DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

April 28, 2015

I. OPENING

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m., following the Public Budget Hearing Meeting.
- 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.
- E. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to accept the minutes of Preliminary Budget Adoption/COW Meeting held on March 17, 2015 and the Regular Meeting held on March 24, 2015.
- F. There was a review of correspondence.

II. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Holzberg stated this is a special and sad meeting. She recognized Frank Chilson's final meeting, after 32 years of service to the district. She commented he fulfilled so many functions and watched over the budget as if it was his own. On behalf of the entire board, she wished him all the best in his retirement.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Fox thanked Frank Chilson for all his hard work and commented it has been a pleasure working with him the past five years. Mr. Fox also welcomed Tom Perez, our new Board Secretary/Business Administrator.

Mr. Fox spoke about the evaluations of teaching staff completed for the year. He commented we will soon be in the process of interviewing new candidates for the 2015/2016 school year. He gave praise to the administrative team for all their effort on the paperwork, evaluations and feedback, which increased this year under the new tenure law. He said there will be a curriculum report given later this evening which includes discussion of a one-to-one device initiative.

Dr. Codey presented a PowerPoint of the recent activities at the middle school. These included the 8th graders building roller coasters, which was a great release after the PARCC exams; Zumba fundraiser which raised \$350 for acceptance/autism awareness; Peer Leader lessons; the Kare Club Trip to the Bergen County Healthcare Center; Wear Yellow for Seth Day; Business responses to the student's letters; continuation of the Principal's Challenge training; and Gifted & Talented programs and projects. Dr. Codey discussed the upcoming events including the Fairview Lake Trip for 6th graders, Garden Club starting to work on the outside garden and donating seeds; and the SNAP Conference, to which two Demarest students were invited to be awarded for winning the "Choose Not to Use" poster contest.

Mr. Mazzini presented and overview of the happenings at Luther Lee Emerson and County Road Schools. He spoke about the Principal's Challenge and CPR Training with Mrs. Rothstein. He talked about the 1st and 2nd grade plays and International Heritage Day, which had a huge turnout. Pennies to Pantry raised \$558. They held 'outdoor classroom' on the warmer days to read outside. The Courtyard Committee met and developed their mission statement and is moving forward.

IV. REVIEW OF AGENDA

- A. Board members reviewed the items.
- B. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to open the meeting to public discussion limited to agenda items.
- C. There was no public discussion limited to agenda items this evening.
- D. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous voice vote to close the meeting to public discussion.

V. ACTIONS

A. Instruction - Staffing

- 1. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the request of Dana Del Corral, 4th Grade Teacher, for a paid maternity leave of absence from May 4, 2015 through June 24, 2015, an unpaid leave of absence (NJFLA/FMLA and Child Rearing Leave) from September 1 through November 20, 2015, and an extended unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of the 2015/2016 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 2. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the request of Shauna DiUbaldo, Grades 5-8 Resource Room Teacher, for an additional extended unpaid leave of absence for the 2015/2016 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 3. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the provisional employment of the following as substitute teachers for the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Regular employment status would become effective upon candidate's compliance with P.L. 1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98):

Amir Moussavi

Lauren Martinez

Andrea Powers

B. Instruction - Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the Northern Valley 2015 Track schedule as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Date	Host	Schools	Site
April 30, 2015	Norwood	Demarest, Harrington Park, Norwood, Tenafly	NVRHS-Old Tappan
May 15, 2015	Haworth	Demarest, Haworth, Norwood, Old Tappan	NVRHS-Old Tappan
May 18, 2015	NVRHS-	Demarest side championship meet	NVRHS-Demarest
	Demarest		
May 19, 2015	Closter	Demarest, Closter, Haworth	NVRHS-Old Tappan
May 28, 2015	Demarest	Demarest, Harrington Park, Haworth	NVRHS-Old Tappan

2. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following District tuition rates for non-resident students for the 2015/2016 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Grade Level	Annual Tuition Rate
Kindergarten 1 st – 5 th	\$15,715
	\$14,871
$6^{th} - 8^{th}$	\$17,025

B. <u>Instruction – Pupils/Programs (Continued)</u>

3. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve a Non Domiciled Tuition Agreement with Mr. & Mrs. Dennis, pending domicile, for their child to attend First Grade at County Road School beginning May 1, 2015 for the remainder of the 2014/2015 school year in the amount of \$85.26 per diem, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

C. Support Services - Staffing

- 1. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve Hrant Mehksian and Fitni Redzepi, Custodians, to receive a Longevity Stipend in the amount of \$1,000 prorated, effective April 1, 2015, for the remainder of the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 2. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the transfer and reassignment of Jeanne Torre from Instructional Aide at Luther Lee Emerson School for Student ID # 242057 to Part-Time (.75) Principal's Secretary at Demarest Middle School, at Level 2, Step 1 of the Secretarial Salary Guide, effective April 29, 2015 for the remainder of the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 3. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the transfer of Amber Eichler, Step 1 Instructional Aide, for Student ID # 212113 at Demarest Middle School to Luther Lee Emerson School for Student ID # 242057, effective April 29, 2015, for the remainder of the 2014/2015 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

D. Support Services - Board of Education

- 1. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the facility use request of the Demarest PTO to use County Road School gym and bathrooms on Sunday May 17, 2015 from 6:30 am 12:00 pm for Demarest 5K Race activities, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 2. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the facility use request of the Vikings Soccer Club to use Demarest Middle School fields on Sunday April 26, 2015 from 12:00 6:00 pm at a rate of \$150, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 3. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the attendance of Emily Codey and Sherri Rinckhoff at the Bully Law Update workshop held on June 3, 2015 in Monroe Twp. at the cost for registration of \$150 each, with reimbursement for travel based on state statutes, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 4. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the attendance of Jonathan Regan at the ISTE Conference held on June 29-30, 2015 in Philadelphia, PA, at the cost for registration of \$433, with reimbursement for hotel, meals and travel based on state statutes, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 5. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the attendance of Diane Holzberg, School Board President, at the NJSBA Delegate Assembly held on May 16, 2015 in West Windsor, NJ, with reimbursement for travel based on state statutes, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

D. Support Services - Board of Education (Continued)

- 6. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve Diane Holzberg to attend the NJSBA Bergen County Meeting held on May 5, 2015 in Hackensack, NJ with reimbursement for travel based on state statutes, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 7. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to acknowledge the service of Frank Chilson, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

WHEREAS, Frank Chilson has served the children, residents and staff of the Demarest School District with excellence and commitment throughout his career, and

WHEREAS, he has had a tremendous impact on the lives of children for over three decades, and

WHEREAS, he has dedicated his life's work to the children of Demarest and the Demarest Board of Education, and

WHEREAS, his dedication served as a model of service to the community,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Demarest Board of Education does hereby extend its appreciation and gratitude to Frank Chilson in recognition of his thirty-two (32) years of dedicated service as the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the Demarest Board of Education.

- 8. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve payment to Frank Chilson for accumulated, unused sick time in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-31(e)(6) at a cost not to exceed \$15,000, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
- 9. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to award the contract for Partial Roof Replacement at Luther Lee Emerson School (State Project # 1070-050-15-1000) to the lowest responsible bidder, Billy Contracting & Restoration, Inc. of Woodland Park, NJ, as a result of the public bid held on April 16, 2015, for a total cost of \$163,100 based on the information below (and as on file in the Board of Education office), as reviewed and recommended by El Associates and the Chief School Administrator:

Contractor	Total Bid	Base Bid	Allowance
Billy Contracting Inc.	163,100	153,100	10,000
Northeast Roof	227,000	217,000	10,000
Roof Management Inc.	202,600	192,600	10,000

10. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve Liberty Healthcare Services, an authorized vendor of New Jersey State Approved Co-op # 65MCECCPS, to provide substitute nursing staff as needed, at an hourly rate of \$41.24 for a Registered Nurse (RN), as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

D. Support Services - Board of Education (Continued)

11. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Pension and Health Benefits Reform

WHEREAS, the health of New Jersey's public employee retirement systems affects the state's economy and its citizens' quality of life, and impacts critical functions, ranging from the state's ability to borrow to finance public works projects to its annual budget including state aid to education and, consequently, the operation of the public schools; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pension and Health Benefits Study Commission, appointed by Governor Chris Christie in 2014, has issued its final report, "A Roadmap to Resolution," which proposes monumental changes in how public employee benefits, particularly the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP), are financed and administered; and

WHEREAS, the Demarest Board of Education believes that reform must balance the health of the state's retiree benefits programs with local school boards' responsibility to provide sound educational programming; and

WHEREAS, TPAF benefits are established by the state and not through local school board action; and

WHEREAS, post-retirement medical benefits are provided to TPAF retirees through state legislation, not local school board action; and

WHEREAS, the Demarest Board of Education believes that the TPAF and any new retirement program for certificated school district staff must be funded by the state government; and

WHEREAS, the Demarest Board of Education believes that transferring payment of the employer's contribution to the teacher retirement plan and post-retirement medical benefits from the state to local school districts would have a detrimental impact on the resources necessary to maintain educational programming; and

WHEREAS, to restore solvency to, and avert future default of, the state's retirement programs, the pension and benefits reform act of 2011 (*P.L.* 2011, *c.*78) includes a schedule of annual state payments designed to close the deficit of the plans that serve school district employees; and

WHEREAS, medical benefits for retired school employees, which will total over \$1 billion in 2015-2016, are a major cost-driver in the state budget; and

WHEREAS, the Demarest Board of Education supports the current statutorily required employee contributions toward health benefits, which reflect current practice in the private sector and in public employment in other states, and have provided significant financial relief for local school districts, thereby enabling them to direct resources toward educational programming, including teacher employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Demarest Board of Education urges the state Legislature and Governor to ensure that the employers' cost for teacher pensions and post-retirement medical benefits—financial obligations created by the state—are not transferred to local school districts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that to provide local school districts and local property taxpayers with financial relief, the Legislature should amend *P.L.* 2011, *c.*78 to make the current employee contributions toward health coverage a permanent requirement and not a subject of labor negotiations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that to provide further control over the cost of health benefits, the Legislature should give local boards of education unilateral authority to enroll in the School Employee Health Benefits Program if the board determines that such action would generate financial savings; and be it further

D. Support Services – Board of Education (Continued)

Resolution No. 11 Continued

RESOLVED, that the Demarest Board of Education supports the goal of reducing the overall costs of public employee health and retirement benefits and urges the state Legislature and Governor to take a studied and comprehensive approach that will ensure the long-term solvency of the state's public employee retirement programs without unduly burdening local school district budgets and endangering educational programming; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto; and the 39th Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

End of Resolution No. 11

12. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the attendance of Thomas Perez, School Business Administrator, at the 53rd Annual NJASBO Conference held on June 3-5, 2015 at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ with the cost of registration of \$150 and reimbursement of travel, lodging and food to be based on state statutes and GSA rates, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

E. Support Services - Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the Board of Education of Demarest to hereby adopt the following budget for the 2015/2016 school year and submit to the Executive County Superintendent, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

The proposed budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the Common Core Curriculum Content Standards and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A.

Anticipated Enrollment:	684		
Expenditures General Current Expense Capital Outlay Special Revenue Fund Repayment of Debt	\$ 13,789,233 1,055,230 139,694 653,475	Revenue Local Tax Levy Budgeted Fund Balance Chapter 78 Revenue Misc. Revenue State Aid Federal Aid Debt Service Tuition	\$ 12,240,818 1,797,901 327,709 123,000 324,035 139,694 653,475 31,000
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 15,637,632</u>	Total Revenue	\$ 15,637,632

As per N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), the proposed budget provides for a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for travel and expense reimbursement.

The 2015/2016 preliminary budget includes a maximum travel appropriation of \$41,475.

The School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure the maximum amount is not exceeded.

E. Support Services - Fiscal Management (Continued)

- 2. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the March 16th 31st, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$342,548.33
- 3. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to confirm the April 1st 15th, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$435,977.26
- 4. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the March 2015 bills in the amount of \$373,180.30 as follows:

Subtotal Per Fund	<u>Amount</u>
10 General Current Fund Expense Funds	\$340,581.10
12 Capital Outlay	5,350.00
20 Special Revenue Funds	27,249.20

5. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following transfers for March 2015:

From:	Account No.	 Amount
11-190-100-610-2-6190-10	Reading	\$ 3,000
11-000-230-334-0-0000-25	Board of Education	4,500
11-000-230-610-0-6190-25	Board of Education	3,500
11-000-230-895-0-0000-25	Board of Education	3,000
11-000-262-610-2-6190-28	Operations	18,000
11-000-262-610-3-6190-28	Operations	4,000
11-000-291-270-0-0000-37	Benefits	6,600
12-000-400-450-1-0000-00	Capital	73,365
	•	\$ 115,965

То	Account No.	 Amount
11-190-100-610-1-6140-10	Reading	\$ 3,000
11-000-230-339-0-0000-25	Board of Education	1,000
11-000-230-530-0-0000-25	Board of Education	3,000
11-000-230-590-0-0000-25	Board of Education	6,000
11-000-230-591-0-0000-25	Board of Education	1,000
11-000-261-420-2-0000-28	Operations	10,000
11-000-261-420-3-0000-28	Operations	12,000
11-000-291-241-0-0000-37	Benefits	3,600
11-000-291-242-0-0000-37	Benefits	3,000
12-000-400-450-2-0000-00	Capital	61,000
12-000-400-450-3-0000-00	Capital	 12,36 <u>5</u>
	•	\$ 115,965

6. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution:

Receipt of Certification from Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C 6:20-2.13 (d), I, Frank G. Chilson certify that as of March 31, 2015, 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.

E. Support Services - Fiscal Management (Continued)

7. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote 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 March 31, 2015, 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 overextended 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.

8. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous roll call vote to acknowledge receipt of the February 28, 2015 Report of the Board Secretary, A148 and Report of the Treasurer, A-149.

F. Other

1. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Demarest Board of Education will convene in a closed Executive Session on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel, negotiations 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.

2. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Geller and approved by unanimous voice vote to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Demarest Board of Education will convene in a closed Executive Session on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel, negotiations 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.

VI. REPORTS

<u>CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:</u> A. Kirtane, Chairperson, reported on the items discussed at the March 17, 2015 committee meeting. She explained the desired one-to-one device program and that the district will be surveying the community for their input. She spoke about the STEM program that will begin in September and explained how part of the current middle school library will be converted to a STEM lab. Books will be disbursed to classrooms. The committee proposed new math rubrics and adding a geometry class in the 8th grade. Students will be given the opportunity to move up and down levels and be able to enter advanced placement courses in math, in grades 6-8. Lastly, Northern Valley is revising the Gifted & Talented programs, including higher level enrichment programs in Math, English, Music, Art and STEM.

President Holzberg asked what the budget impact would be for the curriculum proposals and Mr. Fox replied there will be no net increase.

VI. REPORTS (Continued)

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE: President Holzberg, on behalf of C. Molina, reviewed items from the April 14, 2015 committee meeting. Holzberg explained this was the second meeting with Police Chief Powderly and Fire Chief McFadden. She explained the Chiefs reiterated the need for an emergency access road near Luther Lee Emerson School and also reviewed past considerations and the reasons why they are not the best options. These past considerations and conclusions included: Prescott St. – the roadway is too narrow for fire trucks and it would also not alleviate traffic issues on Columbus; Lenox Ave. – the fire hydrant is located in the front of LLE which means the fire trucks still need a way to access that area and redirecting student traffic to Lenox would cause extra congestion on Brookside; and Stewart Rd. – this would have been a good alternative but a cul-de-sac was built instead. Additionally only a small portion of the suggested access area is school property. The best option is the driveway to Belmar Street, which will only be used during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. It would be gated closed at all other times. Chief Powderly also suggests a sidewalk to Drury St. and educating the 'safe routes to school'.

After President Holzberg gave the report, she asked administration where we are at this point. Mr. Fox replied we are working with the architects to move the project along and the funds have been designated in the upcoming budget. Mr. Fox further explained we are awaiting results of soil testing, which will then be sent to the DEP. There was a discussion among the board regarding the sidewalk to Drury St.

VII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- A. It was moved by Geller, seconded by Kirtane and approved by unanimous voice vote to open the meeting to public discussion.
 - 1. L. Gross of 176 Chestnut commented even with all the planning and education, children will still walk where they want. She feels the board is creating a dangerous situation for the children.
 - 2. L. Saroufeem of 23 Belmar St. asked how the students will be prevented from walking through the woods down to Belmar Street after the project has been completed.

President Holzberg replied that a crossing guard will be stationed at the top of the new driveway.

3. L. Gross said that while she did not bring her poster boards, the capital outlay and debt service is greater than one million dollars, which is far more than what neighboring towns spend. She commented, however, that poorer towns do fall short and we should spend the money we have now as that could change in the future.

She also asked if her recent OPRA request was received, to which Mr. Chilson replied he emailed the response to her on April 24, 2015 with the requested information.

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

VIII <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)</u>

There was no additional time needed this evening.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. It was moved by Kirtane, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Perez

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary