

## Virtual Business Meeting, October 12, 2020

**The October 12, 2020, 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, Danielle Zieger. The following directors were present:

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

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

There were approximately 105 audience members.

Mr. Balaski announced that this meeting will be recorded.

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

Mrs. Zieger recognized the student athletes and teams' accomplishments to date:

**Cross Country:** Congratulations to Mia Cochran winning the PIAA Foundation Invitational. The girls finished the season at 7-1 and the boys 6-2.

**Girls Golf:** Varsity girls are currently 9-1 and are section champions. Rhianna Firmstone finished in 6th place in the WPIAL. The girls team finished 3rd in the WPIAL in just their fifth year of existence.

**Boys Golf:** Varsity boys are undefeated section champs at 12-0 for the 7th consecutive season. Congratulations to Justin Scally for winning the 2020 WPIAL Championship shooting a 1 under 69 to win by one stroke! Justin becomes the 5th Moon Golfer to win the WPIAL Title. Team will participate in the WPIAL Semifinals on Monday 10/12.

**Girls Soccer:** Varsity girls are currently 5-3-1 and are in second place in the section. Girls travel to Baldwin on Tuesday.

**Boys Soccer:** Varsity boys are 8-2 overall and are in second place in the section and host Blackhawk on Monday.

**Girls Tennis:** Varsity girls are currently 6-3 and have qualified for the WPIAL Playoffs at Mt. Lebanon on Tuesday 10/13.

**Girls Volleyball:** Varsity girls are currently 9-0 and in 1st place in the section as well as ranked #1 in the WPIAL. Girls travel to Shaler on Monday.

**Football:** Varsity football is currently 3-2 and in 4th place in the section. The next game is at Upper St. Clair on Friday at 7 PM

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Balaski commented that he is very excited for students to return to school this week. He urges parents to be careful in the traffic lanes around the buildings when dropping off your children. We want to keep everyone safe.

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 Career and Technology Center met on October 6, 2020. They went over the standard approvals, budget and personnel items. The Director indicated that attendance was solid – 80% hybrid. Virtual is working out well. Enrollment has increased by 50 students. There is a total of 961 students enrolled at Parkway. Mr. Balaski commented that he spoke to the Director at Parkway and they are looking at increasing the number of days that our students will be at Parkway.

**Moon Transportation Authority**

No report this evening.

**Student Activities Committee**

Mr. Scappe reported that the Student Activities Committee met on October 5, 2020 and discussed activities going on. The high school is planning on having a fall play, "Clue" and will be streamed for the public. Students are practicing for the play outdoors at Moon Park. The show will be outdoors, and tickets will be available to the parents. There are four (4) different casts so parents of each cast member will get to see the play in person. They are also working on their spring musical and trying to get the licensing for streaming. The PSATs will be held on October 17, 2020. November 3 – the parent/teacher conferences will take place virtually. Picture day is November 10. Mr. Balaski commented that the teachers are preparing for a virtual open house for families and information will be posted on Skyward for parents to look at. This information will be available after Friday.

Mr. Hauser asked Mr. Balaski to schedule an Education Committee meeting to meet the Assistant Superintendent and get some feedback from him and get a few things on the docket, curriculum, etc. Mrs. Zieger would also like to attend.

**Solicitor’s Report**

No report.

**Approval of Reports**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mrs. Partica, “that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meetings held on September 14, September 21 and September 29, 2020, and the following reports as reflected in the October 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 October Financial Reports below, in the amounts totaling \$2,012,416.30 for the period September 25, 2020, to October 9, 2020:

General Fund	\$ 676,978.68
Activity Fund	850.28
Food Service	2,255.57
General Fund	1,330,031.77
Capital Reserve	<u>2,300.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,012,416.30”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**Grant Acceptance**

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Partica, SECONDED by Mr. Hauser, “that the Board of Education accept the Reflex grant given to the Special Education K-4 classroom at Bon Meade Elementary School in the amount of \$1,625.00.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

**Personnel**

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

**I. Approval of Grade 5 Teacher**

“that the Board of Education approve Sara McMillen, 8010 Jordan Court, Moon Township, PA 15108, to the position of Grade 5 teacher at the Middle School, pending receipt and review of clearances, and start date to be determined. The salary for this position will be Masters’ Step 1 \$48,914, prorated from start date through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.”

**II. Approval of Custodian**

“that the Board of Education approve Kenneth Waida, 6556 Tusca Road, Midland, PA 15059, to the position of High School/Athletic Custodian in the Moon Area School District, pending receipt and review of clearances, for the 2020-2021 school year.”

**III. Approval of a Family Medical Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence to Mary Torhan from her position as Special Education Assistant at the Middle School beginning retro to September 28, 2020 through October 9, 2020. The purpose of this leave is to care for family members.”

**IV. Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to Jodi Yanosick from her position as Administrative Assistant at Bon Meade Elementary School beginning retro to October 8, 2020 through October 23, 2020 or pending release from physician.”

**V. Approval of a Family Medical Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence to Pam Gorman from her position as Paraprofessional position at Bon Meade Elementary School beginning October 19, 2020 through October 23, 2020.”

**VI. Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence**

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to Jill Regan from her position as Director of Fiscal and School Services within the Moon Area School District beginning October 15, 2020 through October 30, 2020 or pending release from physician.”

**VII. 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 Tracy Mowery from her position as Dishwasher/Server at the High School (per High School schedule) beginning retro to September 17, 2020 to for up to 12 weeks or December 31, 2020, whichever is sooner.”

**VIII. Approval of Safety Care Trainers**

“that the Board of Education approve the following individuals as Safety Care Trainers for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Shannon Watt
- Amanda Schiff.”

**IX. 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 for the 2020-2021 school year retro to October 5, 2020:

Lower House Support Coordinator	Elizabeth Nijenhuis
Substitute Lower House Support Coordinator	Christopher Petrie.”

**X. 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:

Kelly Gross	Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne	Student Teacher.”
-------------	--	-------------------

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)**

Krystal Barr, 611 Aberdeen Court, Moon Township, commented that it’s nice to see the Board members on camera this evening. She would also like to see the school board meetings continue being on Zoom even when they go back to in person meetings. Mr. Harper commented that he is not opposed to holding meetings in person when the time is right. Attendance has been higher at the Zoom meetings in the last few months. Prior to the pandemic, there would be 2 – 3 people in the audience at the board meetings. The Board will consider the Zoom live for streaming at meetings. Mrs. Zieger agrees with Mr. Harper and Mrs. Barr saying she has never seen this type of attendance at an in person meeting. Its nice to have this type of audience participation. Thus far, there is no state mandate that we have to go back to in person meetings. We will be continuing with the Zoom meetings for a while. Mr. Scappe commented that he, too, would like to stay with the Zoom meetings for a while. When the state requires the Board members to have in person meetings, we would still like to continue using Zoom as well for the meetings. Mr. Balaski commented that we have to make sure that we can do this. When the Board is able to

## Virtual Business Meeting, October 12, 2020

return to having the board meeting in school, and if the public attends, we have to make sure the rooms are cleaned as well.

Amanda Bussard, 537 Gibson Lane, Moon Township, asked how will the students who are working virtual get their picture taken on picture day? Mr. Balaski encouraged the parents to check with their building principals to see if other arrangements can be made, perhaps another day can be set up for picture taking for students working virtually.

Chantel Starr, 1301 Sara Court, Moon Township, asked about retaining Zoom meetings even when the Board returns to in person board meetings. Now that the students are returning in person, will we have the ability to be virtual on days when the kids are not able to come to school? Students who are sick can stay virtual during the day. Will the students still be marked absent if they are not in school due to being sick, but participating virtually? Mr. Balaski commented that we have to talk about that. When students cannot be in person, but still can attend virtual, are they marked absent? Students can make up work. You would be absent and make up your work in the virtual setting. The virtual setting would go away when the state mandates it. If a student quarantines, we will flip from in person instruction to virtual setting. Mr. Bogatay asked that if a student is sick, are we able to give credit when kids are online virtually? Mr. Cambest commented that the attendance guidelines come from the state. Mr. Hauser commented that when you begin to adjust policies and make exceptions there is a tendency for it to be taken advantage of. He feels we should let the administrators make the decision on how to count for the absences from school. This is an accounting issue. Mr. Cambest commented that the students will be provided the opportunity to get their work and make it up. Mrs. Partica feels that parents have kids getting past the 10 days and get the 10-day letter. Mr. Balaski commented that we will get medical excuses before notifying a magistrate.

Lisa \_\_\_\_\_, 504 Dogwood Court, Moon Township, asked if attendance is included on a student's high school transcripts? Mr. Balaski commented that yes, at the high school level it is. She said parents would like to see the district consider something else since colleges are looking at attendance on transcripts. Mr. Hauser commented that administration can look at these issues and investigate the accounting for attendance other than the transcript way.

Michele Johns, 202 Ridgestar Drive, Moon Township, asked about the acceptance of the grant that was approved this evening. She asked if the grant was received by the school or by the teacher? Ms. Regan commented that the grant is accepted by the District. The teacher applies for the grant and the grant goes to the District not the individual teacher.

### **Board Comments**

Mrs. Partica encouraged everyone to get their flu shots if they haven't already done so. She also welcomed Mr. Nicholas Hamilton-Archer to the Board and congratulated him for completing his first meeting.

Mr. Hamilton-Archer commented that he appreciates the opportunity to work with the Board and the Administration and wants to keep the conversation driving forward.

**Virtual Business Meeting, October 12, 2020**

Mrs. Zieger, Mr. Bogatay, Mr. Harper, Mr. Testa, Mr. Scappe, Mr. Hauser and Mr. Dugan had no comments this evening.

**Adjournment**

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Dugan, “that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 7:55 pm.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Lisa Brown  
Clerk, Board of Education

---

James Bogatay  
Secretary, Board of Education