

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION
COW and REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
County Road School – Media Center
May 21, 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, Fein, Governale, Lee, Holzberg.
Absent: None
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. Personnel
 - 2. Student Discipline
 - 3. Superintendent evaluation

- B. It was moved by Governale seconded by Lee 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 Governale, seconded by Lee 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 Governale, seconded by Lee to reopen the Regular Meeting to the public at 7:00 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, Fein, Governale, Lee, Holzberg.

Absent: None

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 Governale and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to approve:

- April 30, 2024 Public Budget and Regular Meeting Agenda
- April 30, 2024 Executive Session Meeting Agenda

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Board President Holzberg noted how important tonight's meeting is because tenure is being granted to staff. She congratulated the new tenured staff and stated how proud she and the board were of them. Ms. Holzberg thanked them for choosing to be a teacher.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Mr. Fox commented on the following:

- There were numerous concerts and they were wonderful.
- The Washington DC trip is this week.
- County Road School had field day.
- The construction at Demarest Middle School is moving along nicely.
- Thank you to the PTO for the gala and 5K run. Everyone enjoyed the gala and parents noticed that many staff members attended.
- Reviewed the tenure process.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time.

XI. OTHER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None at this time.

XII. REVIEW OF AGENDA

A. Board members reviewed the items.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

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

XIV. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

1a. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to award tenure to Alyssa Baldi, for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

1b. It was moved by Brillhart seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to award tenure to Jessica Raccioppi, for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

1c. It was moved by Choi seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to award tenure to Caitlin Ross, for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

It was moved by Cantatore and seconded Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to suspend the normal order of business at 7:10 P.M.

It was moved by Choi and seconded Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to suspend the normal order of business at 7:20 P.M.

2. It was moved by Lee seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of McKenzie Dargan as substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2023/2024 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.

3. It was moved by Lee seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the appointment of the following tenure teachers for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Last Name	First Name	Step
Acosta	Elvia	MA S9
Amaya	Julia	BA S10
Appelblatt	Colleen	MA+60 S13
Avillo	Alexandra	MA S10
Bajdechi	Gabriela	MA S13

Baldi	Alyssa	MA S5
Betz	Maureen	MA S19
Borghí	Loretta	MA S19
Calegari	Suzanne	MA S19
Choman	Christie	BA S11
Conti	Corinne	BA S13
DIMartini	Bridget	MA+32 S19
Du Bois Spence	Danielle	MA S13
Duby	Deborah	MA S19
Epiphaniou	Dawn	MA+32 S14
Erol	Kristen	MA S19
Feifer	Allison	MA+45 S19
Ferraro	Laura	MA+16 S10
Fine Glaser	Wendy	MA+32 S11
Forma	Kathleen	MA+60 S12
Garbatow	Carly	MA+16 S12
Geller	Janna	MA+60 S19
Greenberg	Michelle	MA S19
Guirguis	Janet	MA S19
Harley	Tara	BA S12
Heffler	Wendy	BA S10
Hubener	Katelyn	MA S10
Karrenberg	Denise	BA S19
Kerber	Kristen	MA S10
Kim	Sarah	MA S10
Konight	Kristin	BA+16 S19
Larkin	Jessica	MA S10
Lefer	Andrew	MA+16 S12
Lefer	Julia	MA+16 S11

Lew	Sunny	BA+32 S19
Licameli	Lauren	MA+16 S19
Long	Gina	MA+32 S19
Magnifico	Lauren	MA S15
McBride	Shannon	BA S8
McDermott	Karleen	MA S19
Mliczek	Nancy	MA+45 S14
Mohanram	Hyewon	MA+16 S6
Moran	Audrey	MA S6
Murphy	Toby	MA+16 S19
Nerkizian	Chris	MA+32 S18
O'Connell	Sharon	MA S19
O'Hara	Alexandria	MA+32 S13
Paspalias	Cynthia	BA S19
Peditto	Nicole	MA+45 S6
Plescia	Alyssa	MA S9
Plunkett	Jennifer	MA S19
Polvere	Joseph	MA+60 S14
Porto	Alison	MA S12 (.625)
Quillen	Carol	MA+16 S19
Raccioppi	Jessica	BA S6
Ricciutti	Ellen	MA+60 S19
Rilli	Jennifer	MA S19
Rinckhoff	Sherri	MA S19
Rohn	Regina	BA+32 S16
Ross*	Caitlin	BA S4
Scheuring	Danielle	MA+32 S10
Schmitt	Kristen	MA+16 S9
Stokes	Douglas	MA S19

Stokes	Sara	MA S19
Sydoruk-Rebele	Paige	MA+60 S16
Tiscornia	Kelly	MA S10
Urban	Heather	MA S14
Werner	Joanne	MA+16 S19
Woods	Katherine	MA+16 S6
Zemba	John	BA S19
Zimmerman	Victoria	BA S19

* Effective date of tenure 12/2/24

4. It was moved by Lee seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the appointment of the following non-tenure teachers for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Last Name	First Name	Step
Ahn	Gie Su	BA S8
Bruno	Kaitlyn	MA S8
Chabora	Sara	BA S6
Cole	Andrew	BA S16
Conover	Veronica	MA+60 S5
DiPiazza	Lia	BA S4
Goldmuntz	Jennifer	MA S8
Iannello	Jennifer	MA S4
Martinez	Rocio	MA S19
Mascarelli	Nicole	BA S3
Patel	Reena	MA+32 S3
Rogan	Jacqueline	MA S4
Romeo	Vincent	MA S2
Sanborn	Mary	MA S8
Sullivan	Mary	MA+45 S17
Sumereau	Allison	BA S2
Trumbetti	Carly	MA S5

5. It was moved by Lee seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to accept the resignation of Michael Main, Demarest Middle School, sixth grade Math Teacher, effective June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

6. It was moved by Lee seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the employment of Jodi Braunstein, MA, Step 3, Demarest Middle School, sixth grade Math Teacher, for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

7. It was moved by Lee seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of Nicole D'Alessandro, MA, Step 1, ERI Program School Social Worker at Demarest Middle School and Luther Lee Emerson School 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.

8. It was moved by Lee seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2023/2024 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

Pavlova	Diana
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B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Cantatore seconded by Governale 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
Liberty Science Center Jersey City	June 2024	Fourth Grade
Metropolitan Farm Closter	May 2024	LLD Class
Northern Valley Regional High School Old Tappan	May 2024	Track team

2. It was moved by Cantatore seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve extension of contract with Bergen County Special Services for home instruction for SID 4436860325, for up to 10 hours per week through June 1, 2024, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

*modified from April 30, 2024 B. 4.

3. It was moved by Cantatore seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the attached fall athletic game schedules, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

- [Boys Volleyball](#)
- [Girls Volleyball](#)
- [Soccer](#)
- [Girls Basketball](#)

Boys Basketball

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. It was moved by Governale seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the appointment of the following custodial and maintenance staff for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Last Name	First Name	Step
Bolt	Michael	S17
Cazimoski [^]	Demir	S4
Desic	Izet	S8
Desic	Nusret	S5
Krkuti	Liridon	S9
Kuzmanovski	Vasil	S3
Mekhsian	Hrant	S14
Montuori, Jr.	John	S16
Redzepi*	Fitni	S14
Rosero-Villacres	Eddie	S17
Yakoubian	Aram	S13

* maintenance
[^]full time effective 7/1/24

2. It was moved by Governale seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the appointment of the following secretaries for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Last Name	First Name	Step
Hefter*	Patricia	S1
Koopaletes	Miriam	S15
Miller	Kari	S17
Piccini	Stephanie	S9
Rraci	Mirlinda	S4
Torre	Jeanne	S10

*10 Month Employee

3. It was moved by Governale seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to rescind offer of employment to Majlinda Lulaj, substitute paraprofessional, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. It was moved by Fein seconded by Lee 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 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	Bureau of Education & Research Co-Teaching Virtual July 24, 2024	\$545.00

2. It was moved by Fein seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the submission of the proposed 2024/2025 contract for Antoinette Kelly, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to the Executive County Superintendent, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
3. It was moved by Fein seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge that the board accepts the results HIB case number 2324-04 reported at the April 30, 2024 meeting, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
4. It was moved by Fein seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

In order to gain the full advantages of the ESEA Grant, the Northern Valley Schools have formed a consortium for Title IIA, III, III- Immigrant, and IV-Part A. The Demarest School District (in conjunction with all other Northern Valley Regional School Districts) agrees to be a part of this consortium. The filing, writing and collection of resources will be handled through the Northern Valley Curriculum Center, under the administration of the Northern Valley Regional High School, which has been designated as the acting fiscal agent and lead education agency ("LEA") for the consortium.

As the LEA, the fiscal responsibilities of the Northern Valley Regional High School District include:

1. Overseeing and undertaking all fiscal transactions of the consortium, including but not limited to, requisitions, purchases and payments of ESEA grant funds;
2. Maintaining records of all financial transactions carried out on behalf of the consortium;
3. Ensuring that funds are shared and spent to carry out goals in the application that benefit all consortium members equally;
4. Submitting necessary budget amendments; and
5. Maintaining the written agreement(s) regarding consortium members' participation.

To meet the accountability provisions of Titles II, III and IV of the ESEA, the consortium will abide by the ESEA, governing regulations, the Title II, III, III Immigrant and IV Part A NJDOE and ESEA application, and all related United States Department of Education and New Jersey Department of Education agency guidance. Additionally, and regarding the accountability provisions of Title III, all English language Learners (ELLs) will be assessed

with the ACCESS for ELLs test. The consortium will respond as an individual LEA when the consortium fails to meet the objectives for making progress in learning English or attaining English proficiency based on time in the language assistance program.

The consortium will efficiently use ESEA funds to meet the identified needs of the consortium members and to carry out the purposes of the ESEA, as set forth in the consortium's 2024-2025 Title II, III, III Immigrant and IV Part A NJDOE and ESEA grant application.

The LEA will reimburse the Consortium Member for the compensation and applicable taxes and benefits for employees of each Consortium Member that provide eligible ESEA fund services.

Title I grant money received by any of the consortium members will be the responsibility of the respective consortium member(s) and is not subject of this Memorandum of Agreement.

5. It was moved by Fein seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve contract with BCSSSD for public law 1977 chapters 192-193 for non-public students for the 2024/2025 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

E. Support Services—Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Brillhart seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the April 2024 payrolls as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

April 12	\$ 509,879.27
April 30	\$ 497,883.07

2. It was moved by Brillhart seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve May 21, 2024 bill list as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

<u>Subtotal Per Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11 General Current Expense	\$1,479,215.17
20 Special Revenue Fund	\$ 100,045.97
21 Student Activity Fund	\$ 17,526.95
22 Athletic Fund	\$ 485.00
30 Capital Projects Fund	\$ 517,870.10
60 Cafeteria Fund	<u>\$ 36,467.00</u>
Total Bills:	\$2,151,610.19

3. It was moved by Brillhart seconded by Lee 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 April 30, 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 Brillhart seconded by Lee 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 April 30, 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 Brillhart seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge receipt of the April 30, 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 Brillhart seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the following budget transfers for April 2024, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-000-211-300	Attendance & Social Work Service-Contracted Services	\$1,000.00
11-000-240-440	Support Services-School Administration-Other Purch Services	500.00
11-000-262-520	Custodial Services-Insurance	840.00
11-000-263-420	Care and Upkeep of Grounds-Repair and Maintenance	3,645.00
11-000-266-300	Security-Crossing Guards	4,000.00
11-000-270-515	Special Education Transportation-Joint Agreements	60,000.00
11-000-291-260	Employee Benefits-Workers Compensation Insurance	713.00
11-110-100-110	Regular Programs-Kindergarten-Substitute Salaries	460.00
11-130-100-110	Regular Programs-Grades 6-8-Substitute Salaries	4,540.00
11-150-100-101	Regular Programs-Home Instruction-Salaries	100.00

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-000-211-105	Attendance & Social Work Service-Salaries	\$1,000.00
11-000-240-580	Support Services-School Administration-Travel	500.00
11-000-262-490	Custodial Services-Other Purchased Property Services	8,485.00
11-000-291-270	Employee Benefits-Health Benefits	60,000.00
11-000-291-280	Employee Benefits-Tuition	713.00
11-120-100-110	Regular Programs-Grades 1 to 5	5,000.00
11-190-100-106	Regular Programs-Other Salaries for Instruction	100.00

7. It was moved by Brillhart seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve payment application #1, in the amount of \$287,722.10 to Daskal LLC for

the Demarest Middle School Gymnasium addition, NJDOE Project # 1070-040-23-1000, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

8. It was moved by Brillhart seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve payment application #2, in the amount of \$230,148.10 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.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. 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 at 7:25 P.M.:

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.

- B. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 7:45 P.M.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Sincerely,



Antoinette Kelly
Business Administrator and Board Secretary