

**The July 19, 2021, business meeting** of the Moon Area Board of Education was held virtually at 7:08 p.m., for general purposes. The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President, Robert Harper. The following directors were present:

Mr. Bogatay                      Mr. Dugan                      Mr. Hauser  
Mr. Testa                         Mr. Hamilton-Archer

Mr. Harper, Mrs. Zieger and Mr. Scappe were absent.

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

There were approximately 121 audience members.

Mr. Balaski announced that this meeting will be recorded.

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

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Prevost reviewed the Safety Plan with the Board and public. This plan needs to be submitted to the state. We are able to make alterations to the plan as needed throughout the school year.

Mr. Balaski commented that at this time we are planning to start back 5 days a week for the 2021-2022 school year and safety measures will be in place. We can revise the Safety Plan at any time as long as we are following the CDC guidelines.

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)**

Vanessa Fachel, 214 Norman Drive, Moon Township, commented on the Health and Safety Plan. She opposes it as it will segregate the kids with or without wearing masks. What is the solution? Mr. Dugan commented that she can get her child vaccinated. The options are clear. You have a choice. Mr. Bogatay commented that we are not trying to segregate the kids. The kids are used to the masks. They would have to wear a mask to avoid risk of transmission. It's our duty to keep the kids safe. We are not targeting kids or families; we are trying to keep students and staff safe.

Amy Stuart, 3003 Culvert Drive, Moon Township, commented that she is disappointed in the board's decision. She believes surrounding schools have made different decisions. Wanted to know if antibody testing has been looked into. Mr. Bogatay commented that if you prove your child has the antibodies, he/she would not have to wear a mask. Mr. Dugan would be willing to explore this.

Stephanie Montgomery, 5033 Stags Leap Lane, Moon Township, asked if students that have or have not been vaccinated, will they be required to show a vaccine card? Mr. Bogatay commented that they can show verification of the vaccine card, but we are not asking for this card. Mr. Balaski commented that if we have to quarantine, we will need proof of the vaccine. She also asked if a student is fully vaccinated and they are exposed, do they follow the guidelines? Mr. Balaski commented that no, they are exempt from having to quarantine.

Josh Facht, 214 Norman Drive, Moon Township, when you talk about bullying in schools, this seems similar as you are singling out kids for not having the vaccine. He finds this confusing. His impression is that the Board will do what they want to do and not what the community wants to do for students. Mr. Testa commented that no one on the Board is trying to segregate the students. We are taking the recommendations of the CDC.

Christine Bailey, 212 Westminster, Moon Township, she is disappointed in the plan. Thinks this is segregating the students and then bullying will occur whether that is the school's intention or not. Taking away a parents' ability to do what's best for their child. Other district's give parents the choice. She should not have to send her child with a mask if the mask mandate is lifted. How will you handle any child without an exemption from masks? Mr. Balaski commented that there are medical exemptions for masks. Would need a medical excuse and that would go to the nurse. Mr. Cambest and Mr. Balaski will check further into the medical excuse situation.

Shirl Hoak, 309 MacNab Drive, Moon Township, how are you getting around the legalities of families giving information to you when its not a listed requirement to enter school? Mr. Bogatay commented that you are allowed to attend school. Mr. Cambest will look into this further. Our position is that we need to preserve the in-class model as much as possible.

Stephanie Montgomery, 140 Lansdown Drive, Moon Township, she is disappointed with the decision the Board has made on the masks mandate. This severely affects mental health on students. Why do we have to wear masks for COVID, but we don't have to wear masks for the flu? Mr. Bogatay commented that the population got vaccinated and some diseases do not exist anymore. He recognizes that social and mental health is affected. We have no medical proof of the long-term effects of COVID. She asked if the Board was willing to sign something if their children suffered adverse effects. Mr. Bogatay commented that no, the Board would not sign anything.

