

The February 27, 2017, 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	Mrs. Zieger	Mrs. Wolowicz	Mr. Hauser
Mr. Harper	Mr. Bogatay	Mr. Scappe	Mr. Bussard

Mr. LaRue was absent.

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

Administrators present: Mr. Price, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Balaski

There were approximately 24 people in the audience.

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

Superintendent's Report

No report.

Audience Recognition (Agenda Items and Non-Agenda Items)

Lou Cisar, 604 Fieldstone Drive, Moon Township, PA – Spoke about the results of the audit conducted by the Auditor General last week, on the grossly mismanagement and rampant spending by the former superintendent and former board. It is embarrassing to the students, teachers, staff and taxpayers in the district. The former Superintendent, former Chief Financial Officer and prior seven (7) board members rubber stamped everything for whatever Mr. Baker wanted. When two board members asked questions they were squelched. It was perceived if the board was trying to hide something. The reputation of Moon Area School District has been destroyed. He questioned, what were your motives? The community relies on you to make the best decision for our students and families in the district. It appear there was a hidden agenda. He asked Mr. Bussard to immediately resign from the Moon Area School Board.

Butch Santicola, Moon Township – Mr. Santicola started by saying he is very frustrated and warned the board not to hire Curt Baker, that we would be subject to liability. The large amount of money that we had is gone. You may have to raise taxes. He seconded the action that Mr. Cisar made, take action immediately and have Jeff Bussard resign his position on the board. He doesn't want to see the taxpayers held responsible for the mismanagement of funds. He congratulated the current board on the work they are doing trying to repair the damages.

Mr. Testa commented that he shares the speaker's frustrations. He and Mr. Hauser fought what went on over years. Seven members advocated, authorized and did whatever Curt Baker wanted. When Mr. Hauser and Mr. Testa raised questions, they would be silent. It is frustrating things have gone on that were not correct but the board majority voted yes. Unfortunately it will not

only be one year that taxes are raised, tax increases will have to be done multiple years because of the situation we are in—and this did not have to be. The Auditor General’s report is on the Moon Area website for public view. Another election is coming up this spring, please do your vetting on the candidates prior to voting.

Mr. Harper would like to have a motions added to the agenda to have Jeff Bussard and Scott LaRue publicly censured for dereliction of duty.

Motion to Add to Agenda Item 5.19 – Public Censure Jeffrey Bussard

IT WAS MOVED BY Mr. Harper, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education add a motion to the agenda to public censure Jeffrey Bussard for dereliction of duty.”

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

Motion to Add to Agenda Item 5.20 – Public Censure Scott LaRue

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Harper, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education add a motion to the agenda to public censure Scott LaRue for dereliction of duty.”

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

Mr. Testa asked Mr. Cambest to give an update to the community regarding the current situation. Mr. Cambest commented that Curt Baker currently has a lawsuit against the board. Board members have to be careful what they say. A 1080 hearing was conducted as part of the superintendent’s due process. Mr. Baker has a right to know what charges are being brought against him. Independent counsel will represent the board in the future to hear the testimony of the litigation, advice will be given by the independent counsel to make a decision on what actions will be taken against Curt Baker. The Auditor General’s report is available on the website. In reference to former board members, we can make motions on the public censure of two present board members concerning dereliction of duties. Based on the Auditor General’s report received, this board has a fiduciary obligation to look into these matters. As litigation runs its course, it will be determined whether or not anyone else is responsible for the loss that has occurred. They may be subject to personal liability as well. The Auditor General suggests that the district makes sure the recommendations are followed through. The district will work with the attorney in charge of this jurisdiction, the district attorney and the attorney general in these matters. We will be glad to cooperate with them.

Mr. Testa commented that every two years we are audited by the auditor general and we can see the reports. The auditors were doing their normal two year audit of the district and they uncovered a number of findings. Former board members may be held accountable.

Payment of Bills

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education approve the bills for payment as listed below in the amounts totaling \$569,606.81 for the period February 12, 2017 to February 24, 2017, as attached:

General Fund	\$518,288.01
Activity Fund	2,727.92
Food Service Fund	29,187.28
Capital Projects Fund	<u>19,403.60</u>
Total	\$569,606.81.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Act 1 Exceptions

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education authorize the administration to file for exceptions to Act 1 index millage rate limitations with the Pennsylvania Department of Education.”

Mr. Testa asked Mr. Bielby to give an overview to the public regarding Act I. Mr. Bielby commented that filing for exceptions to Act 1 index millage rate allows us to raise taxes, allows for exceptions such as PSERS and special education.

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Tax Assessment Appeals Resolution

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Wolowicz, SECONDED by Mr. Scappe, “that the Board of Education approve the resolution from Weiss Burkhardt Kramer, LLC, related to 2017 residential and commercial assessment appeals as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Cell Phone Boosters

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the attached proposals, dated February 17, 2017, from Cabletechs, Inc., to install cell phone boosters in the following buildings. These will be paid for out of the 2015 Bond Fund:

Allard Elementary School	\$ 4,995.00
Bon Meade Elementary School	\$ 4,995.00
Brooks Elementary School	\$ 9,995.00
Middle School	\$14,995.25

High School \$14,995.25

at a total cost of: \$49,975.50.”

Mr. Bogatay clarified that the evaluation of this item may be different than the public sees. The Board is very conscious about costs. This may look like just something to help cell phone usage, but it is a safety perspective for the entire staff. There is no price on safety of the students and staff of the district.

Mr. Testa commented that this money is coming out of the 2015 Bond Fund. It is money that is leftover from the elementary capital improvement program. It not coming out of the general fund.

Mr. Hauser commented that the School Board does have a Safety Committee and the committee has been meeting on a regular basis. Dr. Milanovich, lead administrators and the Moon Township Police Department form the committee. The committee continues to discuss the safety issues in the district and is determined to make sure there are no gaps in safety and security. The committee will continue to meet on a regular basis to make the campuses safer for students, staff, parents and the community.

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Cameras at the Athletic Field

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Scappe, “that the Board of Education approve the attached proposal from Cabletechs, Inc, dated February 17, 2017, to install a DVR at the high school stadium and run camera cables for 8 new cameras, at a cost of \$18,723.11, which will be paid for out of the 2015 Bond Fund.”

Mr. Testa commented that this is not just for the Athletic Field, it is for other areas such as parking lots, tennis courts, etc.

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

License Plate Cameras

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Scappe, “that the Board of Education authorize the purchase of license plate cameras for the entrances of the High School/Middle School campus from Secure Technical Solutions, Inc., as attached. The total cost, \$12,340.00, will be spilt with the Township of Moon and paid with the 2015 Bond Fund.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Donation from Ms. Pippy

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bussard, “that the Board of Education accept a donation in the amount of \$40.00 from Ann Pippy to offset negative school lunch balances.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Donation from Ms. Boerio

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bussard, “that the Board of Education accept a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Jennifer Boerio to offset negative school lunch balances.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Engagement Letter for Background Services for Superintendent Applicants

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bussard, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the attached Engagement Letter for Background Services for Superintendent Applicants with CSI Corporate Security and Investigations, Inc., 3645 Brodhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061, dated February 21, 2017, to provide certain professional background services in the matter of conducting backgrounds on applicants for the position of Superintendent with the Moon Area School District. The hourly rate will be \$75.00 plus expenses for the backgrounds. The amount will not exceed \$4,500.00 per candidate.”

Mr. Testa commented that the interviews were handled internally as we felt we could do the search and interview process better ourselves. Moving forward with choosing finalists, we will start the vetting process.

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Pediatric Therapy Specialist, Inc. Proposal

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Wolowicz, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve a two year proposal from Pediatric Therapy Specialists, Inc., for occupational and physical therapy services for Moon Area School District beginning July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019, as attached.

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Student Wellness Committee

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education approve the following individuals as members of the Student Wellness Committee, as well as two student representatives from the High School as follows:

Jason D'Alesio
Christie Leininger
Lisa Wolowicz
Kim Mosberger
Marc Kopay
Derek Blyzwick
Jill Cone
Adam Cross
Delaney Snyder
Rayquin Glover.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Approval of Novel

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the novel, *Wonder*, for use in the 5th grade beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Policies for First and Final Reading Approval

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education approve the first and final reading of the following policies that have been revised for adoption:

- Policy No. 317.1 – Educator Misconduct
- Policy No. 351 – Drug and Controlled Substance-Free Workplace
- Policy No. 353 – Employee Assistance Program.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

High School Band Field Trip

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Wolowicz, “that the Board of Education approve the High School Band students that qualified for the PMEA Region Band Festival to travel to Sharon High School, Sharon, PA, March 22, 23 and 24, 2017, to participate in the PMEA Region Band Festival. The anticipated costs to the district will be \$390.00 to cover substitute teachers, teachers’ mileage and student registration fees.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Moon Girls Rugby Field Trip (March)

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the Moon Girls Rugby team to travel to Matthews, North Carolina, to Ruggernaut, March 3 -5, 2017, to participate in a Rugby tournament. There are no anticipated costs to the district.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Moon Girls Rugby Field Trip (April)

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the Moon Girls Rugby team to travel to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, April 23, 2017, to participate in a Rugby PA league game. There are no anticipated costs to the district.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Conferences

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

Ron Ledbetter: PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE in Hershey, Pennsylvania on March 21, 2017 through March 24, 2017; approximate cost to the district is \$1,466.17. Purpose – professional development and networking with fellow athletic directors.

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Personnel

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the items listed:

I. Approval of Special Education Assistant

“that the Board of Education approve Arielle Withers, 133 Glengarry Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108, to the Special Education Assistant position at Bon Meade Elementary School effective retro to February 21, 2017 for the 2016-2017 school year.”

II. Approval of Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to Terri Bruzzese from her position as Special Education Assistant at Brooks Elementary School beginning retro to January 23, 2017 with a return date to be determined, pending release from physician.”

III. Approval of Teacher Teaching a 6th Class

“that the Board of Education approve the following teacher who will be teaching a 6th class, working with ESL students, at the High School for the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year:

Kimberly Brown.”

IV. Approval of Teachers Teaching a 6th Class

“that the Board of Education approve the following teacher who will be teaching a 6th class, Keystone Prep – 6th Class – 8th Grade Algebra, at the Middle School for the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year:

Devin Miller
Dianna Eberhardt.”

V. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Shannon Yanek from the extra pay for extra duty position of Breakfast Duty Monitor at the Middle School effective January 24, 2017.”

VI. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Lisa Jaworowski from the extra pay for extra duty position of Elementary Choral Director at Bon Meade Elementary School for the 2017 spring season effective January 20, 2017.”

VII. Approval of Extra Pay for Extra Duty Position

“that the Board of Education approve the following extra pay for extra duty position at Bon Meade Elementary School:

Elementary Chorus Marlo Rankin.”

VIII. Approval of Extra Pay for Extra Duty Position

“that the Board of Education approve the following extra pay for extra duty position at Hyde Elementary School for the 2016-2017 school year:

Literacy Night Carolyn Andrews.”

IX. Approval of Building Based Substitute Teacher

“that the Board of Education approve the following building based substitute teacher at the Middle School at a rate of \$110 per day:

Diamond Linn – effective March 27, 2017.”

X. Approval of STA Driver

“that the Board of Education approve the following individual employed by STA as a van driver or school bus driver for the Moon Area School District for the 2016-2017 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances. Clearances will be kept on file in the transportation office:

Antonio Vickers
1102 Vance Avenue
Coraopolis, PA 15108.”

XI. Approval of Substitutes

“that the Board of Education approve the following substitutes for the 2016-2017 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances:

School Nurse

Karen Smith
137 Lenox Drive
Imperial, PA 15126

Teachers

Marianne Pfeifer
324 Scottsdale Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108

Chloe Stanczak
519 Fieldcrest Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15209

Custodians

Richard Santacroce
2127 Montour Street
Coraopolis, PA 15108

Gabriellia Greenebaum
439 Atwood Street
Apt. Number 1
Pittsburgh, PA 15213.”

XII. Approval of Coach

“that the Board of Education approve the following coach for the 2017 spring sports season, pending receipt and review of clearances:

Varsity Softball Assistant Coach (A-1) Brooke Sneed.”

XIII. Approval of Student Lifeguard

‘that the Board of Education approve the following student lifeguard for the 2016-2017 school year:

Student Lifeguard Chase Proudfit.”

XIV. Approval of Dishwasher/Server

“that the Board of Education approve Nancy Kennedy, 9005 Simi Court, Moon Township, PA 15108, to the position of Dishwasher/Server (3.25 hours) at the High School, pending receipt and review of clearances, with a start date to be determined.”

XV. Approval of Dishwasher/Server

“that the Board of Education approve Kira Leach, 222 Randy Lane, Moon Township, PA 15108, to the position of Dishwasher/Server (3.25 hours) at Hyde Elementary School, pending receipt and review of clearances, with a start date to be determined.”

XVI. Approval of Family Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence to Donna Prata, from her position as Special Education Assistant at McCormick Elementary School effective February 24, 2017 with an end date to be determined.”

XVII. Approval of Family Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence to Marlene Culver from her position as Special Education Assistant at the Middle School to begin when her family sick and personal days are exhausted, with an end date to be determined, to care for an ill family member.”

XVIII. Approval of STA Driver

“that the Board of Education approve the following individual employed by STA as a van driver or school bus driver for the Moon Area School District for the 2016-2017 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances. Clearances will be kept on file in the transportation office:

Leonard Green
1528 Beaver Road
Ambridge, PA 15003.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Approval to Publicly Censure Jeffrey Bussard

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Harper, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve a motion to publicly censure, Jeffrey Bussard, for dereliction of duty for the school years 2013-2014, 2014-2015; and 2015-2016 and to take any other appropriate action as required by the Auditor General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Attorney General of the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the District Attorney of Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education.”

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

Approval to Publically Censure Scott LaRue

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Harper, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve a motion to publically censure, Scott LaRue, for dereliction of duty for the school years 2013-2014, 2014-2015; and 2015-2016 and to take any other appropriate action as required by the Auditor General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the District Attorney of Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education.”

