

Workshop Meeting, September 27, 2021

The September 27, 2021, workshop meeting of the Moon Area Board of Education was held in the High School Board Room at 7:05 p.m., for general purposes. The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President, Robert Harper. The following directors were present:

Mr. Harper	Mr. Hauser	Mr. Bogatay	Mr. Testa
Mr. Scappe	Mr. Hamilton-Archer	Mr. Ulven	

Mrs. Zieger and Mr. Dugan were absent.

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

There were approximately 10 audience members.

Mr. Cambest read the following statement on behalf of the Board of Education:

This statement is issued relative to the recent settlement of a federal lawsuit involving alleged violations of the Equal Pay Act brought by a number of teachers.

The Board wishes to clarify certain statements that were made during the meeting of September 13, 2021.

Of the \$1.6 million settlement, \$1 million was funded by insurance companies, not school district funds.

The settlement was facilitated by a federal judge and the agreement requires that the parties not comment on the terms of the settlement, except as required by law.

The settlement agreement also requires that the parties not comment on the merit of the underlying claims.

Any comments made by School Board members during the September 13th meeting were not intended to comment on the merits of the legal claims or on the teachers.

To be clear, it is the position of the Board that this matter has been amicably resolved and the matter is now concluded.

Mr. Harper announced that prior to this evening's meeting, the Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters and the Board will return to Executive Session at the conclusion of the Committee Meetings.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Balaski reminded the public that the homecoming parade will be held on Thursday, September 30, the football game Friday, October 1 and the homecoming dance on Saturday, October 2, 2021.

Audience Recognition (Agenda Items)

None.

Payment of Bills

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Bogatay, SECONDED by Mr. Scappe, “that the Board of Education approve the bills for payment as listed below in the amounts totaling \$4,495,007.69 for the period September 11, 2021 to September 24, 2021 as follows:

General Fund	\$ 545,103.36
Activity Fund	\$ 1,625.00
Food Service	\$ 32,053.30
General Fund	\$ 3,545,341.42
Capital Reserve	\$ <u>370,884.61</u>

Total: \$4,495,007.69.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Partnership Agreement with University of Mount Union and Moon Area School District

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Hauser, SECONDED by Mr. Testa, “that the Board of Education approve a Partnership Agreement between the University of Mount Union and Moon Area School District to place student teachers in the district. The term of this Agreement shall be for the 2021 through 2024 academic school years.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Daily Field Trips

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Hamilton-Archer, “that the Board of Education approve the attached list of daily field trips for the 2021-2022 school year.”

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Bogatay, “that the Board of Education amend the motion to add, “...subject to the protocols in place at the time of the event.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Testa, SECONDED by Mr. Hamilton-Archer, “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.”

All directors voted in favor on a roll call vote.

Personnel

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

I. Approval of an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence to Lana Lamb from her position as Kindergarten teacher at Brooks Elementary School beginning retro to September 13, 2021 and ending the last day of school of the 2021-2022 school year.”

II. Approval of a Childbearing Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Childbearing Leave of Absence to Vanessa Fontana from her position as Special Education teacher at the Middle School beginning on or about October 25, 2021 and returning on or about December 20, 2021 or pending release from physician.”

III. Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve a Medical Leave of Absence to Billy Ebert from his position as Custodian at McCormick Elementary School beginning retro to August 31, 2021 for a period of six (6) months 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 Suzanne Durham from her position as Grade 2 teacher at McCormick Elementary School beginning October 22, 2021 for approximately eight (8) weeks or pending release from physician.”

V. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Marcy Adams from her position as Payroll Specialist in the District Administration Office effective September 30, 2021.”

VI. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Tracey Spinelli from the extra pay for extra duty positions of Speech Sponsor and Debate Sponsor at the High School effective immediately.”

VII. Approval of Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

“that the Board of Education approve Kristen Frankovich, 3735 Wapello Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, to the Executive Secretary to the Superintendent position, pending receipt and review of clearances. Start date to be determined. The salary for this position will be \$51,500.00.”

VIII. Approval to Hire and Fill Positions

“that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to hire and fill the following positions prior to the next school board meeting, October 11, 2021:

- Payroll Specialist – Business Office.”

IX. Approval of Internal Movements

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

Special Education Life Skills Assistant Vicki Wilson (start date 9/27/2021)
Middle School.”

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 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt and review of clearances, confidentiality agreement and computer usage agreement:

Kaleb Krebs University of Mt. Union Student Teacher
Katelyn Garland Duquesne University Student Teacher.”

XI. Approval of Extra Pay for Extra Duty Positions

“that the Board of Education approve the following extra pay for extra duty positions for the 2021-2022 school year:

Speech Co-Sponsors Tracey Spinelli and Heidi Gariti
Debate Co-Sponsors Tracey Spinelli and Heidi Gariti.”

XII. Approval of Event Workers

“that the Board of Education approve the following event workers for the 2021-2022 school year pending receipt and review of clearances.:

Football Cleanup Crew (retro to 9/3/21) Tom Gaona

Substitute Event Worker (retro to 9/3/21) Paula Ledbetter
Substitute Event Worker (retro to 9/17/21) Neil Jacoby.”

XIII. Approval of Fall Coach

“that the Board of Education approve the following coach for the 2021-2022 fall sports season, per the recommendation of Mr. Ron Ledbetter:

Rescind

Girls Soccer Assistant Coach (A-3) Erin Hogan

Approve

Girls Soccer Assistant Coach (A-1) Erin Hogan.”

XIV. Approval of STA Drivers

“that the Board of Education approve the following individuals employed by STA as bus and/or van driver, bus monitor or mechanic 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:

Marilyn Williams Monitor
730 Hiland Avenue
PO Box 375
Coraopolis, PA 15108

Mark Wilson Change from Van Driver to Bus Driver
296 Shady Glen Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108.”

Supplemental Agenda

XV. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the resignation from Christine Snyder from her position as Dishwasher/Server at Bon Meade Elementary effective October 8, 2021.”

XVI. Approval of an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence

“that the Board of Education approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave to Jason Marko from his position as Science teacher at the High School effective for the 2021-2022 school year. This leave is requested due to personal health reasons.”

XVII. Resignation

“that the Board of Education accept the retirement resignation of Grace Mackin from her position as Secretary to the High School Assistant Principals effective November 30, 2021.”

Audience Recognition (Non-Agenda Items)

Grisel Campos, 283 Randy Lane, Coraopolis, asked about future plans for Hyde. Mr. Balaski commented that they are finishing up with the construction project at Hyde. Capital projects will begin next year at Hyde. Mr. Bogatay would like to know the current savings on the Hyde project. Mr. Balaski commented that we do not know that yet. We will know better once the project is completed. Hyde had approximately \$4.5 million renovations. Mr. Bogatay asked if administration could show pictures to the Board and public of the final projects.

Amy Stuart, 2003 Balmoral Court, Moon Township, asked if there are any updates regarding contact tracing for Covid. Mr. Balaski commented that there have been no updates to the Health and Safety Plan. This year, we have been doing pretty good about not having to quarantine. What we are doing seems to be working well and the masks have helped so far. Regarding antibodies, if a student was positive within the last 90 days, they don't have to quarantine. If they show symptoms, we have to follow the protocol from the Allegheny County Health Department. Please have your kids tested if they show symptoms.

Denise and Britt Freund, 606 Aberdeen Court, Moon Township, their son is a freshman enrolled in the home school program and they are asking for permission him to attend the homecoming dance with his classmates. Mr. Bogatay commented that the Board should not discuss this in a public forum. Mr. Harper commented that the Board will be meeting after this meeting in executive session and will discuss the matter at that time. The Board does not need to vote on this request, and someone will follow up with

Brenda Blunkowsky, Madison Drive, Moon Township, would like to know why the school is not offering the right to opt out of wearing a mask, i.e., medical reasons, religious reasons, etc.? What is the process for getting approval for a medical exemption waiver? What is the process for getting a mask exemption for children with IEPs? Mr. Harper commented that our Solicitor will respond to Mrs. Blunkowsky's attorney on behalf of the Board.

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Scappe, SECONDED by Mr. Testa, “that the Board of Education adjourn this meeting, 8:00 pm.”

All directors voted in favor on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Brown
Clerk, Board of Education

James Bogatay
Secretary, Board of Education