

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES – COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING

September 8, 2015

I. OPENING

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the library at County Road School.

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

II. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. The Board has determined it will enter into Executive Session for the following reasons:

1. Board Self-Evaluation.
2. Resignation of staff member.

B. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous voice vote 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 Committee-of-the-Whole 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.

III. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

A. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Woods and approved by unanimous voice vote to reopen the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting to the public at 7:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call: Cantatore, Kirtane, Molina, Verna, Woods, Holzberg were present. Geller was absent.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. REVIEW OF 2014-2015 DISTRICT AND BOARD GOALS AND DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT AND BOARD GOALS FOR 2015-2016

Mr. Alfred Annunziata, Field Service Representative for New Jersey School Boards Association, reviewed the 2014-2015 District and Board Goals for 2014-2015. The District goals were:

1. Improve student achievement through creation of school based assessments (Student Growth Objectives-SGO's that include 3 data points).
2. Improve student achievement as measured on quarterly benchmark assessments and through infused 1:1 technology into middle school program utilizing varied devices including those necessary for PARCC Readiness for students and staff.
3. Implement and monitor progress of the new mathematics program, Go Math/Big Ideas for grades K-8, as measured through the online component to assess and analyze growth and mastery of concepts.
4. Investigate and recommend student opportunities including multiple content areas with teachers in the Demarest Middle School Academic Enrichment Program.

All four (4) District goals were achieved.

The Board goals were:

1. The Board will review the district mission statement.
2. Continue to improve communications with the Demarest community at large and particularly the parents.
3. Continue to explore opportunities that meet the changing needs of Demarest students.

All three (3) Board goals were achieved.

Mr. Annunziata then worked with the Board to develop District and Board goals for 2015-2016.

The following District goals were established:

1. Achieve a student growth model that impacts district level curriculum using data supplied by the Northern Valley Assessment for mathematics.
2. Improve student achievement by continued provision of staff professional development for the implementation of the 1:1 technology as measured through lesson planning review and classroom observations.
3. Implement and monitor the new STEM program at the middle school and research its use at the elementary level as identified in the final report.
4. Provide for the successful assimilation of new instructional and administrative staff through orientation and transition opportunities.

The following Board goals were established:

1. Continue to improve communications with the Demarest community at large.
2. Enhance the Board's understanding of policy development.

VI. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. Approve movement on the guide.
2. Approve amended Lunchroom Coordinator Stipend position at DMS.
3. Approve leave of absence.
4. Approve Teacher Mentors.
5. Approve guide placement for FMLA substitutes.
6. Accept resignation from Resource Room Teacher (Grade 2-4).

VI. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REVIEW (CONTINUED)**B. Instruction – Pupil Programs**

1. Approve tuition contracts with NVRHS Board of Education.

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. Approve employment of aides at CRS, LLE and Out-of-District.
2. Amend resolution appointing Affirmative Action Officer.
3. Approve substitute custodians.
4. Approve substitute instructional aide(s).

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. Approve the 2015/2016 District Nursing Plan.
2. Approve Memorandum of Agreement with Demarest Police Department.
3. Approve disposal of various computer equipment, science tables and smart boards.
4. Approve change order with Lighton Industries for additional LED light fixtures at CRS.
5. Approve contract with E-Rate Partners for the 2016/2017 school year.
6. Approve Demarest PTO as an additional insured under Board of Education general liability policy.
7. Approve staff attendance at workshop(s).

E. Support Services – Fiscal Management

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

F. Other

1. Schedule Executive Session Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on October 13, 2015 to discuss personnel, student and/or legal matters.
2. Schedule Executive Session Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on October 20, 2015 to discuss personnel, student and/or legal matters.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Fox reported to the Board that requests were received by a number of parents expressing their concern regarding the route their children travel to school. It was requested by these parents that a hazardous bus route be established. The requests are from parents residing on Ross Ave., Holland Ave., Spruce Pl. and Highland Ave. Superintendent Fox informed the Board that Mr. Perez met with Police Chief Powderly on September 1 regarding these requests. During this meeting the Chief did say that while this area does have a dangerous intersection at County Road and Anderson Ave it was not hazardous. The Board discussed this issue and since the Police Department did not deem this to be a hazardous route, the Board will not provide courtesy busing to students in this area.

VIII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- A. It was moved by Molina, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous voice vote to open the meeting for public discussion.

There was no public discussion.

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

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION, if necessary

There was no additional time needed.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- A. It was moved by Woods, seconded by Molina and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Perez
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary