

The January 10, 2022, business meeting of the Moon Area Board of Education was held at 7:00 p.m., for general purposes. The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President, Danielle Zieger. The following directors were present:

Mrs. Zieger	Mr. Harper	Mr. Bogatay	Mr. Scappe
Mrs. Barr	Ms. Wise	Mrs. Stuart	Mr. Callahan
Mr. Kammerer			

Also, in attendance: Mr. Balaski, Dr. Beltz, Mr. Haslett, Ms. Regan, Mrs. Crago, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Roth and Mr. Vogel, Solicitor

There were approximately 32 audience members.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Balaski recognized the following fall varsity sports teams for their accomplishments this past season:

- Girls' Volleyball team – Section Champs 2 years in a row and WPIAL semi-finalists 3 years in a row
- Boys' Golf team – Section Champs, 8th time in a row
- Football team – Section Champs and WPIAL Runner-ups this season. This is the team's 5th Section Championship title earned.
- Boys' Cross Country team – Section Champs, 6th time they brought the title home
- Girls' Soccer team – 15 Section Championships, 4 WPIAL Championships, and 4 State Championships.

Mr. Balaski made a presentation to the Board regarding the pre-construction process. The presentation provided guidance and insight to the district in its development of a plan to be prepared for the anticipated growth in the community. Anticipated growth includes approximately 450-600 new homes in four different neighborhoods: Market Place off of Hookstown Grade Road, 2nd unnamed neighborhood on the north side of Hookstown Grade Road, the old Crystal Garden Nursery, and possible development at the old Gilmary Retreat Center.

Audience Recognition (Agenda Items)

Chris Rollinson, 125 Valentine Drive, Moon Township, PA commented on item 8.04, Health & Safety Plan. What is the plan if cases go up? Mr. Balaski commented that we can make changes to the Health and Safety Plan throughout the school year. The quarantine timeframe is going to 5 days instead of 10 days to quarantine with positive cases. Using masks have helped us to stay open. Quarantine is not mandated it is recommended.

Parent, Moon Township, PA commented that the current new cases are at 1,843 over the past several days. Asks that the Board revisit the Health & Safety Plan to have students wear masks while in school.

Business Meeting, January 10, 2022

Parent, 2305 Greystone Drive, Moon Township, she is a Speech Language Pathologist, and her job has gotten very hard with masks on students and staff. Commented that it doesn't make sense to change course now mid-way through school year, in middle of winter, cases going up. One layer of protection is better than none to prevent Covid. Mr. Harper commented that when the Board voted on December 15 to make masks optional, he was opposed. We need to do everything we can do to keep our kids in school and not have to shut down schools. Timing is not appropriate now to make masks optional in his opinion. He is okay with making masks optional down the road. He would reconsider the mask optional when things start to calm down. Consider possibly a later date, possibly two more additional weeks.

Mike Migulic, 1023 Autumn Woods Drive, Moon Township, commented that it should be the parents' choice if they want their kids to wear masks or not. Asked if mental health is part of the Health and Safety Plan? Mr. Balaski commented that mental health is not part of the Health and Safety plan; however, we do offer services in the schools for mental health. Mr. Bogatay commented that mental health issues are something we need to address with the curriculum as well. Mr. Scappe commented that everyone has the right to decide what is right for their children in their house. We (the Board/Administration) have to make decisions that affect over 6,000 people in several buildings within the district and try to keep them safe. He doesn't agree with mask optional plan at this point in time. Mr. Harper commented that his issue as well is that teachers will be out sick if they get the virus, and we have no substitute teachers available. Mr. Balaski agreed that there is a teacher shortage. If we have staffing issues with teachers out sick, we may have to close schools. Mr. Harper commented that this is not the right time to go mask optional when cases are high. We should wait a bit longer and then make masks optional. Mrs. Barr commented that Chartiers Valley unmasked on December 5 and has had a very low number of cases.

Julie Tobin, 1213 Harrow Hill Court, Moon Township, asked about making masks optional. Mr. Balaski commented that he would have to close several schools. Mrs. Zieger asked if there was data if the students are mask optional or if they have to close? She supports mask optional.

Robin Riser, 605 West Parliament Drive, Moon Township, if you are doing away with contact tracing and not monitoring symptoms, are there any other layers of mitigation? Mrs. Zieger commented that she changed her mind on making masks optional after seeing students not wearing them correctly and not wearing them at large gatherings or events. Mr. Harper commented that we have not gone against the recommendation of the superintendent and administration over the last six years. She also asked if there are any other layers of mitigation. Mr. Balaski commented that we do put a lot into our mitigation efforts. We have state of the art air filtration systems in place. We use Bactronix in our classrooms. Mr. Harper asked if the January 17th date for masks optional can wait another one to two weeks until the numbers start to come down the level of infection rate is down. There's always a risk on both sides. He sees both sides, legitimate reasons to unmask children. Mr. Balaski commented that cyber school is an option. If students have IEPs or 504s or are immunocompromised.

Debbie Turici, 249 Randy Lane, Moon Township, suggested that everyone listen to the superintendent's recommendations. There is a spike throughout the country and the world. This is not the time to make masks optional. She is asking the Board to delay making this decision at this time.

Parent, 111 Bentley Down Drive, Moon Township, would like the Board to reconsider their decision on the Health & Safety Plan. Delay the decision at this time until we are in the moderate transmission level.

Parent, 211 Springer Drive, Moon Township, consider pushing the date back for the mask optional plan. There are high peaks now in cases. Would like to wait a few weeks before changing the plan and see if the numbers come down.

Parent, 209 Sparrow Drive, Moon Township, her kids are scared to go to school after January 17 with the mask optional plan. Scared of bringing the virus home to their family.

Sean McCurdy, 101 Downing Drive asked about Item 8.07, if there was an RFP done when hiring the solicitor? Mrs. Zieger commented that we are keeping the same special education counsel.

Parent, 1788 Hassam Road, Moon Township, last year we fought to get the kids back in school. Now we are fighting to make masks optional or not. Does not see the harm in delaying the plan for a couple weeks to see where we are at that time. Asks that the Board reconsider keeping the masks on a little bit longer.

Parent, 215 Essex Knoll Drive, Moon Township, makes sense to move the date back for making masks optional; high transmission rates in hospitals, bad timing.

Correspondence

None.

Parkway West Career and Technology Center

Parkway West met last Tuesday. We have 36 Moon students that are on the honors list. In the month of December, student of the month was a senior, Dakota Alcorn. Dakota is a first year student in the automotive technology program. Our current 8th graders will be going on a tour of Parkway in January.

Moon Transportation Authority

The MTA met last Wednesday and had a reorganization meeting. Discussed the Market Place project, updated on the preliminary design. The executive director is applying for grants for the construction of the project. There is some federal and state money that is available to us, and we are going after approximately \$5 million in grants for that construction. There will be an influx of housing in that area.

Student Activities Committee

The Student Activities committee met on January 3, 2022. The sports teams were recognized this evening under the superintendent's report. At the Middle School, on January 12, there will

be a 5th grade winter concert. Parkway West will have a Career Day on January 28 for the 8th graders. At the high school, the first semester ends on January 13, 2022. Graduation was discussed. Because it was successful being held outdoors last year, we are planning on doing that this year. Administration is working rain dates for graduation.

Solicitor’s Report

No report.

Approval of Reports

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Stuart, SECONDED by Mrs. Barr, “that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meetings held on December 6, 2021 and December 15, 2021, and the following reports as reflected in the January 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 Mrs. Stuart, SECONDED by Mr. Callahan, “that the Board of Education approve the bills listed for payment in the January Financial Reports below, in the amounts totaling \$3,963,777.59 for the period December 3, 2021, to January 7, 2022:

General Fund	\$1,312,451.45
Activity Fund	28,130.52
Food Service	85,014.94
General Fund	2,486,133.78
Capital Reserve	<u>52,046.90</u>
Total	\$ 3,963,777.59”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Resolution 2022-1 for Act 1 Index

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mrs. Stuart, “that the Board of Education accept Resolution 2022-1 regarding the Act 1 index taxpayer relief act stating the district will not raise taxes above the index of 4% for the 2022-2023 school year, as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Update to 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Stuart, SECONDED by Mrs. Barr, “that the Board of Education approve the recommendations from the CDC to update the current Health and Safety Plan to reduce quarantine time.”

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

“that the Board of Education approve to postpone/extend the mask optional date for two (2) weeks.”

All directors voted in disfavor on a roll call vote, with the exception of Mr. Harper, Mr. Bogatay and Mr. Scappe who voted in favor. Motion to amend the agenda failed.

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Stuart, SECONDED by Mrs. Barr, “that the Board of Education approve the recommendations from the CDC to update the current Health and Safety Plan to reduce quarantine time.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Post-Installation Report from ABM Building Solutions, LLC

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mrs. Stuart, “that the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of the Post-Installation Report from ABM Building Solutions, LLC for energy savings projects completed June 25, 2020 to October 31, 2021.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

MASD Emergency Instructional Time Template

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mrs. Stuart, “that the Board of Education approve the Emergency Instructional Time Template with sample schedules that will be followed in the event that remote and hybrid learning models are utilized to continue instruction under the temporary provisions of Section 520.1, as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Retain Services of Attorneys for Special Education Special Counsel

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Kammerer, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve to retain the services of Jocelyn Kramer, Esq. and Annemarie Harr Eagle, Esq. of Weiss Burkardt Kramer, LLC, 445 Fort Pitt Boulevard #503, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 as special education special counsel.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Appointment of Member to the Moon Transportation Authority

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Stuart, SECONDED by Mrs. Barr, “that the Board of Education recommend the appointment of William G. Kammerer to serve as a member of the Moon Transportation Authority.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Grades 9-12 IXL Electronic Resource Adoption

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay SECONDED by Mr. Callahan, “that the Board of Education approve a three-year contract with IXL to supply the Moon Area School District with an electronic software supporting grades 9-12 ELA and Math, at a cost of \$45,696.00, as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Daily Field Trips

