

# CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Closter, New Jersey*

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

*Tenakill Middle School*

*June 11, 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 meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Secretary to the Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by having the date, time, and place thereof, posted at each school building within the district, district website, the Board of Education office, the Office of the Borough Clerk, and transmitted to *The Record* and *Northern Valley Suburbanite* newspapers.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES' 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 - E.

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 May 21, 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) incidents TMS-2526-24 and TMS-2526-25 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the May 21, 2026, meeting.

C. **APPROVAL – Application for Dual Use of Facilities**

WHEREAS, an annual application for the dual use of classrooms is required to be filed with the Executive County Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, in planning for the 2026-2027 school year, the district will need the dual use of several classrooms at Hillside Elementary School due to a shortage of available space;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education approves the filing for the renewal of Application(s) for Dual Use of Educational Space for rooms B101, C108, M01, M02, M03, and M04 in Hillside Elementary School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent and the Business Administrator are authorized to complete and submit the required documents to the Executive County Superintendent for approval.

D. **APPROVAL – Renewal Application for Multiple Temporary Instructional Spaces**

WHEREAS, Subchapter 8 of the New Jersey Administrative Code (6A:26-8.1) outlines standards for temporary school facilities, and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to 6A:26-8.1, it is required that the Executive County Superintendent shall annually monitor the temporary facilities of school districts for criteria set forth in this code,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education submits the renewal application for multiple temporary instructional spaces for SY 2026-2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education hereby acknowledges and affirms its commitment to compliance with Subchapter 8: Temporary School Facilities of the New Jersey Administrative Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent and the Business Administrator are authorized to complete and submit the required documents to the Executive County Superintendent for approval.

E. **APPROVAL - Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2026-2027 school year.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE**

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

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 - Staff Coursework for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Motion to approve the following courses for the 2025-2026 school year as recommended to the Superintendent by the Principals:

Staff Member:	Sofia Capparelli
Course No./Title:	1) EDUC 711X Creating a Mindful Environment
	2) EDUC 712O Bullying
	3) EDUC 715C Fit For Life
Institution:	University of LaVerne
Credits:	9 (3 credits each)

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Coursework for the 2026-2027 School Year**

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

Staff Member: Kathy Lee  
 Course No./Title: EDUC 719H: Gamify Your Classroom and Improve Student Engagement  
 Institution: University of LaVerne  
 Credits: 3

Staff Member: Catherine Ricca  
 Course No./Title: Learning Differences Between the Sexes  
 Institution: University of LaVerne  
 Credits: 2

**FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE**

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

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve Motions A - H.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

**A. APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from May 22, 2026, to May 31, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$809,418.77
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 2,000.00
Total	\$811,418.77

**B. APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from June 1, 2026, to June 8, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,536,768.02
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 6,547.60
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$ 1,986.46
Total	\$1,545,302.08

**C. APPROVAL - Purchase of Grades 1 - 4 Benchmark Assessment System from Heinemann**

Motion to approve the purchase of the Benchmark Assessment System 3-year bundle with digital access for Grades 1 - 4 from Heinemann, in the amount of \$14,820.26.

D. **APPROVAL – Contract for Realtime**

Motion to approve the annual contract for the 2026-2027 school year with Realtime for the following services:

Student Information System	\$ 14,839.28
Special Education Management/IEP Writer	\$ 5,521.59
504 Student Manager	\$ 2,484.72
Notification/Alert System & E-Signature	\$ 4,097.10
Annual Registration Fee	\$ 250.00
Annual Cost	\$ 27,192.69

E. **APPROVAL - Contract Award for Bergen County Special Services School District for Chapter 192/193 Non-Public Services**

Motion to award and approve the contract with Bergen County Special Services School District to provide remedial and auxiliary services to eligible students attending non-public schools for the 2026-2027 school year.

F. **APPROVAL - Environmental Services and Compliance Contract**

Motion to approve New Wave Engineering to provide environmental services and compliance support for the Closter Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year for \$5,675.00. The services will include the PEOSHA Plan, the Right-to-Know Survey, SDS/MSDS and employee training updates, the Integrated Pest Management Plan, the Indoor Air Quality Program, and Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) compliance and plan management.

G. **APPROVAL – Award of Broker of Record Contract for Medical and Dental Insurance to Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors**

Motion to approve the award of the Broker of Record contract for Medical and Dental Insurance to Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, effective July 1, 2026, pursuant to the Request for Proposals issued by the Closter Board of Education, for SY 2026-2027, subject to annual renewal for up to five years in accordance with the terms of the RFP. The Board hereby authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute the contract and any other documents necessary to effectuate the agreement.

