

# DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

## COW and REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### Luther Lee Emerson School – Gymnasium February 8, 2022 7:00 P.M.

#### I. OPENING

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Holzberg at 6:30 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. Legal – Innisfree  
- CTA
  - 2. Student matter - Discipline  
- Residency
- B. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Governale 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 Verna, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 7:00 P.M.

#### III. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

- A. It was moved by Verna, seconded by Cantatore to reopen the Regular Meeting to the public at 7:00 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

Present: Brillhart, Cantatore, Choi, Governale, Lee, Verna, Holzberg.

Absent: None

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

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

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

- January 4, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes
- January 4, 2022 Reorganization Meeting Minutes
- January 18, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes
- January 18, 2022 COW and Regular Meeting Minutes

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Board President Holzberg wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and time with their family. She also thanked Ms. Kelly and her staff for a clean audit report.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A Superintendent Fox commented on the following:

- Proud of the work we have done so far with COVID.
- CRS addition project is really starting to move. Timelines have been met and we are on track to finish in June 2022.
- A letter was sent out from my office today in response to the Governors announcement to lift the mask mandate on March 7, 2022. We are still waiting for policy from NJDOH and guidance for when it is lifted but we will likely lift the mask mandate for the district given that numbers in the community are down. Our vaccination rate is 61% for CRS, 63% for LLE and 69% for DMS.

- There is a possibility of a donation for a wellness center at DMS.
- Wishing everyone a nice February break.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Building and Grounds reported the following:

- There is a possibility of creating a wellness center at DMS through a donation. The committee agreed to recommend to the board to allow the architect to prepare preliminary drawings.
- Discussion regarding upgrades to the DMS science lab using the 2022-2023 budget and capital reserve monies.
- The district has been approved for a PSE&G Direct Install program to receive substantial rebates to install high efficiency boilers in DMS and LLE. The board's share of the cost would be included in the 2022-2023 budget.
- Update on the CRS addition which is on schedule to be completed by June 2022.

XI. OTHER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Principal Regan reviewed the following:

- Lunar New Year celebration was amazing.
- STEM teacher DiMartini along with some of her students have written a proposal for a potential energy efficiency project for the Waklee field athletic building which they plan on presenting to the town's mayor and council in March.
- The sixth grade is studying Greece and the Olympics.
- The Heroes and Cool Kids peer mentoring program is resuming.
- Basketball season has concluded.
- Mr. Lefer gave an excellent presentation at Techspo.
- Rehearsals are underway for The Addams Family. The performances will be on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Care Club is collecting shoes to donate.

B. Principal Mazzini reviewed the following:

- The CRS addition is very exciting. There will be 2 small group instruction and 4 regular instruction classrooms.
- Students registered for pre-school: 30 PK3 and 7 on a waiting list, 35 PK4 and a few seats available. There are 43 kindergarteners registered.
- There was a spectacular Lunar New Year program as well as a luncheon for staff.
- The One School One Book initiative will be in person one grade level at a time. The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson was the chosen read.
- The first week of March is Read Across America.

XII. REVIEW OF AGENDA

A. Board members reviewed the items.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XIV. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing  
None

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following out of district placement and tuition, associated related services, transportation and 1:1 aide as applicable, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Student ID	School/Program	Tuition	1: 1 Aide	Transportation	Term
8102817393	New Jersey Behavioral Health	\$79,200	No	Yes	1/31-6/30/2022

2. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve basketball schedules as attached, for the 2021/2022 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.\*modified from 7/14/2021 B.4. Delays due to COVID

3. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following contract with Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division for the 2021/2022 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Student ID	Contract ID	Service	Cost
1481531764	2256235	Assistive Technology Assessment	\$900.00

C. Support Services - Staffing

1. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to accept the retirement of Sally Marsich, Child Study Team Secretary, account code 11-000-219-105-000-00-31, effective March 1, 2022, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

2. It was moved by Choi, 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**, Sally Marsich dedicated her time and services to the children of Demarest and the Demarest Board of Education, and  
**WHEREAS**, her 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 of Sally Marsich in recognition of her twenty two and one half years of dedicated service to the Demarest Board of Education.

3. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Sarah Lucinese, Child Study Team Secretary, account code 11-000-219-105-000-00-31, effective March 1, 2022, Step 1 of the Secretarial Guide, 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 approve the provisional employment of Peramjeet Kaur Jassal, as lunch aide account codes 11-000-310-106-00-00-30 and 11-000-262-107-00-00-18, effective March 1,

2022, for the remainder for the 2021/2022 school year, Step 1 of the Aide Salary Guide, 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.

5. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of Rabia Hazinedar, as part time lunch aide account codes 11-000-310-106-00-00-30 and 11-000-262-107-00-00-18 effective March 1, 2022, for the remainder for the 2021/2022 school year, Step 1 of the Aide Salary Guide, 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.

6. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Izet Desic, custodian, to receive a longevity stipend after four years of service, in the amount of \$1,000 prorated, effective February 1, 2022, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

7. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Aram Yakoubian, custodian, to receive a longevity stipend after 10 years of service, in the amount of \$2,000 prorated, effective April 1, 2022, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

8. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve extended unpaid leave of absence for Michele Whitney, special education aide at Luther Lee Emerson School, from December 21, 2021 through April 4, 2022, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

**D. Support Services – Board of Education**

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

<b>Group/Event</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Location</b>
PTO Book Fair DMS*	3/8-3/10	DMS gym and courtyard
PTO Demarest 5K bag pick up	5/19-5/20 3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.	CRS (alt. DMS) Gym
PTO Demarest 5K	5/22 5:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.	CRS (alt. DMS) Gym and grounds
PTO Principals challenge	3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.	CRS gym
PTO Principals challenge	3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 7:15 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.	LLE Gym
PTO Principals challenge	3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18 3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.	DMS gym and grounds
PTO Play	2/11 5:30 P.M.-7:00 P.M. 2/12	DMS Gym, stage and music rooms

	8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. 3/1	
	3:20 P.M.-5:30 P.M.	

\*Modified from 10/12/21 Delayed due to COVID

2. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Governale 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 2022/2023 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.

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

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP IN THE NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP**

WHEREAS, a number of Boards of Education in Bergen County have joined together to form a Joint Insurance GROUP as permitted by N.J. Title 18A-18B and;

WHEREAS, said GROUP was approved effective July 1, 1985 by the New Jersey Commissioner of Insurance and has been in operation since that date and;

WHEREAS, the Bylaws and regulations governing the creation and operation of this Insurance GROUP contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a GROUP, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Demarest has determined that membership in the NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP is in the best interest of the District;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education of Demarest does hereby agree to renew membership in the NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP and hereby accept the Bylaws as approved and adopted. The renewal term is from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the District and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the GROUP as are required by the Group's Bylaws and to deliver the same to the Executive Director.

4. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve acceptance of the 2020/2021 Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR) and the Auditors' Management Report on Administrative Findings which contains no recommendations prepared by Nisivoccia, LLP, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

5. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Debra Rinaldi to have attended the CPR/AED training with Audrey Donahue on January 25, 2022 in the Luther Lee Emerson Media Center, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

6. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following students to participate in Senior Service for the 2021/2022 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Demarest Middle School	Luther Lee Emerson School	County Road School
Demi Alevrontas	Giada Dell' Aquila	Noa Saban
Nicole Miu	Daisy Kaplan	Brooke Vargas
Josephine Chang	Kubrick Hilton	Aliyah Sayid
Russel Oh	Carissa Hollenga	Lydia Kim
Adrianna Monaco		Kelsey Higgins
Eugene Chu		Isabel Levy
Noam Milman		
Preston Lau		
Noa Saban		
Lee Cherit		
Julianne Peck		
Daniel Rashamwala		
Caleb Woods-Bannan		
Brooke Vargas		

7. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Governale and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Supreme Consultants as bilingual assessors, at the attached rates, for the 2021/2022 School year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator

E. Support Services – Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the January 31, 2022 payroll in the amount of \$446,239.62, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

2. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the prior month 2021 in office checks in the amount of \$211,428.42 and meeting date, 2021 budget checks in the amount of \$628,479.80, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator, as follows:

<u>Subtotal Per Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11 General Current Expense	\$340,939.52
12 Capital Outlay	\$ 22,433.00
20 Special Revenue Fund	\$ 330.40
30 Capital Projects Fund	\$476,205.30
Total Bills:	\$839,908.22

4. It was moved by Governale, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the following budget transfers for January 2022, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

**To:**

Account Number	Description	Amount
11-219-100-101	Spec Ed-Home Instruction-Salaries	\$ 500.00
11-800-330-105	Community Services Programs-Salaries	\$2,200.00
11-000-213-104	Health Services-Salaries	\$ 400.68
11-000-213-330	Health Services-Purch Prof. Services	\$ 31.00

11-000-217-320	Extraordinary Services-Purch. Prof. Services	\$ 100.00
11-000-218-105	Guidance-Salaries Secretarial & Clerical	\$2,183.00
11-000-310-220	Food Service-Social Security	\$ 800.00
12-000-263-730	Equipment-Grounds	\$5,787.00

**From:**

Account Number	Description	Amount
11-219-100-320	Spec Ed-Home Instruction-Purch Prof Services	\$ 500.00
11-800-330-592	Community Services Programs-Purch Prof Ser	\$2,200.00
11-000-213-610	Health Services-General Supplies	\$ 431.68
11-000-217-106	Extraordinary Services-Salaries	\$ 100.00
11-000-218-610	Guidance-Supplies & Materials	\$1,500.00
11-000-218-390	Guidance-Other Purchase Prof Services	\$ 683.00
11-000-310-106	Food Service-Salaries	\$ 800.00
12-000-261-730	Equipment-Requires Maintenance	\$ 5,787.00

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M.

Sincerely,



Antoinette Kelly  
Business Administrator and Board Secretary