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

Mr. Hauser commented that this is a difficult vote for him serving as a board member and the things that occurred during the last two years being the minority vote on the board. It’s hard for him to understand why things were happening and the impact of what occurred and does not understand the poor decision making. He considers Mr. Bussard a friend although they may have had minor differences as board members. He has seen Mr. Bussard operate as a board member for many years and thought he had sense to know better having worked with previous superintendents. Mr. Hauser cannot understand how the previous board allowed things to pass without challenging them. There is a severe impact on the district, the students, teachers, staff, and taxpayers. He will be voting yes this evening to publicly censuring Mr. Bussard. Friendship notwithstanding, he will do what is right. Commenting that we are obligated to fulfill our duties as board directors.

Mr. Scappe commented that he has worked with Mr. Bussard on many boards throughout his career here. Mr. Harper, Mr. Bogatay and Mr. Scappe have asked numerous times for Mr. Bussard to explain himself as to why he voted as he did. Mr. Bussard did not respond. With his engineering background, we wanted to hear from him directly why he chose to do what he did. We didn’t get the answer as to why he voted the way he did.

Mr. Bogatay commented that we have two young men in the audience here to observe a school board meeting. This is an example that when you take an oath and are placed in a position of responsibility you have to be accountable. Accountability finds you and follows you. It’s called being a respective steward of the district and you oversee what is best for the district objectively. To not censure them would be a grave irresponsibility to the district. The previous board grossly mismanaged funds of the school district. We need to demand accountability for these failures.

Mr. Bussard commented that his silence was summed up by Mr. Cambest tonight. Regarding the ongoing litigation, he is not going to speak. He has voted for motions this year and gave no opposition at all and agreed in working together with the board to make sure things are corrected

and still is trying to help. He agrees with the decisions at this point. He is not happy with the way things have been handled in the past either.

Mary Ann Rose, 1732 Hassam Road thanked the current board for what they have done this year and for taking care of a bad situation. Regarding the Student Wellness Committee, the Children's Hospital of PA does have an active healthy schools program that the board should look into.

Rhonda DiDomenico, 106 Philomena Drive, Moon Township, thanked Mr. Testa and Mr. Hauser for diligently trying to steer the ship in the right direction. She asked if there is anything the community can do to prevent this from happening again, prevent the board from doing what was done again in the future? Can the public have a bigger voice than in the past? There has to be some way to make sure elected officials cannot destroy things.

Mr. Testa commented that this is Moon Township and Crescent Township, our issues are local. He suggested trying to get to know who you are voting for and make sure their interests are in the best interest of the school district. Come to board meetings, ask the board questions, email, phone them, and watch the meetings on TV. He encourages everyone to become involved.

Mr. Cambest commented that it is your right to vote for board members. Therefore, you should attend public meetings and voice your concerns.

Mrs. Zieger encouraged everyone to be more proactive. Prior to her being on the board, she said that wasn't involved or knew what was going on. She urges the public to talk to the candidates running for office and ask them what they will bring to the table before making your decisions. We have an election coming up and you need to do your due diligence and find out as much about the candidates that are running for office as you can that will be representing the district.

Mr. Bogatay echoed Mrs. Zieger's comments and said that the residents are the most important people in the process. There is power in an informed community. Become more involved in things that are going on. Residents need to pay attention, be informed before things get out of control.

Mr. Scappe commented that we cannot remove a fellow board member. We were asked this evening for the board to vote to remove Mr. LaRue and Mr. Bussard, we cannot force a board member to resign.

Mr. Cambest explained the purpose of public censure. If a board member has violated something, this will prevent further misconduct in the future. Also, if you do not attend two consecutive meetings in a row without a good reason, you can be removed from the board.

Mr. Testa commented that the audience called for resignation of two board members tonight. What they did was wrong, and we cannot overlook that as they failed their fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers.

Mr. Scappe commented on clarity in the community. The current board has received emails that they should be ashamed of themselves. Need to clarify, the current board is not responsible for what happened. The board members that were responsible are: Mike Olszewski, Laura Schisler, Denny Harbaugh, Gia Tatone and Sam Tranter. Contact those board members and ask them what happened. He would like the public to realize this community is not fully aware of who did what damage. The prior five (5) board members are community members that were on the board.

Anita Marcocci, 1052 Queens Drive, Moon Township, you have to put it in the newspapers when you campaign. People do not know what happened. This has to be done before the next election.

Mr. Scappe said that he suggested that to the board that the school district needs to put out a letter to all residents in the community and have a detailed explanation of what happened so everyone gets the same information. Recommended to the board after legal aspects are completed put out a newsletter to the public.

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 8:57 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