

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES – COW/REGULAR MEETING

August 19, 2014

I. OPENING

A. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Board President's Announcement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Demarest Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the Borough Hall and at the Middle School and by notifying in writing two newspapers: The Record and The Suburbanite.

C. President Holzberg led the flag salute.

D. Roll Call: Geller, Kirtane, Molina, Verna, Woods and Holzberg were present. Geisenheimer was absent. Also present was the Board Attorney, Bruce Padula, Esq.

E. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous voice vote to accept the minutes of the COW/Regular Meeting held on July 22, 2014.

F. There was a review of correspondence.

II. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Holzberg welcomed everyone. She commented that Mr. Fox is on vacation. She requested all community members to sign in.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None

IV. REVIEW OF AGENDA

A. The board members reviewed the items.

B. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to open the meeting to public discussion limited to agenda items.

C. Public discussion

1. Mr. Abbate of 41 Lenox Ave. questioned why the board rents its fields to out-of-towners. He is against the rental to outsiders.
2. Mrs. Desai of 25 Stewart St. commented she is against out-of-towners attending the summer recreation program.
3. Dr. Stanzione of 17 Prescott St. expressed concern over the dumping of chips and noise from the Luther Lee Emerson gym air conditioner units.
4. A resident from 25 Columbus Rd. expressed displeasure with the summer camp blocking his driveway.
5. Mr. Abbate of 41 Lenox Ave. commended the board for investing in the new electric upgrades and air conditioners at County Road School.

D. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to close the meeting to public discussion.

V. ACTIONSA. Instruction – Staffing

1. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following substitutes for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Buono, Christine	Bussanich, Angela	Ceccon, Stephanie
Cole, Andrew	Corcoran, Kristen	Coppa, Kathleen
Decotiis, Brittny	Drummond, Maria	Eftychiou, Regina
Feifer, Anne	Hagendorf, Arlene	Halprin, Marilyn
Heffler, Wendy	Kahan, Donna	Kang, Andrew
Karlitz, Julie	Kass, Elaine	Kemp, Donna
Koch, Elizabeth	LaMendola, Ellen	Lesser, Ozelle
Lumley, Mary Anne	Mehta, Gunjan	Merritts, Jennifer
Murphy, Susan	Nolan, Kathleen	Noviello, Frank
O'Connell, Anne	Plokhooy, Barbara	Rokeach, Susan
Ross, Nadine	Ross, Samantha	Ross, Jennifer
Schachter, Laura	Schwartz, Steven	Seok, Donald
Shyong, Joanna	Stodnick, Lyndsey	Spina, Daniella
Tabacchi, Silvana	Torre Lopez, Jeanne	Welzer, Sue

2. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to accept the resignation of Vanessa Monticelli, MA Step 6, as School Psychologist, for the 2014/2015 school year, previously approved by Resolution A-4 on July 22, 2014, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to amend the provisional employment of Anna Kuzdraj, MA+32 Step 1 (pending settlement of successor agreement), previously approved in Resolution A-7 on July 22, 2014, from .5 School Psychologist to full-time School Psychologist for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L.1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98).

4. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of Wendy Fine, MA+16 Step 1 (.5) (pending settlement of successor agreement), as .5 School Psychologist, for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L.1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98).

5. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of Tara Kelly, BA Step 2 (pending settlement of successor agreement), as Grade 1 Resource Room Teacher, for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L.1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98).

6. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of Julia Verno, BA Step 2 (pending settlement of successor agreement), as Grade 6 Resource Room Teacher, for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L.1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98).

V. ACTIONS (Continued)A. Instruction – Staffing (Continued)

7. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of Tiffany Witko, MA Step 2 (pending settlement of successor agreement), as part-time (.5) Basic Skills Teacher, for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L.1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98).

8. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of Inais Vazquez, MA Step 2 (pending settlement of successor agreement), as Grade 2-4 Spanish Teacher, for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L.1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98).

9. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following stipend positions and amounts (pending settlement of successor agreement) for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

STIPEND POSITION	TEACHER	AMOUNT
Athletic Programs		\$12,000
Boys Basketball	TBD (\$2,000)	
Girls Basketball	C. Cohen (\$2,000)	
Girls Volleyball	C. Cohen (\$2,000)	
Boys/Girls Track	S. Zitelli; TBD (\$2,000 p.p.)	
Boys/Girls Soccer	A. Harris; TBD (\$1,000 p.p.)	
Band	J. Zemba	\$6,000
Beginning Band	J. Zemba	\$ 733
Chorus	A. Beckley	\$2,499
Communications Coordinator	T. Sorge and C. Korines (\$911.50 p.p.)	\$1,823
Dramatics	S. Calegari; J. Worgul (\$911.50 p.p.)	\$1,823
Eighth Grade Advisors	T. Sorge; A. Giaconia (\$911.50 p.p.)	\$1,823
Gifted & Talented	C. Quillen	\$1,823
Lunchroom Coordinator – CRS	D. Duby; L. Licameli (\$3,000 p.p.)	\$6,000
Lunchroom Coordinator – LLE	D. Stokes	\$6,000
Lunchroom Coordinator – DMS	C.Cohen; A.Giaconia; C.Korines (\$6,000 p.p.)	\$18,000
Student Council	S. Zitelli; C. Korines (\$1,044 p.p.)	\$2,088
Teacher-in-Charge – CRS	G. Long	\$6,069
Teacher-in-Charge – LLE	J. Ench	\$6,069
Technology Team Coordinator	S. Calegari; J. Worgul (\$911.50 p.p.)	\$1,823
Website Coordinator	V. Zimmerman	\$2,499
Yearbook	A. Campagna	\$2,340

10. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve guide movement for Alexandria Lerner from BA to BA+16, Step 3, for the 2014/2015 school year, effective September 1, 2014, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

11. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve guide movement for Paige Sydoruk from BA to MA, Step 6, for the 2014/2015 school year, effective September 1, 2014, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

V. ACTIONS (Continued)A. Instruction – Staffing (Continued)

12. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator

**Resolution Designating Leave for Employee ID # 93115087 as Leave Pursuant to
Family and Medical Leave Act**

WHEREAS, Board Employee ID # 93115087 informed the Board of the need for leave until October 16, 2014

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Demarest Board of Education approves leave pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act for Employee ID # 93115087 for the period from September 1, 2014 through October 16, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, unless Employee ID # 93115087 requests otherwise, Employee ID # 93115087 shall utilize sick leave concurrently with the designated FMLA leave.

13. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of Christina Sielski as a substitute teacher for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L. 1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98).

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve two (2) contracts with the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services, Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired for Student ID #3421005687 to receive Level Four Services in the amount of \$ 13,600 and Student ID #5508096366 to receive Level One Services in the amount of \$1,800 for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

2. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve an annual contract with Bergen County Special Services School District for the continuation of Hospital Instruction for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve two (2) Tuition contracts with the Closter Board of Education for Student ID #'s 8844635408 and 5019762465 to attend the Preschool Learning/Language Disability Class at Hillside School for the period July 1 – 31, 2014, at a cost of \$820 per student, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

4. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve two (2) Tuition contracts for the Summer K-8 Program with Northern Valley Regional High School District for Student ID #'s 2529758090 and 9285614360 at a cost of \$1,165 per student for the period July 1 – 31, 2014, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

5. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve a Tuition contract for the Valley Program Special Classes with Northern Valley Regional High School District for one (1) student (Student ID # 5941246935) at a cost of \$6,462.91 for the period July 1 – 31, 2014, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

V. ACTIONS (Continued)B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs (Continued)

6. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the Orton-Gillingham Program with Northern Valley Regional High School District for five (5) students (Student ID #'s 2794595712, 1960155233, 7822697763, 3890703423 and 6575644800) at \$550 per student for a total amount of \$2,750 for the period July 1 - 31, 2014, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

7. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve Extended Year Tuition contracts for the Valley Program Special Classes with Northern Valley Regional High School District for five (5) students (Student ID #'s 6797028013, 5345952464, 1481531764, 2345727744 and 7389542612) for the period July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 at a cost of \$71,092 per student for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

8. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve a Regular Year Tuition contract for the Valley Program Special Classes with Northern Valley Regional High School District for two (2) students (Student ID #'s 2780639553 and 8325195645) for the period September 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 at a cost of \$64,629.09 per student for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

9. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the 2014 Demarest Middle School Soccer and Volleyball schedules for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Home/Away</u>
Tuesday	09/16	Norwood	Home
Thursday	09/18	Old Tappan	Home
Monday	09/22	Northvale	Away
Monday	09/29	Haworth	Away
Wednesday	10/01	Closter	Away
Thursday	10/02	Harrington Park	Home
Monday	10/06	Norwood	Away
Wednesday	10/08	Old Tappan	Away
Tuesday	10/14	Northvale	Home
Monday	10/20	Haworth	Home
Wednesday	10/22	Closter	Home
Thursday	10/23	Harrington Park	Away
Week of	10/27	Tournament	

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to accept the resignation of the following Instructional Aides, effective August 14, 2014, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Student Local ID #'s</u>
Lindsay Flanagan	LLE	252047
Hannah Maak	LLE	242056, 242016, 242047
Lyndsey Stodnick	CRS	252083, 262046

V. ACTIONS (Continued)

C. Support Services – Staffing (Continued)

2. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of the following as Instructional Aides for the 2014/2015 school year, not to exceed 29 hours weekly, based on the Student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L. 1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Student Local ID's</u>
Lauren Agresta (Step 1)	CRS	262017
Stephanie Ceccone (Step 1)	LLE	252047
Crystal Cooke (Step 1)	LLE	242075
Kristen Corcoran (Step 1)	LLE	242056, 242087
Moumita Gammel (Step 1)	LLE	242002, 242016
Gilda Natko (Step 1)	LLE	252029

3. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of Hyewon Mohanram, as an Instructional Aide for Student Local ID # 242089 for the 2014/2015 school year, at Step 3 plus \$12.27 per hour not to exceed 29 hours per week, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L. 1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98).

4. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following school bus drivers for 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Resat Cazimoski Michael Bolt Hrant Mekhsian Louis Vogel

5. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following school bus drivers to transport students to sporting events during the 2014/2015 school year at a rate of \$75 each, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Resat Cazimoski Michael Bolt Hrant Mekhsian Louis Vogel

6. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following custodial staff assignments (* CDL) as per contract, for the 2014/2015 school year, effective September 1, 2014, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

<u>County Road School</u>		<u>Demarest Middle School</u>	
Louis Vogel *	7:15a – 3:45p	Resat Cazimoski *	7:00a – 3:30p
Doko, Bashkim (.75) 10 month	3:45p – 10:15p	Hrant Mekhsian *	7:00a – 3:30p
		Patricio Rosero-Villacres	10:30a – 7:00p
<u>Luther Lee Emerson School</u>		Santiago Reboiro	3:30p – 12:00a
Ameti Dritar	7:00a – 3:30p	Fitni Redzeqi	3:30p – 12:00a
James Hayes	3:30p – 12:00a	Michael Bolt * (.5) 10 month	4:00p – 10:00p
Gerald Scandiffio(.5) 10 month	3:30p – 7:30p	Aram Yakoubian(.5) 10 month	3:30p – 7:30p

7. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of Tashin Coklar as Substitute Custodian, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, as needed, for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L.1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98).

V. ACTIONS (Continued)C. Support Services – Staffing (Continued)

8. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve contract agreement with Gina Peter, Payroll/Bookkeeper, for the 2014/2015 through 2016/2017 school years, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

9. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve non-tenure contract agreement with Debra Rinaldi, Executive Secretary, for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve Transportation Route #1-2014 to Luther Lee Emerson School, 15 Columbus Road and Demarest Middle School, 568 Piermont Road, Demarest, NJ for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

2. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve continued participation with the Borough of Demarest "Safe Routes to School" Program funded by the Federal Highway Administration, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the first payment in the amount of \$208,905 to T.M. Brennan Contractors, Inc. for the County Road School classroom upgrades project, as reviewed by EI Associates and as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

4. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve a Shared Service Agreement with the Borough of Closter for fuel for the Demarest Board of Education vehicles at a rate of \$0.20 per gallon above the cost to Closter, for the period 2014-2019, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

5. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Demarest Board of Education and Haworth Board of Education have a need for a part-time Spanish Teacher; and

WHEREAS the Haworth Board of Education realize that efficiencies can be gained by a shared services agreement for the employment of a Spanish Teacher, pursuant to NJSA 40A:65-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Demarest will serve as the Lead Education Agency (LEA); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Demarest Board of Education and the Haworth Board of Education agree to share all expenses based on Demarest receiving three days (.6) and Haworth receiving two days (.4) of services of Inais Vazquez for the 2014-15 school year.

6. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the Northern Valley Education Consortium Procedures and Protocols, as distributed and on file in the Superintendent's Office, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

V. ACTIONS (Continued)D. Support Services – Board of Education (Continued)

7. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the agreement between the Secretaries and the Demarest Board of Education for the 2014/2015, 2015/2016, and 2016/2017 school years, retroactive to July 1, 2014, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

8. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the agreement between the Custodians and the Demarest Board of Education for the 2014/2015, 2015/2016, and 2016/2017 school years, retroactive to July 1, 2014, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

9. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the adjusted Hourly Pay Schedule for Instructional, Playground and Lunch Aides, the Lunchroom Coordinator and the Health Aide for the 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 school years, effective September 1, 2014, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

10. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has presented his action plan for proposed merit bonus criteria to the Board for the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with Article IV, Item 2, of his Employment Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the Superintendent's action plan for the attainment of merit criteria and agrees that the proposed action plan includes the required merit criteria, the basis for measuring achievement of the merit criteria and the amount of "extra compensation" for achievement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves of the Superintendent's action plan for the attainment of merit criteria for the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with the merit provision for additional compensation contained in the Superintendent's Employment Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is hereby authorized to submit his proposed action plan for the attainment of the merit criteria set forth therein to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1(E)(10-11), as per personnel attachment II.

11. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the BSM/St. Joseph's Enrichment Program's request to use the fields at Demarest Middle School on Mondays and Thursdays (4:00 – 7:00 p.m.) and Saturdays (1:30 – 3:30 p.m.) beginning September 4, 2014 through November 15, 2014 for youth recreation, at a rate of \$920, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

E. Support Services – Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Molina, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the July 16 – 31, 2014 payroll in the amount of \$62,529.59.

V. ACTIONS (Continued)

E. Support Services – Fiscal Management (Continued)

2. It was moved by Molina, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the July 16 – 31, 2014 payroll in the amount of \$62,529.59.
3. It was moved by Molina, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the August 1 – 15, 2014 payroll in the amount of \$72,976.13.
3. It was moved by Molina, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the July 2014 bills as follows:

<u>Subtotal Per Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10 General Current Fund Expense Funds	\$ 264,965.46
30 Capital Project Funds	<u>1,700.00</u>
Total	\$ 266,665.46

4. It was moved by Molina, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution:

Receipt of Certification from Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C 6:20-2.13 (d), I, Frank G. Chilson certify that as of July 31, 2014, no budgetary line item account has obligations or payments (contractual orders) which in total exceeds the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1.

5. It was moved by Molina, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution:

Certification of Board of Education

Pursuant to N.J.A.C 6:20-2.13 (e), we certify that as of July 31, 2014 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district official, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-extended in violation of NJAC 6:20-2.13 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

6. It was moved by Molina, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to acknowledge receipt of the June 30, 2014 Report of the Board Secretary, A148 and Report of the Treasurer, A-149.

7. It was moved by Molina, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the transfers for July 2014:

<u>From:</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-190-100-610-2-6160-05	Mathematics	\$ 8,000
11-190-100-610-3-6150-05	Mathematics	4,800
11-000-216-101-0-0000-12	Occupational Therapy	59,928
11-000-216-610-0-6190-12	Communication-Disabled	8,000
11-213-100-101-3-0000-15	Resource Room	14,736
11-000-222-610-3-6140-24	Media Services	2,421
11-000-240-103-3-0000-35	Office of the Principal	<u>26,000</u>
		\$ 123,885

<u>To</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-190-100-610-2-6190-05	Mathematics	\$ 16,000
11-190-100-610-3-6160-05	Mathematics	2,200
11-190-100-640-3-0000-05	Mathematics	5,600
11-000-216-320-0-0000-16	Speech Instruction	66,000
11-000-222-610-3-6130-24	Media Services	2,421
11-000-230-104-0-0000-26	Executive Administration	26,000
11-000-251-104-0-0000-27	Fiscal Services	3,964
11-000-262-520-0-0000-28	Operations	<u>1,700</u>
		\$ 123,885

V. ACTIONS (Continued)F. Other

1. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous voice vote to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Demarest Board of Education will convene in a closed Executive Session on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel and/or legal matters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the nature of the discussion is expected to be disclosed to the public at a future date.

2. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Demarest Board of Education will convene in a closed Executive Session on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel and/or legal matters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the nature of the discussion is expected to be disclosed to the public at a future date.

VI. REPORTS

There were no reports this evening.

VII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- A. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to open the meeting to public discussion.

1. Mr. Abbate of 41 Lenox Ave. questioned the wisdom of investing \$400,000 into County Road School and then closing it. He expressed he is against the proposed Luther Lee Emerson project. He feels it will bring a lot of traffic without any benefit to the children. He commented that he is for the new gymnasium at Demarest Middle School.
2. A resident expressed concerns of traffic at the duck pond and commented closing County Road just to remove the 5 minute commute for teachers between schools makes no sense.

President Holzberg said she appreciates everyone sharing but commented the board will refute if necessary. She responded to the minute commute comment saying perhaps the board had not communicated properly. We are not concerned with the commute, but rather the loss of instructional time.

3. Ms. Hayden of 6 Prescott St. stated the LLE plan is less than ideal and doesn't justify the plan. She is concerned with the tax impact.
4. A resident exclaimed that the board is using poor management and the plan is a waste of money.

President Holzberg responded that she wants to be clear. She explained the board first expressed the idea in the July 2012 Chalkboard newsletter and invited residents to join the Ad Hoc Committee. Then the ad hoc members were appointed in October 2012, and were people who wanted to be there, including councilmembers, teachers and parents. From there, the committee completed a 6 month study with a report issued in June. There was an article of the report featured in the July 2013 Chalkboard. President Holzberg said the board did its due diligence. Finally she explained that a plan had to be drafted to be presented to the State Department of Environmental Protection. We couldn't simply ask the DEP for approval without providing something to approve. Now we are looking at other options and are requesting feedback from the community.

VII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Continued)

5. Mr. Kim, Demarest resident, questioned why so many trees were cut down near Luther Lee Emerson School and whether it was done in preparation of the expansion.

Mr. Chilson, Board Secretary, responded the trees had to be removed because excessive woodchips had killed them.

6. Ms. Hayden of 6 Prescott St. commented there is still poison ivy present at LLE and there are contractors specialized to remove it.
7. Mr. Carrara of 17 Prescott St. stated he is upset about the proposed parking lot to be built in front of his house and he will lose value. He asked if anyone believes the project will improve education. He said the board should hire more teachers and reduce the teacher-student ratio.
8. Mr. Bailey of 33 Brookside Ave. stated he came to Demarest specifically for the split elementary education. He expressed that he is against the proposed project.
9. Dr. Stanzione of 17 Prescott St. explained she is a School Psychologist in the Valley. She said that Northern Valley would not support moving the special education to County Road School. They want to mainstream the children as much as possible and not isolate them.
10. Mr. Abbate of 41 Lenox Ave. stated the LLE fields are in good condition since the irrigation system was installed and the custodians maintain them very well. He commented that replacing the grass fields with a synthetic surface would still require irrigation but only have a lifespan of 8-10 years. He feels it is unnecessary for 7 year-olds to have. He commented again that the fields should only be used by Demarest residents and not rented out. He also said that upgrades to CRS are a good idea and to use another \$2 million to improve. The children in Grades K-1 do not need a huge library. Lastly, he commented that the board did a great job getting computers for all staff and students.
11. Ms. Hayden of 6 Prescott St. commented that synthetic fields can cause health, injury, drainage and other issues. She stated the lights from the gymnasium at LLE shine into her home windows. She said there was no justification with closing CRS and it would ruin the neighborhood.
12. Mr. Shapiro, a resident and local realtor, asked if any research was done regarding rolling kindergarten and 1st graders into a school with higher grades. He commended that buyers come to Demarest specifically for the schools.
President Holzberg responded by saying that the ad hoc committee wanted to keep kindergarten and 1st graders separate. She explained that the architects said we could expand LLE and keep K-1 separate from Grades 2-4, connected only through the library. She said that the board wants to meet the needs of the 21st century learning.
13. Ms. Neenan of 32 Knickerbocker Rd. commented her children went to Demarest schools. She said LLE has charm and it should remain as it is.
14. A resident asked what the next steps were in the process.

President Holzberg explained since its summer, we need to wait for people to return from vacations. She said that we want to bring the special education students back into district but we need more small group instruction and we need the space to do so. She said next the Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet to review all your comments and may have to go back to the drawing board.

