

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

COW and REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Luther Lee Emerson School - Gymnasium
January 19, 2021
6:30 P.M.

I. OPENING

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Holzberg at 6:30 pm.
- B. Present: Cantatore, Choi, Governale, Schliem, Verna, Holzberg.
Absent: Lee
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. Legal Matters
- B. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Cantatore 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 Verna, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 6:30 P.M.

III. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

- A. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Schliem to reopen the Regular Meeting to the public at 7:32 P.M.

B. President Holzberg read the following 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.

IV. FLAG SALUTE

A. President Holzberg led the flag salute.

V. ROLL CALL

Present: Cantatore, Governale, Kirtane, Schliem, Verna, Holzberg.

Absent: Lee

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

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

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

- December 15, 2020 COW and Regular Meeting Minutes

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Board Secretary Kelly reviewed this month's correspondence.

- Retirement notice of Adrienne Ross

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Board President Holzberg acknowledged that it was School Board Recognition month in New Jersey. She stated that board members are special people and wanted to acknowledge this board and all that they do. She thanked the Board and said it was a pleasure to work with all of the members.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Superintendent Fox also acknowledged that it was School Board Recognition month in New Jersey. He said he was blessed to have this Board. He stated that this Board asks good questions and that it is wonderful to come to board meetings and he appreciates the Board's feedback.

Mr. Fox went over the current number of COVID cases and stated how wonderful the nurses have been.

Martin Luther King Day was a professional development day for the district.

Mr. Fox and Ms. Kelly went over the project timeline and upcoming hearing for the lease purchase financing for the County Road School addition project.

Mr. Fox discussed the use of fields/buildings for summer camp and stated that athletics for the spring are on hold and not being planned on as of right now. The Board asked that the camp submit a plan for their review at the February board meeting. The board's intent is to allow use of facilities.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

XI. OTHER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

XII. REVIEW OF AGENDA

A. Board members reviewed the items.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XIV. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve the provisional employment of the following, substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2020/2021 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. 18A:6-7.7.

- Eunkyung Woo

2. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve paid sick leave for Gabriela Bajdechi, math teacher at Demarest Middle School account 11-120-100-101-040-00-05, PCR 2050-040-200-00003 from January 4, 2021 to February 15, 2021, unpaid FMLA from February 16, 2021 to May 24, 2021 and unpaid leave from May 25, 2021 to June 30, 2021, with a return to work date of September 2021, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve the provisional employment of Melissa Vaillancourt, leave replacement for Gabriela Bajdechi, math teacher at Demarest Middle School, BA, Step 1, per diem, effective January 4, 2021 to the remainder of the school year, PCR 2050-040-200-00003, account 11-120-100-101-040-00-05 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. 18A:6-7.7.

4. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to accept the notice of retirement of Adrienne Ross, math teacher at Demarest Middle School, PCR 2050-040-200-00002, account code 11-130-100-101-040-00-05, effective June 30, 2021, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

5. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve the following mentor/mentee for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Mentor	Mentee
Dr. Paige Sydoruk	Ms. Melissa Vaillancourt

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Schliem seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve Bergen County Special Services Assistive Technology Assessment for student 4960549059 at a rate of \$900, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. Move to modify and approve administrative unpaid leave of absence for Noreen Buoye, teacher assistant at Luther Lee Emerson School, PCR 5020-050-500-00001, budget code 11-190-100-106-050-00-00 effective November 13, 2020 through April 1, 2021*, with a return to work date of April 5, 2021*, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

*Modified from November 17, 2020

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. It was moved by Governale seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve the final reading and adoption of Policy(ies) and Regulation(s), as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

1642 Earned Sick Leave Law – Policy and Regulation
0146.6 Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency - Bylaw

2. It was moved by Governale seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Governale seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve the bi-annual Statement of Assurance (SOA) for the paraprofessional staff for the 2020-2021 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

4. It was moved by Governale seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve Yael Krumerman, Hebrew interpreter at a rate of \$150.00 per hour as needed, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

5. It was moved by Governale seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve acceptance of the 2019/2020 Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR) and the Auditors' Management Report on Administrative Findings which contains no recommendations prepared by Nisivoccia, LLP, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

6. It was moved by Governale seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve Change Order # 1 for Addition and Renovations at

County Road School. NJDOE-#1070-030-21-1000, to EI Associates, in the amount of \$18,500.00 for additional design development, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

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

School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey January 2021

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2021 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Demarest Board of Education is one of 580 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Demarest Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Demarest Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2021 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Demarest Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the advancement of our children's education.

8. It was moved by Governale seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to accept the Student Safety Data System Report (SSDS) for the 6 month period, July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

9. It was moved by Governale seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve modification of resolution D.6. from December 15, 2020 for the following personnel to attend CPR/AED training with Audrey Donahue in the spring of 2021* in the Demarest Middle School gymnasium at a cost of \$150.00 for supplies from LifeSavers, Inc., as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

- Laura Noel
- Danielle Spence
- Kathleen Forma
- Andrew Lefer (not attending)
- Walt Gonzalez
- Julia Lefer
- Allie Avillo
- Jon Regan
- Joe Polvere
- Jen Rilli

10. It was moved by Governale seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to adopt the following resolution, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

a) In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, L. 1975, c.231, public meetings of the Demarest Board of Education for the 2021 Calendar Year are hereby set down. The meetings will commence at 6:30 P.M. for closed session with an anticipated public start time of 7:00 P.M., unless noted with a (+). The Board of Education may take action at any of their scheduled meetings.

DATE	SCHEDULED MEETING	SITE
February 9, 2021	COW & Regular Meeting	LLE
March 9, 2021	Preliminary Budget and COW	LLE
March 16, 2021	Regular Meeting	LLE
April 20, 2021+	COW Meeting (5:30 P.M.)	LLE
April 27, 2021	Public Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting	LLE
May 11, 2021	COW and Regular Meeting	LLE
June 15, 2021	COW and Regular Meeting	LLE
July 13, 2021	COW and Regular Meeting	LLE
August 17, 2021	COW and Regular Meeting	LLE
September 14, 2021	COW Meeting	DMS
September 21, 2021	Regular Meeting	CRS
October 12, 2021	COW and Regular Meeting	DMS
November 16, 2021	COW and Regular Meeting	LLE
December 14, 2021	COW and Regular Meeting	DMS
January 4, 2022+	Reorganization Meeting (5:30 P.M.)	CRS

+ Meeting times other than 6:30.
COW (Committee-of-the-Whole)

CRS – County Road School, 130 County Road
LLE – Luther Lee Emerson School, 15 Columbus Road
DMS – Demarest Middle School, 568 Piermont Road

b) Notice of the aforesaid meetings and of all other public meeting hereafter scheduled, whether rescheduled or additional meeting added, shall be given in accordance with the terms of said act by posting notices on the bulletin board in the front office of the Demarest Middle School, 568 Piermont Road, the District Website, and by filing same with the Borough Clerk and by furnishing same to *The Record* and *The Suburbanite*, newspapers which are hereby designated as having the greatest likelihood of informing the public of such meetings.

c) This resolution shall take effect immediately.

E. Support Services – Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Verna seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to confirm the December 23, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$416,898.37.

2. It was moved by Verna seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to confirm the January 15, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$403,313.62.

3. It was moved by Verna seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve the December 2020 in office checks in the amount of \$270,184.64 and January 19, 2021 budget checks in the amount of \$253,330.48 as follows:

* Schliem abstained on Staples check# 20122. Her vote herein shall constitute a vote as to payment of all other bills.

<u>Subtotal Per Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11 General Current Expense	\$371,864.12
12 Capital Outlay	\$151,615.00
20 Special Revenue	\$ 36.00
Total Bills:	\$523,515.12

4. It was moved by Verna seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to approve the following resolution:

Receipt of Certification from Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C 6:20-2.13 (d), I, Antoinette Kelly certify that as of last day of December 2020, 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.

5. It was moved by Verna seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve 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 December 2020 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.

6. It was moved by Verna seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to acknowledge receipt of November 2020 and December 2020 Report of the Board Secretary, A148 and Report of the Treasurer, A-149.

7. It was moved by Verna seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve to confirm the following budget transfer for December 2020:

To:	Account	Amount
11-000-251-890	Other Objects	\$ 145
11-000-217-320	Tuition 1 to 1 Aides	33,056
11-000-261-420	Operations & Maint. -Maintenance Repairs	30,774
11-000-310-610	Food Service Supplies	<u>2,935</u>
		\$ 66,910

From:	Account	Amount
11-000-251-610	General Supplies	\$ 145
11-000-217-106	Aides-Spec/Ext Ordin	33,056
11-000-262-110	Operations & Maint.-Custodial-Temporary Salaries	25,000
11-000-262-490	Operations & Maint.-Custodial-Other Purch.Services	5,774
11-000-310-110	Food Service Salaries-Other	<u>2,935</u>
		\$ 66,910

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE THEREOF IN CONNECTION WITH A LEASE PURCHASE TRANSACTION

January 19, 2021

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Borough of Demarest in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) has determined to undertake a capital project consisting of the construction and equipping of an addition at the County Road School (the "Project") for an estimated cost of \$4,110,000; and
 WHEREAS, the Board desires to finance the Project pursuant to a lease purchase agreement as permitted by N.J.S.A. 18A:20-4.2(f) (the "Lease Purchase") in an amount not to exceed \$4,110,000; and
 WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-10.3, the Board is required to conduct a public hearing on the Project and the proposed Lease Purchase; and
 WHEREAS, in addition, the Board may seek to refinance the balance of the outstanding lease purchase dated August 15, 2018 issued in the original amount of \$1,030,000 in order to produce interest savings in light of reduced tax-exempt interest rates (the "Refinancing"); and
 WHEREAS, the Board seeks to further consider an additional lease purchase in the approximate amount of \$450,000 to accomplish the Refinancing; and
 WHEREAS, the Board desires to include the potential Refinancing as part of the public hearing; and
 WHEREAS, the Board seeks to set a date for such public hearing and to authorize notice of such public hearing to be advertised in The Record.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY as follows:
Section 1. The Board hereby authorizes a public hearing on the Project, the Refinancing and the Lease Purchase to be held on February 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Luther Lee Emerson Elementary School.
Section 2. Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Bond Counsel is hereby authorized to advertise the notice of such public hearing in The Record.
Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

F. Other

1. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Schliem and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Demarest Board of Education will convene in a closed Executive Session on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, if necessary, to discuss personnel, student 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.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Holzberg asked if we should hire support for the nurses to help with data collection and paperwork. Mr. Fox said he will explore the idea.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. There was no motion to enter the Executive Session.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Sincerely,



Antoinette Kelly
Business Administrator and Board Secretary

