

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

September 17, 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

SSDS Reporting Period 2 for 2025-2026 School Year

Recognition of Employees Celebrating 20 Years in Closter Public Schools

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 - F.

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 August 20, 2026, Board of Education meeting minutes.

B. **APPROVAL - Nursing Services Plan for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve the Nursing Services Plan for the 2026-2027 school year, as per Appendix A.

C. **APPROVAL - Paraprofessional Staff Statement of Assurance for the 2026-2027 School Year - Period 1**

Motion to approve the Statement of Assurance regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for the second period of the 2026-2027 school year.

D. **APPROVAL - Gifted and Talented Report for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve the Gifted and Talented Report for the 2026-2027 school year.

E. **APPROVAL – Release of Closed Session Minutes**

Motion to approve the release of the Closed Session Minutes for the following dates, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and N.J.S.A. 10:4-14 of the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act, which require that closed session minutes be made available for public disclosure when the matters discussed therein have been resolved or the need for confidentiality no longer exists:

- September 8, 2022
- September 22, 2022
- October 12, 2022
- November 17, 2022
- December 3, 2024, Session #1
- May 21, 2025, Session #1

The Board has reviewed the minutes for the above dates and determined that the matters discussed during those closed sessions have been resolved and that public disclosure is now appropriate.

F. **APPROVAL - Reflective Practice Protocol for 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve the Reflective Practice Protocol for the 2026-2027 school year for those teachers who were rated Highly Effective in the 2025-2026 school year. Teachers rated highly effective may choose to participate in this process.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

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

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

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: Megan Weis
Course No./Title: EDUC 715G ADD/ADHD Strategies and Interventions for the Classroom
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 3

Staff Member: Kaitlyn Yu
Course No./Title: EDUC 715G ADD/ADHD Strategies and Interventions for the Classroom
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 3

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

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

Staff Member(s): Vincent McHale and Floro Villanueva Jr.
Conference: QSAC Training - Finance, Governance, Operations & Personnel
Location: Bergen Community College - Meadowlands Campus
Date: 9/22/26
Cost to Board: \$33.84 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Keith McElroy and Justin O'Neill
Conference: QSAC Training - Instruction & Program
Location: Bergen Community College - Meadowlands Campus

Date:	9/23/26
Cost to Board:	\$33.84 (Mileage)
Staff Member(s):	Alyssa Levy, Katharine Meyers, Grace Park, Meghan Pleus, Lori Scalera and Andrea Watkins
Conference:	NJ International Dyslexia Association (NJ IDA) Conference
Location:	Hilton East Brunswick Hotel & Executive Meeting Center
Date:	10/16/26 and 10/17/26
Cost to Board:	\$2,533.82 (Registration, substitute, and mileage)
Staff Member(s):	Dianne Smith
Conference:	EZ Ride Annual Recognition Event
Location:	Galloping Hill Golf Course, Kenilworth, NJ
Date:	9/24/26
Cost to Board:	\$16.45 (Mileage)
Staff Member(s):	Christine Cipollini, Vincent McHale, and Dianne Smith
Conference:	SNAP Conference & Luncheon
Location:	The Venetian, Garfield, NJ
Date:	10/6/26
Cost to Board:	\$68.53 (Mileage)
Staff Member(s):	Silvia Jost
Conference:	NJ Science Convention
Location:	Princeton, NJ
Date:	10/21/26
Cost to Board:	\$375.00 (Registration and substitute)
Staff Member(s):	Jennifer Annese, Charles Connell, Bernadette Flood, Jennifer Gismondi, Jamie Morgan, Justin O'Neill, Michelle Pletsch, Lori Scalera and Brielle Tacconi
Conference:	Crisis Prevention Institute Training
Location:	Hillside Elementary School
Date:	9/30/26
Cost to Board:	\$1,354.91 (Registration and substitute)

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School:	Tenakill Middle School
Group:	Grade 8
Month:	October 2026
Destination:	NVRHS-Demarest
Location:	Demarest, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grades 7 and 8
Month: December 2026
Destination: NVRHS-Demarest
Location: Demarest, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grades 7 and 8 Choir
Month: January 2027
Destination: NVRHS-Demarest
Location: Demarest, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 8 Band and Orchestra
Month: January 2027
Destination: NVRHS-Demarest
Location: Demarest, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Orchestra and Band Concert
Month: May 2027
Destination: Six Flags
Location: Jackson, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 6
Month: November 2026
Destination: Fairview Lake YMCA Camp
Location: Newton, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 8 Science Class
Month: Various Dates during the 2026-2027 School Year
Destination: Memorial Field
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 8 and the Green Team
Month: Monthly during the 2026-2027 School Year
Destination: Tenakill Brook
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Science Olympiad Team
Month: November 2026, December 2026, January 2027 and February 2027
Destination: Virtual
Location: Closter, NJ

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

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

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

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

B. APPROVAL - Payment of Bills

Motion to approve payment of bills from August 21, 2026, to August 31, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$410,849.31
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 93,000.00
Total	\$503,849.31

- C. Motion to approve payment of bills from September 1, 2026, to September 15, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,978,987.11
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 1,190.00
Total	\$1,980,177.11

D. **APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration**

Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Erika Dunn
Course: 1) The Happy Classroom, 2) Executive Functioning and Behavioral Support Plans, and 3) The Chromebook Classroom
College/University: Fresno Pacific University
Remuneration: \$1,000.00

Staff Member: Margaret Tahtabrounian
Course: 1) The Multicultural Classroom, 2) Teaching the Latino Student, and 3) Bridging the Culture and Poverty Gap in Education
College/University: University of LaVerne
Remuneration: \$1,000.00

Staff Member: Megan Weis
Course: 1) I'm So Stressed I Could Scream and 2) Social & Emotional Learning and Character Development
College/University: University of LaVerne
Remuneration: \$580.00

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

Motion to approve tuition contracts for received students as outlined below for the month of September:

<u>NJ LOCAL ID#</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Grade</u>
341169	\$1,869.10	5
361134	\$1,869.10	3
361133	\$1,869.10	3
341170	\$1,869.10	5
361135	\$1,869.10	3

F. **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>
3242024283	\$31,509.90	6	Banyan School

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldi; Members: Mr. Shih, 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 - Schedule F Job Descriptions**

Motion to approve the following Schedule F job descriptions, as per Appendix B:

- Athletic Coach
- Chemistry Club
- Overnight Field Trip Coordinator
- Team Leader

B. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Schedule F Staff Positions**

Motion to approve the School Year 2026-2027 Schedule F: Extracurricular Activity Positions and Stipends for Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School as per Appendix C.

C. **APPROVAL - Paraprofessional Staffing List and Building Assignments**

Motion to approve the Paraprofessional Staffing List for SY 2026-2027, including building assignments as per Appendix D.

D. **APPROVAL - Clinical Interns for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve the following clinical interns for the 2026-2027 school year:

INTERN	UNIVERSITY	TEACHER
Chloe Bedoya	Ramapo	Amanda Cummings
Nevin Guler	Ramapo	Kristin Talty
Jenna Komar	Montclair	Lauren Bulger
Lyneah Lucious	Seton Hall	Dara Weiss
Katherine Warbrick	Ramapo	Meghan Pleus

E. **APPROVAL - Discretionary Leave of Absence for Brittany Travisano**

Motion to approve the discretionary leave of absence for Brittany Travisano from November 23, 2026, through the end of the 2026-2027 school year with an anticipated return to work date of September 1, 2027.

F. **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>
Maria DiBiase	New Jersey School Nurse
Zachary Fleury	New Jersey Substitute Certification
Samantha A List	New Jersey Substitute Certification
Julie Mathew	New Jersey School Nurse
Patrick Moynihan	New Jersey Substitute Certification
Poonam Nagpal	New Jersey Substitute Certification
Giana Rizzo	New Jersey Substitute Certification

G. **APPROVAL - Revision in Leave of Absence Dates for Kerry Vogel, Grade 3 Teacher**

Motion to approve the revision in leave of absence dates for Kerry Vogel, Grade 3 Teacher, from September 3, 2026, through June 30, 2027, as follows:

- Personal leave from September 3, 2026, through September 8, 2026;
- Paid sick leave from September 9, 2026, through October 12, 2026;
- An FMLA and NJFLA child bonding leave from October 13, 2026, through January 5, 2027.
- A discretionary, uncompensated leave pursuant to Board Policy 1644 (contingent upon Board approval) from January 6, 2027, through June 30, 2027.
- Anticipated return to work date is September 1, 2027.

H. **APPROVAL - Retirement of Vincenzo Salvati, Network Engineer**

Motion to approve the retirement of Vincenzo Salvati, Network Engineer, effective December 31, 2026.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Micera; Member: Ms. Finkelstein

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motion A.

Motion was _____ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **APPROVAL – Second Reading of Policy and Regulation #5516**

Motion to approve the second reading of Policy and Regulation #5516 - Use of Internet-Enabled Devices, as per Appendix E.

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:

(If required)

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.