

Virtual Workshop Meeting, April 26, 2021

The April 26, 2021, workshop meeting of the Moon Area Board of Education was held virtually at 7:15 p.m., for general purposes. The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President, Robert Harper. The following directors were present:

Mr. Harper	Mr. Dugan	Mr. Scappe	Mr. Bogatay
Mr. Hauser	Mrs. Zieger	Mrs. Partica	Mr. Testa
Mr. Hamilton-Archer			

Also, in attendance: Mr. Balaski, Dr. Beltz, Mr. Haslett, Ms. Regan, Dr. Prevost, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Roth, and Mr. Cambest, Solicitor

There were approximately 70 audience members.

Mr. Harper announced that prior to this evening's meeting, the Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Mr. Balaski announced that this meeting will be recorded.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Balaski announced that a survey was sent to parents for the summer remediation program for students in grades K-6. Approximately 200 parents have responded that they are interested in the program. We would offer a 3 hour summer remediation program. Need to gauge student and teacher interest in the program. Parents of seniors, information will be sent regarding the senior finale. The Keystone and PSSA testing is up and running; this is a state mandate.

Mr. Balaski reminded the audience members to raise their hand to speak and state their name, address, and comments to the Board.

Amend Agenda to add – Paving Project

Paving Project

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Scappe, “that the Board of Education amend the agenda to include the following motion as Item 5.09:

“that the Board of Education authorize the District Superintendent to take all necessary action to partner with the Township of Moon for the re-paving of the parking lots at Brooks Elementary, Bon Meade Elementary, and the Maintenance Building at Thorn Run Road.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Audience Recognition (Agenda Items)

None.

Payment of Bills

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Partica, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the bills for payment as listed below in the amounts totaling \$1,393,727.62 for the period April 10, 2021, to April 23, 2021:

General Fund	\$ 805,771.71
Activity Fund	8,278.27
Food Service	24,963.38
General Fund	<u>554,714.26</u>
Total	\$ 1,393,727.62.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Memorandum of Understanding between Moon Area School District and the Moon Area Education Support Professionals Association Re: 403(b) Accounts

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Dugan, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Moon Area School District and the Moon Area Education Support Professionals Association, regarding payment to employees through a tax-advantaged retirement savings plan 403(b) accounts, as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Student Withdrawal

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve Student #3966’s withdrawal in accordance with 24 P.S. 13-1330 (2).”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Yearly Renewal of the Support Counselor for MAPS Program

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the contract with PK&S, LLC, Educational Mentoring Services and Moon Area School District for the yearly renewal of the support counselor for the MAPS Program during the 2021-2022 school year as attached. The cost is for one (1) day per week at \$294 a day; 30 days per school year.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Resolution Calling for Charter School Funding Reform

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Calling for Charter School Funding Reform as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

DSG Strength and Conditioning Proposal

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve the DSG Strength and Conditioning Proposal, utilizing a Strength and Conditioning Coach provided by Dick’s Sporting Goods free of charge for the creation and implementation of a Strength and Conditioning Program catered specifically to program needs and desired outcomes for Moon Area student athletes, as attached.”

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education table this motion for further review of the proposal.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote to table this motion, with the exception of Mr. Harper and Mrs. Partica who voted in disfavor.

Moon Area High School New Club Request

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Zieger, “that the Board of Education approve a new club to operate at the High School, SHOUT, for the 2020-2021 school year.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Personnel

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

I. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the retirement resignation of Claudia Black from her position as Secretary in the Guidance Office at the High School effective June 30, 2021.”

II. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the retirement resignation of Shawn Welsh from his position as Physics teacher at the High School effective the last day of the 2020-2021 school year.”

III. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the retirement resignation of Sally Pronesti from her position as School Nurse at the High School effective at the end of the 2020/2021 school year.”

IV. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the retirement resignation of Patty Gaylik from her position as Custodian at the Middle School effective June 4, 2021.”

V. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mollie Gallagher from her position as long-term substitute Grade 4 teacher at Brooks Elementary School effective retro to April 9, 2021.”

VI. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Brenda Jackson from the Extended School Year (ESY) Speech and Language Pathologist position for summer 2021.”

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

“that the Board of Education approve a Childbearing/Family Medical Leave of Absence to Sarah (Knaus) Collage from her position as Special Education teacher at the High School beginning on or about August 31, 2021 and returning on or about November 1, 2021.”

VIII. Approval of an Unpaid Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve an Unpaid Leave of Absence to Barbara Inskipt from her position as Art teacher at the High School beginning June 4, 2021 through August 11, 2021.”

IX. Tenure

“that the Board of Education award tenure to the following individual who has successfully completed three (3) years of satisfactory service: Stephanie Fiala.”

X. Approval of One (1) Extended School Year (ESY) Elementary Emotional Support Teacher – Summer 2021

“that the Board of Education approve the following individual to the position of Extended School Year (ESY) Elementary Emotional Support teacher for summer 2021, total of 12 days’ contract:

Amanda Schiff.”

XI. Approval of Two (2) Extended School Year (ESY) Learning Support Teachers – Summer 2021

“that the Board of Education approve the following individuals to the positions of Extended School Year (ESY) Learning Support teachers for summer 2021, total of 12 days’ contract:

Elizabeth Nijenhuis
Diane Corsi.”

XII. Approval of Six (6) Extended School Year (ESY) Teachers for LSS/ABA – Summer 2021

“that the Board of Education approve the following individuals to the positions of Extended School Year (ESY) teachers for LSS/ABA for summer 2021, total of 12 days’ contract:

Maureen Archer - Brooks
Kelsey Fatica – Brooks
Kayla Legato – Bon Meade
Leeann Lombardo - High School
Sarah Knaus - High School
Vanessa Fontana – Middle School.”

XIII. Approval of an Extended School Year (ESY) Speech Language Pathologist – Summer 2021

“that the Board of Education approve the following individual to the position of Extended School Year (ESY) Speech Language Pathologist for summer 2021, total of 12 days’ contract:

Molly McDonald.”

XIV. Approval of ESY Special Education Paraeducators for Summer 2021

“that the Board of Education approve the following ESY Special Education Paraeducators for Summer 2021 for 12 contract days:

Brooks – Life Skills/ABA - Holly Foster, Kathy Kelly, Vicki Wilson, Lisa Ellis
Bon Meade – Life Skills/ABA - Brenda Quinn, Adrianna Bielby
Bon Meade – Emotional Support Paraeducator - Tommie Shea Corsetti
Middle School – Life Skills/ABA – Lisa Puhalla
High School – LSS/ABA Paraeducator – Kathy Barker.”

XV. Approval of ESY Personal Care Assistants for Summer 2021

“that the Board of Education approve the following ESY Personal Care Assistants for Summer 2021 for 12 contract days:

Brooks - Lisa Chandler (for A.W.)
Middle School - Lynette Marchionda (for O.R.)
High School - Marcy Grimm (for C.A.S.).”

XVI. 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 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances, confidentiality agreement and computer usage agreement:

Anna Bruno Robert Morris University Pre-Student Teaching/Student Teaching
Mikayla Ulizzi Robert Morris University Intern – HR and Business Office.”

XVII. Approval of STA Drivers

“that the Board of Education approve the following individual employed by STA as bus and/or van driver for the Moon Area School District for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances. Clearances will be kept on file in the transportation office and at STA:

Raymond Pritchard Van Driver
11 E. Amanda Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15210.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Paving Project

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mrs. Partica, “that the Board of Education authorize the District Superintendent to take all necessary action to partner with the Township of Moon for the re-paving of the parking lots at Brooks Elementary, Bon Meade Elementary, and the Maintenance Building at Thorn Run Road.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Audience Recognition (Non-Agenda Items)

Shaudae Jones, 349 Meade Drive, Moon Township, spoke in regard to the teacher and the Social Studies assignment that was on the news. She wanted to know what the plan is to make sure nothing like this happens again. It was offensive and should not be allowed. She asked if the Board has a plan to address this? Mr. Balaski commented that he agrees with Mrs. Jones and apologizes to the families that were offended. The teacher has apologized to the students and we will make sure it does not happen again. Mrs. Partica commented that administration will be working on a plan to ensure that this does not occur in the future. Mr. Dugan was appalled when he saw this on Facebook. He also commented that we do not have a specific plan in place yet and we need to educate the staff better. Mr. Hauser commented that this was drastically wrong and hurtful. This need to be treated with the utmost seriousness and going forward, the faculty will need to have training and professional development. Try to take steps to try to prevent this from happening again. Mr. Balaski commented that we have not had time to put a plan in place, but we will work on this. Mr. Bogatay commented that he was embarrassed and shocked and he never thought the question was real at the time. It was put out as material to the students. We are going to continue to review this conversation, put together trainings, etc. We do take this very seriously.

Teona Williams, 1623 Lilac Lane, Crescent Township, saying she was disappointed and shocked that this happened. There needs to be a plan in place going forward. A good idea to have a plan and involve parents.

Daria Crawley, 309 Diamond Drive, Moon Township, she would also like to hear about a plan going forward. Mr. Hauser commented that a subcommittee needs to be developed by the Diversity Equity Committee. Committee should involve experts in the field.

Mr. Balaski encouraged the public to email him with comments and thoughts on this. He will share this information with the administration and Diversity Committee.

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 8:22 pm.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Brown
Clerk, Board of Education

James Bogatay
Secretary, Board of Education