

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

April 30, 2025 - 7:30 PM

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

Roll Call:

Ms. Argenziano	_____
Mr. Choi	_____
Ms. Estrems	_____
Ms. Lee	_____
Ms. Li	_____
Ms. Micera	_____
Mr. Paldi	_____
Ms. Salamea-Cross	_____
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

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION

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 April 9, 2025, 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-2425-18 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the April 9, 2025, meeting.

C. APPROVAL - Tenakill School's Student Council Student and Teacher Kickball Game Fundraiser

Motion to approve TMS Student Council's Student and Teacher Kickball Game fundraiser to raise funds for school community events/activities for the 2025-2026 school year.

D. RESOLUTION - Accepting the Resignation of Board Trustee Magaly Salamea-Cross

WHEREAS, Magaly Salamea-Cross has served as a dedicated member of the Closter Board of Education since January of 2020, providing valuable insight and leadership during her tenure and;

WHEREAS, Magaly Salamea-Cross has submitted her resignation from the Closter Board of Education, effective May 7, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education, with deep appreciation for her service and contributions to the district, hereby accepts the resignation of Magaly Salamea-Cross, effective May 7, 2025;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education extends its sincere gratitude to Magaly Salamea-Cross for her five and a half years of dedicated service and wishes her success in her future endeavors.

E. **APPROVAL - Addition of an NVRHS-D Student for Senior Service Workplace Learning Experience**

Motion to approve the participation of an additional senior, Andrew Park, in the Senior Service workplace learning experience.

F. **APPROVAL - New Jersey Inclusion Project for Closter Public Schools**

Motion to approve an application to participate in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and New Jersey Inclusion Project (NJIP)'s *New Jersey Inclusion Project*. This project is a comprehensive endeavor designed to facilitate systemic change and promote student placement in the least restrictive environments (LRE) in K-12 schools across New Jersey. NJIP aims to empower educators, administrators, students, and parents by providing tools, resources, and collaboration with experts to foster a supportive learning environment, ensuring that all students can be served in their least restrictive environments. This application is for a three-year partnership between Closter Public Schools (Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School) and an ALL IN Facilitator, funded through the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the New Jersey Institute of Public Health (NJIP).

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

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

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 for School Year 2024-2025**

Motion to approve the following courses for the 2024-2025 school year as recommended to the Superintendent by the Principals:

Staff Member:	Catherine Ricca
Course No./Title:	EDUC 712Y ABCs of Effective Mainstreaming & Inclusion
Institution:	University of LaVerne
Credits:	3

Staff Member: Grace Park
Course No./Title: 1) EDUC 711X Creating a Mindful Environment
2) EDUC 713J Motivating Students Who Don't Care
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 6 credits (3 credits each)

Staff Member: Maci DeCarlo
Course No./Title: 1) Child / Adolescent Psychopharmacology
2) Seminar in School Change
Institution: Fairleigh Dickinson University
Credits: 6 credits (3 credits each)

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Coursework for School Year 2025-2026**

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

Staff Member: Lauren Finan
Course No./Title: Master of Science in Educational Literacy
Institution: St. Thomas Aquinas College
Credits: Master's Program

Staff Member: Erika Dunn
Course No./Title: 1) ELA 913 Teaching Writing (6-12)
2) ELA 923 Teaching Literary Elements (6-12)
3) EDUC 927 Teacher Burnout: Prevention & Recovery
Institution: Fresno Pacific University
Credits: 9 (3 credits each)

Staff Member: Brittany Steele
Course No./Title: 1) MAT 935 Art-Enhanced Mathematics
2) MAT 932 Using Rich Math Tasks in the Classroom
3) MAT 924 Virtual Manipulatives
Institution: Fresno Pacific University
Credits: 9 (3 credits each)

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

Motion to approve the following field trips for the 2024-2025 school year:

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: SGLC Group
Month: May 2025
Destination: Closter Plaza
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Hillside Elementary School
Group: Grade 4
Month: June 2025
Destination: Tenakill Middle School
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 7
Month: June 2025
Destination: Closter Public Library
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 7 Students Not Attending the Boston Overnight Trip
Month: May 2025 (Various dates)
Destination: Local Closter Destinations
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grades 5-8
Month: May 2025 (Various dates)
Destination: Martin Hicks Gallery at the Belskie Museum of Art & Science
Location: Closter, NJ

D. **APPROVAL - NVRHS Consortium Memorandum of Agreement - 2025-2026 School Year**

Motion to approve the Title IIA, III, III-Immigrant, and IV-Part A Consortium Memorandum of Agreement between the Northern Valley Regional High School Board of Education, as Lead Applicant, and the Closter Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year.

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Choi; Members: Ms. Estrems, Ms. Finkelstein

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

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 A attached:

- a. Board Secretary and School Treasurer Financial Reports for March 2025.
- b. Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for March 2025.
- c. Transfer of funds for March 2025.

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from April 10, 2025 to April 30, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,188,318.43
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 7,841.84
Capital Fund (Fund 30)	\$ 630,783.15
NJ Dept of Labor & Workforce Development	\$ 3,274.82
Total	\$1,830,218.24

C. **APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration**

Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Michelle Durocher
Course: 1) Canva for Education
2) Show & Tell Digital Artifacts of Student Learning
3) Google Drive for Educators
College/University: Fresno Pacific University
Remuneration: \$1,000.00

D. **APPROVAL - District Budget for SY 2025 - 2026**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the 2025-2026 school year budget and authorizes the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary to submit the final budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Local Tax Levy</i>
General Current Expense (Fund 11)	\$ 26,926,125	\$ 23,633,912

Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 934,341	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$ 27,860,466	\$ 23,633,912
Special Revenue Fund (Fund 20)	\$ 547,520	\$ 0
Debt Service Fund (Fund 40)	\$ 459,750	\$ 303,452
Total Base Budget	\$ 28,867,736	\$ 23,937,364

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Fund tax levy of **\$23,633,912** is approved to support Current General Expense that includes the use of **\$206,689** Health Care Costs Adjustment. The total budget tax levy, including Debt Service Fund, is **\$ 23,937,364**

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education accepts the State School Aid for the 2025-26 school year as follows:

Transportation Aid	98,966
Special Education Aid	1,438,479
Security Aid	166,009
Debt Service Aid	156,298
Less: SDA Assessment	<u>-14,941</u>
Total Aid	\$ 1,844,811

E. **APPROVAL - SY 2025-2026 Budget – Adjustment for Health Care Costs**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education approves the use of adjustment for increase in health care costs, permitting the tax levy to increase above 2% in the amount of **\$206,689**. The adjustment will be used to support the rising cost of health benefits for eligible district staff.

F. **APPROVAL - Capital Reserve Withdrawal (Other Capital Projects) for SY 2025-2026**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education, County of Bergen, includes in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620, a withdrawal in the amount of **\$900,000** from the Board of Education's approved **Capital Reserve Account** to fund Other Capital Projects:

Hillside Elementary School

- Network Infrastructure Replacements - \$150,000
- Blacktop around the new additional wing and upper loop drop-off area/playground - \$300,000

Tenakill Middle School

- Student locker replacement - \$450,000

The total cost of the projects represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner of Education as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Any funds withdrawn from Capital Reserve and unspent by the end of the school year shall be returned to the Capital Reserve fund.

G. **APPROVAL - Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal for SY 2025-2026 Budget**

BE IT RESOLVED that as per N.J.A.C 6A:23A-14.2(d), the Closter Board of Education withdraws **\$340,000** from the Board of Education's approved **Maintenance Reserve Account** for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan pursuant to N.J.A.C 6A:26-20.5.

