

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

April 9, 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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Recognition of TMS Science Olympiad Team as NJ State Champions

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 - G.

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 March 19, 2025, Board of Education meeting minutes.

B. APPROVAL - Comprehensive Equity Plan (2025-2028) and Submission to NJDOE

Motion to approve the Closter Public Schools' Comprehensive Equity Plan for the 2025-2026 through 2027-2028 school years and authorize its submission to the New Jersey Department of Education for review and approval by the Executive County Superintendent as per Appendix A.

C. APPROVAL - Student Ambassadors' After-School Snack Sale Fundraiser

Motion to approve Tenakill Middle School's Student Ambassadors' After School Snack Sale fundraiser to raise funds for creating welcome bags and welcome events for new students as part of the Tenakill Sidekick Program for the 2025-2026 school year. Sales are scheduled for various dates from April to June 2025.

D. APPROVAL - Hillside Elementary School Summer Programs for July 2025

Motion to approve the summer programs to be offered at Hillside Elementary School in July 2025:

- Summer STEM Program (Two Sessions)
 - Facilitators: Ms. Joanne Iyo and Ms. Silvia Jost
 - Dates: July 14-18, 2025, and July 21-25, 2025
 - Tuition: \$180 per student per week
- Summer Readers' Theater Program
 - Facilitators: Ms. Alyssa Levy and Ms. Jodi Belnick
 - Dates: July 7-11, 2025
 - Tuition: \$180 per student

E. **APPROVAL - Students of Northern Valley Regional High School at Demarest - Senior Service Workplace Learning Experience**

Motion to approve students participating in the workplace learning experience, as per Appendix B.

F. **APPROVAL - NVRHS-D High School Students to Mentor the Science Olympiad Team**

Motion to approve the following NVRHS-D students to mentor the Science Olympiad Team from April 10, 2025, through May 22, 2025, after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at Tenakill Middle School:

Yuna Akiyama

Gabe Santana

Colin Ding

Ava Wong

Morrey Levine

Tea Yiu

Maryam Lohana

G. **APPROVAL - NJ School Boards Conference 2025**

Motion to approve the attendance of the following trustees and district employees at the NJ School Boards Conference in Atlantic City on October 20- 23, 2025:

Trustees: Cathy Lee, Edmund Choi, Jia Dee Li, Janine Micera, Marilyn Estrems

Staff: Vincent McHale, Floro Villanueva Jr.

Cost to Board: Group Registration of \$2,200

Individual Lodging, Mileage, Meals, and incidentals—a maximum of \$831.48 per person per GSA-approved travel regulations.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

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

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 - Staff Coursework**

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

Staff Member: Songhee (Joy) Lee

Course No./Title: EDUC 7130 Building Classroom Discipline

Institution: University of LaVerne

Credits: 3

Staff Member: Kaitlyn Yu
Course No./Title: EDUC 7130 Building Classroom Discipline
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 3

Staff Member: Megan Weis
Course No./Title: EDUC 7130 Building Classroom Discipline
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 3

Staff Member: Michelle Durocher
Course No./Title: 1) TECH-900 Video Editing for All Teachers
2) TEC-922 PowerPoint: Powerful Presentations
Institution: Fresno Pacific University
Credits: 6 credits (3 credits per course)

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

Motion to approve the following staff conferences for the 2024-2025 school year:

Staff Member(s): Eileen Kennedy
Conference: NJ Association of Learning Consultants
Location: Somerset, NJ
Date: 4/24/25
Cost to Board: \$238.77 (Registration and mileage)

Staff Member(s): Joseph Scaglione
Conference: NAETI Half-Day EPA/AHERA/OSHA Refresher
Location: Virtual
Date: 4/11/25
Cost to Board: \$220.00 (Registration)

Staff Member(s): Vincent McHale
Conference: NJASA / NJAPSA Spring Leadership Conference 2025
Location: Atlantic City, NJ
Date: 5/14/25 - 5/16/25
Cost to Board: \$537.48 (Mileage, hotel, meals & incidentals)

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Science Olympiad Team
Month: May 2025
Destination: University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

School: Hillside Elementary School
Group: Grade 4
Month: June 2025
Destination: NVRHS-D
Location: Demarest, NJ

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

D. **APPROVAL - Field Trip**

Motion to approve the following field trip for the 2025-2026 school year:

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 6
Month: November 2025
Destination: Fairview Lake YMCA
Location: Newton, NJ

E. **APPROVAL - Athletic Team Trip**

Motion to approve the athletic team trip for the 2024-2025 school year:

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Softball Team
Month: April 2025
Destination: NVRHS-D Field
Location: Demarest, NJ
Reason: Middle school softball team to watch high school softball game (parents to transport students)

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Choi; Members: Ms. Estrems, 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 March 20, 2025, to March 31, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$784,858.96
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 3,206.50
Total	\$788,065.46

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from April 1, 2025, to April 9, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,445,126.00
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 5,131.10
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$ 892.71
Total	\$1,451,149.81

C. **APPROVAL – Renewal of Athletic Transportation Contract**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education approves renewing the athletic transportation contract for the Closter Board of Education Athletics Route with Valley Transportation Co., Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year. The contract renewal is at a 0% increase, or \$425 per trip, with an adjustment of \$50 per ¼ hour for any additional time beyond 2.5 hours;

WHEREAS, this renewal is made in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3, which permits the negotiated renewal of student transportation contracts with current vendors provided that:

- The terms of the contract remain substantially the same, and
- The increase does not exceed the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) cap set by the Commissioner of Education;

AND WHEREAS, the proposed renewal reflects no increase in cost, remaining within the allowable CPI cap of 3.57% for the 2025-2026 school year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the School Business Administrator / Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such contract and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall submit all required documents to the Executive County Superintendent in accordance with the regulations governing student transportation.