H. **APPROVAL – Award of Contract for HVAC Replacement at Tenakill Middle School**

Motion to approve the award of the contract for the HVAC Replacement Project at Tenakill Middle School to Teo Technologies, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, as follows:

Base Bid – \$145,000
Alternate 1 – \$63,000
Alternate 2 – \$63,000
<u>Total Contract Amount – \$271,000 (including a \$10,000 allowance)</u>

Bids were received on May 28, 2026, and the bid submitted by Teo Technologies, Inc. was found to be responsive in all material respects. This award is conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the required insurance certificate, labor and materials/performance bond, AA201

Project Manning Report, and executed AIA Agreement within ten (10) days of the date of this resolution. The Board Attorney is directed to prepare the agreement consistent with this resolution and the bid documents. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute the agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate this award.

**PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve Motions A - AA.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

**A. APPROVAL – Employment Agreement for Non-Union Staff**

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Closter Board of Education hereby ratifies and approves the reappointment of the following staff members for the 2026-2027 School Year, in accordance with the terms of the Employment Agreement between the parties, which is on file in the Closter Board of Education office:

- Dianne Smith, Principal – Hillside Elementary School
- Christine Cipollini, Principal - Tenakill Middle School
- Lori Cohen, Director of Special Services
- Keith McElroy, Assistant Principal – Tenakill Middle School
- Justin O'Neill, Interim Assistant Principal - Hillside Elementary School
- Joseph Scaglione, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
- Vincenzo Salvati, Network Engineer/Computer Technician
- Karen Volpitto, Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools
- Doreen Scarpelli, Assistant to the Business Administrator/Accounts Payable
- Anna Suttora, Payroll and Benefits Specialist

**B. APPROVAL – Reappointment of School Business Administrator**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the reappointment of Floro M. Villanueva, Jr. as School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2026-2027 school year, at a salary of \$206,615 for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, in accordance with the Employment Agreement between the parties as approved by the Executive County Superintendent.

**C. APPROVAL - SY 2026-2027 Personnel**

Motion to approve, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following personnel for SY 2026-2027, attached hereto as Appendix A - D.

Certificated Staff - Appendix A  
Paraprofessionals - Appendix B

- D. **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:
- Destiny Chavez
  - Jaymmie Escobar
- E. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Hailee Scarafile as Speech-Language Therapist - Tenakill Middle School**  
Motion to approve the appointment of Hailee Scarafile as TMS full-time, tenure-track Speech-Language Therapist for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$71,700, MA Step 2, starting September 1, 2026, pending a criminal history background check.
- F. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Emily Linick as School Psychologist - Tenakill Middle School**  
Motion to approve the appointment of Emily Linick as TMS full-time, tenure-track School Psychologist for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$72,700, MA +15 Step 1, starting September 1, 2026, pending a criminal history background check.
- G. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Tracy Barron as District Behaviorist**  
Motion to approve the appointment of Tracy Barron as full-time, tenure-track District Behaviorist for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$107,550, MA +30 Step 15, starting September 1, 2026, pending a criminal history background check.
- H. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Isabella Vitolo as Grade 2 Teacher - Hillside Elementary School**  
Motion to approve the appointment of Isabella Vitolo as HES full-time, tenure-track Grade 2 Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$71,700, MA Step 2, starting September 1, 2026, pending a criminal history background check.
- I. **APPROVAL – Child Study Team Summer Work**  
Motion to approve the following Child Study Team staff for the summer assessment completion, from June 25, 2026, to August 31, 2026, at their contractual per diem rate, for a maximum of 5 days, unless additional time is required to remain compliant with the student's IEP:
- Wendy Alfonso
  - Lauren Bulger
  - Kira Cohen
  - Cassandra Perez

J. **APPROVAL – Appointment of HES Academic Assistance Program Staff**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following teachers for Hillside Elementary School Academic Assistance Program, July 6 - 30, 2026, for 16 sessions, 3.5 hours per session, at a rate of \$50.00/hour per teacher:

- Katherine Dunn
- Lauren Finan
- Kaitlin Lange
- Deborah Gonzalez
- Substitutes: Allison Bachmann, Allison Esposito, Charlene Gerbig, Catherine Gordon, Kathy Lee, Sarah Hodulik

