

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION
COW and REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
County Road School – Media Center
November 12, 2024
7:00 P.M.

I. OPENING

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Holzberg at 6:30 pm.
- B. Present: Brillhart, Cantatore, Choi, Lee, Holzberg.
Absent: Fein (arrived at 7:35 PM), Governale
Also present: Mr. Fox/ Superintendent and Ms. Kelly Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

II. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. The Board determined it will enter into executive session for the following reasons:
 - 1. Student discipline
 - 2. Personnel
- B. It was moved by Choi seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to approve the following resolution to enter the executive session:

WHEREAS, in order to protect the personal privacy and to avoid situations wherein the public interest might be disserved, the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain matters are discussed;

WHEREAS, the length of the closed executive session is estimated to be thirty minutes, after which the Regular Public Meeting will reconvene and proceed with business where formal action may or may not be taken;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b), the Board of Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss items stated above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subjects will be made public at a time when the public's interest in disclosure is greater than any privacy or governmental interest being protected from disclosure.

- C. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 6:45 P.M.

III. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

- A. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Brillhart to reopen the Regular Meeting to the public at 7:05 P.M.
- B. President Holzberg read the following announcement:
The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure 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.

IV. FLAG SALUTE

A. President Holzberg led the flag salute.

V. ROLL CALL

Present: Brillhart, Cantatore, Choi, Lee, Holzberg.

Absent: Fein (arrived at 7:35 PM), Governale

Also present: Mr. Fox, Superintendent and Ms. Kelly Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to approve:

- October 24, 2024 COW and Regular Meeting Minutes
- October 24, 2024 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None at this time.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Fox reported on the following:

- A. Demarest Middle School ranked second place at the STEAM Tank Challenge at the New Jersey School Boards Association conference.
- B. The PTO is looking for a large project for the community and is considering supporting additional items for the new gymnasium or a new playground at Luther Lee Emerson.
- C. The construction of the new gymnasium is going well. The coordination of the project with the architect, Clerk-of-the-Works, and construction supervisor is the best that we have seen. The steel is up and the block is going up fast. It should be enclosed by Thanksgiving.
- D. Enjoy Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time.

XI. OTHER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Principal Regan reviewed the following:

- Debate team
- Orchestra
- Student council speeches
- Seventh grade ELA

- Eighth-grade science lab
- New gymnasium construction
- Eighth-grade aquarium
- Visit from coach Jim Stroker
- BINGO
- STEM building hydraulic arms
- Art class
- Boys volleyball
- Seventh-grade gummy bear osmosis lab
- Sixth grade LED project in STEM
- Eighth-grade hovercraft construction in STEM
- Marching band night at NVD High School
- Halloween
- Journalism trip to NVD High School
- NJSBA Stem Tank Challenge winners
- Science and Engineering Team
- Eighth-grade murder mystery mock trial
- Upcoming: Bash the Trash assembly, 5th and 6th grade dance, Star Renaissance Assessment

B. Principal Mazzini reviewed the following:

- Student voting
- Preschool Me & My Dance
- Fire prevention assembly
- Halloween
- Veolia water program
- Preschool STEM lessons
- Demarest Police Department visits preschool
- Preschool pumpkin patch
- Upcoming: American Education Week, book fair, end of 1st trimester, winter concerts, preschool open house, Polar Express, and no homework night.

XII. REVIEW OF AGENDA

- A. Board members reviewed the items.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

- A. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to open the meeting to public comment.
- B. There were no comments from the public.
- C. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Canatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to close the meeting to public comment.

XIV. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of the following substitute teacher(s) for the remainder of the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L. 1986, c. 116 (revised 6/30/98) and N.J.S.A. 19A:6-7.7.

First Name	Last Name
Amanda	Gordan
Jason	Lee
McKenzie	Dargan
Taylor	Paster
Stacy	Roberts

2. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve provisional employment of Sarah Berndt, BA Step 1, Special Education leave replacement teacher, effective December 2, 2024, through the remainder of the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L. 1986, c. 116 (revised 6/30/98) and N.J.S.A. 19A:6-7.7.

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following field trip(s), as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Location	Month/Year	Grade/Group
Northvale, Norwood, Old Tappan, Harrington Park, Haworth	October, November and December 2024 February and March 2025	DMS Brain Busters
NJIT Science Olympiad Regionals Newark	January 2025	DMS Science and Engineering Team
JCC Tenafly NJ	November 2024	DMS 5th & 6th grade ERI class
JCC Tenafly NJ	November 2024	LLE 2nd - 4th LLD and ERI class
Target Closter	November 2024	DMS LLD class

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of the following paraprofessional not to exceed 29 hours per week, according to the paraprofessional hourly guide, for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L. 1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98) and N.J.S.A. 19A:6-7.7

School/Position	Staff Name	Step
Luther Lee Emerson School	Norma Suazo	10

2. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of the following lunch aide not to exceed 29 hours per week, according to the aide's hourly guide for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L. 1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98) and N.J.S.A. 19A:6-7.7

School/Position	Staff Name	Step
Luther Lee Emerson School	Aida Hernandez	1

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following request for facilities use on the following dates, in accordance with policy 7510, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Event	Date(s) and time	Location
DAA basketball and soccer	11/1/24-6/20/25 Friday's only 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM as needed and available	LLE gymnasium and APR
PTO Lunar New Year practice	1/7/25, 1/17/25, 1/21/25, 1/28/25 4:20 PM - 5:00 PM 1/24/25 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	CRS gymnasium
PTO Lunar New Year practice	1/14/25, 1/22/25, 1/24, 1/28/25, 1/29/25, 1/30/25 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	LLE gymnasium

2. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the attendance of the following workshops, with all hotel, meals and travel reimbursed at the statutory rates per NJ OMB guidelines, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Name/Title	Event	Registration Fee
Kelly Stevens Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments	Techspo January 29-31, 2025 Atlantic City	\$590.00

3. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve and authorize the submission of the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Building Checklists and Statement of Assurance for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
4. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the in-district tuition rate for Demarest Early Learners preschool at \$12,500.00 for the 2025/2026 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
5. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the in-district tuition rate for Demarest Early Learners preschool aftercare at \$75.00 for the 2025/2026 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
6. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the first of two annual drill for bus riders for the 2024/2025 school year that was conducted as noted below, as per Administrative Code (NJAC 6A:27-11.2), as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

School	Location	Date/time	Person conducting drill:
Demarest Middle School 568 Piermont Rd.	parking lot	9/19/2024-9/20/2024 8:30 AM - 2:45 PM	Mr. Bolt/driver Ms. Moran/teaching staff Mr. Romeo/teaching staff

7. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following resolution for submission of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan to the Executive County Superintendent, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the Demarest School District are consistent with these requirements, and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Demarest Board of Education hereby authorizes the school business administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the Demarest School District in compliance with the Department of Education requirements

8. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve contracted speech services with Best of You Therapy for FMLA replacement for staff #10313012, from November 15, 2024, to April 4, 2025, at a rate of \$125.00 per hour, fourteen hours per week, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

9. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present, with Fein abstaining, to acknowledge that the board accepts the results of the following HIB case numbers as discussed at the October 15, 2024 meeting, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Case numbers 2425-2 and 2425-3.

Case numbers 2425-4 through 2425-6.

Case number 2425-7.

Case numbers 2425-8 and 2425-9.

Case numbers 2425-10 through 2025-12.

Case number 2425-13.

Case numbers 2425-14 through 2425-19.

Case numbers 2425-20 and 2425-21.

Case numbers 2425-22 through 2425-24.

Case numbers 2425-25 and 2425-26.

E. Support Services—Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the October payrolls as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

October 15	\$ 522,773.28
October 31	\$ 516,421.07

2. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve* November 12, 2024 bill list as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

*Diane Holzberg, does hereby abstain as to her own payment (check # 1805) for reimbursement of travel fees. Her vote herein shall constitute a vote as to payment of all other bills.

*Erica Cantatore, does hereby abstain as to her own payment (check # 1783) for reimbursement of travel fees. Her vote herein shall constitute a vote as to payment of all other bills.

11 General Current Expense	\$ 1,536,288.97
12 Capital Outlay	\$ 4,705.93
20 Special Revenue Fund	\$ 18,217.46
21 Student Activity Fund	\$ 302.30
22 Athletic Fund	\$ 1,927.00
30 Capital Projects Fund	\$ 650,122.01
60 Cafeteria Fund	\$ 40,532.42
61 Laptop Account	\$ 11,101.80
Total Bills:	\$ 2,263,197.89

3. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following resolution, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Receipt of Certification from Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (d), I, Antoinette Kelly, certify that as of October 31, 2024, no budgetary line item account has obligations or payments (contractual orders) that, in total, exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1.

4. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following resolution, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Certification of Board of Education

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (e), we certify that as of October 31, 2024 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.

5. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge receipt of the October 2024 Report of the Board Secretary, A148 and the Report of the Treasurer, A-149, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
6. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the following budget transfer for October 2024, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

To:

Account Number	Description	Amount
11-190-100-340	Regular Programs-Purchased Technical Services	7,742.22
11-000-230-339	General Administration-Other Professional Services	250.00
Total Transfers In		7,992.22

From:

Account Number	Description	Amount
11-190-100-610	Regular Programs-General Supplies	7,742.22
11-000-230-590	General Administration-Misc Purchased Services	250.00
Total Transfers Out		7,992.22

7. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve change order #4 with Daskal, LLC., for the Demarest Middle School Gymnasium, NJDOE Project # 1070-040-23-1000, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

This change order is the result of additional work done to remove and infill previously unknown seepage pits.

Original contract contingency sum	\$250,000.00
Net change of previously authorized change orders	\$26,558.31
Contract contingency sum will be decreased by this change order in the amount of	\$20,948.21
New remaining contingency sum including this change order will be	\$202,493.48

Original contract sum was	\$7,161,000.00
Net change by previously authorized change orders	0.00
Contract sum prior to this change order	\$7,161,000.00
contract sum will be increased by this change order in the amount of	0.00
New contract sum including this change order will be	\$7,161,000.00

8. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve payment application #7, in the amount of \$265,452.60 to Daskal LLC for the Demarest Middle School Gymnasium addition, NJDOE Project # 1070-040-23-1000, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
9. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve payment application #8, in the amount of \$373,448.60 to Daskal LLC for the Demarest Middle School Gymnasium addition, NJDOE Project # 1070-040-23-1000, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no motion for public comment being no one from the public was present.

- A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to open the meeting to public comment.
- B. There were no comments.

- D. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to close the meeting to public comment.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

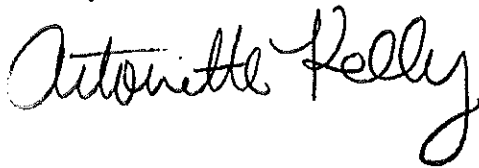
XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee, and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to enter executive session at 8:05 PM.
- B. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee, and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to close executive session and re-enter public session at 8:30 PM.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Antoinette Kelly". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Antoinette Kelly
Business Administrator and Board Secretary

