

# DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### Luther Lee Emerson School - Gymnasium

March 16, 2021

7:00 P.M.

#### I. OPENING

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Holzberg at 7:00 pm.
- B. Present: Cantatore, Choi, Governale, Lee, Schliem, Verna, Holzberg.  
Absent: None  
Also present: Mr. Fox, Superintendent and Ms. Kelly Business Administrator/ Board Secretary
- C. 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.

#### II. FLAG SALUTE

- A. President Holzberg led the flag salute.

#### III. ROLL CALL

Present: Cantatore, Governale, Kirtane, Lee, Schliem, Verna, Holzberg.  
Absent: None  
Also present: Mr. Fox, Superintendent and Ms. Kelly Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

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

- February 9, 2021 COW and Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 9, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

#### V. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Board Secretary Kelly reviewed this month's correspondence.
- Letter of resignation from Shannon Ruck

VI. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Board President Holzberg on behalf of the board thanked the staff for their hard work and all they have done.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Superintendent Fox discussed the reopening of school as well as the history from last March's closing.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time.

IX. OTHER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Terzini Hollar, Ms. Stevens, Mr. Regan and Mr. Mazzini presented 'Road to Recovery, Phase II'. They discussed various options with the board for a possible change to the school day. After a lengthy discussion between the administrative team and the board, the board decided that they would like the administrative team to continue to explore the option of extending the in person day to 2:20 P.M. for the elementary schools (option 2) and to continue to explore the option of extending the in person day to 1:10 P.M. and adding snack and recess for the middle school (option 4).

X. REVIEW OF AGENDA

A. Board members reviewed the items.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to open the meeting to public comment limited to agenda items.
- B. Mr. Astill, 45 Meadow St. thanked the staff for all the hard work they have done and thinks that they are doing a wonderful job. He stated that it is very important for kids to be in school as safely as possible. He thinks that school is the safest place for kids and that ending school at 2:20 P.M. is a good way for the kids to transition to a longer day.
- C. It was moved by Schliem, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to close the meeting to public comment.

XII. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of Nicole Hayden, leave replacement for Alexandra O'Hara third grade teacher Luther Lee Emerson School, BA, Step 1, per diem, effective March 17, 2021 to the remainder of the school year, PCR-2030-050-200-00001, account-11-120-100-101-050-00-00 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.



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

Mentor	Mentee
Katelyn Hubener	Nicole Hayden

3. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to accept the resignation of Shannon Ruck, fourth grade teacher, Luther Lee Emerson School, effective March 10, 2021, fourth grade teacher, BA, Step 2, PCR 2040-050-200-00003, budget code 11-120-100-101-050-00-00, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

4. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to modify and 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 March 30, 2021, unpaid FMLA from March 31, 2021 to June 23, 2021 with a return to work date of September 2021, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

\*Modified from January 19, 2021

**B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs**

**C. Support Services – Staffing**

1. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Hrant Mekhesian, custodian, to receive a Longevity Stipend in the amount of \$1,000.00 prorated, effective April 1, 2021 for the 2020/2021 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

2. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Fitni Redzeqi, custodian, to receive a Longevity Stipend in the amount of \$1,000.00 prorated, effective April 1, 2021 for the 2020/2021 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

School/position	Name	Step	Account Code
<b>CRS</b>			
Classroom Aide PK	Isora Abreu	5	11-190-100-106-030-00-44
1:1 Aide	Zoe Weinstein (SID 6910327941)	2	11-000-217-106-030-00-18

D. Support Services – Board of Education

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

Group/Event	Date(s)Time(s)	Location
Vikings Soccer	Monday – Thursday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM March 22nd – June 18th	Luther Lee Emerson field
	Monday and Wednesday 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM March 22nd – June 18th	Demarest Middle School field
SJ Enrichment	Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM April 6 <sup>th</sup> – May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Demarest Middle School field
	Tuesday and Thursday 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM June 15th – August 5th	Demarest Middle School field
	Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM September 7 <sup>th</sup> – October 28 <sup>th</sup>	Demarest Middle School field

2. It was moved by Schliem, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the attendance of the following workshops, as noted, with all hotel, meals and travel reimbursed at the statutory rates per NJ OMB Guidelines, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

Name/Title	Event	Registration Fee
Ellen Ricciutti/ Speech Therapist	Strengthen Your Speech Bureau of Education & Research Recorded Seminar	\$279.00

3. It was moved by Schliem, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Change Order # 3 for Addition and Renovations at County Road School. NJDOE-#1070-030-21-1000, to EI Associates, in the amount of \$4,800.00 for additional professional services, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

4. It was moved by Schliem, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the update to the Long Range Facility Plan as submitted by EI Associates and recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

E. Support Services – Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the February 12, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$426,130.58, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

2. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm February 26, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$421,470.58, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.



3. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the February 2021 in office checks in the amount of \$828,197.08 and March 16, 2021 budget checks in the amount of \$148,525.12, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator, as follows:

\* Schliem abstain on Staples check 20013

<u>Subtotal Per Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11 General Current Expense	\$ 374,834.68
12 Capital Outlay	\$ 41,750.69
20 Special Revenue	\$ 6,186.83
40 Debt Service	\$ 553,950.00
Total Bills:	\$ 976,722.20

4. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present 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 February 2021, 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, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

5. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Cantatore 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 February 28, 2021, 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 Governale, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge receipt of the February 2021 Report of the Board Secretary, A148 and Report of the Treasurer, A-149, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

7. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the following budget transfers for February 2021, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

<u>To:</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-000-222-177	Salary Technology Coordinator	\$56,670
11-000-310-110	Other Salaries Food Service	3,000
11-204-100-106	LLD Aides Salaries	14,270
11-190-100-340	Purchased Technical Services	<u>6,700</u>
		\$80,640

From:	Account	Amount
11-190-100-106	Other Salaries for Instruction	\$56,670
11-000-270-503	Transportation Aid in lieu	3,000
11-213-100-106	Resource Room Aides Salaries	14,270
11-000-100-566	Tuition to PSD within State	<u>6,700</u>
		\$80,640

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

Acceptance of Grant Funds

Move to accept the **CRRSA Act-ESSER II** Grant Funds in the amount of **\$176,289** and to approve the revenue and appropriation budget lines, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Revenue 20-4534-000  
 Appropriations 20-483-XXX-XXX

Move to accept the **CRRSA Act-Learning Acceleration** Grant Funds in the amount of **\$25,000** and to approve the revenue and appropriation budget lines, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Revenue 20-4535-000  
 Appropriations 20-484-XXX-XXX

Move to accept the **CRRSA Act-Mental Health and Support Services** Grant Funds in the amount of **\$45,000** and to approve the revenue and appropriation budget lines, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Revenue 20-4536-000  
 Appropriations 20-485-XXX-XXX

F. Other

1. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Verna 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, April 20, 2021 and April 27, 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.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 P.M.

Sincerely,



Antoinette Kelly  
Business Administrator and Board Secretary

