

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

March 24, 2015

I. OPENING

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 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: Cantatore, Geller, Kirtane, Molina, Verna, Woods and Holzberg were present.
- E. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous voice vote to accept the minutes of the COW/Regular Meeting from February 24, 2015.
- F. Frank Chilson reviewed the correspondence received during the previous month.

II. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Holzberg welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Fox updated the board on Region III's negotiations to move from OLV in Harrington Park to Holy Family in Norwood beginning with the 2016/2017 school year. He commented we have a great group of students returning to participate in Senior Service. He noted the middle school graduation will be held on June 22nd. He spoke about the PTO Casino Night fundraiser and what a huge success it was; the Harlem Wizards and Project Graduation; the students participation in the Geography Bee at Rowan University and the Math League Contests where our students placed 7th of 29 and 2nd of 204 at Princeton University.

Mr. Fox discussed the proposed driveway connection at Luther Lee Emerson School to Belmar Street. He explained that the Board of Education has been notified of the safety issues by the Demarest Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Fox does not want to be liable for any accidents or tragedies and he is strongly recommending the Belmar connection for a safer school environment.

Dr. Codey presented a PowerPoint of the recent activities at the middle school which included students' participation in the 'Choose Not to Use' poster contest, Pi Day, Principal's Challenge and the Harlem Wizard's game versus Northern Valley Demarest will take place on April 19th. Dr. Codey thanked the PTO for organizing the school visit from author, Jordan Sonnenblick. She thanked the board and administrators for all their work in facilitating a smooth PARCC testing period. She noted the Fairview Lake trip information session is tomorrow. She also commented on the Math team's achievements during the recent competitions.

Mr. Mazzini presented information on the events of the elementary schools including the Walk to School Wednesday winners; 4th graders participation in Orchestra Family; Writopia; Center for Food Action pantry collection of over 100 boxes of cereal; Principal's Challenge; and Absolutely Incredible Kid Day. He commented the water bottle filler and lunchroom table locks have been installed. Mr. Mazzini explained how staff is continuing to prepare for the PARCC PBA testing and discussed the GoMath program, which goes above and beyond the common core requirements.

IV. REVIEW OF AGENDA

- A. The board members reviewed the items.
- B. It was move by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to open the meeting to public discussion limited to agenda items.
- C. There was no public discussion, limited to the agenda items.
- D. It was move by Woods, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to close the meeting to public discussion.

V. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

None

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm a service contract with the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services, Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired for Student ID #2529758090 to receive Level One Services in the amount of \$825.74 during the period February 27, 2015 through June 2015, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

2. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm additional services with Northern Valley Regional High School for a 1:1 Instructional Aide for Student ID #7389542612 currently attending the Valley Program at Norwood, in the amount of \$15,300, effective March 11, 2015 for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

3. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve amended Student Calendars for the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 school years, as distributed, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

4. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following students to participate in senior service for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

<u>Demarest Middle School</u>	<u>Demarest Middle School</u>	<u>Luther Lee Emerson School</u>
Alison Bernstein	Ali Verp	Jenna Karlitz
James Choi	Conor Wilson	Alexa Moss
Nicole Dermksian	Hannah Woods-Bannon	Arman Moussavi
Elisabeth Lobel	Tiffany Wong	
Madeline Merritts		

5. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve Ashley Roessler, college student at Rutgers University, to spend 2 days observing members of the Child Study Team during the month of April 2015, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

6. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the Eighth (8th) Grade Graduation to be held Monday, June 22, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

V. ACTIONS (Continued)

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to accept the resignation of Bashkim (Bobby) Doko, 10-month part-time Custodian at County Road School, effective March 27, 2015, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

2. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to accept the resignation of Orazia (Grace) Sepero, Principal's Secretary at Demarest Middle School, effective March 27, 2015, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of William Breakfield as a 10-month part-time Custodian at County Road School, Step 1, beginning April 13, 2015 for the duration of 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 as well as an application for emergency hiring as required by the N.J.S.A 18A:6-7.1 et seq. (revised 6/30/98).

4. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the employment transfer of Margaret Cioffi from part-time Lunch Aide to substitute Lunch Aide, effective March 2, 2015, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

5. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to accept the notice of retirement of Marianne Bolduc, Lunch Coordinator, effective June 30, 2015, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

6. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of Amber Eichler as Instructional Aide (Student ID # 212113), Step 1, effective April 2, 2015, for the 2014/2015 school year, not to exceed 29 hours weekly, based on the Students' Individual Education Plans (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).

