

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

August 20, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Call to order: _____ @ _____ *P.M.*

Roll Call:

Ms. Argenziano	_____
Mr. Choi	_____
Ms. Estrems	_____
Ms. Lee	_____
Ms. Micera	_____
Ms. Ravid	_____
Mr. Shih	_____
Mr. Paldi	_____
Ms. Finkelstein	_____

NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT - Read by the President:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act 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 and NJ Statute, the Secretary to the Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published on the District's official website homepage. The date, time, and place of this meeting were also posted at each school building within the District, at the Board of Education office, and at the Office of the Borough Clerk. Through the end of this calendar year, a notice will also be published in the newspaper. That notice directs the public to the District's official website, where the full meeting notice may be viewed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES' REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BOARD COMMITTEES

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to open the meeting to the public.

Statements made by individual participants are limited to a duration of three (3) minutes unless otherwise announced at the beginning of the discussion. A maximum of 15 minutes for public input is scheduled as per bylaw 0167. The Board urges large groups to select one person to represent them. The Board reminds those individuals who take the opportunity to speak to please step up, identify themselves by name and address, and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda.

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to resume the regular order of business.

BOARD OPERATIONS

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motions A - G.

Motions were _____ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. APPROVAL - Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the July 16, 2026, Board of Education meeting minutes.

B. APPROVAL - Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (HIB)

Motion to affirm the decision of the Superintendent of Schools regarding Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (HIB) incident TMS-2526-28 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the July 16, 2026, meeting.

C. APPROVAL - District Goals - 2026-2027 School Year

Motion to approve the District goals for the 2026-2027 school year, as per Appendix A.

D. APPROVAL - Acceptance of Donation from the Closter PTO

Motion to accept, with gratitude, the donation from the Closter Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) in the total amount of \$337,000.00 for the 2026-2027 school year, of which \$311,000.00 will be received and managed by the District, and \$26,000.00 will remain with the PTO for activities and purchases handled directly by the PTO.

E. APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for Temple Emanu-El of Closter

Motion to approve Temple Emanu-El of Closter's use of the Hillside Elementary School parking lot on September 12-13, 2026, and September 20-21, 2026.

F. APPROVAL - Independent Educational Evaluations Maximum Costs

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2021, the Board adopted Policy 2468 governing Independent Educational Evaluations; and

WHEREAS, Policy 2468 requires the Board to annually determine and approve the maximum costs it will pay for such evaluations, with anything above those maximum costs deemed unreasonably excessive;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby adopts the following maximum costs for the assessments listed below when they are conducted as part of an independent educational evaluation, consistent with Policy No. 2468, effective immediately and through June 30, 2027:

- Assistive Technology: \$1,250
- Auditory Processing/Hearing Acuity: \$1,000
- Early Childhood: \$1,350
- Educational: \$1,000
- Functional or Adaptive Behavior: \$1,000
- Neurological: \$1,500
- Neuropsychiatric: \$1,500
- Neuropsychological: \$2,000
- Occupational Therapy: \$750
- Physical Therapy: \$750
- Psychiatric: \$1,250
- Psychological: \$1,000
- Social History: \$750
- Speech/Language: \$1,000
- Visual Acuity: \$1,500

G. **APPROVAL - Re-Adoption of all NVCC Core Curriculum Guides for 2026-2027**

Motion to approve, for the 2026-2027 school year, the re-adoption of the NVCC Core Curriculum Guides for English, ESL, Library/Media, Mathematics, Computer Science Design Thinking, Physical Education & Comprehensive Health, Social Studies, Visual & Performing Arts, and World Languages, as well as the revised Grades K-8 Science curriculum guide.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Lee; Members: Ms. Argenziano, Ms. Estrems

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motions A - D.

Motions were _____ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **APPROVAL - Staff Coursework**

Motion to approve the following courses for the 2026-2027 school year as recommended to the Superintendent by the Principals:

Staff Member:	Lori Cohen
Course No./Title:	LDTC 501 - Theory/Practice of Individuals with Dyslexia
Institution:	Felician University
Credits:	3

Staff Member: Silvia Jost
Course No./Title: FDU Orton Gillingham Teacher Training Program
Institution: Fairleigh Dickinson University
Credits: 12

B. APPROVAL - Staff Conferences

Motion to approve the following staff conferences for the 2026-2027 school year:

Staff Member(s): Christine Cipollini
Conference: AI: Friend or Foe? Key Considerations on Accuracy, Critical Thinking
Equity, Ethics, Privacy, Security & Humanity
Location: Virtual
Date: 3/16/27
Cost to Board: \$160.00 (Registration)

Staff Member(s): Brianna McKancha
Conference: NJDOE - Learning Lounge: Science Education Updates
Location: Virtual
Date: 8/6/26
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Lori Cohen
Conference: NJ Association of Pupil Services Administrators (NJAPSA) Advanced
Cohort
Location: Oyster Point and Forsgate Country Club
Date: 12/4/26, 1/8/27, 1/22/27, 3/12/27 and 4/9/27
Cost to Board: \$1,528.70

Staff Member(s): Lori Cohen
Conference: Region III CST Directors Meetings
Location: NVCC Demarest
Date: 9/22/26, 10/20/26, 11/10/26, 12/22/26, 1/19/27, 2/9/27, 3/9/27,
4/20/27, 5/25/27 and 6/15/27
Cost to Board: \$21.80 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Lori Cohen
Conference: North Jersey Special Education Administrators Association (NJSEAA)
County Meetings
Location: Washington Township, NJ
Date: 9/30/26, 10/28/26, 11/19/26, 12/16/26, 1/27/27, 2/24/27, 3/31/27,
4/28/27 and 5/26/27
Cost to Board: \$408.96

Staff Member(s): Christine Cipollini and Dianne Smith
Conference: Northern Valley Principals Meetings (NVPA)
Location: NVCC Demarest
Date: 9/18/26, 10/16/26, 11/13/26, 12/18/26, 1/15/27, 2/12/27, 3/19/27, 4/9/27, 5/7/27 and 6/4/27
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Keith McElroy and Justin O'Neill
Conference: Northern Valley Curriculum Leaders Meetings (NVCL)
Location: NVCC Demarest
Date: 9/24/26, 10/21/26, 11/18/26, 12/18/26, 1/20/27, 2/12/27, 3/19/27, 4/9/27, 5/12/27 and 6/4/27
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Juliane Bilotta, Deborah Gonzalez, Kathy Lee, Cassandra San-Emeterio and Margaret Tahtabrounian
Conference: World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Annual Conference
Location: Virtual
Date: 9/15/26 - 9/18/26
Cost to Board: \$1,425.00 (Paid with Title III Funds)

Staff Member(s): Floro Villanueva Jr.
Conference: Northeast School Board Insurance Group Meetings (NESBIG)
Location: River Vale, NJ
Date: 9/17/26, 11/11/26, 2/10/27, 5/6/27 and 6/16/27
Cost to Board: \$16.17 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Floro Villanueva Jr.
Conference: NJ Association of School Business Officials Workshops (NJASBO)
1) Human Resources & the Business Administrator
2) The Business Administrator as Chief Risk Manager
3) Office Automations & Efficiencies for the Business Office
Location: Whippany, NJ
Date: 9/22/26, 10/6/26, 12/15/26
Cost to Board: \$685.55 (Registration and mileage)

Staff Member(s): Floro Villanueva Jr.
Conference: Bergen County Association of School Business Officials Meetings (BCASBO)
Location: River Vale and Washington Township, NJ
Date: 9/24/26, 10/29/26, 11/19/26, 12/11/26, 1/21/27, 2/25/27, 3/25/27, 4/29/27, 5/20/27 and 6/4/27
Cost to Board: \$38.15 (mileage)

Staff Member(s): Suzanne Lang and Dara Weiss (counselors will alternate attendance at each meeting)
Conference: Northern Valley School Counselors Meetings
Location: Various Northern Valley District Locations
Date: Once per month on various dates from October 2026 to June 2027
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Suzanne Lang and Dara Weiss (counselors will alternate attendance at each meeting)
Conference: Bergen County School Counselors Association Meetings
Location: Lyndhurst, Paramus, Saddle River and Westwood
Date: 10/23/26, 1/29/27, 3/12/27, 6/4/27
Cost to Board: \$0

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trip for 2026-2027**

Motion to approve the field trip for the 2026-2027 school year:

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 8
Month: September 2026
Destination: 9/11 Memorial
Location: Closter, NJ

D. **APPROVAL - Mentoring Plan and Professional Development Plan for 2026-2027**

Motion to approve the Mentoring Plan and the Professional Development Plan for the 2026-2027 school year as per Appendix B.

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Choi; Members: Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, Ms. Finkelstein

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motions A - K.

Motions were _____ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **APPROVAL - Monthly Financials and Certification**

Motion to approve the following items as required, pursuant to NJSA 18A:17-9 and NJAC 6:20-2.13, as per Appendix C attached:

- a. Final Board Secretary and School Treasurer Financial Reports for June 2026.
- b. Final Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account/Fund status for June 2026.
- c. Final Transfer of funds for June 2026.

B. **APPROVAL - Monthly Financials and Certification**

Motion to approve the following items as required, pursuant to NJSA 18A:17-9 and NJAC 6:20-2.13, as per Appendix D attached:

- d. Board Secretary and School Treasurer Financial Reports for July 2026.
- e. Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for July 2026.
- f. Transfer of funds for July 2026.

C. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills for June 30, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$167.50
Total	\$167.50

D. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from July 17, 2026, to July 31, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$293,806.58
Total	\$293,806.58

E. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from August 1, 2026, to August 20, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,095,026.76
Debt Services (Fund 40)	\$ 364,275.00
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 29,449.14
Total	\$1,488,750.90

F. **APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration**

Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Lori Cohen
Course: LDTC 500 - The Impact of Neurological & Physiological Factors on Student Performance
College/University: Felician University
Remuneration: \$1,191.00

Staff Member: Song Hee Lee
Course: EDUC 710B I'm So Stressed I Could Scream

College/University: University of LaVerne
Remuneration: \$420.00

G. **APPROVAL - Amendment to the 2026-2027 Budget**

Motion to approve an amendment to the 2026-27 Budget, appropriating Fiscal Year 2026 Extraordinary Aid and Non-Public Transportation Reimbursement as follows:

Revenue

10-3131-000	Extraordinary Aid	\$382,987
10-3121-001	Non-Public Transportation Reimbursement	\$ 18,341
<i>Total Increase in State Aid</i>		<i>\$401,328</i>

Appropriation

11-000-100-562	Other LEAs (Spec. Ed Tuition)	\$100,000
11-000-217-320	Extraordinary Services OOD	\$ 25,328
11-000-261-420	Maintenance Services	\$ 50,000
11-000-291-270	Medical Insurance	\$120,000
11-190-100-600	Tech Hardware	\$ 80,000
11-421-100-100	After School Academic Support	\$ 26,000
<i>Total Increase in Appropriations</i>		<i>\$401,328</i>

H. **APPROVAL – Purchase and Price of Milk**

Motion to approve the purchase of milk from Swede Farms in Tenafly, NJ, and that the price of milk shall be \$0.50/half-pint for the 2026-2027 school year.

I. **APPROVAL – Change Order #1 – Sidewalk Replacement Project – Hillside Elementary School**

Motion to approve Change Order #1 with S. Batata Construction, Inc. for the Sidewalk Replacement Project at Hillside Elementary School, in the amount of \$50,320.00, for additional curb work and line striping not originally included in the base bid and alternates. Of this amount, \$20,000.00 will be deducted from the contingency allowance included in the base bid, and the remaining balance of \$30,320.00 will be funded from the SY 2026-2027 Capital Reserve Withdrawal as included in the SY 2026-2027 budget.

J. **APPROVAL - Landscape & Lawn Maintenance Contract for SY 2026 - 2027**

Motion to approve the contract with Lupardi Nursery Inc. for landscape maintenance and field services at Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School, as follows:

Summer-Fall Landscape Maintenance (Hillside and Tenakill) – \$6,800.00
Fall Clean-Up (Hillside and Tenakill) – \$3,240.00
Hillside Soccer Field Lawn Maintenance – \$4,725.00
Field Maintenance and December Clean-Up – \$1,210.00
Total Contract Amount – \$15,975.00

The District solicited quotes for these services; however, only Lupardi Nursery Inc. met the District's scheduling requirements, operational flexibility, and geographic proximity to both school locations. The contract amount is below the public bidding threshold pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37, and the award is supported by documentation of the District's efforts to obtain competitive pricing. The Board hereby authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute the contract and any other documents necessary to effectuate this agreement.

K. **APPROVAL - Settlement Agreement and Release - Student ID 3242024283**

Motion to approve the terms, stipulations, and conditions of the Settlement Agreement and Release between the Closter Board of Education and the parents of a student whose name and record are on file in the Superintendent's office. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldi; Members: Mr. Shih, Ms. Finkelstein

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motions A - L.

Motions were _____ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **APPROVAL - Movement on the Salary Guide for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve movement on the salary guide for the following employees for the 2026-2027 school year, effective September 1, 2026:

NAME	CURRENT PLACEMENT	NEW PLACEMENT	STEP	BASE SALARY
Laura Abbey	MA +15	MA +30	16	\$110,250
Sofia Capparelli	MA	MA +15	16	\$107,550
Allison Esposito	MA +15	MA +30	11	\$99,300
Kathy Lee	MA +30	MA +60	15	\$113,350
Song Hee Lee	BA	BA +15	5	\$71,350
Catherine Ricca	MA +15	MA +30	9	\$93,900
Megan Weis	BA	BA +15	4	\$69,100
Kaitlyn Yu	MA	MA +15	5	\$81,250

B. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Jung Hye Lee as Paraprofessional for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve the appointment of Jung Hye Lee as paraprofessional for the 2026-2027 school year, 5.75 hours per day, at a salary of \$22.09 per hour, with a start date of September 1, 2026, pending a criminal history background check.

