

**CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Closter, New Jersey**

MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Tenakill Middle School  
April 11, 2019  
7:30 PM

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The Work Session was called to order by President Lambert at 7:30 PM.

The following Board members were present:

Ms. Stephanie Lee, Mr. Linn, Ms. Sung Min Lee, Ms. Bhagat,  
Ms. Micera, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Mr. Lambert

The following Board member was absent:

Ms. Finkelstein

Also present: Ms. Newberry, Mr. Villanueva, Jr.

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, the Board of Education office, the Office of the Borough Clerk, and transmitted to *The Record* and *Northern Valley Suburbanite* newspapers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Lambert.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- New Principal hired for Hillside ES
- Language Arts teacher hired for Tenakill
- Transgender Committee
- Professional Learning Academy
- Summaries of Non-Tenured staff

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated April 1, 2019 from Ms. Rhonda Starer, Tenakill MS Language Arts teacher  
Letter dated April 2 2019 from Ms. Cindy Schama, Hillside ES Special Education  
paraprofessional  
Letter from Closter Chinese Parent Group with donation for tree/garden in memory of  
Mr. Baffa

MINUTES

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Stephanie Lee to approve the following  
minutes. Motion was unanimously carried by voice vote of the Board:  
March 28, 2019 Regular Meeting; March 28, 2019 Executive Session

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Stephanie Lee to open the meeting to the  
public.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Stephanie Lee to resume the regular order of  
business.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

**Chairperson Ms. Sung Min Lee, Ms. Bhagat, Mr. Linn**

Moved by Ms. Sung Min Lee, seconded by Mr. Linn to approve Motions A-C. Motions  
were approved by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS: Ms. Stephanie Lee, Mr. Linn, Ms. Sung Min Lee, Ms. Bhagat,  
Ms. Micera, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Mr. Lambert  
NAYS: none

A. Motion to approve the following field trips:

School: Hillside ES  
Group: Gr. 4  
Month: May 2019  
Destination: Liberty Science Center  
Location: Jersey City, NJ

School: Hillside ES  
Group: Gr. 1 - Ms. Hirsch  
Month: April 2019  
Destination: Closter Nature Center  
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Tenakill MS  
Group: Debate Team  
Month: May 2019  
Destination: NJ Speech/Debate League - Middle School State Championship  
Location: Basking Ridge, NJ

School: Hillside ES  
Group: Kindergarten  
Month: June 2019  
Destination: Bergen County Zoological Park  
Location: Paramus, NJ

B. Motion to approve the following staff conferences for 2018-2019:

Staff Member/s: Vincent Salvati  
Conference: Safe Schools Task Force  
Location: Bergen County Community College, Paramus, NJ  
Date: April 26, 2019  
Cost to Board: Transportation fees \$15.87

C. Motion to approve the following staff conferences for 2019-2020:

Staff Member/s: Eileen Kennedy  
Conference: Neuropsychological Evaluation, Diagnosis and Treatment of  
Dyslexia and Related Learning Disorders  
Location: FDU- Teaneck, NJ  
Date: July 23, 2019  
Cost to Board: Registration fees \$75

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

**Chairperson Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Ms. Stephanie Lee**

Moved by Ms. Kothari, seconded by Ms. Micera to approve Motions A-F.

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

YEAS: Ms. Stephanie Lee, Mr. Linn, Ms. Sung Min Lee, Ms. Bhagat,  
Ms. Micera, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Mr. Lambert

NAYS: none

A. Motion to approve payment of bills from 3/27/2019 to 4/11/2019 in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,081,677.50
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 3,834.00
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	<u>\$ 1,078.29</u>
TOTAL	\$1,086,589.79

- B. Motion to retroactively approve the revised amount of the previously awarded Proprietary Apple Devices contract from \$50,024.95 to \$43,574.95, and \$33,984.95 to \$30,230.95.
- C. Motion to approve attached **Resolution** and proposals for the purchase of Proprietary Apple Devices in the amount of \$8,976.00 per Appendix A.
- D. Motion to approve facilities use of Hillside ES playing field by the Vikings Futbol Club for youth soccer practice, Mondays through Thursdays, beginning Friday, April 12, 2019; time of use is 4:00 PM to 8:30 PM (until dark).
- E. Motion to approve facilities use of Tenakill MS gym for PTO Military Bridge fundraiser, on Friday, May 3, 2019, approximately 3:10:-11:00 pm, (Set-up and clean-up).
- F. **Approval of Contract for SY 2019-2020 - DynTek Services Inc.**  
RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education awards the SY 2019-2020 contract to DynTek Services Inc., for the Network & Wireless Upgrade (E-rate Project) at Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School. DynTek Services Inc. is the lowest and most responsive quote for a total of \$86,647.93. This contract is awarded through the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) and State of NJ Contract # 87720 per Appendix B.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Chairperson Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Micera, Mr. Lambert**

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Mr. Linn to approve Motions A-N. Motions were by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS: Ms. Stephanie Lee, Mr. Linn, Ms. Sung Min Lee, Ms. Bhagat,  
Ms. Micera, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Mr. Lambert

NAYS: none  
Ms. Bhagat recused herself on Motion A.

- A. Motion to approve Michele Bhagat as volunteer nurse chaperone effective April 12, 2019.
- B. Motion to approve the following volunteer/chaperones for Gr. 8 Washington DC overnight trip:  
Christopher Rota  
Michele Novelli  
Mrs. Tingson  
Mrs. Arthur
- C. Motion to approve a change of assignment for Ms. Jiyeon (Janice) Kim from

Tenakill MS Special Education paraprofessional to Hillside ES Pre-K Special Education paraprofessional, and an increase in daily hours from 4.0 hours to 4.5 hours/day, effective April 24, 2019.

- D. Motion to approve, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the employment of Ms. NaynaBen Dhorajia as Tenakill MS Special Education paraprofessional for 4.0 hours/day, pending NJ DOE Criminal History Review.
- E. Motion to approve, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the hiring of Ms. Elizabeth Brown, Hillside ES teacher, at a salary of \$60,874, MA Step 2, for school year 2019-2020.
- F. Motion to approve a discretionary leave of absence for Ms. Ashley McConnell, Gr. 4 teacher, for school year 2019-2020 from 9/1/2019 with an anticipated return date of 9/1/2020.
- G. Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Ms. Rhonda Starer, Tenakill Language Arts teacher, effective June 30, 2019.
- H. Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Cindy Schama, Hillside Special Education paraprofessional, effective April 26, 2019.
- I. Motion to approve request by Joseph Guariglia, a sophomore occupational therapy honors student at Dominican College, for observation with Ms. Nancy Saccoccio in order to complete his degree requirements.
- J. Motion to approve request for Christy Hernandez, a junior in the B.S. Nursing Program at Dominican College, for observation with Ms. Kristen Haenelt, RN, in order to complete her degree requirements.
- K. Motion to approve the following personnel as the Affirmative Action Team to assess the District's needs and to develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan for school years 2019-2022:

Keith McElroy, Affirmative Action Officer  
William Tantum  
Patricia Eichenlaub  
Alexandra Earle  
Patricia Brett  
Tara Eddy

- L. Motion to approve first reading of the following Closter Board of Education policy and regulation:

Policy #5141.4 Missing, Abused and Neglected Children  
Regulation #5141.4 Missing, Abused and Neglected Children

- M. Motion to approve, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the hiring of Ms. Julia Leibowitz, Tenakill MS Language Arts teacher, at a salary of \$50,844, BA Step 1, for school year 2019-2020.
- N. **Approval of Hillside Elementary School Principal**  
BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Closter Board of Education approves the hiring of Ms. Dianne M. Smith as Principal of Hillside Elementary School, at a salary of \$140,000, commencing July 1, 2019.

BOARD COMMITTEES

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Stephanie Lee to open the meeting to public discussion.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Sung Min Lee to close the meeting to public discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Sung Min Lee to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Floro M. Villanueva, Jr.