surveillance equipment as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Questeq Erate Services Contract

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education approve the contract with Questeq for Erate filing and services as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Moon Band Parents Organization

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education approve the renewal and recognition of the Moon Area Band Parents Organization documents as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Gift Acceptance from Moon Cable Access Television

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education accept the gift of a camera and related equipment from Moon Cable Access Television (MCA-TV). This equipment is to be used on school campus by Moon Area High School TV students for student projects, as well as, Moon Area High School and Moon Area School District productions.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Gift Acceptance from Dawn Longo for Allard Memorabilia

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education accept a gift of Allard memorabilia (Allard statue, 30th buttons, ornaments) from Dawn Longo to display in the school.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Approval of Book – *Mary Had a Little Llama Maria Tenia Una Llamita*

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education approve the use of the book *Mary Had a Little Llama Maria Tenia Una Llamita*, by Angela Dominguez, to be used for literacy time being held at Mooncrest Community Center. There is no cost to the district.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Settlement and Release Agreement

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Wolowicz, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve a Settlement and Release Agreement between the Moon Area School District and L.S. contingent upon the execution of a Settlement and Release Agreement.”

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

Permission to Research Teachers

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education grant permission to Sarah Durham, High School Teacher/District Digital Leader, to conduct a study on the use of blended learning in professional development on technology for K-12 teachers.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Daily Field Trips

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the attached list of daily field trips for the 2019-2020 school year.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Academic Games Team Field Trip

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Wolowicz, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education approve the Academic Games team to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, April 16-21, 2020, to participate in the National Academic Games Tournament that students have qualified for in regional tournaments. The anticipated costs to the district are as follows:

- approximately \$1,250 per teacher
- anticipate 25 qualifiers and 3 teachers will attend
- fundraising will be done to help offset the cost to the District.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

High School Field Trip to Europe

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve Moon Area high school students to travel to Switzerland, Italy, France, and Spain during the month of June 2021. The purpose of this trip is to have the students experience the rich and diverse culture of 4 European countries while also developing an understanding of their own American identity. 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 Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve conferences costing over \$500 or requiring an overnight’s stay:

Nicholas Barthen – 72nd Midwest Band and Clinic International Band & Orchestra Conference, Chicago, IL., December 18, 19 and 20, 2019. The Midwest Clinic strengthens international instrumental music education through extensive professional development opportunities,

inspirational experiences and cultivation of rewarding professional relationships. No additional cost to the district.

James Mangan, Kaylee Kelley, Amy Esposito, Mike Hepak – January 21 – 24, 2020, a Marine Educator’s Workshop, United States Military, Parris Island, SC. To have educators experience and learn about the choice of a military career.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Personnel

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve the items listed:

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education table Item #IV and remove it from the agenda.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote with the exception of Mr. Bogatay, Mr. Harper and Mr. Dugan who voted in disfavor. Motion passes.

Original motion:

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve the items listed:

I. Approval of a Family Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence to Pamela Gorman from her position as Special Education Assistant at Bon Meade Elementary School beginning on or about October 15, 2019, with an end date to be determined. This request is to care for an ill family member.”

II. Approval of a Childbearing/Family Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Childbearing/Family Medical Leave of Absence to Kelsey Halackna from her position as Learning Support teacher at Hyde Elementary School beginning on or about March 8, 2020 and continuing throughout the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.”

III. Approval of Family Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Family Medical Leave to Cathy Jackson from her position as Dishwasher/Server/Breakfast at Bon Meade Elementary and Brooks Elementary Schools beginning immediately for approximately four (4) weeks to care for an ill family member.”

IV. This item has been tabled.

V. Approval of Volunteers for Spring Musical

“that the Board of Education approve the following volunteers for the spring musical, pending receipt and review of clearances:

Volunteers

Anthony Tambellini
Stephen Santa.”

VI. Approval of Substitute Elementary Remediation Facilitators

“that the Board of Education approve the following individuals as substitute elementary remediation facilitators for the 2019-2020 school year:

McCormick

Neal Jacoby
Suzanne Durham
Meghan Mastroianni.”

VII. Approval of Pre-Student Teachers, Student Teachers, Interns, Nursing Students and Field Placements

“that the Board of Education approve the following list of pre-student teachers, student teachers, interns, nursing students and field placements for the 2019-2020 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances, confidentiality agreement and computer usage agreement:

Ryan Richards	Carlow University	Student Teacher
Aunalee Brown	Carlow University	Student Teacher
Megan Santia	Slippery Rock University	Student Teacher
Emily Geary	Slippery Rock University	Student Teacher
Victoria Chagnon	Slippery Rock University	Student Teacher
Shae Mooney	Robert Morris University	Nursing Student
Alexis Wood	Robert Morris University	Nursing Student
Jordan Goss	Robert Morris University	Nursing Student
Justin Kapport	Robert Morris University	Nursing Student
Samantha Munillo	Robert Morris University	Nursing Student
Abby Walls	Robert Morris University	Nursing Student.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Policy for First Reading Approval

