

## Virtual Business Meeting, January 11, 2021

**The January 11, 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, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Roth and Mr. Cambest, Solicitor

There were approximately 70 audience members.

Mr. Balaski announced that this meeting will be recorded.

Mr. Harper announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Balaski welcomed students and staff back to school and commented that parents are doing a great job of informing the District of COVID cases. As a reminder, if you have a case, please let your building principals know. We are very excited to have the kids back in school.

Ms. Regan, Director of Fiscal and School Services, presented the Preliminary General Fund Budget for the 2021-2022 school year.

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 Parkway West Joint Operating Committee met on January 5, 2021. An executive session was held at 6 pm to discuss personnel and safety matters. One of the personnel items discussed was the Business Manager's contract. The safety item discussed was return to instruction Parkway returned to full January 4, 2021 to virtual instruction. They are in a hybrid model as of today. They are trying to find a way to get back to full in person instruction as soon

## Virtual Business Meeting, January 11, 2021

as clearance is provided by the state and county health departments. Some of the items discussed at the meeting were:

- The calendar for the 2021 meetings of the Joint Operating Committee and was approved. The JOC meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm and is open to the public. The meetings have been virtual.
- The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette newspaper was approved for advertisements.
- The Committee voted to approve the Preliminary General Operating Budget for the 2021-2022 school year, \$7,156,298.00. Dr. Copeland has shared this information with the member school districts. The Jointure Budget is an agreement by the 12 member districts to fund the renovation projects that are necessary to keep the Career and Technology Center up to date. That portion of the preliminary budget is \$728,706.44.
- The annual salary for Chris Hamilton, Business Manager, at Parkway was discussed. Mr. Hamilton is a graduate of Moon Area High School and is doing a phenomenal job. His salary was approved, and he was awarded a 5-year contract with an annual salary of \$91,000. All 12 members schools are returning under the same hybrid model at this time.

### **Moon Transportation Authority**

Mr. Hauser reported that the Moon Transportation Authority (MTA) met on January 5, 2021 at 5 pm. The committee is responsible for the reorganization at the start of each calendar year. The Moon Township Board of Supervisors elected the following officials for a 5-year term:

Mark Scappe, President  
Todd Hertzner, Vice President  
Tom Weaver, Secretary/Treasurer

Delta Development Group was approved to provide consulting services to the MTA. The Beaver County Times was approved as the newspaper for advertising. PNC Bank was approved as the depository. The MTA meets regularly the first Monday of each month with the exception of December. One of the items discussed on the floor was the request by the school district to be able to forego any monies that would come from improvements. Ms. Colosi did a detailed review of the MTA's budget and recommended to the Board that the MTA would not be able to forego its funds. The MTA will entertain meeting with the Board and Administration at Moon to discuss those things in detail. The MTA has a number of debts they it is responsible for meeting and would not be able to fulfill meeting those debts if any of improvement money was allowed to go back to the district.

Discussion was held regarding the land development process

- The Marketplace development that is underway.
- Thorn Run Interchange project – we are in the process of closing out the project by the end of the month and we are working in conjunction with Penndot.
- The Stevenson Mill connector and the Rouser Road connectors, work is continuing on those projects. Regarding the Rouser Road project, given the tenuous nature of the Authority's budget, they are not going to follow through on the Rouser Road connection

at this time. The Board hired the Larsen Design Group to do the preliminary design. Its on hold by the MTA. Other developers working out there. MTA will monitor the project.

- The Marketplace District is the largest of the projects. The Board hired the Larson Design Group to continue with some preliminary development services. The bulk of the project is going to be on hold, as far as the MTA is concerned. There are other independent developers working out there. The MTA will continue to monitor and work with the Larson Group to see what role the MTA will play.

Mr. Balaski is concerned that we have about eight (8) hotels filing for assessments and we've been told that there would be a 30% decrease in taxes that we receive from them. We are looking at a large deficit. If those hotels do renovations over this time, and they reassess and the taxes go up, he believes the MTA has a right to go after those renovations, which means we could take a 30% loss and we wouldn't get that money back on our tax rolls in a time of need. Mr. Testa commented that he believes what happens in that case is if they are granted an appeal victor and their assessment is lower, during the pandemic, when things improve after the pandemic, if the assessment goes up, we receive that tax money. If they do a renovation above that, then that's the part where there seems to be contention where the MTA can get only the renovated part for 10 years and that is what we need to discuss with them.

Mr. Hauser suggested that we should identify specific projects within the MTA, find out what their assessments are, find out what changes those assessments were, and compare what those figures are. Right now, we are speculating numbers. We need to narrow it down and plan where we go from there. Mr. Harper's issue is that the MTA taking the renovation money from the District. Mr. Testa suggested that we should get back together with both Boards and discuss. Mr. Hamilton-Archer commented that the District would like to be part of the decision making process moving forward with the MTA, so we have some ability to have some say, for our planning purposes moving forward, having a shared responsibility. Mr. Bogatay commented that where the disconnect is, just because something has been a good thing doesn't mean it continues to be a good thing. We are being left with the check. It's the taxpayers' money for the District and becomes recharacterized as something else. Mr. Hauser commented on how it was designed to work, the school district, the county and the township all agreed to defer collecting taxes on any new developments within the LERTA district. There are no taxes being collected because the school district originally agreed to defer collecting taxes on that money.

### **Student Activities Committee**

No report.

### **Solicitor's Report**

No report.

**Approval of Reports**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education approve the minutes from Reorganization meeting and the Business meeting held on December 7, 2020, 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 Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education approve the bills listed for payment in the January Financial Reports below, in the amounts totaling \$7,536,106.73 for the period December 5, 2020, to January 7, 2021:

General Fund	\$ 924,589.23
Activity Fund	4,861.10
Food Service	57,260.28
General Fund	<u>6,549,396.12</u>
Total	\$ 7,536,106.73”

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. Dugan, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the preliminary general fund budget for the 2021-2022 school year as attached.”

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

**Transfinder Transportation Services**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Dugan, SECONDED by Mr. Hamilton-Archer, “that the Board of Education approve a contract with Transfinder for an upgraded transportation package including setup, mapping, vehicle tracking, unlimited access, and training, as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**PEMA Designation of Agent Resolution (COVID 19, DR 2506)**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education authorize Ms. Jill Regan, Director of Fiscal and School Services, to be the designated Agent to complete the PEMA/FEMA COVID 19 application for disaster relief funds for Damage Project 143463.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**High School Program of Studies – 2021-2022**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the High School Program of Studies for the 2021-2022 school year as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**Policy for First and Final Reading Approval**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education approve the first and final reading of the following policy that has been revised for adoption:

- Policy No. 202 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**Representative for MASD in the 2021 WPIAL Rifle Championship**

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Partica, SECONDED by Mr. Hamilton-Archer, “that the Board of Education approve Harrison Readshaw to be the representative for Moon Area School District in the 2021 WPIAL Rifle Championship being held on Thursday, February 11, 2021. There is no cost to the district.”

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, including the supplemental agenda:

**I. Approval of an Intermittent Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Childcare Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve an Intermittent Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Childcare Leave of Absence to Ashley Kulasa from her position as Grade 3 teacher at McCormick Elementary School effective retro to December 8, 2020 through December 31, 2020.”

**II. Approval of an Intermittent Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Childcare Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve an Intermittent Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Childcare Leave of Absence to Dana Podnar from her position as Special Education teacher at the High School effective retro to December 9, 2020 through December 31, 2020.”

**III. Approval of an Unpaid Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve an Unpaid Leave of Absence to Linda Konley from her position as Dishwasher/Server in the cafeteria at the High School effective immediately until the students return to school.”

**IV. Approval of an Unpaid Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve an Unpaid Leave of Absence to Kiersten Camacho from her position as Special Education Assistant at McCormick Elementary School beginning January 11, 2021 through January 22, 2021.”

**V. Approval of an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence to Angela Marino from her position as Mathematics teacher at the Middle School beginning immediately until her child’s school returns to full in person learning. The purpose for the leave is to care for a family member.”

**VI. Approval of Internal Movements**

“that the Board of Education approve the following internal movements effective retro to December 14, 2020:

Administrative Assistant for Athletics	Michelle Dunn
Special Education Assistant – Middle School	Tracy Maue
Life Skills Personal Assistant – High School	Mary Humphrey.”

**VII. Tenure**

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

Jessica Martinos.”

**VIII. Resignation**

“that the Board of Education accept the retirement resignation from Warren Pifer from his position as Custodian at Bon Meade Elementary School effective April 2, 2021.”

**IX. Resignation**

“that the Board of Education accept the disability retirement resignation from Jeffrey Osegueda from his position as Building Manager at Bon Meade Elementary School effective March 1, 2021.”

**X. Approval of Long-Term Substitute Social Studies Teacher**

“that the Board of Education approve Max Levine, 140 Maplevue Drive, Beaver Falls, PA 15010, to the position of Long-Term Substitute Social Studies teacher at the High School for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year. The salary for this position will be \$188.88 per day (75% of Bachelors’ Step 1), along with individual health insurance.”

**XI. Approval of Building Assistant**

“that the Board of Education approve Diana Schmidt, 212 Norman Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108, to the position of Building Assistant at Allard Elementary School pending receipt and review of clearances. Start date to be determined.”

**XII. Approval of Family Consumer Science Teacher**

“that the Board of Education approve Shannon Zewe, 1807 South Villa Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044, to the position of Family Consumer Science teacher at the Middle School, pending receipt and review of clearances. The salary for this position will be Bachelors Step 1 \$47,850 (prorated). Tentative start date January 25, 2021.”

**XIII. Approval of Extra Pay for Extra Duty Position – Middle School**

“that the Board of Education approve the following extra pay for extra duty position at the Middle School effective at the start of the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year:

Bus Duty (AM)	Dominic Politi”
---------------	-----------------

**XIV. 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 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances, confidentiality agreement and computer usage agreement:

Emma Fleeman	Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University.	Student Teacher
Christiana Raftis	Slippery Rock University	Student Teacher.”

**XV. Approval of Winter Event Workers**

“that the Board of Education approve the following Winter Event workers for the 2020-2021 school year, per the recommendation of Mr. Ledbetter, as follows:

Substitute Event Worker	Matthew Marraway
Substitute Event Worker	Michelle Dunn.”

**XVI. Approval of Spring Coaches**

“that the Board of Education approve the following list of Spring coaches for the 2020-2021 school year, per the recommendation of Mr. Ledbetter, pending receipt and review of clearances:

**Baseball**

Head Coach	Todd Goble
Asst. Coach (A-1)	Tom Gaona
Asst. Coach (A-2)	Eric D'Antonio
Volunteer	Zack Simmen
Volunteer	Ryan McCutcheon
Volunteer/9th grade	David Foy

**Softball**

Head Coach	Ryan Linn
Asst. Coach (Co A-1)	Tyler Krokonko
Asst. Coach (Co A-1)	Leeann Lombardo
Asst. Coach (A-2)	Bill Komara
Volunteer	Charlie Chambers

**Track**

Head Coach	Frank Todd
Asst. Coach (A-1)	Bob Mercer
Asst. Coach (Co A-1)	Tiffany Broderick
Asst. Coach (Co A-1)	TBD
Asst. Coach (A-2)	Scott Slater
Asst. Coach (A-3)	Willy Cook
Asst. Coach (A-3)	Monica Zajicek
Asst. Coach (A-3)	Michael Winterbauer
Asst. Coach (A-3)	Natalie Eaton
Volunteer	Tim Sherman
Volunteer	Angela Marino
Volunteer	Andrew Parshall
Volunteer	Tim Hrivnak

**Boys Volleyball**

Head Coach	Steve Nicola
Asst. Coach (A-2)	Stephanie Benkowski

**Boys Tennis**

Head Coach	Mike Lucente
Asst. Coach (A-3)	Vicki King

**Swimming**

MS Coach (A-3)	Jeff Berghoff
----------------	---------------

**Boys Lacrosse**

Head Coach (V)	Mark Ringeling
Asst. Coach (V)	Bennett Metzger

**Girls Lacrosse**

Head Coach (V)	Taylor Hopkins
Asst. Coach (V)	Emily D'Amico

**Girls Rugby**

Head Coach (V)	Rocky Nurss
Asst. Coach (V)	Jillian Deitrick
Asst. Coach (V)	Neha Kumar
Asst. Coach (V)	Dez Markovich
Asst. Coach (V)	Shannon Rodriguez

**Boys Rugby**

Head Coach (V)	Cody Fulton
Asst. Coach (V)	Shawn Crago.”

**XVII. Approval of STA Drivers**

“that the Board of Education approve the following individuals 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:

Abigail Coneby 3202 Heights Road Aliquippa, PA 15001	Change from Van to Bus Driver
--	-------------------------------

Daniel Jackson 155 Valley Green Drive Coraopolis, PA 15108	Van Driver
--	------------

Joseph Williams 160 Barr Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15205.”	Van Driver
--	------------

## Supplemental Agenda

### XVIII. Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to Amy Finnegan from her position as HR & Benefits Manager effective immediately for approximately 6 – 8 weeks or pending release from physician.”

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)**

None.

#### **Board Comments**

Mr. Hauser welcomed everyone back in the new year and hopes everyone will stay safe and healthy.

Mr. Testa welcomed everyone back and wished all a Happy New Year. He would like to get the students back in school as soon as possible. Stay safe, get vaccinated so we can get back to some type of normalcy.

Mrs. Partica, Mrs. Zieger, Mr. Hamilton-Archer and Mr. Bogatay had no comments this evening.

Mr. Dugan wished everyone a Happy New Year! He’s excited to get the kids back to school and back in the classrooms. Hopefully the numbers stay low and we can stay safe and get the kids back in the classrooms.

Mr. Harper wished all a Happy New Year and welcome back to in person instruction hopefully soon. Congratulations to the new hires. Reminds the community if you have any questions or comments to email the Board.

**Adjournment**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Dugan, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 8:49 pm.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Lisa Brown  
Clerk, Board of Education

---

James Bogatay  
Secretary, Board of Education