

# DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES - COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING

October 14, 2014

### I. OPENING

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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: Geisenheimer, Geller, Kirtane, Molina, Verna and Holzberg were present. Woods was absent.

### II. NJ SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION – BOARD SELF EVALUATION AT 6:00 P.M.

A. Al Annuziata of New Jersey School Boards Association met with the board to review their Self Evaluation and the creation of Board and District Goals for the 2014/2015 school year.

### III. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION AT 7:00 P.M.

A. Mr. Fox presented a video and PowerPoint of the Demarest School District Referendum Option Analysis. Mr. Fox informed the public that the PowerPoint would also be available on the district website.

### IV. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

#### A. Instruction – Staffing

1. Approve substitute(s).
2. Approve boys' basketball stipend position.
3. Approve placement on the guide for A. Cole.

#### B. Instruction – Pupil Programs

1. Approve boys' and girls' basketball schedules.
2. Approve 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to Washington, D.C. for May 19-21, 2014.
3. Approve student teacher(s) to complete observation hours at LLE.
4. Accept grant award.
5. Approve donation from 7<sup>th</sup> grade student of contest prize.

#### C. Support Services – Staffing

1. Approve employment of lunch aides.
2. Approve resignation of aide at LLE.

**IV. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REVIEW (Continued)****D. Support Services – Board of Education**

1. Approve workshop attendance.
2. Approve use of facilities.
3. Approve Annual Facilities Checklist.
4. Approve and submit the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan to Executive County Superintendent.
5. Approve and submit the Statement of Assurance to Executive County Superintendent.
6. Approve continued participation with the Middlesex Regional Education Services Commission (MRESC) Cooperative Pricing Agreement.
7. Approve District and Board goals.
8. Approve and submit Educational Plan for CRS to NJ Department of Education.

**E. Support Services – Fiscal Management**

1. Confirm payroll.
2. Approve September bills.
3. Confirm September 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 November 11, 2014 to discuss personnel, negotiations and/or legal matters.
2. Schedule Executive Session Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on November 18, 2014 to discuss personnel, negotiations and/or legal matters.

**V. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

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

1. A resident of Glenwood Ave. asked if this was an all or nothing referendum.

President Holzberg commented we are waiting for a commitment from the NJ Department of Education for possible debt service aid. She explained the board has not decided if there would be one question or two.

2. Mrs. Desai of Stewart St. asked for an explanation of the Luther Lee Emerson classroom use.

Mr. Fox reiterated the four new classrooms would be used by the fourth grade and their current rooms would be repurposed.

3. Ms. Neenan of Knickerbocker Rd. asked if the board could hold a future meeting at Luther Lee Emerson School.

4. A resident of John St. stated she was excited and commented physical activity is critical. She supports the Wednesday Walk to School program.

V. PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Continued)

5. A resident from Glenwood Ave. asked how long it would take to complete the project.

Mr. Chilson commented the board would try to complete the project by September 2016. The middle school gym may take a little longer. Mr. Fox stated the LLD classes would be implemented in CRS and LLE in September 2015.

6. Ms. Hayden of Prescott St. questioned the location of the LLE addition and suggested no 20 foot buffer from the building.

Mr. Chilson explained that state code requires a minimum of a 20 foot buffer between the building structures.

7. Ms. Maor of Edward St. questioned the LLD classes for grades 2-4.

Mr. Fox explained that our Child Study Team was researching which students would be eligible to return to the district program.

8. Mrs. Dickstein of Bogert Rd. questioned why the board altered its plan of closing CRS. It is a hardship to go to all three schools to pick up our children. I prefer a two school district.

President Holzberg commented that the CRS revenue didn't materialize and we were concerned about possible environmental and traffic issues. There was no real fiscal benefit to closing CRS.

9. Ms. Saroufern of Belmar St. expressed concerns about the boards' plans to connect a driveway to Belmar Street. Belmar is a dead-end and not very wide.

10. Mr. Rudduck of Lenox Ave. expressed concerns for safety of the additional children.

11. Mr. Gdalevich of Lenox Ave. questioned what direction the windows in the new construction would face.

Mr. Fox stated that this was not yet determined.

12. Mr. Fein of Rodney Pl. commented on the quality of our school system. He thanked the board for being caring and dedicated. The value of our housing is influenced by our schools. It is the right thing to do by bringing our students home to educate them. You will get your investment back when you sell your home.

13. A resident from Northwood Ave. questioned if more literature is available.

President Holzberg commented that the district website has more information.

14. A resident from William St. stated they are happy for our new initiative for STEM, knowledge based skills and the arts.

15. Mr. Connelly of Mountain View Rd. stated that he is a past president of the board and he moved here because of our schools. He commented he was on the Ad Hoc Committee and presented the report, but it is ultimately up to the board to make the final decision. He said he has confidence they will do what is best for the education of our students and residents. He cited the last paragraph of the Ad Hoc Committees' report. He thanked the board for supporting the schools and their good work.

16. Mr. Saroufern of Belmar St. stated his child will be in kindergarten next year. He wants to support the project but worries the neighbors will suffer.

17. Ms. Hayden of Prescott St. stated the addition to LLE will be invasive to our neighborhood and increase traffic. None of us are against education.

V. PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Continued)

18. Mrs. Rudduck of Lenox Ave. commented we should stay in three buildings because it is better for traffic. She also commented she would appreciate if the schools could stagger the start and end times.

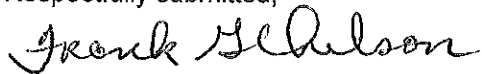
President Holzberg thanked everyone for their input. We will share you thoughts with our architect. We will be submitting the County Road School specification plan to the New Jersey Department of Education for review next week.

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

V. ADJOURNMENT

1. It was moved by Geisenheimer, seconded by Verna and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank G. Chilson  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary