DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

COW and REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

County Road School – Media Center

October 13, 2026

7:00 P.M.

I. OPENING

A. The meeting was called to order by President Holzberg at 6:30 pm.

B. Present: Brillhart, Cantatore, Lee, Zimbard, Holzberg.
Absent: Choi
Also present: Dr. Cirillo, Superintendent, and Ms. Sweeney, 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 matter
2. Student discipline

B. It was moved by Lee 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 Lee, seconded by Cantatore, and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 7:48 P.M.

III. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

A. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Lee, to reopen the Regular Meeting to the public at 7:58 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 on the school district website.

IV. FLAG SALUTE

A. President Holzberg led the flag salute.

V. ROLL CALL

Present: Brillhart, Cantatore, Lee, Zimbard, Holzberg.
Absent: Choi
Also present: Dr. Cirillo, Superintendent, and Ms. Sweeney, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

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

- September 22, 2026 COW and Regular Meeting Minutes

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None at this time.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Cirillo spoke about the upcoming QSAC inspection and also reviewed testing scores.
He also reviewed last year's SSDS findings as follows:
Student Safety Report, as attached: 0 assaults and 17 HIB incidents. Twenty staff are being trained at CRS, thirteen at DMS, and twenty-five at LLE.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time.

XI. OTHER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None at this time.

XII. REVIEW OF AGENDA

A. Board members reviewed the items.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

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

XIV. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Sofia DeCrescente as a student teacher from PACE University in

kindergarten at County Road School with teacher Deborah Duby from the period Jan-June 2027, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Zimbard, seconded by Cantatore 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
Washington, DC	June 2027	Eighth grade
Secor Farms Mahwah	October 2026	LLE LLD class
Sleepy Time Coffee Sleepy Hollow, NY	October 2026	DMS LLD class
Kaplan JCC Community Theatre Englewood	November 2026	7th grade class
Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty	October 2026	8th grade class
Dental Office Closter	November 2026	LLE LLD class
Stokes Farm Old Tappan	October 2026	DMS ERI and LLD classes

C. Support Services – Staffing

1. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the provisional employment of the following paraprofessional not to exceed 29 hours per week, according to the paraprofessional hourly guide, for the 2026/2027 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

   Esther Song - Luther Lee Emerson School, Special Ed. Aide, Step 7

1. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the amended request of Staff ID 1004 for paid sick leave from September 2, 2026, through September 30, 2026, and FMLA leave from October 1, 2026, through December 23, 2026, returning to work on January 4, 2027, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
   *modified from the September 22, 2026 A.2.

2. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the amended request of Staff ID 10312797 for paid sick leave from September 22, 2026, through November 4, 2026; unpaid leave from November 9, 2026, through November 30, 2026; and FMLA leave from December 1, 2026, through March 9, 2027; and unpaid leave from March 10, 2026, through March 23, 2027, returning to work March 24, 2027, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
   *modified from the June 16, 2026 A.5.

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the Safety and Security Plan (Emergency Operations Plan) for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

2. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the payment of accumulated unused sick days for Sherri Rinckhoff for the maximum amount as per her contract, 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 the first of two annual drills for bus riders for the 2026/2027 school year that was conducted as noted below, as per Administrative Code (NJAC 6A:27-11.2), as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

School	Location	Date/time	Person conducting drill:
County Road School 130 County Rd.	in front of building	October 7, 2026 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM	Mr. Mazzini, Principal
Luther Lee Emerson School 15 Columbus Ave.	in front of building	October 7, 2026 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Mr. Mazzini, Principal
Demarest Middle School 568 Piermont Rd.	parking lot	September 22-23, 2026 8:45 AM - 2:45 PM	Mr. Bolt, custodian, and Mr. Romeo & Ms. Moran, physical education teachers

4. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the modification of the following receiving tuition agreement for the 2026/2027 school year, plus the cost of related services, contingent on approval by the sending district, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Student ID	District	School/Program	Tuition	Resource Room/ICS/aide	Term
312140	Paramus	DMS ERI	$25,352.00	As per IEP	9/1-9/28*

*Modified from 8/25/26 D.14.

5. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve and authorize the submission of the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Building Checklists and Statement of Assurance for the 2026/2027 school year, 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 acknowledge and accept the Student Safety Data System report (SSDS) for the reporting period of January 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

School Name	Incidents in Progress	Incidents Completed	Total Incidents	Total Restraint/ Seclusion Incidents	Trainings Compete	Programs Completed
County Road	0	0	0	0	20	0
Luther Lee	0	16	16	0	13	0
Middle School	0	1	1	0	25	0
District Wide	0	17	17	0	16	0

7. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the disposal of the Everett piano at Luther Lee Emerson School, due to poor condition and age, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

8. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the district travel mileage reimbursement to $0.47 per mile for the 2026/2027 school year, as per the N.J. Circular 23-02-OMB, 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 the 2027/2028 budget development calendar, as attached, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

10. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve and submit New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) District Performance Review (DPR) for the 2026/2027 School Year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

11. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the SOA for the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement with the Demarest Police Department for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

E. Support Services—Fiscal Management

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

September 15, 2026	$552,045.97
September 30, 2026	$549,871.07

2. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve October 13, 2026 bill list as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Subtotal Per Fund	Amount
11 General Current Expense	$832,643.22
12 Capital Outlay	$ 95,413.01
20 Special Revenue Fund	$ 1,782.51
21 Student Activity Fund	$ 8,558.95
22 Athletic Fund	$ 2,150.00
60 Cafeteria Fund	$ 35,540.84
Total Bills:	$976,088.53

3. 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:

Receipt of Certification from Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (d), I, Nicole Sweeney, certify that as of August 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 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:

Certification of Board of Education

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (e), we certify that as of August 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 Brillhart, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge receipt of the August 2026 Report of the Board Secretary, A148 and the Report of the Treasurer, A-149, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

6. ~~Move to confirm the following budget transfer for September 2026, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:~~

~~To:~~

~~Account Number~~	~~Description~~	~~Amount~~
~~11-000-211-105~~	~~Regular Salaries -Attendance~~	~~1,586.36~~
~~11-000-213-104~~	~~Regular Salaries -Health Services~~	~~1,358.00~~
~~11-000-216-101~~	~~Regular Salaries -Speech/OT/PT/Related Svcs~~	~~889.17~~
~~11-000-217-106~~	~~Aides-Special/EXT Ord~~	~~21,164.00~~
~~11-000-218-104~~	~~Other Salaries-Guidance~~	~~1,369.00~~
~~11-000-219-104~~	~~Regular Salaries -CST~~	~~9,513.54~~
~~11-000-219-320~~	~~Region III Shared Behaviorist~~	~~7,135.00~~
~~11-000-240-105~~	~~Salaries Sec./Clerks~~	~~6,111.98~~
~~11-000-261-330~~	~~Prof. Services-Required Maint.~~	~~1,033.08~~
~~11-000-262-107~~	~~Lunch/Playground Aides~~	~~.40~~
~~11-000-270-160~~	~~Salaries Btwn Home/School Transp~~	~~469.19~~
~~11-000-270-420~~	~~Repair Transp Vehicles~~	~~7,307.60~~
~~11-105-100-101~~	~~Regular Salaries -Preschool~~	~~288.60~~
~~11-110-100-101~~	~~Regular Salaries -Kindergarten~~	~~439.20~~
~~11-120-100-101~~	~~Regular Salaries -Gr 1-5~~	~~7,255.21~~
~~11-130-100-101~~	~~Regular Salaries -Gr 6-8~~	~~3,553.80~~
~~11-190-100-106~~	~~Regular Salaries -Other Instruction~~	~~22,184.01~~
~~11-190-100-610~~	~~G&T General Supplies~~	~~82.00~~

11-204-100-101	Salary of Teacher-LLD	2,774.00
11-204-100-106	Aides Salaries-LLD	260.00
11-209-100-101	Salary ERI Program	105.00
11-209-100-101	Salaries ERI Program	311.00
	Total	$140,951.97

From:

Account Number	Description	Amount
11-000-211-105	Regular Salaries -Attendance	625.71
11-000-213-104	Regular Salaries -Health Services	220.00
11-000-213-110	Substitute Salaries	2,098.65
11-000-216-110	Other Salaries -Speech/OT/PT/Related Svcs	2,195.97
11-000-217-320	Contractual Svcs-Other	19,857.20
11-000-218-105	Regular Salaries-Guidance	1,369.00
11-000-219-110	Other Salaries-CST	16,648.54
11-000-240-105	Salaries-Sec./Clerks	4,716.19
11-000-251-104	Regular Salaries-Admin	1,395.79
11-000-261-420	Repair-HVAC	1,033.08
11-000-261-610	Cust/Maint-General Supplies	2,018.10
11-000-262-109	Cust/Maint-Overtime	.40
11-000-270-162	Salaries-Transp	469.19
11-000-270-515	Special Ed Transp	7,307.60
11-105-100-101	Regular Salaries -Preschool	727.80
11-110-100-101	Regular Salaries -Kindergarten	957.20
11-120-100-101	Regular Salaries -Gr 1-5	6,298.01
11-150-100-101	Regular Salaries-Home Inst	3,553.80
	Total	$140,951.97

7. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve payment application #3, in the amount of $93,394.91, to Open Systems for the Luther Lee Emerson Fire Alarm System project, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE DECISION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1S(b)(6)(e)

WHEREAS, the District received a report of an allegation of harassment, intimidation, and bullying ("HIB") against Student No. 332013;

WHEREAS, the District promptly investigated the report pursuant to District policy and N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)(6);

WHEREAS, the parent of the student was notified that the allegation of HIB was substantiated;

WHEREAS, by letter dated August 31, 2026, the parent requested a hearing before the Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)(6)(d);

WHEREAS, the District honored the parent's request to adjourn the hearing from the September 22, 2026 Board meeting to the October 13, 2026 Board meeting;

WHEREAS, at its meeting on October 13, 2026, the Board heard from the parent, Superintendent, and school officials involved; and

WHEREAS, after considering the arguments of the parents and the evidence presented by District Administration, the Board has determined to affirm the determination of the Superintendent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Demarest Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)(6)(e), hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in the HIB matter involving Student No. 332013.

Vote:
Ayes: Brillhart, Cantatore, Lee
Absent: Choi
Nayes: Zimbard, Holzberg

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

Sincerely,

Nicole Sweeney

Nicole Sweeney
Business Administrator and Board Secretary