

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION
COW and REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
County Road School – Media Center
March 11, 2025
5:30 P.M.

I OPENING

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Holzberg at 5:30 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. Student discipline
 - 2. Residency
- 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 Choi, seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 5:50 P.M.

III. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

- A. It was moved by Cantatore , seconded by Choi to reopen the Regular Meeting to the public at 5:50 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, Lee, Holzberg.

Absent: Governale

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

VI. FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

A. Instruction – Staffing

- Substitutes
- FMLA replacement
- Modify FMLA
- Substitute nurse
- Field trip chaperones

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

- Field trip

C. Support Services – Staffing

- Retirement

D. Support Services – Board of Education

- Facility use
- Workshop attendance
- SSDS
- Affirmative Action Officer
- Mr. Fox discussed modifying the 2024/2025 school calendar to give back the two unused snow days. He proposed graduation on June 18, 2025 and the last day of school as June 19, 2025, and the Friday prior to Memorial Day, the district would be closed. The board also discussed the high school 2025/2026 calendar and that the school will be closed for the Eid holiday. It was agreed that our 2025/2026 calendar would remain as approved and the board will review all holidays when creating the calendar for the 2026/2027 school year.
- Mr. Fox informed the board that the PTO would like to create a new playground at Luther Lee Emerson School with support from the Board of Education. The cost would be approximately \$200,000.00 to 250,000.00. They would like to advertise it at the gala to start collecting donations and the board agreed to allow them to advertise.

E. Support Services – Fiscal Management

- Preliminary budget - Ms. Kelly reviewed the preliminary budget with the board. The preliminary budget will be on the next board agenda for approval. The budget must be submitted to the county by March 19, 2025 for their review and approval. The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for April 29, 2025.

- Payroll
- Monthly checks
- Board secretary report
- Treasurer report
- Certification
- Transfers
- Payment application
- Change order
- Ms. Kelly gave the board an update on where we are with the food service management request for proposals.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. There was no motion to enter the executive session.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Sincerely,



Antoinette Kelly
Business Administrator and Board Secretary