K. **APPROVAL – Appointment of Staff for HES Summer Transition Program for New-to-District Students**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following teachers for the HES Summer Transition Program for New-to-District Students for the Summer of 2026, up to four (4) hours at \$50.00/hour per teacher:

- Jodi Belnick
- Sara Hodulik
- Suzanne Lang
- Alyssa Levy
- Catherine Ricca
- Cassandra San-Emeterio
- Dara Weiss

L. **APPROVAL – Appointment of HES Kindergarten Kickstart Program Staff**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following teachers for the Kindergarten Kickstart Program for the Summer of 2026, up to four (4) hours at \$50.00/hour per teacher:

- Suzanne Lang
- Songhee (Joy) Lee
- Megan Weis
- Dara Weiss
- Kaitlyn Yu

M. **APPROVAL – Appointment of TMS Academic Assistance Program Staff**

Motion to approve the following teachers for the Tenakill Middle School Academic Assistance Program, July 6 through July 30, 2026, for 16 sessions, 3.5 hours per session, at a rate of \$50.00/hour per teacher:

- Mary Auriti
- Erika Dunn
- Kevin Hernandez
- Christopher Rota
- Substitutes: Angela Banta, Catherine Ianni, Ornit Katzin, Shannon SanGeorge

- N. **APPROVAL – Appointment of Multisensory Reading Program Staff**  
 Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Jennifer Annese to serve in the MSR Program from July 6 - 30, 2026, for up to 32 hours at a rate of \$50.00 per hour.
- O. **APPROVAL – Appointment of HES Pre-K Summer Program Teachers**  
 Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following teachers for Hillside Elementary School Pre-K Summer Program, July 6 - 31, 2026, for 4 hours/day at a rate of \$50.00/hour per teacher:
- Josephine Hunt (10 days)
  - Brielle Tacconi (10 days)
  - Substitute: Patricia Brett, Kerra Corio, Bernadette Flood, Charlene Gerbig, Ornit Katzin, Alyssa Levy, Sarah Hodulik, Kerry Vogel
- P. **APPROVAL – Appointment of HES Pre-K Summer Program Paraprofessionals**  
 Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following paraprofessionals for Hillside Elementary School Pre-K Summer Program, July 6 - 31, 2026, 3.5 hours/day per paraprofessional at their rate for the 26-27 school year:
- Cheryl Friedrich - \$24.27 per hour
  - Dawn Lazzari - \$24.27 per hour
  - Substitute: Hannah Kim (\$22.59/hour), Victoria Foley (\$24.27/hour), Ronit Shem Tov (\$24.27/hour), Alina Zankevich (\$22.59/hour)
- Q. **APPROVAL – Appointment of 1:1 Support Staff for Summer Programs**  
 Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following paraprofessionals for the July 2026 summer programs:
- Valley ESY Program (July 6 - 31, 2026)
    - Student 2287020694 - Alice Velella, 3.5 hours per day at a rate of \$24.27 per hour.
  - Tenakill MS AAP (July 6 - 30, 2026)
    - Student 6778917293 - Jean Chen, 3 hours per day at a rate of \$24.27 per hour.
- R. **APPROVAL – Summer Hours for Part-time Office Clerks**  
 Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following part-time office clerks for July and August 2026 at a rate as scheduled below:
- Hillside Elementary School (not to exceed 140 hours for the school)
    - Margaret Markgraf - \$24.27 per hour
    - Chelsea Ward - \$22.59 per hour
  - Tenakill Middle School (not to exceed 140 hours for the school)
    - Mary Oakes - \$24.27 per hour
    - Wendy Ruiz-Hernandez - \$24.27 per hour
  - Child Study Team (not to exceed 80 hours)
    - Katarina Sorman - \$24.27 per hour

S. **APPROVAL – Related Service Providers for Summer Program**

Motion to approve the following district staff to provide a range of services to students participating in the summer programs:

- Allyson Ho, COTA - maximum of 14 hours at a rate of \$38.00/hour
- Cara Kupersmith, Speech Therapist - maximum of 15 hours at a rate of \$50.00/hour
- Gila Rachlin, Speech Therapist - maximum of 15 hours at a rate of \$50.00/hour
- Nancy Saccoccio, Occupational Therapist - maximum of 12 hours at a rate of \$50.00/hour

T. **APPROVAL – Summer Work Days for School Counselors and Technology Coordinators**

Motion to approve the following school counselors and technology coordinators for five (5) summer work days in accordance with the Closter Education Association (CEA) Agreement, to be compensated at their respective per diem rates.

- Joseph Calabria, TMS Tech Coordinator
- Alexandra Earle, TMS Counselor
- Joanne Iyo, HES Tech Coordinator
- Suzanne Lang, HES Counselor
- Callie Stabile, TMS Counselor
- Dara Weiss, HES Counselor

U. **APPROVAL – IEP Meeting Staff**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following teachers for IEP meeting attendance, June 25, 2026, through August 31, 2026, at a rate of \$50.00/hour as needed:

- Jennifer Annese
- Angela Banta
- Jodi Belnick
- Patricia Brett
- Allison Bachmann
- Kerra Corio
- Amanda Cummings
- Erika Dunn
- Bernadette Flood
- Charlene Gerbig
- Catherine Gibney
- Josephine Hunt
- Catherine Ianni
- Ornit Katzin
- Brianna Kehoe
- Alyssa Levy
- Brianna McKancha
- Jamie Morgan
- Catherine Ricca
- Chelsea Smith
- Brielle Tacconi
- Kerry Vogel
- Andrea Watkins

V. **APPROVAL – Summer Nurse for HES and TMS Summer Programs**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mary Terese Lombino, as school nurse for the Summer Programs in Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School, July 6 through July 31, 2026, at a rate of \$50.00/hour from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

W. **APPROVAL - Hillside Elementary School Summer Programs for July 2026**

Motion to approve the summer programs to be offered at Hillside Elementary School in July 2026:

- Summer STEM Program
  - Facilitators: Ms. Joanne Iyo and Ms. Silvia Jost
  - Dates: July 6-10, 2026, and July 13-17, 2026
  - Hourly Rate: \$50.00 per hour
- Summer Readers' Theater Program
  - Facilitator: Ms. Alyssa Levy
  - Dates: July 6-10, 2026
  - Hourly Rate: \$50.00 per hour
- Math Mavens
  - Facilitators: Ms. Charlene Gerbig and Ms. Allison Bachmann
  - Dates: July 20-24, 2026
  - Hourly Rate: \$50.00 per hour

*\*\*Excess program revenue, if any, shall be distributed to participating teachers upon program completion.*

X. **APPROVAL – Summer Custodial Assistants**

Motion to approve the employment of the following 2026 Summer Custodial Assistants on an as-needed basis and not to exceed 7.5 hrs/day, starting June 25, 2026, through August 28, 2026:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hr/Rate</u>
Justin Comer	\$19.00
Mayuli Copeland	\$21.00
Vivian Vail De Rodriguez	\$21.00
Joseph Suttora	\$17.00
Everette Amorosano	\$16.00

Y. **APPROVAL - Summer Technology Assistant**

Motion to approve Joseph Moskowitz's summer employment as a Technology Assistant at \$21 per hour, starting June 26, 2026, until August 28, 2026, for a maximum of 150 hours.

Z. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Mentors for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve the appointment of the following mentors to provisionally licensed teachers for 30 weeks in the 2026-2027 school year as follows:

- Allison Esposito to mentor Isabella Vitolo
- Kerry Sidrow to mentor Joseph Moskowitz

AA. **APPROVAL - Rachel Fineman, Tenakill Middle School Grade 8 Language Arts Teacher - Paid Leave of Absence Using Sick Days**

Motion to approve Rachel Fineman, TMS Grade 8 L.A. Teacher, for a paid leave of absence using sick days from May 27, 2026, through the end of the 2025-2026 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 - First Reading of Policies and/ Regulations**

Motion to approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations, as per Appendix E:

- Policy 5112 - Entrance Age
- Policy 0162 - Notice of Board Meetings
- Policy 0162.01 - Legal Notices
- Policy 1230 - Superintendent’s Duties
- Policy 1643 - Family Leave
- Policy 2200 - Curriculum
- Policy 2260 - Equity in School and Classroom Practices
- Policy 2411 - Career Education and Academic Counseling
- Policy 5561 - Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities
- Policy 6112 - Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures
- Policy 6115.02 - Federal Awards / Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures
- Policy 6311 - Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants
- Regulation 6115.01 - Federal Awards / Funds Internal Controls - Allowability of Costs

**B. APPROVAL - Abolishment of Regulations**

Motion to abolish the following regulations, as per Appendix F:

- Regulation 2200 - Curriculum Content
- Regulation 2411 - Guidance Counseling

**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:

**HIB Hearing  
HIB**

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.