

WATCHUNG BOROUGH SCHOOLS**Resident offers
online suggestions**

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WATCHUNG - A resident recently made use of the Watchung Borough School District's online suggestion box, asking the district to consider a number of proposals.

The suggestion box on the district website allows students, parents, teachers and other community members to offer their thoughts on anything school-related.

Superintendent Barbara Resko summarized the suggestions at the Wednesday, Jan. 24, Board of Education meeting at Valley View School.

One of the suggestions raised, Resko said, was a general request to encourage more students to join contests and competitions engineered to increase skills ranging from general academics - primarily focusing on enhancing writing skills - to traffic safety.

Another suggestion concerned staffing. The resident said the board should consider hiring full-time pre-school teachers, full-time LDTs (Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultants), full-time speech therapists and full-time world language teachers.

The resident also sug-

gested that schools reduce the student-teacher ratio by adding another teacher for each grade.

Many of the suggestions concerning staffing and class sizes were similar to concerns raised by school parents during the 2017 budget season.

The resident also proposed the board hold a public meeting with residents in which the budget is considered line item by line item.

Lastly, Resko said, the board was asked to create forms for parents to advocate to different levels of government for additional school funding.

Resko reminded meeting attendees that all suggestions are reviewed and shared with the appropriate district personnel.

"For example, on the budget, that will go to the (finance) committee for consideration," said Resko. "The ones about contests will go to the appropriate building principals."

While each recommendation is reviewed, "a reply is at the discretion of the Board of Education and the administration," according to the district website.

The suggestion box can be found at www.tinyurl.com/y8qwr815.