15. A resident commented they regionalize the DPW, police, fire, etc., so why don't we regionalize the special education students.
16. Dr. Stanzione stated Demarest currently takes and rents the classrooms to Valley special education programs. She thinks we should keep those two rented classrooms.

VII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Continued)

17. Dr. Desai of 25 Stewart St. commented the unemployment rate since 2009 has been at 8.9% and the school enrollment is decreasing, so why do you need more space? She stated that we just finished construction and the bonds aren't even paid off yet. She also asked why a new gymnasium at DMS was a priority, when there is no rationale.

President Holzberg responded the board recognizes the town finds this difficult but we are trying to find revenue. She continued we can rent the gym for a weekend and raise \$6,000.

18. Mr. Gdalevich of 45 Lenox Ave. questioned how the proposed project would benefit us. He said he hopes that the board isn't making a short-term decision.

President Holzberg responded the board needs to at least look at our options.

19. Ms. Hayden of 6 Prescott St. stated that neither school has the infrastructure to expand. She said we should just improve CRS. She expressed her concern about having a parking lot in front of her house and about the "island house" that will be paved around on all four sides.

20. Ms. Hayden of 6 Prescott St. commented her home is going to lose value with this construction.

21. A resident again asked what happens next.

President Holzberg responded the plans will go back to the Buildings & Grounds Committee to review.

22. Dr. Stanzione of 17 Prescott St. commented that she is going to pay higher taxes to have a parking lot in front of her home. She continued that there is a \$225 surcharge to pave the road from the town but it will be paved just so teachers can park in it.

President Holzberg responded that you may be blending the town's plans with the board's plans. We are two separate operating entities and the board did not participate in the town's review of street paving.

23. Mr. Kim, Demarest resident, said he wanted to follow up on Mr. Shapiro's comment from earlier regarding a study of combining the Grade K-1 students with the older students. He said he looked up on his phone and merging the students will increase bullying.

24. A resident questioned how we will pay for the new gymnasium and what the benefits were of a larger gym. His children attended Demarest and were just fine with a smaller gym.

25. Mr. Carrara of 17 Prescott St. asked what is the difference between 21st century and 1st century learning, with the exception of technology. He stated we should upgrade the science and technology labs and it can be done without adding a building and for a lot less money.

President Holzberg commented the board is open and listening to everyone's comments. She responded about the new gymnasium that our current gym is also used as an auditorium, stage and music room. She said the board received a lot of input from educators and the project does not solely have to do with money. The board is going to think long and hard about everything that's been said tonight.

26. Ms. Neenan of 32 Knickerbocker Rd. commented all schools have an All-Purpose-Room that is used for multiple activities and they survive.

27. A resident commented she thinks the school system is good and asked whether this project is being completed to create teacher convenience or is it to have the children together. She sees no benefit to the project.

VII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Continued)

28. Mr. Abbate said what he is hearing is the board is open for communication, yet the board's minutes say that EI Associates was approved to come up with a design and if the DEP had not shot it down, we would be going to referendum in September. He asked why are we going to rent out 12 rooms in CRS and put the children in similar 12 rooms at LLE. He stated again that we should just make improvements at CRS and not expand LLE.

29. Ms. Hayden of 6 Prescott St. asked why are we going to duplicate the building. There is no educational impact of doing so, but there is a significant environmental and community impact. She stated the planners and contractors will benefit from this. She asked the board to please look at the plans while at LLE to see the potential impact firsthand.

President Holzberg commented she hopes everyone leaves feeling that we want your input. She explained that we will keep you informed and will take your opinions seriously.

30. Mr. Gdalevich of 45 Lenox Ave. asked how do we know we've been heard.

President Holzberg responded by saying come to the next meeting.

31. Mr. Shapiro commented the Chalkboard newsletter does not work to get information out. He said this is the 21st century so there should be a better way to get information out.

President Holzberg closed by commenting that we will consider all of your input and asked for the community to read our Chalkboard newsletter. We will continue to update the community on the district's needs and considered plans. We want you all to know what is going on. She thanked everyone for coming this evening.

B. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to close the meeting to public discussion.

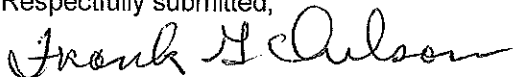
VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no additional time needed this evening.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank G. Chilson
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary