

Virtual Business Meeting, February 8, 2021

The February 8, 2021, business meeting of the Moon Area Board of Education was held virtually at 7:00 p.m., for general purposes. The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President, Robert Harper. The following directors were present:

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

Mr. Scappe was absent.

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

There were approximately 44 audience members.

Mr. Balaski announced that this meeting will be recorded.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Balaski thanked everyone for their continuous support for educating the students both in-person and virtually. We have been in contact with several different groups to bring the 1A vaccine to Moon Area School District. We are on the list for approximately six (6) different places and they are just not getting the vaccines in fast enough. If we do get notified, we will try and help out our community members as well.

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

Audience Recognition (Agenda Items)

None.

Correspondence

None.

Parkway West Career and Technology Center

Mr. Hauser reported that the Parkway West Career and Technology Center met on February 2, 2021. Budgets were presented and approved. They also voted to ratify the memorandum of understanding with the Parkway West Federation of Teachers for the current school year, which will allow students to return to Parkway at the end of the school year to make up any missed course work this school year due to COVID 19. Students have missed a lot of hands on instruction during this past school year. The teachers have agreed to this and will be paid \$225 a day to work with students. Representatives from the building committee at Parkway proposed renovations. A list of honor students was announced at the meeting and there were 11 Moon Area students on the honor roll.

Moon Transportation Authority

Mr. Hauser reported that the Moon Transportation Authority (MTA) met on February 1, 2021. The Authority received the January reports and updates on budgets. Ms. Lynn Colosi presented several budget scenarios. The MTA will continue to look at budgeting. The MTA’s solicitor received correspondence from Mr. Cambest, Solicitor, representing Moon Area School District requesting to schedule a meeting. The MTA Board felt it was important to meet with MASD’s Board to review the issues and concerns. This meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Student Activities Committee

No report.

Solicitor’s Report

No report.

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

Approval of Reports

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meetings held on January 11, 2021 and January 25, 2021, and the following reports as reflected in the February Financial Reports:

- Treasurer’s Report
- Investment Report
- Board Summary Report
- High School/Middle School Activities Report
- Procurement Card Report.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Payment of Bills

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Hamilton-Archer, “that the Board of Education approve the bills listed for payment in the February Financial Reports from January 22, 2021 to February 5, 2021, in the amount of \$1,836,707.62 as follows:

General Fund	\$1,344,614.69
Activity Fund	1,124.84
Food Service	27,157.96
General Fund	<u>463,810.13</u>
Total	\$ 1,836,707.62”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

ABM Building Solutions Pool Optimization Payment

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Partica, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve payment to ABM Building Solutions for the pool optimization installation, in the amount of \$150,401.00, as attached.”

Note: The repairs have been made to the system and it is now fully operational per John Daniels.

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Preliminary General Fund Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the Preliminary General Fund Budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$84,860,088.00, as attached.”

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

2021-2022 AIU Program of Services Budget – Finance Division

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the proposed 2021-2022 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget in the amount of \$2,161,057.00. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts’ total contribution to the budget is \$1,811,545.00. The Moon Area School District’s contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$69,966.00 and will be determined by PDE according to District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM).”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Parkway West General Operating and Jointure Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mrs. Partica, “that the Board of Education approve the Parkway West General Operating and Jointure Budget for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

	<u>2021-2022</u>
Parkway West General Operating Budget	\$7,156,298.00
Parkway West Jointure Budget	\$ 728,707.00

Moon Area School District’s Estimated Share of Budget

Parkway West General Operating Budget	\$ 580,090.50
Parkway West Jointure Budget	\$ 83,554.76.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Title I and Title IIA Non-Public School Agreements between Moon Area School District and Allegheny Intermediate Unit

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Partica, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the Title I Non-Public School Agreement and the Title IIA Non-Public School Agreement between Moon Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2020-2021 school year as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

2021-2022 School Calendar

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Partica, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 school calendar as attached.”

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Partica, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education amend the 2021-2022 school calendar moving graduation day from Saturday, June 4, 2022 to Friday, June 3, 2022.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 school calendar as attached, moving graduation day from Saturday, June 4, 2022 to Friday, June 3, 2022.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Personnel

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

I. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the retirement resignation from Nancy Burgunder from her position as Business/Computer teacher at the Middle School at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.”

II. Approval of a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave of Absence to Adrienne Kaminsky from her position as Spanish teacher at the Middle School beginning on or about May 3, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, returning at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, pending release from physician.”

III. Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to Kathleen Kelly from her Special Education Assistant position at Brooks Elementary School effective February 16, 2021 for approximately 6 weeks or pending release from physician.”

IV. Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to Lisa Jaworowski from her position as Music/Choral Director at the High School beginning February 17, 2021 through April 5, 2021 or pending release from physician.”

V. Approval of Internal Movements

“that the Board of Education approve the following internal movements with start dates to be determined:

Custodian – Bon Meade Elementary School	Tammy Melnick
Custodian – Allard Elementary	Sherri Cogis.”

VI. Approval of STA Drivers

“that the Board of Education approve the following individual employed by STA as bus and/or van drivers 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:

John Turner	Van Driver
123 Pear Orchard Road	
Coraopolis, PA 15108.”	

VII. Approval of Winter Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year

“that the Board of Education approve the following Winter coach for the 2020-2021 school year, per the recommendation of Mr. Ron Ledbetter, pending receipt and review of clearances and contingent upon the reopening of Moon Area School District during the 2020-2021 school year and approval of the interscholastic Winter sports programs under the laws and orders of the Federal, State, County, WPIAL and PIAA:

Boys Basketball

Volunteer Assistant	Jarrod Simmons.”
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VIII. Approval of Spring Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year

“that the Board of Education approve the following Spring coach for the 2020-2021 school year, per the recommendation of Mr. Ron Ledbetter, pending receipt and review of clearances and contingent upon the reopening of Moon Area School District during the

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2020-2021 school year and approval of the interscholastic Spring sports programs under the laws and orders of the Federal, State, County, WPIAL and PIAA:

Boys Rugby

Volunteer Assistant Ben Carozza.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Personnel

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the items listed on the supplemental agenda:

IX. Approval to Hire and Fill Positions

“that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to hire and fill vacant positions prior to the board meeting scheduled for February 22, 2021.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

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

Audience Recognition (Non-Agenda Items)

Shirl Hoak, 309 MacNab Drive, Moon Township, PA thanked the Board for the different solutions for the youth basketball team to get in practice time. Mr. Balaski commented that we use our elementary gym space for cafeteria seating. He spoke to Mr. Ledbetter and we have limited space available, however, he will look into this situation further. Mrs. Hoak asked when the meeting with the MTA will be held. Mr. Balaski commented that the meeting will be held on February 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm and will be in person and is open to the public. This information will be posted on our website.

Babette Sanders, 186 Lochheed Drive, Moon Township, had a question about the high school calendar. She would like to know if the junior prom is still happening and what the tentative status is on the other senior events if anything is planned at all? Mr. Balaski commented that we fall under different rules as school district. If we would go anywhere there is a 10% limit, we would have to keep kids 6 feet apart, and we would not be able to hold a prom or large event under these guidelines. It doesn't mean that we tentatively do not have things planned. We would like to do something for the kids.

Michelle Johns, 202 Ridgestar Drive, Moon Township, asked if there is any chance of getting kids back to school 5 days a week? She has a straight A student that is failing chorus because of the asynchronous schedule. She asked if Wednesday is still used for deep cleaning or is it a planning day for teachers so that they can schedule classes whenever they choose? She has been

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in touch with Mrs. Heasley and Mr. D'Alesio about her child's teacher, whose scheduled time to teach is at 12:50 pm. Every Wednesday, he has been holding his virtual class at 10:00 am. Therefore, the students have to miss another class to attend his class. When will the kids be back in class 5 days a week because the Wednesday virtual is creating a whole other set of problems? Mr. Balaski commented that if a teacher is not going live at the period in which they are scheduled, sometimes they can choose the asynchronous to work with students that are at home or to do some planning at another time. But if there is a teacher going live at different times than their schedule, please send him an email and he will look into this. We are in the severe range of spread; however, we are in school more than 90% of other schools. There are only a couple schools at the elementary level that are there 5 days a week and he only know of one school that has their high school back 5 days a week. We have discussed bringing our elementary students back 5 days a week. At the middle school and high school, there are students that are fully virtual, so it makes planning a bit more difficult for teachers. The recommended style of teaching right now from the state in this severe range is to be 100% virtual. We are doing well in our scenario.

Amy Stuart, 3003 Fallbrook Drive, Moon Township, thanked Mr. Balaski and Mr. Harper on the basketball situation allowing parents to get to see the games. She also asked if kids are exposed to someone in school with COVID, and they have previously had it do they need to isolate? Mr. Balaski commented that if they have had it over the last 90 days they don't have to isolate.

Board Comments

Mr. Hamilton-Archer, Mrs. Zieger, Mr. Dugan, and Mr. Harper had no comments this evening.

Mr. Testa congratulated Moon graduate A.Q. Shipley, super bowl champion with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Mr. Hauser also congratulated A.Q. Shipley. As his former principal, he commented that it is outstanding to see how much A.Q. has accomplished. He is an outstanding athlete and he is an outstanding human being. He's made everyone who knows him immensely proud!

Mrs. Partica thanked everyone for their questions this evening. Commenting that the Board receives the public's emails and they do read them and either Mr. Balaski or Mr. Harper (or whoever is the Board President) will answer the emails. Last week she and other board members met with our new state Senator Mr. Devlin Robinson to talk to him about school issues. She encourages the public to reach out to their representatives regarding school issues, budgets, etc.

Mr. Bogatay commented that he missed the last meeting but did watch it online, so he doesn't miss anything critical. The public that attended the last meeting and this meeting may be confused. At the last meeting, Mr. Testa accused members of the Board of engaging in political games to make him look bad. Mr. Bogatay commented that at this evening's meeting, he finds it interesting that despite a request to have a robust conversation with anybody that disagrees with the proposed preliminary budget and the proposed tax increase, Mr. Testa offered no comment and voted "no" for the second time for the proposed preliminary budget. We are stewards of the district and have an obligation to the taxpayers. He also commented that we have an employee of the District who recently fell into significant health issues. He commented to the individual

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that we are all thinking of you and you are very appreciated and valued as a team member and employee of this District. The Board and the District wishes you all the best and hopes to see you back to work soon.

Mr. Balaski will keep an eye on the weather this evening and assess the situation for school this week.

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Partica, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 8:47 pm.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Brown
Clerk, Board of Education

James Bogatay
Secretary, Board of Education