

The Board of Education of Moorestown Township
Moorestown, New Jersey
MINUTES
Video Conference
July 28, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

The Special Meeting of the Moorestown Township Board of Education is called to order. This meeting is called in conformance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” with adequate notice provided as follows:

- Notice filed with the Courier Post on July 23, 2020
- Notice filed with the Burlington County Times on July 23, 2020

II. Moment of Silence

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Roll Call

Present Mr. Jack Fairchild
Present Mrs. Dria Law
Present Mrs. Katherine Mullin (joined at 6:08 p.m.)
Present Ms. Lauren Romano
Present Dr. Mark Snyder
Present Mr. Mark Villanueva
Present Mr. David A. Weinstein

Present Mrs. Caryn Shaw, Vice President
Present Dr. Sandra Alberti, President

Present Mr. John Comegno, Esq., Solicitor
Present Ms. Alicia D’Anella, Esq., Solicitor
Present Dr. Scott McCartney, Superintendent
Present Mr. James M. Heiser, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Present Ms. Carole Butler, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Present Dr. David Tate, Director of Special Education
Present Mrs. Debora Belfield, Director of Personnel
Present Mr. Jeffrey Arey, Director of Instructional Technology

V. Executive Session

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.10:4-6 ET.SEQ. (“The Open Public Meetings Act”), authorizes Board of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires that the Board adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Moorestown Township, that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

1. Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to, staff and/or student disciplinary matters, and specifically,
 - a. Personnel

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

Moved by: Ms. Romano Second: Mrs. Shaw Vote: Unanimous

VI. Return to Public

Moved by: Ms. Romano Second: Mrs. Shaw Vote: Unanimous

Dr. Alberti welcomed all those on the Zoom call and thanked the district staff, Administration and all those on re-entry committees for their contributions and hard work on the Re-entry Plan.

Dr. McCartney thanked all those involved on the re-entry committees for their hard work and time dedicated to developing the Re-Entry Plan. Dr. McCartney also thanked the parents and students for their contributions, support and concerns related to the Re-entry Plan.

VII. Presentation: “A Day in the Life of a Student”

Dr. McCartney made a presentation to the Board and the public entitled “Moorestown Township Public Schools – Restart and Recovery Plan: The Road Back.”

Dr. Alberti opened the floor to Board members if they had any comments or questions. The Board and Administration discussed several parts of the Restart and Recovery Plan.

VIII. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Nicola Hampton commented that the ideal model is everyone back in school, but it is not an option at this point. All stakeholders need to carry a part of the burden. Nicola Hampton inquired on how students will be evaluated.

Dimitri Schneiberg commented that we need to improve the re-entry plan. Key areas that need to be addressed are: alternating schedule will increase likelihood of infection spread; cohort should be together and not apart; asynchronous learning approach at elementary level needs to be deployed; studies show asynchronous are more important at elementary levels; approach taken at grades 7-8 needs to be done at the elementary level.

Dr. Alberti asked if we anticipated longer drop off lines. Dr. McCartney stated that we do anticipate traffic will be an issue and challenges will have to be addressed.

Karen Vidal of 441 Oldershaw Avenue commented that she has a problem with the alternating schedule from a deep cleaning process and children routines. She is disappointed that no one from SpEAC was asked to be included, and that no inclusion information was included. She is concerned that the inclusion population will have challenges. Dr. McCartney stated that a SpEAC representative was invited, but that there seems to be an issue. Dr. Tate informed Ms. Vidal that inclusion classes will have virtual teachers. Ms. Vidal is concerned that needs of inclusion groups aren't being addressed.

Sarah Rivera of 105 Smith Court commented that it was concerning that another parent was cut off. Grades 1 - 6 should have as much time as possible.

A community member asked how EDC will operate. Dr. McCartney stated that we heard the concerns of childcare needs from parents and we are trying to find spaces to offer those services in a limited capacity. We discussed creating space elsewhere, but that is a challenge financially.

Kameron Rabenou of 161 Pheasant Fields Lane thanked all for their hard work and inquired how many hours of education will be provided.

Tatiana Moreno of 11 E. Wilson Avenue commented that she is assuming the board received a lot of feedback and appreciates the plan that was put together. The board is there to represent community and parents. She asked the Board to keep in mind feedback when voting. This model will only work for stay at home parents and those that lost their jobs, but not those that work or are essential.

Can you describe the cafeteria structure? Dr. McCartney stated that we have worked together with our food service company, facilities staff, and principals to identify a plan that works. Students will go to the cafeteria and the food will be grab and go. Students will eat at tables and they will be socially distanced. Spacing is done appropriately. Eating in classrooms was reviewed and there were concerns around cleaning, staffing, operational concerns, etc.

A community member asked if HVAC been considered, including filtration? Mr. Heiser stated that we have reviewed ASHRAE recommendations and adjusted accordingly including upgraded filters.

Melissa Burns of 8 Brooks Road commented that it is not possible to trust students to help in the cleaning process. She would like to see more of a concrete plan related to mask wearing and cleaning.

A parent inquired if sports are canceled and if coaches will still be paid. Dr. McCartney stated that athletics have been pushed back into late September. We have not approved our coaches and we are talking to NJSIAA and other governing bodies. We are talking with our Association to discuss sidebar agreements to help protect funds in the event sports are canceled. Our hope is that there is a safe way for that to happen.

Kristen Brake of 107 Colonial Ave asked what is the protocol when a student tests positive or is suspected positive. Mrs. Walko stated we are waiting for very specific instructions from the Department of Health. Most likely contact tracing would take place and a two week quarantine would start for the family and student. The Department of Health is in the process of developing specific guidance that we will follow.

IX. Recommendations of the Superintendent

A. Re-entry for 2020-2021 School Year

This item was removed from the agenda. No formal action was taken.

B. Revised 2020-2021 Calendar

The 2020-2021 School Calendar is revised as to opening of school in September 2020 due to COVID 19. September 1, 2, and 3 are Professional Development days for staff and the first day for all students is September 8, 2020. The revised 2020-2021 Calendar is submitted for Board Approval.

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board approve the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar attached as Exhibit #21-2.

Moved by: Ms. Romano Second: Mr. Fairchild Vote: 9 - 0

Mr. Weinstein asked how the calendar changes impacts snow days. Dr. McCartney stated that it takes us down to one built in snow day, but we are hoping that the State allows for remote learning on snow days.

Mr. Villanueva stated that he thinks the half days in November need to be part of the district calendar.

C. Educational Program

1. Consulting Service Agreement

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board approve the agreement attached as Exhibit #21-3 with Carolyn Rodgers to provide consulting services for students with special needs.

Moved by: Mrs. Law Second: Mr. Weinstein Vote: 9 - 0

D. Finance and Business

1. Settlement Agreement

MOTION:

I recommend the Board approve the following resolution:

Resolved by the Moorestown Township Board of Education to adopt and approve the Settlement Agreement between Student #4001213 and the Moorestown Township Board of Education attached as Exhibit #21-4.

Moved by: Mr. Weinstein Second: Mr. Fairchild Vote: 9 - 0

E. Employee Relations

Subject to background checks as required by P.L. 1986 c116 and P.L. 1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.8 et seq.), for the 2020-2021 school year.

1. Appointments

Administrative Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

Professional Staff

- a. Shea McGee, as a Long Term Substitute 3rd Grade Teacher at the South Valley Elementary School. Ms. McGee has a BA from Rider University. She has been placed on Column BA, Step 1 of the Teacher Salary Guide at a salary of \$50,000.00 prorated, effective on October 1, 2020 through March 8, 2021 (temporary leave replacement).

- b. Margaret Nissen, as a Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at the Upper Elementary School. Ms. Nissen has a MA from Rutgers University. She has been placed on Column BA, Step 1 of the Teacher Salary Guide at a salary of \$50,000.00 prorated, effective on September 1, 2020 through December 4, 2020 (temporary leave replacement).
- c. Michael Tobass, as a Long Term Substitute Social Studies Teacher at the High School. Mr. Tobass has a MA from Johns Hopkins University. He has been placed on Column BA, Step 1 of the Teacher Salary Guide at a salary of \$50,000.00 prorated, effective on September 1, 2020 through February 19, 2021 (temporary leave replacement).

Support Staff

- a. Denise McNamarra-Haag, as a Paraprofessional at the South Valley Elementary School. Ms. McNamarra-Haag has been placed on Column Para +30, Step 3 of the 2020-2021 Paraprofessional Salary Guide at an hourly rate of \$13.13 (6.75 hours per day) for an annual salary of \$16,484.72 prorated, effective on September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
- b. Colleen Wolfram, as a Paraprofessional at the South Valley Elementary School. Ms. Wolfram has been placed on Column Para EDUC, Step 3 of the 2020-2021 Paraprofessional Salary Guide at an hourly rate of \$14.73 (6.75 hours per day) for an annual salary of \$18,493.52 prorated, effective on September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

2. Leave of Absence and Extensions

Administrative Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

Professional Staff

- a. Lauren Tomaszewski, a Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, an unpaid Family Medical Leave of Absence September 1, 2020 through October 30, 2020.

Support Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

3. Change of Position

Administrative Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

Professional Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

Support Staff

- a. Kathleen McHugh, a Paraprofessional at the George Baker Elementary School from a .67FTE to a 1FTE, Column Para AA/BS, Step 3 at an hourly rate of \$13.53 for an annual salary of \$16,986.92 prorated, effective on September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

4. Resignations

Administrative Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

Professional Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

Support Staff

- a. Lisa Mohollen, a Paraprofessional at the High School, effective July 18, 2020.
- b. Nicole Smith, a Paraprofessional at the George Baker Elementary School, effective June 30, 2020.

5. Retirements

Administrative Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

Professional Staff

- a. Leandra Parsons, a Spanish Teacher at the High School, after 18 years of service to the District, effective August 31, 2020.

Support Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

6. Adjustments to Curriculum Writing Staff - Exhibit #21-5

7. Summer Transportation Hours - Exhibit #21-6

8. Adjustments to Extended School Year - Exhibit #21-7

9. Continuation of Employment-MAA - Exhibit #21-8

10. Adjustment to Extended Day Care Program - Exhibit #21-9

11. Substitute Teacher Rate - Exhibit #21-10

Approval of Items 1 – 11:

Moved by: Ms. Romano Second: Mrs. Shaw Vote: 9 - 0

X. HIB Report

A. Superintendent’s HIB Report

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board approve the following HIB cases as discussed in executive session.

- Substantiated
 - HS - #2

Moved by: Mr. Fairchild Second: Dr. Snyder Vote: 9 - 0

XI. Public Comments

XII. Adjournment

Moved by: Mr. Weinstein Second: Ms. Romano Vote: 9 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heiser, CPA
Board Secretary