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the first reading and adoption of the following revised Policies and Regulations, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

5141.21 Policy	Administration of Medication
5141.23 Policy	Concussion Management
5141.23 Regulation	Concussion Management
6114 Policy	Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
6173 Policy	Home Instruction
7110 Policy	Long-Range Facility Planning

2. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the attendance of Diane Holzberg, School Board President, at the Bergen County School Boards Association - President's Breakfast on Sunday, March 28, 2015 in River Edge, NJ with reimbursement for travel based on state statutes, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve Vikings Soccer Club to use Demarest Middle School field on Fridays and Luther Lee Emerson School fields on Mondays and Thursdays, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., for the period April 1 through June 7, 2015, at a rate of \$25 per hour, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

V. ACTIONS (Continued)

E. Support Services – Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the February 16th – 28th, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$337,325.06

2. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the March 1st – 15th, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$363,243.64

3. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the February 2015 bills in the amount of \$889,483.45 as follows:

<u>Subtotal Per Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10 General Current Fund Expense Funds	\$330,619.00
12 Capital Outlay	4,500.00
20 Special Revenue Funds	37,326.95
40 Debt Service Funds	517,037.50

Diane Holzberg, Board Member, does hereby abstain as to her own payment for reimbursement of conference expenses. Her vote herein shall constitute a vote as to payment of all other bills.

4. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the follow transfers for February 2015:

<u>From:</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-000-230-331-0-0000-00	Board of Education	4,800
11-000-218-530-3-0000-32	Guidance	350
12-000-262-730-0-0000-00	Capital	<u>24,000</u>
	\$	29,150
<u>To:</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-000-230-530-0-0000-25	Board of Education	4,000
11-000-230-590-0-0000-25	Board of Education	800
11-000-218-890-3-0000-32	Guidance	350
12-000-400-334-0-0000-00	Capital	10,000
12-000-400-450-0-0000-00	Capital	<u>14,000</u>
	\$	29,150

5. It was moved by Geller, 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 February 28, 2015, 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.

6. It was moved by Geller, 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 February 28, 2015, 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.

V. ACTIONS (Continued)

E. Support Services –Fiscal Management (Continued)

7. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous roll call vote to acknowledge receipt of the January 31, 2015 Report of the Board Secretary, A-148 and Report of the Treasurer, A-149.

F. Other

1. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Verna 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, April 21, 2015 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 Geller, seconded by Verna 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, April 28, 2015 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

None

VII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

1. L. Gross of 176 Chestnut Street questioned the proposed capital budget and the cost for the Belmar connection and the bid time line.

Mr. Chilson answered that the estimated cost is \$483,000 and the bid will hopefully take place in May 2015.

2. L. Saroufeem of 23 Belmar Street commented that Belmar is a narrow street and that she would like all the details of project. She commented that a lot of children walk to Belmar and asked how we are going to protect children from cars making left turns onto Belmar from the new driveway as there are no sidewalks. She expressed that the driveway is not necessary or safe.

3. B. Joya of 6 Drury Lane stated that Drury Lane is unimproved and poorly lit and asked if the board plans on having pick-up on Drury Lane. He commented it's not pedestrian friendly.

Mr. Fox explained that parents are advised to pick up in front or back of LLE School only and to never use the side streets. He said that the board is looking for the best and safest solution to an ongoing safety issue.

Mr. Molina commented that we want to make Belmar Street a one-way street during school pick-up and drop-off hours as a way to make the best of a bad situation.

VII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Continued)

4. J. Kupperman of 50 William Street congratulated the middle school on their competitions. She commented on the Gifted & Talented programs and quoted the NJ Common Core standards that each district is required to provide assessment in grades K-12. She commented that she feels Demarest needs improvement in the elementary G&T programs and to be able to identify, assess and provide appropriate materials. She wanted to bring this issue to the board's attention and see what can be done.

President Holzberg stated she cannot speak to J. Kupperman's comment as it sounds like she is saying Demarest is out of compliance, but thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Fox explained that the region is revising the Gifted & Talented programs.

J. Kupperman further commented Demarest should start using technology earlier.

Mrs. Kirtane responded the kindergarteners are actively using technology and are far beyond just being familiar with it.

6. L. Saroufeem spoke about a letter dated 2009 from the Demarest Fire Department to the Demarest Board of Education, quoted that the proposed Belmar connection driveway would not help.

Mr. Molina explained this letter shows how long this has been an issue. The town and the board have been through many options over the years and the town always defrays the issue to the school.

Mr. Fox stated he understands all the concerns but safety is the first priority. He cannot have something like this on his conscious.

7. L. Gross commented the Belmar connection is not pedestrian friendly and costs nearly half your capital budget.

Mr. Molina noted the entire town is pedestrian unfriendly.

President Holzberg stated that we need to reel in the comments and maintain civility. She thanked everyone for their remarks.

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

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

There was no additional time needed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- A. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank G. Chilson
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary