

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

October 8, 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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

HIB SELF-ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION ON THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

Melissa Del Rosso, NJSBA Field Service Representative

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 - J.

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 September 17, 2026, Board of Education meeting minutes.

B. APPROVAL - Submission of the QSAC District Performance Review and Declaration Page

Motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) District Performance Review (DPR) and Declaration Page for the 2026-2027 school year to the Bergen County Executive County Superintendent of Schools, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2, as part of the QSAC district evaluation process. A copy of the DPR and Declaration Page is attached hereto as Appendix A.

C. APPROVAL – Submission of Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist

Motion to approve the submission of the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist for the 2026-2027 school year, completed annually as required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-6.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-8.1, and as part of the District's NJQSAC evaluation. The checklist covers health and safety indicators established by the NJDOE, NJDCA, NJUCC, PEOSHA, and NFPA for all school buildings used for instruction. The Board hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit the checklist and directs that a copy be kept on file for inspection and other legal purposes. A copy of the completed Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist for SY 2026-2027 is attached hereto as Appendix B.

D. APPROVAL – Tenakill Middle School Chronic Absenteeism Corrective Action Plan

Motion to approve the Chronic Absenteeism Corrective Action Plan for Tenakill Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.1, which requires that a school where 10% or more of enrolled students are chronically absent — defined as missing 10% or

more of school days — develop and present a corrective action plan to the Board of Education. The plan shall be reviewed and revised annually until the chronic absenteeism rate falls below 10%. A copy of the Corrective Action Plan is attached hereto as Appendix C.

E. **APPROVAL - School Self-Assessment For Determining Grades Under The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and Statement Of Assurances for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Motion to approve the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and SOA for the 2025-2026 school year as per Appendix D.

F. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill - Hillside E.S.**

The Board acknowledges that Hillside Elementary School successfully conducted its first emergency school bus exit drill, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2, at 9:00 a.m. on September 22, 2026, at the school's location, 340 Homans Avenue. Justin O'Neill, Interim Assistant Principal, and Nardin Gerges, Board Office Assistant, were in charge. The drill was for all students and was completed within 2 hours and 42 minutes. The official report is attached as Appendix E.

G. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill - Tenakill M.S.**

The Board acknowledges that Tenakill Middle School successfully conducted its first emergency school bus exit drill, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2, at 12:45 p.m. on September 22, 2026, at Tenakill Middle School, 275 High Street; Nardin Gerges, Business Office Assistant, and Keith McElroy, Assistant Principal, were the staff members in charge. The drill was for all students. The drill was completed within 1 hour and 45 minutes. The official report is attached as Appendix F.

H. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities of Hillside Elementary School by Closter Police Department**

Motion to approve the use of Hillside Elementary School by the Closter Police Department for practice drills on the evening of November 4, 2026.

I. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for Closter Junior Girl Scout Troop 97788**

Motion to approve the use of a classroom at Tenakill Middle School for the Closter Junior Girl Scout Troop 97788 for meetings during the 2026-2027 school year.

J. **APPROVAL - Bilingual Waiver for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve the Bilingual Waiver 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 Conferences**

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

Staff Member(s): Joanne Iyo
Conference: NJ School Boards Conference
Location: Atlantic City, NJ
Date: October 19 - 20, 2026
Cost to Board: \$233.36 (Hotel, meals, and transportation)

Staff Member(s): Dianne Smith
Conference: Writing Units of Study Support Session
Location: Paramus, NJ
Date: October 27, 2026
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Joseph Calabria
Conference: Law Adventure for Teachers Workshop
Location: New Brunswick, NJ
Date: October 20, 2026
Cost to Board: \$49.82 (Transportation)

Staff Member(s): Mary Auriti
Conference: NJ International Dyslexia Association (NJ IDA) Conference
Location: Hilton East Brunswick Hotel & Executive Meeting Center
Date: October 16, 2026
Cost to Board: \$318.69 (Registration and transportation)

Staff Member(s): Brianna Kehoe
Conference: Star Lab Training and Making Cross-Cutting Concepts Explicit
Location: Raritan Valley Community College
Date: October 14, 2026, and December 9, 2026
Cost to Board: \$382.04 (Transportation)

Staff Member(s): Christine Cipollini, Vincent McHale and Francesca Rivellini
Conference: NJ AI Literacy Summit
Location: NVRHS-OT
Date: December 7, 2026
Cost to Board: \$136.65 (Substitute and mileage)

Staff Member(s): Jennifer Annese
Conference: NJ International Dyslexia Association (NJ IDA) Conference
Location: Hilton East Brunswick Hotel & Executive Meeting Center
Date: October 16 and 17, 2026
Cost to Board: \$415.68 (Registration and transportation)

Staff Member(s): Tracy Barron, Kira Cohen and Matthew Vassallo
Conference: Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning - Basic K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Training
Location: Virtual
Date: October 29, 2026
Cost to Board: \$0

B. APPROVAL - Field Trips

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

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 8
Month: November 2026
Destination: Statue of Liberty
Location: New York, NY

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grades 7 and 8 TEP
Month: Once Per Month in the 2026-2027 School Year
Destination: Middle Schools in Various Towns
Location: Alpine, NJ; Cresskill, NJ and Emerson, NJ

