

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION
COW and REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
County Road School – Media Center
February 24, 2026
6:00 P.M.

I. OPENING

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Holzberg at 6:00 pm.
- B. Present: Brillhart, Cantatore, Choi, Fein, Lee, Holzberg.
Absent: Zimbard
Also present: Dr. Cirillo 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. Student discipline
- B. It was moved by Cantatore seconded by Brillhart 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 Lee, seconded by Cantator and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 6:15 P.M.

III. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

- A. It was moved by Lee , seconded by Cantatore to reopen the Regular Meeting to the public at 6:15 P.M.

B. President Holzberg read the following announcement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure 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, Fein, Lee, Holzberg.

Absent: Zimbard

Also present: Dr. Cirillo, Superintendent and Ms. Kelly Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

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

- January 21, 2026 COW and Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 21, 2026 Executive Meeting Minutes

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Board President Holzberg thanked Ms. Antoinette Kelly for her service and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Dr. Cirillo also thanked Ms. Kelly for her service and wishes her well in her retirement. He also publicly thanked the custodial staff and borough DPW for their hard work to get the schools open after the storm.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. The budget and finance committee reported on the first draft of the 2026/2027 school budget.

XI. OTHER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. NVCC report. Kathleen O'Flynn, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Virginia Senande, Supervisor of Professional Learning, presented to the board the offerings that are available through the curriculum center for all of the Northern Valley teachers and staff.

XII. REVIEW OF AGENDA

A. Board members reviewed the items.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

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

XIV. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of the following substitute teacher(s) for the remainder of the 2025/2026 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.

- Jennifer Canino
- Megan McGee

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Brillhart, 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	Month/Year	Grade/Group
Liberty Science Center	February 2026	DMS LLD class
NJ Science Olympiad State Finals Middlesex College, Edison	March 2026	Science & Engineering Team

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. It was moved by Choi seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of Shpend Istrefi, as substitute custodian from February 25, 2026 to the remainder of the 2025/2026 school year, not to exceed 25 hours per week, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
2. It was moved by Choi seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the request of Staff ID No.: 10312850 for paid sick leave from April 27, 2026 through May 8, 2026, unpaid leave from May 11, 2026 through June 30, 2026, unpaid FMLA leave from September 1, 2026 through November 24, 2026, returning to work November 25, 2026.
3. It was moved by Choi seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the payment of accumulated sick time for Gina Long in the amount of \$50.00 as per Policy 1620, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. It was moved by Cantatore 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
Demarest Borough Summer Recreation Program	June 29, 2026- August 7, 2026 Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 2:15 PM	LLE APR, fields/playground, gymnasium, media center, art room and music room
PTO Meeting	May 14, 2026 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM	LLE APR
PTO Appreciation Breakfast	June 11, 2026 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM	DMS cafeteria
PTO 5K bag pick up	May 14-15, 2026 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM	CRS APR
PTO Principal's Challenge	April 8, 2026- May 13, 2026 Wednesdays only when school is in session 3:05 PM - 4:15 PM	DMS old gym and field
PTO Principal's Challenge	April 7, 2026-May 12, 2026 Tuesdays only when school is in session 3:05 PM - 4:00 PM	CRS APR and playground/outdoor area
PTO Principal's Challenge	April 7, 2026-May 12, 2026 Tuesdays only when school is in session 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM	LLE APR, gym, and field
PTO Volleyball Clinic with Nerkezian	February 25, 2026-March 18, 2026 Monday and Wednesday 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	LLE gymnasium
PTO Crochet Club with Toscano	February 26, 2026-April 30, 2026 Thursdays when school is in session 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	DMS classroom
PTO Golf Clinic with Romeo	February 27, 2026-May 1, 2026 Fridays when school is in session 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	DMS new gym
PTO Enrichment (ICAMP)	March 9, 2026-May 22, 2026 Monday-Friday when school is in session 3:15 PM - 4:45 PM	LLE APR, gym, fields, media center and classrooms as agreed upon
PTO Enrichment (ICAMP)	March 9, 2026-May 22, 2026 Monday-Friday when school is in session 3:15 PM - 4:45 PM	CRS APR, media center and classrooms as agreed upon
PTO Games with Epipaniou	April 21, 2026-June 9, 2026 Tuesdays when school is in session 3:05 PM - 4:45 PM	DMS classroom
PTO Food Science with Cutrona	April 10, 2026-June 12, 2026 Fridays when school is in session 3:05 PM - 5:00 PM	DMS cafeteria (not the kitchen)
PTO Clinics	April 10, 2026-June 19, 2026 Fridays when school is in session 3:05 PM - 5:00 PM	DMS new and old gym

2. It was moved by Cantatore seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge that the board accepts the results of the following HIB cases as reported at the January 21, 2026 meeting, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:
25/26-09
25/26-10
3. It was moved by Cantatore seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective June 30, 2026, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
4. It was moved by Cantatore 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 2026/2027 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.
5. It was moved by Cantatore seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the 2026/2027 school calendar, [attached](#), as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
6. It was moved by Cantatore seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve tuition agreement with the Haworth Board of Education for the 2025/2026 school year, plus the cost of related services, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Student ID	School/Program	Tuition	1: 1 Aide*	Transportation	Term
Haworth student 414010	DEL	\$7,930.40	No	No	3/3-6/30

E. Support Services—Fiscal Management

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

January 15, 2026	\$546,543.74
January 30, 2026	\$526,851.58
2. It was moved by Lee seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve February 24, 2026, bill list as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

<u>Subtotal Per Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11 General Current Expense	\$ 840,037.73
20 Special Revenue Fund	\$ 4,825.38
21 Student Activity Fund	\$ 4,622.30
22 Athletic Fund	\$ 630.00
30 Capital Projects Fund	\$ 13,860.00
40 Debt Service Fund	\$ 600,850.00
60 Cafeteria Fund	\$ 76,590.62

61 Laptop Account	\$ 99.00
Total Bills:	<u>\$1,541,515.03</u>

3. It was moved by Lee 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:

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, 2026, 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 Lee 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 of January 31, 2026 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 Lee seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge receipt of the January 2026 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 Lee seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the following budget transfer for January 2026, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

To:

Account Number	Description	Amount
11-000-230-339	General Administration-Purchases Professional Services	4,250.00
11-105-100-101	Preschool-Salaries Of Teacher-Leave Replacement	4,255.53
11-190-100-106	Regular Programs-Other Salaries for Instruction- Aides	1,160.15
11-204-100-106	LLD Program-Other Salaries for Instruction-Adies	337.50
11-230-100-500	Basic Skills/Remedial Instruction-Other Purchased Services	50.00
Total Transfers In		10,053.18

From:

Account Number	Description	Amount
11-000-230-820	General Administration-Judgements Against the District	4,250.00
11-213-100-101	Resource Room-Salaries of Teachers	4,255.53
11-190-100-640	Regular Programs-Textbooks	1,160.15
11-204-100-610	LLD Program-General Supplies	337.50
11-230-100-610	Basic Skills/Remedial Instruction-General Supplies	50.00
Total Transfers Out		10,053.18

7. It was moved by Lee 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:

RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN A COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Garfield Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency" has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System, known as the Champions Unified Purchasing Alliance ("CUPA"), for the purchase of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2026, the governing body of the Demarest Board of Education, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

This Resolution shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperating Pricing Resolution of the Demarest Board of Education.

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 401:11-11(5), the Superintendent is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with all applicable laws, including the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.), the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.), and all other provisions of the applicable statutes and regulations of the State of New Jersey.

8. It was moved by Lee seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the purchase of additional Chromebooks, licenses, protection plan, and cases, from MRA International Inc., through cooperative NJ - STATE OF NEW JERSEY (NVP PC)[MO483-24-TELE-72087], in the amount of \$17,958.25, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
9. It was moved by Lee seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve agreement with Lan Associates, district architect of record, to update the district's long-range facility plan at a cost of \$15,500.00, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

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

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 7:10 P.M.

Sincerely,



Antoinette Kelly
Business Administrator and Board Secretary

