

DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION
COW and REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
County Road School – Media Center
September 22, 2026
6:30 P.M.

I. OPENING

A. The meeting was called to order by President Holzberg at 6:31 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.

C. Present: Brillhart, Cantatore, Choi, Zimbard, Holzberg.

Absent: Lee

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

IV. FLAG SALUTE

A. President Holzberg led the flag salute.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

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

- August 25, 2026 COW and Regular Meeting Minutes
- August 25, 2026 Executive Meeting Minutes

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Board President Holzberg spoke about how wonderful the PTO Back to School Blast was and noted that the school buildings look great.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cirillo noted that the back-to-school nights at the elementary schools were well attended. Home school collaboration is so important. He thanked President Holzberg and Board Member Zimbard for attending the Luther Lee Emerson School playground ribbon-cutting ceremony. Demarest Day is Saturday, and we are looking for board member volunteers. Dr. Cirillo also discussed the HIB appeal process, changes to health benefits, and the DMS STEM room air quality testing. A letter will go out to the community regarding the testing.

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 being no one from the public was present.

XIV. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. It was moved by Zimbard, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the appointment of the following tenure teachers for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Woods	Katherine	MA+16	8*
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*modified from July 21, 2026 A.4.

2. It was moved by Zimbard, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the paid sick leave for Staff ID No. 1004 from September 1, 2026 through October 5, 2026 and FMLA from October 6, 2026 through December 23, 2026 returning to work January 4, 2027 as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

B. Instruction – Pupils/Programs

1. It was moved by Brillhart, 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
Target Closter	November and January	DMS LLD
Mayo Performing Arts Center Morristown	November	DMS LLD
Harrington Park School	February	Brain Busters/VIA
Various Consortium Schools	October - April	Brain Buster meets

2. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following students to attend Region III summer programming, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

SID	Program/Service	Rate
8491500919	ESY enrichment	\$1,650.00
2966527338 +	ESY enrichment	\$1,650.00
2536294262	ESY enrichment	\$1,650.00
1738271791	ESY enrichment	\$1,650.00
4845539034 +	ESY enrichment	\$1,650.00
8061841750 +	ESY enrichment	\$1,650.00
6575755845	ESY enrichment	\$1,650.00

2966527338	Related Services	\$78.00 per 30-minute session
2536294262	Related Services	\$78.00 per 30-minute session
1738271794	Related Services	\$78.00 per 30-minute session
4845539034	Related Services	\$78.00 per 30-minute session
8491500919	Related Services	\$78.00 per 30-minute session
8061841759	Related Services	\$78.00 per 30-minute session
2536294262	Supplemental Literacy	\$875.00
1738271791	Supplemental Literacy	\$875.00
6575755845	Supplemental Literacy	\$875.00

*modified from June 16, 2026 B.4.

- It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Cantatore 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 for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Student ID	School/Program	Tuition	1:1 Aide	Transportation	Term
7536380653	Valley Program	\$82,014.72	Yes (Demarest employee)	No	9/10-6/30

C. Support Services – Staffing

- It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore 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

Na-rae Kang, Step 16, OOD

- It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the paid sick leave for Staff ID No 10313051 from September 22, 2026 through October 5, 2026 and unpaid sick leave from October 14, 2026 through October 26, 2026, returning to work October 27, 2026 as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

D. Support Services – Board of Education

- It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi 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
Boy Scout Troop 20	Fridays when school is in session and room is available 10/2/26-6/11/27	DMS Cafeteria
Cub Scout Pack 20	10/19/26, 11/16/26, 12/21/26, 1/25/27, 2/8/27, 3/8/27, 4/5/27, 5/17/27, 6/7/27	DMS Cafeteria
PTO Volleyball Clinics	10/6/26, 10/7/26, 10/8/26, 10/13/26, 10/14/26, 10/15/26, 10/20/26, 10/21/26, 10/22/26	DMS New Gym

PTO Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast	6/11/27	DMS Cafeteria
PTO Meeting	5/13/27	LLE Cafeteria
PTO LLE Me & My Dance	3/30/27	LLE Gym and APR
PTO DMS Book Fair	3/23/27-3/26/27	DMS Old Gym
PTO Bingo Night	3/23/27	LLE Gym and APR
PTO Meeting	1/13/27	DMS Cafeteria
PTO DMS Holiday Boutique	12/3/26	DMS Cafeteria
PTO LLE Holiday Boutique	12/9/26 - 12/10/26	LLE Gymnasium
PTO CRS Holiday Boutique	12/1/26 - 12/2/26	CRS APR
PTO CRS/LLE Book Fair	11/17/26-11/20/26	LLE Gym
PTO 5th/6th Grade Dance	11/13/26	DMS Old Gym
Musical Cast Party	3/19/27	DMS Cafeteria
PTO Musical Performance	3/18/27 - 3/19/27	DMS Old Gym
PTO Musical Auditions	12/4/26	DMS Old Gym, Cafeteria and Music Room
PTO Musical Script Read-Through	12/16/26	DMS Old Gym
PTO Musical Stage Crew	1/8/27, 1/15/27, 1/22/27, 1/29/27, 2/5/27, 2/12/27, 12/26/27, 3/5/27, 3/12/27	DMS Old Gym and Stage
PTO Musical Rehearsals	Wednesdays when school is in session 1/6/27-3/10/27, 3/15/27, 3/17/27	DMS Cafeteria, Old Gym and Stage
PTO Lunar New Year practices	Monday-Thursday when school is in session 11/2/26-2/4/27	CRS APR

2. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the attendance of the following workshops, with travel reimbursed at the statutory rates per NJ OMB guidelines, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Name/Title	Event	Registration Fee
Audrey Moran DMS Health and Physical Education Teacher	NJASPERD Health Education Conference 11/10/26	\$175.00
Nicole D'Alessandro DMS ERI Teacher	CBT for Emotion Dysregulation, Externalizing Difficulties, and Suicide Prevention in Youth 10/26/26-10/28/26	\$420.00

3. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge that the board accepts the following District Goal Outcomes for the 2025/2026 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:
- District staff will continue to participate in the implementation of the Ruler program. The 2025-2026 school year in year 3 of a three-year plan that includes continued staff training and implementation with students.
Update: Achieved.
 - To ensure a greater level of collaboration, communication, and transparency with Northern Valley Demarest to help better prepare our students as they enter high school.
Update: Achieved
4. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge that the board accepts the following Board Goal Outcomes for the 2025/2026 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:
- To continue to support the Administration in the implementation of the Ruler program. To continue to be updated periodically by the Administration as to the progress of the program.
Update: Achieved
 - To continue to pursue what is needed to become a Certified Board and what the benefits of the program are.
Update: Continuing goal for 2026/2027
 - To revisit the district's mission statement and consider whether to update the Mission Statement.
Update: The board has decided not to change the Mission Statement.
5. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following District Goals for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:
- Prepare for QSAC review by the Department of Education. Identify areas to be monitored and organize all documentation. Desire to continue 'high-performing district' status.
 - To prepare a feasibility study to ensure that the Demarest schools are properly equipped with all safety and security enhancements.
6. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following Board Goals for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:
- To continue to pursue becoming a Certified Board.
 - The Board of Education will strengthen its knowledge, understanding, and effective application of Board policies and procedures by creating and participating in ongoing professional learning opportunities focused on policy awareness, governance responsibilities, and current educational and legislative requirements.
7. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to adopt the following resolution, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:
WHEREAS, Sherri Rinckhoff 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 to Sherri Rinckhoff in recognition of her 19 years of
 dedicated service as a member of the Demarest Public Schools.

8. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to accept the Nursing Plan for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
9. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve and submit the biannual Statement of Assurance (SOA) for the paraprofessional staff for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
10. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve a contract with Bergen County Special Services for teacher of the deaf services for student 8956136717 at a rate of \$170.00 per session, not to exceed \$6,800.00 for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
11. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the disposal of the following obsolete textbooks, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

Title	Quantity
Mathematics: Applications and Connections, Course 1	14
Mathematics: Applications and Connections, Course 2	14
Big Ideas Math Advanced 1	10
Big Ideas Math	22

12. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the payment of accumulated unused sick days for Hrant Mekhsian for the maximum amount as per his contract, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
13. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Thomas Bauernschmidt, residency investigator, at a rate of \$100.00 per hour, as needed, for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.
14. It was moved by Cantatore, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve agreement with Kreyco Inc. for professional on-site instruction services from September 24, 2026 through April 1, 2027, at a rate of \$50,000.00, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

E. Support Services—Fiscal Management

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

August 14, 2026	\$119,037.87
August 31, 2026	\$114,833.08

2. It was moved by Zimbard, seconded by Canatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve September 22, 2026 bill list as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

<u>Subtotal Per Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11 General Current Expense	\$ 637,059.77
12 Capital Outlay	\$ 65,950.45
20 Special Revenue Fund	\$ 11,505.63
21 Student Activity Fund	\$ 2,115.00
60 Cafeteria Fund	<u>\$ 34,053.86</u>
Total Bills:	\$ 750,684.71

3. It was moved by Zimbard, seconded by Canatore 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 July 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 Zimbard, seconded by Canatore 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 July 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 overextended 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 Zimbard, seconded by Canatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge receipt of the July 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 Zimbard, seconded by Canatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the following budget transfer for August 2026, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

To:

Account Number	Description	Amount
11-000-222-177	Salaries-Technology	\$1,489.96
11-000-262-110	Salaries-Custodial	\$500.20
11-190-100-440	Copier Lease	\$3,993.00

From:

Account Number	Description	Amount
11-000-251-590	Purchased Services-Other	\$1,489.96
11-000-262-110	Salaries-Custodial	\$500.20
11-190-100-610	General Supplies-Technology	\$3,993.00

7. It was moved by Zimbard, seconded by Canatore and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve payment application #2, in the amount of \$65,950.45 to Open Systems for the Luther Lee Emerson Fire Alarm System project, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to open the meeting to public comment.
- B. The following attendees spoke:
- Catherine Stanzione of 17 Prescott St. noted that there is a lot of activity and noise coming from the Luther Lee School grounds, and that there used to be more trees to absorb the noise. She asked for evergreen trees to be planted by the district as a sound barrier.
- C. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Brillhart and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to close the meeting to public comment.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

President Holzberg asked about security with facility requests. Dr. Cirillo noted that he is working with the DAA on ideas for supervision.

Dr. Cirillo spoke about Share911 and the creation of a school safety committee and the possibility of a security officer.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Cantatore and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 P.M.

Sincerely,



Nicole Sweeney
Business Administrator and Board Secretary