Mary Hoover, 207 Westbury Drive, Moon Township, how do you know which students have had the vaccine and which students have not? Mr. Balaski commented that teachers will know who is exempt from wearing a mask. They can check the student information system for exemptions or medical inquiry basis. Mrs. Hoover asked if this policy will be the same for sports? Mr. Balaski commented that masks do not need to be worn outside; inside depends on vaccination status; no masks when competing.

### **Correspondence**

None.

**Parkway West Career and Technology Center**

Mr. Hauser reported that Parkway West is also prepared for the return of students to school for a full week of classes at the start of the school year. They also discussed the issues of vaccines and masks. Parents have been informed and will continue to receive information from the Director as to what will be in place. These decisions are difficult. Remember, students come to Parkway from a dozen different high schools. Parkway will do what is best for all the students they serve. Cummins Diesel will fund the new program at Parkway and will provide an apprenticeship to students. Students will also be provided job opportunities with them. Cummins Diesel Corp partners in industry. They are supporting the programs for a full class of students. Dr. Copeland said the number of students enrolled in Parkway as of today's date was over 1,000.

Mr. Scappe entered the meeting at 8:13 pm.

**Moon Transportation Authority**

No report.

**Student Activities**

No report.

**Solicitor's Report**

No report.

**Approval of Reports**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, "that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meetings held on June 14, 2021 and June 28, 2021, and the following reports as reflected in the July 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. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the bills listed for payment in the July Financial Reports for the periods June 26, 2021 to June 30, 2021, and July 1, 2021 to July 9, 2021, in the amount of \$8,080,217.33 as follows:

6/26/2021 – 6/30/2021

General Fund	\$ 7,034,860.22
Activity Fund	1,020.00
Food Service	3,457.28
General Fund	<u>720.89</u>
Total	\$ 7,040,058.39”

7/1/2021 – 7/9/2021

General Fund	\$ 638,440.07
Activity Fund	0
Food Service	8,094.31
General Fund	<u>393,624.56</u>
Total	\$ 1,040,158.94

Grand Total: \$ 8,080,217.33.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**ABM Building Solutions – Requisition #5 – June 2021**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve to pay ABM Building Solutions’ June requisition for work completed in the amount of \$872,248.00, for the Bundled Energy Project BES 2333-2020, as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Mr. Scappe left the meeting at 8:30 pm.

**Device Usage Notice and One-to-One Protection Plan**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education approve the One-to-One device protection plan and updated device usage, technical support, and maintenance notice as attached.”

(Note: this will allow families to pay a yearly protection plan fee for their student’s district educational device in case of accidental breakage.)

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**K-5 ELA Series Adoption**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Hamilton-Archer, “that the Board of Education approve a five-year contract with McGraw Hill to supply Moon Area School District with the K-5 Wonders 2020 English/Language Arts resource series at a cost of \$372,267.47 as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**K-8 IXL Electronic Resource Adoption**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Testa, “that the Board of Education approve a three-year contract with IXL to supply Moon Area School District with a K-8 electronic resource supporting math, ELA, science, social studies and Spanish, at a cost of \$119,996.00, as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**Health and Safety Plan**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan Summary for the Moon Area School District, as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**2021-2022 Meeting Dates**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Testa, “that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 School Board Meeting and Committee Meeting dates as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**Moon Area Choirs – Annual Request to Operate**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Hamilton-Archer, “that the Board of Education approve the Moon Area Choirs Annual Request to Operate for the 2021-2022 school year as attached.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**Policy for Second Reading Approval**

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

- Policy No. 150 – Title I – Comparability of Services.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

### **Policies for Third and Final Reading Approval**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Hamilton-Archer, “that the Board of Education approve the third and final reading of the following policies that have been revised for adoption:

- Policy No. 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
- Policy No. 218.3 – Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault
- Policy No. 252 – Dating Violence w/attached Report Form
- Policy No. 318 – Attendance and Tardiness.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

### **Marching Band Field Trip Request**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hamilton-Archer, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education approve the High School Marching Band to travel to Fortress Obetz Athletic Complex in Obetz, Ohio, September 25, 2021, to participate in a regional competition and performance. The anticipated costs to the district will be:

- School trucks to pull trailers
- Honorarium to aid in covering transportation costs of three (3) Coach buses. Cost of buses are \$6,000 – approx.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

### **Personnel**

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

#### **I. Approval of School Nurse**

“that the Board of Education approve Heather Hostutler, 102 Hunters Run Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108, to the position of School Nurse at the Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. The salary for this position will be Bachelors Step 1 \$47,850.00.”