C. **APPROVAL - Marino Nin Vasquez Black Seal Fireman's License**

Motion to approve the Black Seal Fireman's License differential of \$100.00, prorated, for Marino Nin Vasquez for the 2026-2027 school year.

D. **APPROVAL - Substitute Teachers/Paraprofessionals/Custodians**

Motion to approve the following substitute teachers/paraprofessionals/custodians for the 2026-2027 school Year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>
Anthony Scarazati	Custodian - no certification needed
Nicole Buccola	Substitute Certification

E. **APPROVAL - Home Instruction for 2026-2027**

Motion to approve the following teachers for home instruction for the 2026-2027 school year, at a rate of \$50 per hour, on an as-needed basis:

- Erika Dunn
- Bernadette Flood
- Charlene Gerbig
- Catherine Gibney
- Josephine Hunt
- Ornit Katzin
- Kaitlin Lange
- Chelsea Smith

F. **APPROVAL - Hillside Elementary School Loop Duty Staff**

Motion to approve the following staff for loop duty at Hillside Elementary School at a rate of \$24.27 per session:

- Allison Esposito
- Charlene Gerbig
- Alyssa Levy
- Claire Pidi
- Kristin Talty

Substitutes

- Judith Eller
- Diane Ferraro
- Catherine Gibney
- Brielle Tacconi

- G. **APPROVAL - Tenakill Middle School Harrington Avenue Supervision Staff**
Motion to approve the following staff for Harrington Avenue Supervision at Tenakill Middle School at a rate of \$24.27 per session:
- Paul Aguirre
 - Gabriella Garcia
 - Ornit Katzin
 - Megan McCafferty
 - Madilyn Palmer
 - Michelle Pletsch
 - Michael Wowkun
- H. **APPROVAL - Revision of Kelly Kawaguchi's Last Day as Long-Term Leave Replacement - Grade 1 Teacher**
Motion to approve the revision of Kelly Kawaguchi's last day as Long-Term Leave Replacement, HES Grade 1 Teacher, to December 3, 2026.
- I. **APPROVAL - Parent-Paid ABA Bass Therapists for Students ID #350001 and #361001**
Motion to approve the following parent-paid therapists from ABA Bass Therapists for Students ID #350001 and #361001:
- Jaymmie Escobar
 - Nicole Ozga
 - Fresia Retana
- J. **APPROVAL - Parent-Paid AG Behavioral Services Therapists for Student ID #340008**
Motion to approve the following parent-paid therapists from AG Behavioral Services Therapists for Student ID #340008:
- Gabrielle Ciarallo
 - Amanda Jeon
 - Dina Marinaccio
 - Renee Nemeth
 - Maria Rojas
- K. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Allyson Ho, Part-Time District COTA**
Motion to accept the resignation of Allyson Ho, part-time District COTA, effective August 11, 2026.
- L. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Francesca Rivellini as Mentor to Julianne Bilotta for the 2026-2027 School Year**
Motion to approve the appointment of Francesca Rivellini as mentor to provisionally licensed teacher Julianne Bilotta for 30 weeks of mentoring during the 2026-2027 school year.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Micera; Member: Ms. Finkelstein

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motions A and B.

Motions were _____ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. APPROVAL - Second Reading of Policies and Regulations

Motion to approve the second reading of the following policies and regulations, as per Appendix E.

- Policy 0142.1 - Nepotism
- Policy 1220 - Employment of Chief School Administrator
- Policy 1552 - Sexual Harassment - Staff
- Regulation 1552 - Sexual Harassment - Staff

B. APPROVAL – Emergency Adoption of Policy and Regulation 5516

Motion to approve the emergency adoption of Policy and Regulation 5516 - Use of Internet-Enabled Devices after first reading, pursuant to Bylaw 0131, given that the Board is required to have this policy in place at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. This emergency adoption shall terminate at the next Board meeting, at which time Policy and Regulation 5516 will be presented for second reading and formal adoption in accordance with Bylaw 0131, as per Appendix F.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to open the meeting for public comments.

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to close the meeting to public comments.

CLOSED SESSION MOTION (If required)

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve the following Closed Session Motion. Motion was _____ by a voice vote of the Board:

YEAS:

NAYS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education will adjourn to a Closed Session to discuss the following:

LEGAL MATTERS

The matters so discussed will be disclosed to the public as soon as and to the extent that such disclosure can be made without adversely affecting the public.

The Board went into Closed Session at _____ PM.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at _____ PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to adjourn the meeting at _____ PM.