

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION
COW and REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
County Road School – Media Center
February 7, 2023
7:00 P.M.

I. OPENING

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Holzberg at 6:45 PM
- B. Present: Brillhart, Cantatore, Choi, Governale, Lee, Verna, 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 - negotiations

- 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 Governale, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 7:03 P.M.

III. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

- A. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Choi to reopen the Regular Meeting to the public at 7:05 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

- A. Present: Brillhart, Cantatore, Choi, Governale, Lee, Verna, Holzberg.
- B. Absent: None
- C. 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:

- January 3, 2023 Reorganization Meeting Minutes
- January 17, 2023 COW and Regular Meeting Minutes

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- Eid holiday calendar request.

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None at this time.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Fox reported on the following:

- Review of board goals.
- DMS gym update. On February 23rd the project will be presented to the planning board.
- Looking to start DMS enrichment with PTO.
- Budget preparations are underway.
- Demarest Digest will come up to committee shortly.
- In May there will be a joint board meeting with the President, Vice-President, Superintendents and Business Administrators.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time.

XI. OTHER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Principal Regan reviewed the following:

- Lunar New Year celebrations.
- DMS news.
- Coat drive for Ukraine.
- Art exhibit at Demarest Library.
- Introduction of winter spirit week.

- Upcoming: DMS book fair, Washington DC parent meeting, no homework night and school musical.
- B. Principal Mazzini reviewed the following:
- Registration numbers for preschool and kindergarten.
 - Visit from Dr. Capazzi for P3 students.
 - Robotics in 2nd grade gifted and talented.
 - Fire prevention poster contest.
 - Lunar New Year celebrations.
 - One School, One Book at LLE - with the book Shine.
 - Upcoming: Librarian to visit preschools, winter break and Read Across America.
- C. Business Administrator/Board Secretary Antoinette Kelly gave a financial report presentation on fund accounting for the school districts.

XII. REVIEW OF AGENDA

- A. Board members reviewed the items.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to open the meeting to public comment.
- B. The following attendees spoke:
- Fatemah Hussain of 28 Wellwood Ave. discussed the Eid holiday. Five families in town are of this faith that she is aware of and the population is growing. The date of the holiday changes from year to year. Ms. Hussain requests the district honor the holiday by closing the school for the day. It would be a way for students to learn about Eid which is a three day celebration with the primary day being the first day.
 - Councilman David Chan asked about the finances between the Demarest Board of Education and the Northern Valley Regional High School district.
- C. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to close the meeting to public comment.

XIV. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of the following substitute teachers for the 2022/2023 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.

Ava Barry
Ava Borelli
Theresa Repole

2. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to rescind the offer of employment for Hillary Selig, substitute teacher for the 2022/2023 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to rescind the offer of employment for Kery Sandt, substitute teacher for the 2022/2023 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
4. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to rescind the offer of employment for Dounia Hamrani, substitute teacher for the 2022/2023 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
5. 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:
WHEREAS, the Board of Education hereby imposes a three (3) day suspension without pay for employee ID No.10312803, which shall be scheduled at the Superintendent's sole discretion to ensure that the District's operational processes are not unduly disrupted.

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve home instruction for SID 1748962147 by the staff listed below, not to exceed ten hours per week beginning January 19, 2023 and to continuing as needed, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Joseph Polvere
Victoria Zimmerman
Sunny Lew
Christine Reynolds
Toby Murphy
Joanne Werner

2. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee 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	Date	Grade/Group
Science Olympiad (state finals) Middlesex County College, Essex	3/16/23 (rain date 3/17/23)	Science & Engineering group
Mathcounts Competition Bergen Community College, Paramus	2/11/23	Math team
Liberty Science Center, Jersey City	3/24/23	5th grade

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of Margaret Meluso, lunch aide, step 6, beginning March 1, 2023, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator. Employment

status would become effective upon candidates compliance with P.L.1986, c.116 (revised 6/30/98) and N.J.S.A. 19A:6-7.7.

2. It was moved by Lee seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to rescind the offer of employment for Adam Fahmy, paraprofessional aide at DMS, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
3. It was moved by Lee seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Miriam Koopaethes, secretary, to receive a longevity stipend after seventeen years of service, in the amount of \$2,300.00 prorated, effective February 1, 2023, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
4. It was moved by Lee seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of Ruya Caglar, as a substitute paraprofessional aide, for the 2022/2023 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.

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. It was moved by Governale seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following request for facilities use on the following dates, in accordance with policy 7510, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Event	Date(s) and time	Location
Boy and Girl Scouts	3/11/23 8AM-12PM	DMS parking lot
PTO Spring enrichment	3/13/23-5/12/23 on days school is in session 3:05PM-4:15PM	CRS and LLE rooms as available

2. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore to table the resolution to approve the 2023/2024 school year calendar, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
3. It was moved by Governale seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve authorization to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools and the New Jersey Department of Education a waiver request from participation, per NJAC 6A:23A5.3, in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative Program (SEMI) for the 2023/2024 budget year. The Demarest Board of Education applies for this waiver due to the fact that it does not project to meet the required minimum of Medicaid eligible classified students, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

E. Support Services—Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Verna seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the following payrolls as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

January 13 \$468,933.98
January 31 \$464,608.13

2. It was moved by Verna seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the January 2023 in office checks in the amount of \$255,088.84, February 7, 2023 budget checks in the amount of \$563,029.22, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator, as follows:

<u>Subtotal Per Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11 General Current Expense	\$ 638,311.26
12 Capital Outlay	\$ 35,515.00
20 Special Revenue Fund	\$ 129,672.80
30 Capital Projects Fund	\$ 14,619.00
Total Bills:	\$ 818,118.06

3. It was moved by Verna 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 January 31, 2023, 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 Verna 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 January 31, 2023 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 Verna seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge receipt of the January 31, 2023 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 Verna seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the following budget transfers for January 2023, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-000-100-565	Tuition-County Special Services	73,205.00
11-000-221-580	Improv. of Instruction-Travel	500.00
11-000-262-520	Insurance	3,080.37
11-000-270-515	Transportation-Special Education	25,000.00
11-105-100-101	Pre-k Substitute Salaries	1,500.00
11-150-100-101	Home Instruction-Regular Education	500.00

12-000-261-730	Equipment-Non Instructional	3,090.00
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From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-000-100-562	Tuition-Other LEAs	73,205.00
11-000-221-390	Improv. of Instruction-Other Purch Services	500.00
11-000-262-610	Custodial General Supplies	3,080.37
11-000-291-299	Unused Sick Day Payments	10,200.00
11-000-270-512	Transportation-Other Than Between Home/School-Vendors	5,900.00
11-000-270-513	Transportation-Between Home & School-Joint Agreement	5,000.00
11-000-270-420	Transportation-Repair and Maintenance of Vehicles	3,900.00
11-110-100-101	Kindergarten Regular Salaries	1,500.00
11-150-100-320	Home Instruction-Professional Ed Services	500.00
12-000-266-730	Equipment-Security	3,090.00

7. It was moved by Verna seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve change order #1 for the Middle School gymnasium addition with architects EI Associates, for the addition of the wellness center and reworking of the parking lot, in the amount of \$3,000.00, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to open the meeting to public comment.
- B. There was no comment from the public.
- C. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to close the meeting to public comment.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Choi to enter executive session to continue discussing personnel/legal matters/negotiations.
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;
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 Verna, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 8:00 P.M.

XII. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

A. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi to reopen the Regular Meeting to the public at 8:15 P.M.

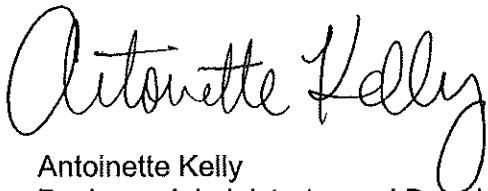
XIX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussed the calendar in regard to Eid. It was proposed to provide an Eid celebration to educate the students about the Eid holiday and consider possible no homework or assessments the night before and the day after the holiday.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Sincerely,



Antoinette Kelly
Business Administrator and Board Secretary