DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC BUDGET and REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

County Road School – Media Center

April 28, 2026

7:00 P.M.

I. OPENING

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

B. Present: Brillhart, Choi, Fein, Lee, Zimbard, Holzberg.
Absent: Cantatore
Also present: Dr. Cirillo, Superintendent

II. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. The Board determined it will enter into executive session for the following reasons:

1. Personnel
2. Legal

B. It was moved by Brillhart seconded by Lee 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 Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present to convene executive session at 6:55 P.M.

III. REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

A. It was moved by Choi , seconded by Lee 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 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, Choi, Fein, Lee, Zimbard, Holzberg.
Absent: Cantatore
Also present: Dr. Cirillo, Superintendent

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

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

- March 10, 2026 COW Meeting Minutes
- March 17, 2026 Preliminary Budget and Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 17, 2026 Executive Meeting Minutes

VII. CORRESPONDENCE
None at this time.

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Board President Holzberg complimented the students who were present to receive awards and gave her thanks to Sherri Rinckhoff for her years of service.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Dr. Cirllo honored the following former Demarest students for their achievements at Northern Valley Regional High School:
   a. Leah Park, Valedictorian
   b. Justin Song, Salutatorian
   c. Miya Shelton, Essayist

B. Dr. Cirillo reviewed the schools Self -Assessment for determining grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the 2024/2025 school year.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS
None at this time.

XI. PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

A. Dr. Cirillo presented the 2026/2027 budget.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT (BUDGET ONLY)
There was no motion for public comment, as no one from the public was present.

XIII. OTHER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Melissa Del Rosso of NJSBA gave a presentation on the chief school administrator evaluation process.

1. It was moved by Zimbard, 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:

   BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Demarest, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approves the following final 2026/2027 school year budget using the 2026/2027 state aid amounts and authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit the final 2026/2027 school year budget to the Executive County Superintendent for approval within the statutory submission date:

General Fund	$ 23,478,573
Special Revenue Fund	451,361
Debt Service Fund	0
Total Appropriations	$ 23,929,934

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Fund tax levy of $19,407,158 is approved to support General Fund Expenses for the 2026/2027 school year.
   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget is approved to include use of Healthcare Adjustment in the amount of $781,448.00. The adjustment is intended to support the significant increase in health benefit premiums. The needs identified in the use of the Healthcare Adjustment must be completed by the end of the 2026/2027 budget year and will not be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time; and
   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget is approved to include budgeted withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve in the amount of $200,000 for required maintenance expenditures.
   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget is approved to include budgeted withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Cost and Other Capital Projects in the amount of $1,575,000 for the following projects:

   - Replacement of Fire and Burglar Alarm Systems at County Road School and Luther Lee Emerson School
   - Gym Renovations Luther Lee Emerson School
   - Door Replacements Luther Lee Emerson School and Middle School
   - Faculty Room HVAC Replacement Luther Lee Emerson School
   - Playground/Outdoor Sign Replacement Luther Lee Emerson School
   - Locker Replacements Middle School
   - Bathroom Renovations Districtwide
   - Phone System Replacement Districtwide
   - Floor Replacements Districtwide

XIV. REVIEW OF AGENDA

A. Board members reviewed the items.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)
There was no motion for public comment being no one from the public was present.

XVI. ACTIONS

A. Instruction – Staffing

1. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi 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.

    - Neha Kancherla
    - Jordyn Semegran

2. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve Chloe Finkeldey, student teacher, to observe at Luther Lee Emerson School, not to exceed 15-20 hours, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

3. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Sherri Rinckhoff, DMS Guidance Counselor, effective September 30, 2026, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

4. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following teachers as chaperones for the overnight student field trip in the amount of $225.00 per person per night, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Washington DC
Joseph Polvere
Vincent Romeo
Andrew Cole
Toby Murphy
Suzanne Calegari+
Joanne Werner+
Sunny Lew
Allison Sumereau
Karleen McDermott

+trip planner - additional $225 stipend

5. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following teachers as chaperones for the overnight student field trip in the amount of $225.00 per person per night, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Fairview Lake
Andrew Cole
Joseph Polvere
Carl Quillen+
Vincent Romeo
Allison Sumereau
Karleen McDermott
Nicole D'Alessandro
Gary Rodriguez*

modified from March 17, 2026 A.3..
+trip planner - additional $225 stipend

6. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the following stipends for the 2025/2026 School Year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

Stipend	Total Amount	Name
Softball Coach	$1,195	Sophia McCauley
Softball Coach	$1,195	Carra Tangredi

7. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the request of Staff ID No: 10313012 for paid sick leave from September 1, 2026 through September 11, 2026, FMLA leave from September 14, 2026 through December 4, 2026, and unpaid leave from December 7, 2026 through March 11, 2027 and returning to work March 15, 2027, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

8. It was moved by Fein, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the request of Staff ID No:10312800 for paid sick leave from October 5, 2026 through December 1, 2026, FMLA leave from December 2, 2026 through March 10, 2027, and unpaid leave from March 11, 2027 through June 30, 2027 and returning to work August 31, 2027, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

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
Carnegie Hall NYC	May 2026	3rd grade
Metropolitan Farm Closter	May 2026	DMS LLD class
Liberty Science Center Jersey City	June 2026	4th grade
Turtle Back Zoo West Orange	June 2026	3rd grade

2. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Lee 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, from March 9, 2026 through June 30, 2026, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Student ID	School/Program	Tuition	1: 1 Aide	Transportation	Term
1299040988	Valley Program	$30,905.79	no	no	3/9/26-6/30/26

3. It was moved by Brillhart, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the modified 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	Yes* (effective 4/7/26)	No	3/3-6/30