IT WAS MOVED by Ms. Wise, SECONDED by Mrs. Stuart, “that the Board of Education approve the attached list of daily field trips for the 2021-2022 school year, subject to the protocols in place at the time of the event:

January 12, 2022	Heidi Gariti	Seneca Valley Middle School
January 28, 2022	Deanne Hinerman	Parkway West Vocational School
February 9, 2022	Heidi Gariti	Montour Athletic Center
March 23, 2022	Tracey Spinelli	Carnegie Science Center.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Moon Area Girls Rugby Team Field Trips

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Callahan, SECONDED by Mrs. Barr, “that the Board of Education approve the Moon Area Girls Rugby team to travel to the following locations to participate in Rugby matches on the following dates, subject to the protocols in place at the time of the event:

- Charlotte, North Carolina – March 5-6, 2022
- State College, Pennsylvania – March 20, 2022
- Gannon University, Erie, Pennsylvania – April 3, 2022
- State College, Pennsylvania – May 1, 2022
- Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania – May 7, 2022.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Participation of Students in Winter Indoor Track Meets

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Callahan, SECONDED by Mrs. Barr, “that the Board of Education approve students, on a voluntary basis, to participate in winter indoor track meets. Track

coaches may provide transportation to students in school vans. There are no other costs to the district.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Conferences

IT WAS MOVED by Ms. Wise, SECONDED by Mr. Scappe, “that the Board of Education approve conferences that cost over \$500 or require an overnight stay:

Ron Ledbetter – Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) AD’s Conference, Hershey, PA, March 15-18, 2022. Annual state athletic directors conference Providing professional development and networking. The conference does not require a substitute. District cost: \$1,466.91.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Personnel

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Callahan, SECONDED by Mrs. Stuart, “that the Board of Education approve the items listed.”

I. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Salisha Ali-Himraj from her position as Dishwasher/Server at Allard Elementary School effective January 21, 2022.”

II. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Tim Hrivnak from the position of Cross Country Head Coach effective immediately.”

III. Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to Valerie Valdiserri from her position as Counselor at the Middle School beginning retro to November 30, 2021 for approximately 6 – 8 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 Jeanne Schreiber from her position as Grade 6 Mathematics teacher at the Middle School beginning February 25, 2022 for approximately eight (8) weeks or pending release from physician.”

V. Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to David Carmichael from his position as Custodian at Brooks Elementary School beginning on January 12, 2022 through February 11, 2022 or pending release from physician.”

VI. Approval of a Childbearing Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Childbearing Leave of Absence to Lauren Gregg from her position as First Grade teacher and Grade Level Coordinator at Hyde Elementary School beginning on or about April 9, 2022 for approximately 6 – 8 weeks or pending release from physician.”

VII. Approval of a Childbearing Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Childbearing Leave of Absence to Meghan Abbenante from her position as First Grade teacher at McCormick Elementary School beginning on or about April 8, 2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.”

VIII. Approval of Mentor

“that the Board of Education approve the following mentor for the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year:

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Inductee</u>
Jessica Martinos	Carly Sweeney.”

IX. Approval of Additional Compensation for Department Heads

“that the Board of Education approve additional compensation for the following Department Heads for the 2021-2022 school year, for the partial compensation of \$500.00 each:

Kristin Baumgardner
Patricia Perry.”

X. Approval of Internal Movement

“that the Board of Education approve the following internal movement:

Special Education Assistant – Allard Karen O’Donnell (start date 12/10/2021).”

XI. Approval of Teachers for Supplemental Pre-Algebra 1 – 6th Class – 7th Grade Pre-Algebra Positions

“that the Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Supplemental Pre-Algebra 1 – 6th Class – 7th Grade Pre-Algebra positions effective January 11, 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year:

Devin Miller
Holly Sinatra
Lisa May.”

XII. Approval of Teachers for Supplemental Keystone Algebra 1 – 6th Class – 8th Grade Algebra Positions

“that the Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Supplemental Keystone Algebra 1 - 6th Class – 8th Grade Algebra positions effective January 11, 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year:

Angela Marino
Shannon Yanek.”

XIII. Approval of Middle School Remediation Tutors/Facilitators

“that the Board of Education approve the following teachers as Remediation Program Tutors/Facilitators at the Middle School effective January 11, 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year:

Shannon Yanek (Math)
Devin Miller (Math)
Holly Sinatra (Math and ELA)
Michael Teti (Math substitute, afternoon)
Patricia Hyland (Math)
Kerrie Turner (ELA)
Candace Shaffer (ELA).”

XIV. Approval of Cyber Teacher for the 2021-2022 School Year

“that the Board of Education approve the following Cyber teacher for the 2021-2022 school year:

<u>Content</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Business Education	Sarah Durham.”

XV. Approval of Winter/Spring Coaches

“that the Board of Education approve the following winter/spring coaches for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances:

Varsity Track & Field

Assistant Coach (A-3) Jesse Romanchak

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Ms. Wise, SECONDED by Mr. Callahan, “that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 10:25 pm.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Brown
Clerk, Board of Education

Crystal Barr
Secretary, Board of Education