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education approve the first reading of the following policy and attachment that has been revised for adoption, as amended below:

- Policy No. 808 – Food Services
- Policy No. 808 – Attachment.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Cross Country Team Travel Request Approval

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education Cross Country team members to travel to Hershey, PA, to participate in the State Cross Country championship on November 1 and 2, 2019.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Moon Area Education Foundation Audit

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve \$2,500 for an audit review of the Moon Area Education Foundation.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Add Motion to Agenda – Interim Assistant High School Principal

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education add the following motion to the agenda as Item 5.20:

“that the Board of Education approve an Interim Assistant High School Principal at a rate of \$325 per day with a start date to be determined.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Settlement Agreement

Removed.

Release and Settlement Agreement with First American Equipment Finance

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Dugan, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay “that the Board of Education approve a Release and Settlement Agreement between the Moon Area School District and First American Equipment Finance, at G.D. 19-005121.”

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

Interim Assistant High School Principal

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve an Interim Assistant High School Principal at a rate of \$325 per day with a start date to be determined.”

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

Audience Recognition (Non-Agenda Items)

Mr. Ron Tarquinio, Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township, PA thanked the Board for their service and expressed his concerns about the hiring of a superintendent. He wanted to know what the Board’s plans were for hiring a superintendent, conducting a search, etc., as it is very important to select a new superintendent that represents Moon Area School District. He asked if the Board intends to conduct a regional search for a superintendent.

Mr. Testa commented that it is his opinion that the Board conduct a search for a new superintendent, do our due diligence and make sure that whichever candidate we select is the best candidate for the job. We need continuity and he is a fan of conducting a search. The last time a search was done, meetings were held for the public to attend, surveys were sent, etc. This was done transparently so the public could see the involvement in that search. Mr. Testa commented that he would like to follow the same process as we have in the past and see the selection of candidates available. The Board should interview candidates, do our due diligence and make an informed decision. We need to get hire someone who will set the educational standard and move us forward. He is a fan of searches and has been involved in approximately three over the years.

Mr. Bogatay appreciates and respects the mechanism (process) that Mr. Tarquinio is requesting that we go through. Regarding that particular hiring process, personally speaking, he cannot say for certain what the future holds and how that job position will be filled moving forward. Mr. Bogatay also expressed that he has very serious concerns about the sanctity of the past selection process and has serious questions with trust with the Board leadership. Some things happened behind the scenes that the public does not know about and that aren’t discussed. The reasons why some directors are hesitant to engage in the open process are reasons that will remain private at this time.

Mr. Tarquinio commented that the public wants the best superintendent; and if this board is not capable of conducting a transparent process, then you should have a committee that is (possibly made up of former teachers, superintendents, administrators). To select a superintendent behind closed doors without any transparency to the public, without conducting a search is not going to go over well in the township.

Mr. Harper commented that the last two superintendents went through the process. Continuity is extremely important. An opportunity may exist where an internal candidate has the desire to be in this position. Mr. Harper doesn’t understand the problem at looking at trying something internally as we’ve had tremendous success in putting people in administrative positions

internally in the past. We'd like the opportunity to try something different and possibly have an internal candidate fill the position by promoting from within.

Mr. Bogatay commented that there are reasons that he can't state right now with the hiring process, but the Board will consider his feedback. There are just certain conversations regarding personnel that cannot be made publicly. There are strong, internal candidates that are very capable of filling this position. When there is upward mobility, you do not need to bring in external candidates.

Mr. Tarquinio believes you should have professionals to interview the candidates. He said that the Board should not sit there and tell the residents that you are not going to conduct a process. Mr. Bogatay said that the Board did not say that and clearly someone else did. We may or may not go through the process; there is still time to go through the process and he wondered how Mr. Tarquinio heard that we are not, as it's a personnel matter. Mr. Tarquinio commented that he had heard information from a developer regarding the district. So, he asked Mr. Testa, since he is president of the Board, who are they going to hire as the superintendent and Mr. Testa commented that he didn't know if they were going to do the process or not.

Mr. Harper commented that we have proof that performing the exercise we are talking about right now (promoting from within) has been successful. If we would have gone out and conducted a search, we would have taken money and flushed it down the toilet. But, in finding this person who is 1,000% qualified for the role and is in seat right now may get a different result. The Board is trying to look at doing something different to establish continuity. We have someone here who knows the district, potentially, if this is the route we take, because we want to bring back the continuity and try to find a way to bring everything back together. We are trying to possibly do something different and get a better result.

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, "that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 8:09 pm."

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Brown
Clerk, Board of Education

Lisa A. Wolowicz
Secretary, Board of Education