*modified from February 24, 2026

C. Support Services – Staffing

D. Support Services – Board of Education

1. It was moved by Choi, 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
PTO DMS Volleyball clinic with Mr. Cole	June 1-10, 2026 weekdays 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	DMS New Gym
Troop 163 Troop meeting	May 13, 2026 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	CRS APR
PTO Back to School Blast	September 17, 2026 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (set up) September 18, 2026 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM October 1, 2026 5:00 PM -7:00 PM (rain date set up) October 2, 2026 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM (rain date)	LLE fields and playgrounds
Demarest Library End of Summer Reading Celebration	August 10, 2026 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	CRS APR and blacktop

2. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee, and approved by Brillhart and Zimbard, with Holzberg, and Fein, abstaining to approve the attendance of the following workshops, with all hotel, meals and travel reimbursed at the statutory rates per NJ OMB guidelines, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Name/Title	Event	Registration Fee
Diane Holzberg, Board President Erica Canatatore, Board Vice President Julie Fein, Board Member Joseph Cirillo Superintendent	NJSBA Conference Atlantic City October 19-22, 2026	$2,300.00 group rate

3. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the eighth-grade graduation date of June 23, 2026, 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 second of two annual drills for transported students for the 2025/2026 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:
Demarest Middle School 568 Piermont Rd	courtyard	4/7/26 3:15 PM	Mr. Regan, Principal Mr. Bolt, driver

5. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by Fein, Zimbard, and Holzberg, with Brillhart abstaining, to approve the following students to participate in the Work-Based Learning (WBL) program for the 2025/2026 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Demarest Middle School	Luther Lee Emerson School	County Road School
Alexa Brillhart	Eden Shaul	Julia Bardin
Liam Carrey	Gabriella Infanti	
Aaron Gonzalez		
Alexa Chodos		
Adrian Cami		
Jayden Han		
Amadeo Bonde		
Devan Huber		
Meesum Panjwani		
Cayla Sul		

6. It was moved by Choi, 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 March 17, 2026, meeting, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:
    - 25/26-11

7. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the Title IIA, III, III-Immigrant, and IV-Part A Consortium Memorandum of Agreement between the Northern Valley Regional High School Board of Education, as Lead Applicant, and the Demarest School District for the 2026/2027 school year.

8. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the memorandum of agreement for Nicole Sweeney, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, as approved by the Executive County Superintendent, and as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

9. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

POLICY/REGULATION
0142.1 Nepotism – Bylaw (M)
1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator – Policy (M)
1552 Sexual Harassment – Staff – Policy & Regulation (M) (NEW)
2530 Resource Materials – Policy & Regulation
2535 Library Material – Policy & Regulation (M) (NEW)
3362 Sexual Harassment – Policy (M) (ABOLISHED)

3362 Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure – Regulation (ABOLISHED)

4352 Sexual Harassment – Policy (M) (ABOLISHED)

4352 Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure – Regulation (ABOLISHED)

9130 Public Complaints – Policy & Regulation

5410 Promotion and Retention (M)

10. 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:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEMAREST BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT
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 Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC), hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;
WHEREAS, on April 28, 2026 the governing body of the Demarest Board of Education, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6 (a), duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:
TITLE
This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC),
AUTHORITY
Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) and N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6 (a), the School Business Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC), the Lead Agency.
CONTRACTING UNIT
The Lead Agency shall comply with the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.
EFFECTIVE DATE
This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

E. Support Services—Fiscal Management

1. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to confirm the March 2026 payrolls as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

March 13, 2026	$574,190.46
March 31, 2026	$523,551.72

2. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve April 28, 2026 bill list as follows, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator:

Subtotal Per Fund	Amount
11 General Current Expense	$569,338.30
20 Special Revenue Fund	$ 5,728.78

21 Student Activity Fund	$ 3,958.46
30 Capital Projects Fund	$ 15,283.21
60 Cafeteria Fund	$ 71,318.47
61 Laptop Account	$ 10,358.25
Total Bills:	$677,685.47

3. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi 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 March 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 Choi 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 March 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 Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to acknowledge receipt of the March 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 Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve the amendment to the 2025/2026 IDEA Basic grant application to include the 2024/2025 carryover as follows:

Account	Original	Carryover adjustment	Revised
100-500 Other purchase services tuition	$180,025.00	$0.00	$180,025.00
100-600 General Supplies	$1,000.00	$2,000.00	$3,000.00
200-300 Professional services related services	$ 11,708.00	$7,485.00	$19,193.00
Total	$192,733.00	$9,485.00	$202,218.00

7. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve agreement with Open Systems Integrators, Inc., for burglar alarm system replacement at County Road School, at a cost of $46,812.84, through cooperative # 65MCESCCPS Bid #ESCNJ 23/24-32, for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

8. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve agreement with Open Systems Integrators, Inc., for burglar alarm system replacement at Luther Lee Emerson School, at a cost of $58,923.54 through cooperative # 65MCESCCPS Bid #ESCNJ 23/24-32, for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

9. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve agreement with Open Systems Integrators, Inc., for fire alarm system

replacement at County Road School, at a cost of $401,086.69, through cooperative # 65MCESCCPS Bid #ESCNJ 24/25-41, for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

10. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Choi and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to approve agreement with Open Systems Integrators, Inc., for fire alarm system replacement at Luther Lee Emerson School, at a cost of $353,066.51 through cooperative # 65MCESCCPS Bid #ESCNJ 24/25-41, for the 2026/2027 school year, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator.

XVII. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Fein and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to open the meeting to public comment.
B. There were no comments as no one from the public was present.
C. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present to close the meeting to public comment.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS
None at this time.

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
A. There was no motion to enter the executive session.

XX. ADJOURNMENT
A. It was moved by Choi, seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Kelly
Business Administrator and Board Secretary