D. **APPROVAL – Authorization to Assign Contract Funds to Surety for Roof Replacement Project at HES and TMS**

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education entered into a contract dated on or about April 29, 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the “Contract”) with Duga Construction, LLC (hereinafter referred to as the “Duga”) for Partial Roof Replacement at Hillside Elementary School & Tenakill Middle School (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, as required by law and under the terms of the Contract, Duga and its surety, Bondex Insurance Company (hereinafter referred to as the “the Surety”) made, executed and delivered to the Board a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, Bond No. No. BX2400399 (collectively, the “Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, as a result of bond claims filed against the Surety against Duga on this Project, the Surety is exercising its assignment rights pursuant to the General Agreement and Indemnity, which provides that Duga agrees to assign all “rights and interests in any insurance policies” to the Surety; and

WHEREAS, the Surety provided the Board with an Assignment of Contract Funds executed by Duga March 19, 2025, directing the Board at the Surety’s request to pay any remaining Contract balances to the Surety; and

WHEREAS, upon the Surety’s receipt of any Contract Funds from this assignment, all monies will be placed in an isolated account that will only be accessed to address claims and costs specific to this Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board President and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute the Acknowledgement of Assignment to Surety of Contract Rights and Proceeds for the Surety and any and all other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

E. **APPROVAL - Roth 403(b) Investment Option for Employees**

Motion to approve the addition of a Roth 403(b) investment option for all eligible district employees, to be offered alongside the existing traditional 403(b) plan, with no cost or financial obligation to the district.

F. **APPROVAL – Purchase of CrowdStrike Falcon EDR**

Motion to approve the purchase of a 2-year contract for CrowdStrike Falcon Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) from CDW-G in the amount of \$67,450 through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) cooperative purchasing contract AEPA-22G. The two-year agreement results in a cost savings of \$5,660 compared to standard pricing. The software provides advanced cybersecurity protection for district devices and is necessary to maintain the district's cyber insurance coverage.

G. **APPROVAL - Disposal of Tab-Tensioned Screen at Hillside Elementary School**

Motion to approve the disposal of a tab-tensioned screen at HES, fixed asset tag #10197.

H. **APPROVAL - Disposal of Surplus Printers**

Motion to approve the disposal of surplus printers, which have been removed from classrooms and offices as part of the district's transition to centralized printer-copier devices, through sale via GovDeals or by donation to Acton Academy, other school districts, or local government entities.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

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 - Staff Chaperones for the Grade 3 Trip to Carnegie Hall in May 2025**

Motion to approve the following staff members as chaperones for the Grade 3 trip to Carnegie Hall in May 2025:

Laura Abbey (TMS staff)

Jamie Morgan

Jodi Belnick

Joe Moskowitz

Allison Esposito

Maria Pavlou

Lauren Finan

Claire Pidi

Charlene Gerbig

Daniella Riecken (TMS staff)

Kate Gibney

Pat Sorrentino

Kristen Haenelt

Kerry Vogel

Henry Hathaway

B. **APPROVAL - Rescindment of Appointment - Maria Barricella as Paraprofessional**

Motion to rescind the appointment of Maria Barricella as Hillside School Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year.

- C. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence for Suzanne Lang, Hillside School's School Counselor**
 Motion to approve Suzanne Lang, HES School Counselor, for a leave of absence as follows:
- FMLA leave from September 2, 2025, through September 16, 2025, and
 - FMLA and NJFLA from September 17, 2025, through November 25, 2025, with an anticipated return date of November 26, 2025.
- D. **APPROVAL - Unpaid Leave of Absence for Susan Hans, Hillside School Paraprofessional**
 Motion to approve Susan Hans, HES Paraprofessional, for an unpaid leave of absence, effective April 2, 2025, through April 11, 2025, (eight unpaid days) with an anticipated return to work date of April 21, 2025.
- E. **APPROVAL - Retirement of Jeffrey Roem, Tenakill School Grade 5 Math/Science Teacher**
 Motion to approve the retirement of Jeffrey Roem, TMS Grade 5 Math/Science Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.
- F. **APPROVAL - Retirement of Karen Caruso, Tenakill School Special Education Teacher**
 Motion to approve the retirement of Karen Caruso, TMS Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.
- G. **APPROVAL - Substitute Custodian**
 Motion to approve the following substitute custodian for the 2024-2025 school year:
- | <u>Name</u> | <u>Certification</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| James Emmet | Substitute Custodian |
- H. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Hannah Kim as Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 School Year**
 Motion to approve the appointment of Hannah Kim as a paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year, 5.75 hours per day, at a rate of \$20.89 per hour, with a start date pending a criminal history background check (anticipated start date of 4/21/25).
- I. **APPROVAL - Samantha Reideau, Learners Compass Supervisor, to Observe Parent-Paid Paraprofessional in Hillside Elementary School Classroom**
 Motion to approve Samantha Reideau, Learners Compass Supervisor, to observe parent-paid Learners Compass paraprofessional in a HES classroom for up to two hours weekly or bi-weekly for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

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.