

# DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES – PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING MEETING

*April 28, 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 and Holzberg were present. Molina and Woods were absent.

### II. 2015/2016 BUDGET PRESENTATION

President Holzberg thanked the administration and Finance Committee for successfully preparing the 2015/2016 budget.

Mr. Fox spoke about the budget highlights which focus on sustaining small class sizes in all buildings. The proposed budget allows for continued support of staff development initiatives and for students who are placed out of district due to their classification. The budget also includes funds to enhance technology and digital literacy to better prepare our students for the future. Mr. Fox explained the staff additions which include hiring a STEM/GT teacher and media aide in lieu of the current Media Specialist, increasing the part-time (.5) School Psychologist position to full-time, adding a full-time Learning Language Disability Teacher in Grades K-1 and adding a full-time Reading Specialist Teacher in Grades K-4. Mr. Fox's presentation of the budget highlights also covered the proposed capital improvements which include repaving the driveway and replacement of the fire suppression system at County Road School; addition of an access driveway to Belmar Street and refurbishing kitchen facilities at Luther Lee Emerson School; and replacing carpeting in the board office at Demarest Middle School. The capital improvements also involve installation of a door security system and various technological improvements district wide.

Mr. Chilson reviewed the revenues for the 2015/2016 budget. The tax levy will increase by the allowable two percent. Income from miscellaneous, tuition, state and federal sources will remain at about the same rate as the current year. The proposed budget is increasing \$493,008 from the current year. Mr. Chilson explained how the proposed budget will be spent, including but not limited to, 57.85% going towards regular and special education, 16.89% towards benefits, 10.93% for debt service/capital and 7.77% needed for operations/maintenance.

Mrs. Holzberg, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the 2015/2016 tax impact. An average home assessed at \$743,813 will receive a tax increase of \$29.76 for the year, or \$2.48 per month.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- A. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to open the meeting to public discussion, limited to the 2015/2016 budget.

There was no public discussion, limited to the 2015/2016 budget.

- B. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous voice vote to close the meeting to public discussion and enter the Regular Meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

- A. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Perez  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary