

**The Board of Education of Moorestown Township
Moorestown, New Jersey
MINUTES
Video Conference
September 15, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.**

I. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

The Regular 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:

- A. Notice filed with the Courier Post on July 1, 2020
- B. Notice filed with the Burlington County Times on July 1, 2020

II. Moment of Silence

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Roll Call

Present	Mr. Jack Fairchild
Present	Mrs. Dria Law
Present	Mrs. Katherine Mullin
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	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 involving personnel issues, including but not limited to, the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or discipline of any public officer or employee, 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: Mr. Weinstein Second: Mr. Villanueva Vote: Unanimous

VI. Return to Public

Moved by: Mr. Weinstein Second: Mr. Villanueva Vote: Unanimous

VII. Adjournment

Moved by: Mr. Weinstein Second: Mr. Villanueva Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heiser, CPA
Board Secretary

The Board of Education of Moorestown Township
Moorestown, New Jersey
MINUTES
Video Conference
September 15, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The Regular 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:

- A. Notice filed with the Courier Post on July 1, 2020
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Present	Mr. John Comegno, 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. Routine Matters

A. Minutes

Approval of minutes for the following meetings attached as Exhibit #21-36:

June 30, 2020 Executive Session
June 30, 2020 Special Meeting
July 28, 2020 Executive Session

August 18, 2020 Executive Session
August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Villanueva recommended that the July 28, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes be modified to show the Re-entry Plan was originally on the agenda, but was not voted on. Mr. Comegno asked Mr. Heiser if the original agenda was retained with the minutes. Mr. Heiser indicated they were.

Mr. Villanueva requested the original motion be modified to table the July 28, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes and approve all others. Mrs. Mullin and Dr. Snyder accepted the modification.

Moved by: Mrs. Mullin Second: Dr. Snyder Vote: Unanimous

August 12, 2020 Special Meeting

Moved by: Mrs. Mullin Second: Dr. Snyder Vote: 8 – 0, Abstain – 1
Abstention: Mr. Villanueva

September 3, 2020 Special Meeting

Moved by: Mrs. Mullin Second: Dr. Snyder Vote: 7 – 0, Abstain – 2
Abstentions: Mrs. Law,
Mr. Villanueva

Tabled item

July 28, 2020 Special Meeting

B. Communications

- a. Ms. Romano updated the Board on activities at the County and State School Board levels.

C. Educational Highlights –Superintendent’s Monthly Report

1. General Updates

Dr. McCartney updated the Board and community on school reopenings, in-service days and school staffing. Ms. Butler, Director of Curriculum, updated the Board and community on various topics related to school reopenings.

- o Retirement Recognition – Dr. McCartney congratulated Leandra Parsons and Zoe Morrow on their retirements.
 - Leandra Parsons
 - Zoe Morrow
- o School Openings
 - In-Service Days

Mr. Weinstein stressed the importance of the Board and the District being flexible around adjusting the District’s plan.

Mrs. Law asked how the District is going to assess the reentry plan. Dr. McCartney indicated that we have daily assessments at building levels and large scale communications will come from him. Pandemic response teams will meet to report back to the Administration on building level issues. Dr. McCartney also reviewed multiple metrics that would be utilized.

D. Student Board Representatives

- a. Matthew Romano, Senior, commented safety was a concern around returning, but the district, staff and students are doing a great job. Mr. Romano stated that the schedules seemed much more structured. Students are looking forward to planning student activities for the year.

- b. Avani Giri, Junior, commented that Madrigals is working through multiple challenges, but holding classes over Zoom. Madrigals are looking into utilizing outdoor classes to perform together in one space where they can socially distance. Students are doing a great job wearing their masks.
- c. Colin DiPasquale, Sophomore, updated the Board on various sports and activities that have started at the high school.

E. Board Committee Reports – Questions and Comments

- a. **Curriculum** – Ms. Romano updated the Board on topics discussed at the recent meeting which included the 2020-2021 Professional Development Plan, Mentoring Plan, curriculum adjustments, curriculum delivery, MAP administration, and plan measurements. A discussion between the Board occurred regarding synchronous and asynchronous models as well as how to best support staff.
- b. **Policy** – The Policy committee discussed the policies that are listed on the agenda for first and second reading. Mrs. Mullin explained the discussions that occurred around those policies. Mr. Fairchild asked about the suspension policy that was discussed and if racial inequity was discussed in relation to that policy. Mrs. Mullin stated the changes are mostly around meeting with the parents prior to suspension.
- c. **Finance and Operations** – Mr. Weinstein informed the Board that F&O meets next week.
- d. **Communications** – Mrs. Law informed the Board that the Communications committee will meet next week.

F. Public Comment

1. Open Public Comment

MOTION:

A motion is requested to open the floor for public comment.

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

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Dr. Alberti updated the community on the public comment section of the agenda and how it is designed and aligned with law and policy.

- a. Sarah Rivera of 105 Smith Court commented that kids are loving being back in the classroom and are so much happier when they are back in the building. Ms. Rivera requested how many unoccupied general education classrooms we have.
- b. Melissa Arcaro Burns of 8 Brooks Road thanked the district for all of their hard work and dedication. There is room for improvement in the plan. Last week she was concerned that her children finished their remote work too quickly, but that was corrected today.
- c. Kathleen Nixon of 45 E. Maple Avenue commented she volunteered her entire summer and the district worked hourly to create this plan. She is confident that our staff will change and reflect every day, hour, week and night to make sure we are doing the best we can.
- d. Bridget Potts, teacher, thanked Dr. McCartney and Ms. Butler for their support. The staff sacrificed so much to return to school. Choice remote has been a success. IEP and ESL students are back in school every day starting

this week. Morning meeting is going great with remote and in-person students participating. All students were successfully transported to school. Staff are developing anxiety over the expectations, but we have now been criticized. We are committed to making this work, we just need time.

- e. Noam Yalon of 407 Kenwood Drive commented his family moved to Moorestown specifically for the schools. Up until the pandemic, we were exceptionally happy with our decision. Mr. Yalom stated that we need to give the teachers more time, but asked when is our expectation to have the plan fully implemented. Mr. Yalon stated safety inside the schools seems quite good, but the pick-up line at UES needs to be updated.
- f. Mark Rekant of 36 Cove Road commented on the health questionnaire and that he believed it should be considered to be weekly as opposed to daily.
- g. Melissa O'Donnell of 403 N. Washington Avenue commented that we need parents and the community to work together with instructors. Ms. O'Donnell stated that our current model gives her more time to focus on small group instruction and that she doesn't believe a parallel model would be beneficial.
- h. Daniela Riggins of 620 N. Washington Avenue commented we cannot deny the safety concerns and need to trust this plan. She has confidence that our staff, administration and community will adjust to the plan. She hopes that we can find a way to come together as a community.
- i. Manny Delgado of 6 Walnut Court read a section of page 50 of the Restart and Recovery Plan. In Grades 6 – 8, we should gradually phase in the synchronous learning models. We are seeing a completely asynchronous day at these levels.
- j. Steve Rosenman of 4 Baltusrol Terrace commented the reality is the IT is not where it needs to be to support our teaching staff. The district needs to go back to the drawing board with asynchronous vs. synchronous structures.
- k. Anthony and Emily Dragun of 547 Eaglebrook Drive commented that districts are offered a lot of flexibility and we would like to see more planning long term for returning to school.
- l. Monica Holland of 7 Troon Court commented children only attend 2 to 3 days a week at the Kindergarten level. The district should continue to assess the Kindergarten plan and get all Kindergarten students into the building five days a week.

3. Close Public Comment

MOTION:

A motion is requested to close the floor for public comment.

Moved by: Mrs. Law

Second: Mrs. Shaw

Vote: 9 - 0

VI. Reports to the Board

A. Business Administrator/Board Secretary

- 1. **Financial Reports of the Board Secy. (preliminary)** – June, 2020 – Exhibit #21-37
- 2. **Treasurer's Report** – April, 2020 – Exhibit #21-38

Resolution of Board of Education's Monthly Certification Budgetary Major Account/Fund Status:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Board Secretary's monthly certification budgetary line item status:
Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, I certify that no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.
Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, we certify that after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate District officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

3. Approval of Budget Transfers

I recommend approval of the budget transfers for the month of May, 2020 attached as Exhibit #21-39.

4. Approval of Bills

I recommend approval of the bills, in the amount of \$5,121,061.45 attached as Exhibit #21-40.

Approval of Items 1 – 3:

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

Approval of Item 4:

Moved by: Mrs. Mullins Second: Ms. Romano Vote: 8 – 0, Abstain – 1
Abstention: Mr. Weinstein

VII. Recommendations of the Superintendent

A. Policies and Procedures

1. First Reading

The Policy Committee has reviewed the file codes listed in the attached exhibit and recommends the following Policies be entered on first reading:

- Policy 1648.03 Restart and Recovery Plan – Full Time Remote Instruction
- Policy 2431.03 Heat Participation Policy for Student-Athlete Safety
- Policy 2622 Student Assessment
- Policy 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students
- Regulation 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board enter on first reading the Policies listed above as Exhibit #21-41.

2. Second Reading

The Policy Committee has reviewed the file codes listed in the attached exhibit and recommends the following Policies and Regulation be entered on second reading:

- Policy 1648 Restart and Recovery Plan
- Policy 1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families
- Policy 1649 Federal Families First Coronavirus (Covid-19) Response Act

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board enter and adopt on second reading the Policies and Regulation listed above as Exhibit #21-42.

Approval of Policies 1648.02 and 1649:

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

Approval of Policy 1648:

Moved by: Mr. Weinstein Second: Mr. Fairchild Vote: 8 - 1
No: Mr. Villanueva

Mr. Villanueva indicated that Appendix N contains the schedules and that he has tremendous respect for those involved in assembling the reentry plan. The plan doesn't provide the same thing for Grades K-6 that it does for Grades 7-12. He doesn't think the Board should approve the plan in its current format.

Mr. Weinstein has concerns with not moving forward with the plan, but the concerns with the plan are valid. If the Board is willing to give Dr. McCartney the ability to spend in a different way, the plan can be adjusted to fit additional needs. If the Board agrees that we spend more money, then we can, but we don't have the funds available to us without making changes. He agrees with Mr. Villanueva that there are parts of the plan that he doesn't like, but he believes Administration can work to change and adapt the plan to the needs of the community.

Dr. Snyder stated he has the utmost faith that staff and administration will make the appropriate adjustments. He personally feels we need to let the experts structure those hours based on their expertise.

Mr. Villanueva stated that the plan doesn't account for how we return to schools full time and that he feels that is something we should be working toward.

B. Educational Program

1. Special Education Out-of-District Placements 2020-21

The following Moorestown student with special needs is recommended for placement in the appropriate out-of-district programs and schools as mandated in the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board approve the student with special needs at the placement listed on Exhibit #21-43 for the 2020-21 school year at the location indicated at the approved tuition rates with transportation provided.

2. Special Education In-District Placements 2020-2021

The following students with special needs have been recommended for placement in a Moorestown Township Special Education Program. The sending district will bear the cost for tuition, 1:1 aide (if needed) and provide transportation.

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board approve the students with special needs listed on Exhibit #21-44 for placement in a Moorestown Township Special Education Program for the 2020-21 school year at the appropriate rate of tuition with transportation provided by the sending districts. The sending district will bear the cost for a 1:1 aide if needed.

3. Special Education Services Contract

MOTION:

I recommend the Board approve the agreement attached as Exhibit #21-45 with My Own Two Hands, LLC to provide orientation and mobility services and Teacher of the Visually Impaired services to a student with an Individual Education Plan.

4. Special Education Services Contract

MOTION:

I recommend the Board approve the agreement attached as Exhibit #21-46 with Brett DiNovi & Associates, LLC to provide consulting and school-based services for students with an Individual Education Plans.

5. Consulting Service Agreement

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board approve the agreement attached as Exhibit #21-47 with Kathy Darrow to provide consulting services for students with special needs.

6. Consulting Service Agreement

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board approve the agreement attached as Exhibit #21-48 with Family First, LLC to provide consulting services for students with special needs.

Approval of Items 1 – 6:

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

C. Finance and Business

1. Travel Expenditures Approval Requests

The State of New Jersey has enacted P.L.2007, c.53, An Act Concerning School District Accountability. Section 15 of the Act addresses "Travel Expenditures" paid by the school district.

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board approve the travel expenditures requests attached as Exhibit #21-49.

2. Approval of State Contract and Consortium Vendor Purchases

MOTION:

I recommend the Board approve NJ State Contract Interlocal Agreement and consortium purchases as per attached Exhibit #21-50.

3. Donations

MOTION:

I recommend the Board accept the following donations:

- \$150 from AbbVie Employee Engagement Fund to be used at South Valley Elementary School

4. Grant Application

The Moorestown Township Public Schools' Digital Divide Grant application for 2021 requires Board of Education approval. The grant allocation total is \$188,392.00

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board hereby authorize the submission of the Digital Divide application for Fiscal Year 2021, and accepts the grant award of these funds upon the subsequent approval of the FY 2021 Digital Divide application.

5. Nonpublic Aid Programs

MOTION:

I recommend that the Board approve the nonpublic aid programs required consultation conference forms attached as Exhibit #21-51 with ordering and implementation to occur, pending state appropriation of funds.

Approval of Items 1 – 5:

Moved by: Mrs. Shaw Second: Mr. Fairchild Vote: 9 - 0

D. 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. Stefanie Pagone, as a Long Term Substitute 6th Grade Teacher at the Upper Elementary School. Ms. Pagone has a BA from The College of New Jersey. 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 November 17, 2020 (temporary leave replacement).

- b. Cynthia Rivas, as a Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at the Upper Elementary School. Ms. Rivas has a MA from Fairleigh Dickerson 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 November 25, 2020 (temporary leave replacement).
- c. Nichole Dimitri, as a Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at the Middle School. Ms. Dimitri has a BA from Holy Family 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 or about September 21, 2020 through January 5, 2021 (temporary leave replacement).

Support Staff

- a. Katarina Thomason, as a Paraprofessional at the South Valley Elementary School. Ms. Thomason 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 or about September 21, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
- b. Deborah Cirenza, as a Paraprofessional at the High School. Ms. Cirenza has been placed on Column Para AA/BS Step 1 of the 2020-2021 Paraprofessional Salary Guide at an hourly rate of \$12.83 (6.75 hours per day) for an annual salary of \$16,108.07 prorated, effective on or about September 21, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
- c. John Patterson, as a Paraprofessional at the High School. Mr. Patterson has been placed on Column Para +30 Step 1 of the 2020-2021 Paraprofessional Salary Guide at an hourly rate of \$12.43 (6.75 hours per day) for an annual salary of \$15,605.87 prorated, effective on or about September 21, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

2. Resignation

Administrative Staff

- a. Debora Belfield, Director of Personnel for the District, effective November 7, 2020.

Professional Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

Support Staff

- a. Lisandra Echevarria, a Bus Driver for the Transportation Department, effective September 1, 2020.

3. Change of Assignment/FTE

Administrative Staff

No actions recommended at this time.

Professional Staff

- a. Syreeta Lee, from a Kindergarten Teacher to a 1st Grade Teacher at the George Baker Elementary School, effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Support Staff

- a. Therese Getz, a Paraprofessional at the George Baker Elementary School, from .67 FTE to .71 FTE for an annual salary of \$10,805.21, effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
- b. Nazneen Khan, a Paraprofessional at the George Baker Elementary School, from .67 FTE to .71 FTE for an annual salary of \$12,395.51, effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
- c. Michelle Molz, a Paraprofessional at the George Baker Elementary School, from .67 FTE to .71 FTE for an annual salary of \$11,512.01, effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
- d. Leslie Todd, a Paraprofessional at the George Baker Elementary School, from .67 FTE to .71 FTE for an annual salary of \$19,330.98, effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

- 4. **Substitutes** - Exhibit #21-52
- 5. **Practicum Student** - Exhibit #21-53
- 6. **Movement on the Salary Guide** - Exhibit #21-54
- 7. **Bus Driver Referral Bonus** - Exhibit #21-55
- 8. **SWAP Day Presenters** - Exhibit #21-56
- 9. **New Teacher Orientation Presenters** - Exhibit #21-57
- 10. **Adjustment to Curriculum Writing** - Exhibit #21-58
- 11. **Professional Development Presenters** - Exhibit #21-59
- 12. **Bus Duty** - Exhibit #21-60
- 13. **Saturday Detention** - Exhibit #21-61
- 14. **Co-Curricular** - Exhibit #21-62

Approval of Items 1 – 14:

Moved by: Ms. Romano Second: Dr. Snyder Roll Call Vote: 9 - 0

VIII. Informational Only

A. Enrollment Information – September 8, 2020

	2019-2020	2020-2021
High School	1275	1296
Middle School	668	629
Upper Elementary School	913	859
Elementary School	1119	1060
Total	3975	3844

B. Old Business

C. New Business

D. Public Comment

1. Open Public Comment

MOTION:

A motion is requested to open the floor for public comment.

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

2. Public Comment

- a. Dimitri Schneiberg of 10 Windermere Drive commented he hasn't seen receptiveness to the community and a desire to change. He thanked Mr. Villanueva for asking the tough questions.
- b. Amy Delgado of 6 Walnut Court commented the District has dismissed concerns of the parents. Teachers are trying to teach kids in person and address kids at home. .
- c. Joe Horwitz of 137 Harding Avenue commented we need to make the best of this and too many people are making more of this.
- d. Stacy Cohen of 673 Mill Street commented it would be too much to ask of an elementary student to sit in front of a computer for five straight days.
- e. Cheryl Makopoulos of 5 Walnut Court commented changes need to be made at UES to better educate the students during remote times.
- f. Karen Vidal of 441 Oldershaw Avenue commented we can't expect schools to be fully up and running at 100% right away. Comparing Moorestown to other districts is not helpful. Comparing to private schools isn't helpful due to special education populations and enrollment levels. Her son has been overloaded with work. Community members can have their voices heard without being nasty.
- g. Daniela Riggins of 620 N. Washington Avenue commented we feel as though modifications to the schedule need to be balanced.
- h. Jen Hilinski of 415 Dawson commented we feel as though it has been a better start than we anticipated. She has noticed benefits to asynchronous days such as better communication, flexible schedules, less screen time, etc.
- i. John Makopoulos of 5 Walnut Court commented the fact that we're hearing one kind is done sooner than another indicates that we have a problem. Grades 4-6 should be tweaked.

3. Close Public Comment

MOTION:

A motion is requested to close the floor for public comment.

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

IX. Adjournment

Moved by: Ms. Romano Second: Mrs. Law Roll Call Vote: 9 - 0

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heiser, CPA
Board Secretary