#### **II. Approval of Science Teacher**

“that the Board of Education approve Michael Teti, 353 Elmbrook Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15243, to the position of Science teacher at the High School for the 2021-2022 school year. The salary for this position will be Masters Step 1 \$48,914.00.”

**III. Approval of Long-Term Substitute Mathematics Teacher**

“that the Board of Education approve Zoe Strickland, 12000 Park Plaza Drive, Apt. 301, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, to the Long-Term Substitute Mathematics teacher position at the High School for the 2021-2022 school year. The salary for this position will be \$188.88 per day (75% of Bachelors’ Step 1), along with individual health insurance.”

**IV. Approval of a Childbearing/Childrearing/Family Medical Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve a Childbearing/Childrearing/Family Medical Leave of Absence to Abigail DePace from her position as 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher at Bon Meade Elementary School beginning on or about October 15, 2021 and returning on or about November 29, 2021.”

**V. Approval of Safety Coordinator**

“that the Board of Education approve Lucas Furlow as the Safety Coordinator for the 2021-2022 school year. The stipend for this position will be \$7,000.”

**VI. Resignation**

“that the Board of Education accept the retirement resignation from Gail Fleet from her position as Custodian at the High School effective August 5, 2021.”

**VII. 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:

Kari Balogna	Robert Morris University	Intern.”
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**VIII. Approval of Fall Coaches**

“that the Board of Education approve the following Fall coaches for the 2021-2022 school year, per the recommendation of Mr. Ron Ledbetter, pending receipt and review of clearances, as follows:

**Football**

Volunteer Assistant Coach	Scott Lazarus
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**Varsity Girls Soccer**

Volunteer Assistant Coach	Nicole Falcione.”
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**IX. 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 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances. Clearances will be kept on file in the transportation office and at STA:

Rosemary Anderson  
89 North Duane Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Van Driver

Darlene Parke  
1025 School Street  
Coraopolis, PA 15108.”

Van Driver

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**Conferences**

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

The conference request below does not require substitutes:

Shannon Martindale, Beth Nijenhuis and Diane Corsi (previously approved) – to attend an Aquaponics Seminar, Richwood, Ohio; August 6 – 8, 2021. Management and operate the components into an Aquaponic farm model to include deep water culture, media beds and NFT systems and wicking beds. No cost to the District – Fully funded by Aquaponics Grant.”

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, are there any plans for having a prom for seniors this year? Mr. Balaski commented that yes, we will have something for the seniors; our goal is to be as normal as we can. We will send information out to parents as soon as possible. Possibly have a combined Junior/Senior prom.

**Board Comments**

Mr. Dugan, Mr. Hauser, Mr. Hamilton-Archer had no comments this evening.

Mr. Testa recognized student athletes Jacob Palmer and Mia Cochran.



Mr. Bogatay commented that we opened up comments from the public to the Board and we listen, and we engage with the community. Past Boards would listen and not answer questions and move into the voting meeting. This Board has tried to interact with the public and give answers. We know you will not always agree with us, and sometimes we do not agree all the time. We do not mean to sound condescending. Sometimes it comes across that way. We want to keep children safe. We want to educate students; we are sorry for families that are affected by this. It is with a heavy heart we make these decisions. We take bullying very seriously. We have to take health risks serious as its better to be safe than sorry. It is our duty. We appreciate the people that have spoken this evening. He fully understands and empathizes with the families.

**Adjournment**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 8:52 pm.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Brown  
Clerk, Board of Education

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James Bogatay  
Secretary, Board of Education