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

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

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

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 September 18, 2026, to September 30, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,054,358.84
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 75,232.61
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$ 44.37
Laptop (Fund 61)	\$ 36.00
Total	\$1,129,671.82

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

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

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$525,965.85
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 1,729.49
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$ 807.82
Total	\$528,503.16

C. **APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration**

Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Kaitlyn Yu
Courses: 1) I'm So Stressed I Could Scream and
2) Social & Emotional Learning and Character Development
College/University: University of LaVerne
Remuneration: \$840.00

Staff Member: Alexandra Earle
Course: American School Counselor Association University - Career Development
College/University: Lindenwood University
Remuneration: \$339.00

D. **APPROVAL – Special Education Placements**

Motion to approve the following 2026-2027 Special Education placements for Closter Students:

<u>NJSMART#</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Placement</u>
1598620180	\$78,771.20	K	Valley Program

E. **APPROVAL – Tuition Contracts for Received Students**

Motion to approve tuition contracts for received students as outlined below for the months of September - November 2026:

<u>NJ LOCAL ID#</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Grade</u>
381069	\$5,503.52	1

F. **APPROVAL - District Share of Region III Consortium**

Motion to approve the Closter Public Schools' SY 2026-2027 contribution to the Region III Consortium, with Northern Valley Regional High School District serving as the Lead Local Education Agency (LEA), as follows:

<u>Program/Service</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
Special Education	\$149,411.00
Additional Related Services	\$100,000.00 (estimate)

G. **APPROVAL – Go Guardian Subscription Renewal**

Motion to approve the subscription renewal of Go Guardian, web content filtering and classroom device management, in the amount of \$10,557.00, through the Ed Services Commission of NJ Contract ESCNJ/AEPA 026-D.

H. **APPROVAL – Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1 Worksheet**

Motion to approve the Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1) per N.J.A.C.6A:26A and the annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, as required by the NJQSAC process, as per Appendix G attached.

I. **APPROVAL - Closeout of the HVAC Replacement at Tenakill Middle School**

Motion to approve the closeout of the HVAC Replacement Project at Tenakill Middle School, which was funded through the SY 26-27 Capital Reserve withdrawal. The contract, in the amount of \$271,000, including a \$10,000 allowance, was awarded to TEO Technologies Inc.

The following change orders were included in the project:

Change Order #1: Credit of built-in allowance

The final project cost is \$261,000, with \$10,000 remaining unused from the allowance. The district has received all required warranty documents, and the project is now considered complete.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

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

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

- A. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Catherine Park, Tenakill Middle School Paraprofessional**
Motion to accept the resignation of Catherine Park, TMS Paraprofessional, effective October 14, 2026.
- B. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Kevin Cox, Jr., as District Technology Administrator / Network Engineer**
Motion to approve the appointment of Kevin Cox, Jr., as full-time District Technology Administrator / Network Engineer for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$110,000, starting December 9, 2026, pending a criminal history background check.
- C. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Kaylee Duffy as Part-Time Occupational Therapist**
Motion to approve the appointment of Kaylee Duffy as part-time Occupational Therapist for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$28,680, MA Step 2, starting November 3, 2026, pending a criminal history background check.
- 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>
Julissa Agramonte	Substitute Teacher Certification
Janice Levy	Substitute Teacher Certification

- E. **APPROVAL – Hillside Elementary School Academic Support Program Staff**
Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for Hillside Elementary School Academic Support Program at a rate of \$50.00/hour per teacher:
- Catherine Gordon
 - Kaitlin Lange
 - Alyssa Levy
 - Cassandra San-Emeterio
 - Margaret Tahtabrounian
 - Substitutes: Charlene Gerbig, Allison Esposito and Sarah Hodulik
- F. **APPROVAL – Tenakill Middle School Academic Support Program Staff**
Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for Tenakill Middle School Academic Support Program at a rate of \$50.00/hour per teacher:

- Paul Aguirre
- Juliane Bilotta
- Erika Dunn
- Bernadette Flood
- Gabriella Garcia
- Deborah Gonzalez
- Michelle Pletsch
- Substitutes: Rachel Fineman, Anne Haarmann, Catherine Ianni, Christopher Rota, Michael Wowkun

G. **APPROVAL - Parent-Paid ABA Bass Therapist for Student ID #361001**

Motion to approve Gisselle Guyton as parent-paid ABA Bass therapist for Student ID #361001.

H. **APPROVAL - Observation Hours for Farha Saad in Hillside Elementary School**

Motion to approve Farha Saad, a Tenakill Middle School paraprofessional completing her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education with Grand Canyon University, to conduct 100 hours of required fieldwork and classroom observation at HES from 2:30 PM to 3:00 PM daily in Ms. Hunt's Pre-K classroom for the 2026-2027 school year.

I. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence for Leanne Falkenstern, Speech Teacher, Hillside Elementary School**

Motion to approve Leanne Falkenstern, HES Speech Teacher, for a leave of absence from December 2, 2026, through April 23, 2027, as follows:

- Paid sick leave from December 2, 2026, through January 26, 2027,
- Personal leave from January 27, 2027, through January 28, 2027,
- An FMLA and NJFLA child bonding leave from January 29, 2027, through April 23, 2027, with an anticipated return to work on April 26, 2027.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

School Year 2027-2028 Budget Calendar

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.