H. **APPROVAL - Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement for SY 2025-2026**

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education has determined that the maximum travel expenditure amount includes all travel that is supported by state and local funds; and

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education established \$35,000.00 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has an obligated balance of \$21,270.00, as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Closter Board of Education hereby establishes the maximum travel and related expense reimbursement for the 2025 - 2026 school year at \$35,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

I. **APPROVAL - Participation in the Region V Joint Purchasing Program**

Motion to approve the participation of Closter Public Schools in the Region V Joint Purchasing Program for Direct Services and Evaluations on an as-needed basis for SY 2025-2026.

J. **APPROVAL - Contract with Dyntek (dba Arctiq) for the Purchase and Installation of Various Network (IT) Switches**

Motion to approve the contract with Dyntek (dba Arctiq) to purchase and install various network switches in Hillside Elementary School (Network Infrastructure Project Stage 3). The contract amount is \$89,229.87 through the NJ State Contract NVPAR 3227 PA #21-TELE-01506 and is funded using Capital Reserve as included in the SY 25-26 budget.

K. **APPROVAL - Contract with Nickerson NY, LLC for the TMS Locker Project**

Motion to approve the contract with Nickerson NY, LLC for the removal and disposal of old lockers and the installation of new lockers at Tenakill Middle School, in the amount of \$404,657.78, through the Educational Services Commission of NJ contract - ESCNJ 22/23-43: Lockers - Purchase, Installation and Repair, and is funded using Capital Reserve as included in the SY 25-26 budget.

L. **APPROVAL - Purchase of 40 MacBook Air Laptops**

Motion to approve the purchase of 40 MacBook Air laptops from Apple Inc., in the amount of \$52,720 through the Ed Services Commission of Morris County: Apple Contract #1670625.

M. **APPROVAL - Purchase of 4 DHCP/DNS Servers and DNSBOX 5-year Support**

Motion to approve the purchase of four (4) Appliansys DHCP/DNS Servers and DNSBOX 5-year support from CDW-G in the total amount of \$19,800. The purchase will be made through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) Cooperative Purchasing Contract – AEPA-22G Technology Catalog.

N. **APPROVAL – Acceptance of Local Recreation Improvement Grant Award for Hillside Elementary School Playground Enhancements**

Motion to accept the Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) in the amount of \$78,000, as awarded by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. This competitive grant supports the improvement and repair of public school recreational facilities.

Funds will be allocated for the improvement of the Hillside Elementary School playground by purchasing additional equipment and replacing the existing aging system. The project aligns

with the state's goal of expanding access to safe, quality outdoor recreation and supports the physical and mental well-being of all residents.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Salamea-Cross; Member: Mr. Paldi

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 - Appointment of Juliana Betsy as Leave Replacement Paraprofessional**

Motion to approve the appointment of Juliana Betsy as Leave Replacement Paraprofessional at Hillside Elementary School, covering for Lisa Posner, 5.75 hours per day, at a salary of \$20.89 per hour, with a start date of May 5, 2025, through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. A criminal history background check is on file.

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

Motion to approve the following substitute teachers/paraprofessionals/custodians for the 2024-2025 school Year:

Name

Certification

Abigail Capazzi

Substitute certificate

C. **APPROVAL - Jose Raudales - Extension of Leave of Absence**

Motion to approve Jose Raudales for an extension to his paid leave of absence as follows:

- From April 17, 2025, through May 11, 2025, with an anticipated return-to-work date of May 12, 2025.

D. **APPROVAL - Yaneth Carbajal Altamirano - Leave of Absence**

Motion to approve Yaneth Carbajal Altamirano for a leave of absence as follows:

- Nine (9) paid sick days from April 22, 2025, through May 2, 2025, and
- Ten (10) paid vacation days from May 5, 2025, through May 16, 2025, with an anticipated return-to-work date of May 19, 2025.

E. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Sophia Lanava - Tenakill Middle School Paraprofessional**

Motion to accept the resignation of Sophia Lanava, TMS Paraprofessional, effective May 15, 2025.

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:

**Personnel Matters
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.