

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

April 21, 2015

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: Cantatore, Geller, Kirtane, Verna, Woods and Holzberg were present. Molina was absent.

II. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. Approve maternity leave.
2. Approve extended unpaid leave of absence.
3. Approve substitute teachers.

B. Instruction – Pupil Programs

1. Approve track schedule.
2. Approve district tuition rates.

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. Approve custodial longevity stipends for F. Redzepe and H. Mekhsian.
2. Approve transfer of assignment from instructional aide to part-time secretary.

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. Approve workshop attendance.
2. Approve Liberty Health Care Services to provide substitute nursing staff when necessary.
3. Award partial roof replacement contract based on results of April 17, 2015 bid opening.

E. Support Services – Fiscal Management

1. Approve 2015/2016 budget.
2. Confirm payroll.
3. Approve March bills.
4. Confirm March budget transfers.
5. Approve Certification of Board Secretary.
6. Approve Certification of Board of Education.
7. Acknowledge receipt of A-148 and A-149 Reports.

II. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REVIEW (Continued)

F. Other

1. Schedule Executive Session Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel and/or legal matters.
2. Schedule Executive Session Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel and/or legal matters.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

1. L. Gross of 176 Chestnut St. questioned the budgeted items for County Road School. She also reviewed data she had prepared as a traffic study and the time it took to drive to each elementary school. She expressed she does not see the value of constructing the Belmar connection driveway.

2. T. Schweid of 32 Pine Hill Rd. expressed concern over the student safety at LLE. The driveway would only affect 30 minutes of the day for only 180 days of the year. She stated it is disappointing there is opposition to the driveway.

3. L. Saroufeem of Belmar St. questioned the location of the driveway and asked when the soil test results would be available.

Mr. Chilson explained there will be a delay in the results because United Water did not mark the underground utility lines which caused the contractor to break a main water line. The board anticipates the contractor back to complete the soil tests later in the month.

4. J. Fein of 54 Rodney Pl. asked about the correction of times.

5. J. Bardin of 33 Glenwood Ave. explained her fear of snow/rain storms and can't understand why there is any disapproval.

6. Mr. Gioia commented he feels a sidewalk to Drury Lane would be unsafe.

Board member K. Woods explained there was a discussion with the Police and Fire Chiefs. A report of the discussion will be given during the Regular Board Meeting next week and the 'Safe Routes' will be determined.

Superintendent Mr. Fox stated the current safe route is Columbus Road.

Board President Holzberg stated the board would not put students on unsafe routes.

7. L. Gross commented the children and pedestrians are not safe. A safety guard will be needed on school property to cross the driveway.

8. K. Jacobsen of 41 Orchard Rd. commented the children will be on the other side of the street, away from cars. She also explained she picks up her children on Lenox Street because of the congestion on Columbus Road. She strongly feels the driveway will help and directing cars onto Belmar Street is very smart. It all comes down to safety.

9. A resident asked how wide the new roadway will be.

Mr. Chilson explained it will be a driveway, about 24 feet wide.

10. J. Bardin inquired if the costs for the driveway were in the budget.

Mr. Fox answer that the costs are included in the 2015/2016 budget.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Continued)

11. A. Slowikowski commented that regardless of the residents' thoughts, the final decision lies with the Board.

President Holzberg commented the board hears the public and values the input from the community. She further explained that each resident is a stakeholder, as part of the community.

12. L. Gross questioned the closing of County Road School, which is in the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan.

Mr. Fox explained the Plan is no longer accurate. As the state updates their software, we have been unable to change the plan. However, we will have a discussion with the architects to remove the inaccurate information as soon as we are able to do so.

13. J. Semegran of 68 North St. said a lot needs to be taken into consideration. The money is needed to protect our children and we should leave it to the experts to do that.

14. J. Fein stated every district has different needs at different times. Currently our need is for a safer street at LLE.

President Holzberg thanked everyone for their input and comments.

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Perez
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary