

# CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Closter, New Jersey*

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

*Tenakill Middle School*

*August 11, 2022 - 7:30 PM*

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Call to order: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.

Roll Call:

Ms. Fanelli	_____
Ms. Kothari	_____
Ms. Kwon	_____
Ms. Micera	_____
Dr. Puttannah	_____
Ms. Wagner	_____
Ms. Yeoh	_____
Ms. 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, remote access information, 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

## BOARD COMMITTEES

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION 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 - Minutes**

Motion to approve July 14, 2022 minutes.

B. **APPROVAL - BioReference Lab & Fast Med Onsite Testing**

Motion to approve BioReference Lab & Fast Med to provide weekly onsite Covid-19 testing for staff, students, and Closter community members at Hillside Elementary School parking lot for the 2022-2023 school year.

C. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for Girls in Gear**

Motion to approve Girls in Gear to use Hillside Elementary School parking lot every Saturday beginning September 24 through November 12, 2022.

D. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for Korean School**

Motion to approve the renewal of the Use of Facilities Agreement with the Korean Language and Culture School at the fees established for the 2022-2023 school year, utilizing the Tenakill Middle School auditorium and 15 classrooms.

E. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for Vikings Futbol Club**

Motion to approve Vikings Futbol Club to use the fields outside of Hillside Elementary School for games and practices Sunday through Saturday beginning August 29 through November 20, 2022.

F. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for Closter Recreation**  
Motion to approve Closter Recreation Department to use Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School gymnasiums beginning September 12 to December 22, 2022 for men's basketball, youth basketball and volleyball camp.

G. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for PTO's Annual Hillside Kinder Camp, Summer 2022**  
Motion to approve the Closter PTO to use Hillside Elementary School outdoor grounds to host the Annual Hillside Kinder Camp, Summer 2022 on Thursday, August 18th at 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, August 21st at 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

H. **APPROVAL - Participation in Region III Transportation Consortium**  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education hereby approves participation in the 2022-2023 Transportation Consortium with Northern Valley Regional High School acting as the LEA (Local Education Agency) for the District's special education transportation.

I. **RESOLUTION - Opposing the Proposed Increases to the School Employees Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) for Calendar Year 2023**

WHEREAS, the School Employees Health Benefits Program (SEHBP), governed by *N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.46 et seq.*, offers medical, prescription drug, and dental coverage to participating school district employees, retirees, and eligible dependents; and

WHEREAS, all SEHBP plans are self-funded, meaning that the money paid out for benefits comes directly from an SEHBP fund supplied by participating local employers and member premiums; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Pensions and Benefits is responsible for the daily administrative activities of the SEHBP, the School Employees Health Benefits Commission is the executive organization responsible for overseeing the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, the School Employees Health Benefits Commission, comprised of state officials, union representatives and a representative of the New Jersey School Boards Association, annually considers the calendar year premium levels for the Local Education Employee Group of the SEHBP based on recommendations found in the Rate Setting Recommendation Analysis of the Local Education Employee Group; and

WHEREAS, the School Employees' Health Benefits Plan Design Committee has the responsibility for and authority over the various plans and components of the plans, including for medical benefits, prescription benefits, dental, vision, and any other health care benefits, offered and administered by the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, existing law requires three members of the School Employees' Health Benefits Plan Design Committee to be appointed by the Governor as representatives of public employers (i.e., local school districts) whose employees are enrolled in the program, but currently all such representatives are state-level appointees;

WHEREAS, the recommended rate changes for medical and prescription drug coverage for the Active 2023 Local Education Employer Group is 15.1%, which includes a 15.3% increase for active employees enrolled in NJ DIRECT 10/15 and a 14.9% increase for active employees enrolled in the NJ Educators Health Plan (NJEHP); and

WHEREAS, such proposed exorbitant rate increases will fall upon the local property taxpayer, as well as school employees, at a time where there is record inflation; and

WHEREAS, since employees enrolled the NJEHP pay a percentage of salary toward their health benefits per P.L.2020, c.44, commonly referred to as "Chapter 44", any increase in NJEHP premiums will fall almost entirely upon local boards of education, placing a severe strain on their budgets; and

WHEREAS, the proposed premium increase for most active employees will take thousands more out of their paychecks annually and lead to huge costs for local school districts that will translate into higher property tax bills for struggling families; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Closter Board of Education in the county of Bergen call upon the School Employees Health Benefits Commission to reconsider the rate increase and strike a rate increase that is appropriate in the current economic conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education in the county of Bergen urge the Legislature to adopt legislation expanding the composition of the School Employees Health Benefits Commission and the School Employees' Health Benefits Plan Design Committee to include additional representatives from local school district management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education in the county of Bergen urge the Legislature and executive branch to examine the impact that "Chapter 44" has had on school district budgets and to adopt legislation that will reverse any of its negative consequences and provide relief to those districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Murphy, State Treasurer Muoio, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Holly Schepisi, Assemblyman Robert Auth, Assemblywoman DeAnne DeFuccio, and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

J. **APPROVAL - Independent Educational Evaluations Maximum Costs**

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2021, the Board adopted Policy 2468 governing Independent Educational Evaluations; and

WHEREAS, Policy 2468 requires the Board to annually determine and approve the maximum costs it will pay for such evaluations, with anything above those maximum costs deemed unreasonably excessive;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby adopts the following maximum costs for the assessments listed below when they are conducted as part of an independent educational evaluation, consistent with Policy No. 2468, effective immediately and through June 30, 2023:

- Assistive Technology: \$1,250
- Auditory Processing/Hearing Acuity: \$1,500
- Early Childhood: \$1,350
- Functional or Adaptive Behavior: \$1,850
- Educational: \$1,000
- Neurological: \$1,500
- Neuropsychological: \$4,000
- Neuropsychiatric: \$2,500
- Occupational Therapy: \$750
- Physical Therapy: \$750
- Psychiatric: \$1,250
- Psychological: \$1,000
- Social History: \$750
- Speech/Language: \$1,000
- Visual Acuity: \$1,500

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE**

*Chairperson: Dr. Puttannah; Members: Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Yeoh*

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 - Marshall Evaluation Rubric for the 2022-2023 School Year**

Motion to approve the Marshall Evaluation Rubric for all certificated staff for the 2022-2023 school year.

**B. APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

Motion to approve the following staff conferences:

Staff Member(s): Floro Villanueva, Jr.  
 Conference: Preparing for Negotiations  
 Location: Whippany, NJ  
 Date: 9/20/22  
 Cost to Board: \$164.00

Staff Member(s): Floro Villanueva, Jr.  
 Conference: NJASBO Trustee Meetings for School Year 2022-2023  
 Location: Robbinsville, NJ  
 Date: 9/23/22, 10/21/22, 11/18/22, 12/15/22, 1/20/23, 2/16/23, 3/24/23, 4/21/23, 5/19/23, 6/22/23 (Mornings)

Cost to Board: \$690.00  
Staff Member(s): Margaret Churchill  
Conference: 2022 Annual WIDA Conference  
Location: Louisville, KY  
Date: 9/28/22 - 9/30/22  
Cost to Board: \$315.00 for 3-Day Substitute Coverage Only (Registration fees covered by NJTESOL/NJBE)

C. **APPROVAL - Mental Health Support Services Provider**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a District Mental Health Support Services provider, and

WHEREAS, The Closter Board of Education authorized and issued a request for proposal to engage a firm to act as Mental Health Support Services Provider for the district; and

WHEREAS, The Closter Board of Education will be utilizing the American Rescue Plan federal grant money to pay for the services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that after consideration of the proposals received, the Board approves West Bergen Mental Health Care, Inc as the district's mental health support services provider for SY 2022-2023 in the amount of \$76,600.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and the Board's Business Administrator/Board Secretary are authorized and directed to execute an appropriate form of contract embodying the terms of the RFP.

**FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE**

*Chairperson: Ms. Kwon; Members: Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Yeoh*

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 - 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 June 2022.
- b. Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for June 2022.
- c. Transfer of funds for June 2022.

B. **APPROVAL - Monthly Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from July 1, 2022 to July 29, 2022, in the amount of.

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,030,904.46
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 65,638.76
Total	\$1,096,543.22

Motion to approve payment of bills from August 1, 2022 to August 9, 2022, in the amount of

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$345,396.74
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 23,883.50
Total	\$369,280.24

C. **APPROVAL – Transportation Contract**

Motion to approve the transportation contract for Closter Board of Education Route #1 with Rinaldi Transportation Co., Inc. for the 2022-2023 school year, the lowest and only bid for the route. The bid submitted by Rinaldi Transportation through NVRHS is responsive in all material respects and it is the Board’s desire to award the contract for the route in the amount of \$73,952.98 or \$408.58 per day.

D. **APPROVAL - Nursing Contracts**

Motion to approve the following nursing contracts for the 2022-2023 school year.

- Bayada Home Health Care - for SID # 9597653741
- Loving Care Agency, Inc., d/b/a Aveanna - for SID #1595602128

E. **APPROVAL - Various Door Repairs Project**

Motion to approve the contract with C&M Door Controls, Incorporated, the lowest and most responsive quote for the following projects in Tenakill Middle School:

- Replacement of metal double doors (gym exit)
- Replacement of double doors in A wing
- Replacement of old classroom doors in B wing

The contract amount is \$28,075.00, and is funded using Capital Reserve as included in the SY 22-23 budget.

F. **APPROVAL - Kristen Zanin - American Rescue Plan Grant Salary Allocation**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the allocation of a portion of the salary of Kristen Zanin, Assistant Principal at Hillside Elementary School, from American Rescue Plan grant as follows:

20-487-240-103-050-00-0                      \$ 54,302 (43.44%)

G. **APPROVAL - Kate Weisenseel - CRRSA/ESSER II Grant Salary Allocation**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the allocation of salary of Kate Weisenseel, School Counselor at Tenakill Middle School, from CRRSA/ESSER II grant as follows:

20-483-218-104-060-00-0                      \$ 63,639 (100%)

H. **APPROVAL - Instructional Resources**

Motion to approve the purchase of the following proprietary instructional programs/textbooks and web-based services:

- Go Math (K-5) - \$17,810.01

I. **APPROVAL - Disposal of Smartboard**

Motion to approve the disposal of an obsolete Smartboard from Tenakill Middle School, tag #10266.

J. **APPROVAL - Bergen County Special Services Annual Contract for Hospital Instruction for the 2022-2023 School Year**

Motion to approve the Bergen County Special Services Annual Contract for Hospital Instruction for 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$65.00 per hour.

**PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*Chairperson: Ms. Cross; Members: Ms. Fanelli, Ms. Finkelstein*

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 - Alexis Velella - Intern Placement with Ms. Weiss for the 2022-2023 School Year**

Motion to approve Alexis Velella, Montclair State University student, for 100-hour practicum followed by a 600-hour internship at Hillside Elementary School. Ms. Velella will be working with Ms. Weiss during the 2022-2023 school year.

B. **APPROVAL - Allison Bachmann FMLA Leave**

Motion to approve Allison Bachmann for a leave of absence from October 31, 2022, through April 1, 2023, (anticipated return date is April 3, 2023) as follows:

- Paid sick leave from October 31, 2022, through December 9, 2022;
- An FMLA and NJFLA child bonding leave from December 12, 2022, through March 6, 2023; and
- A discretionary child bonding leave pursuant to Board Policy 3435 (contingent upon Board approval) from March 7, 2023, through March 31, 2023, with an anticipated return to work on April 3, 2023.

- C. **APPROVAL - Olivia Nikol - Tenure Track Special Education Teacher**  
 Motion to approve Olivia Nikol as tenure track Special Education Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year starting September 1, 2022, at a salary of \$63,639, MA Step 2, pending a criminal history background check.
- D. **APPROVAL - Jake Fiordelisi - M.S. Math Teacher Leave of Absence Replacement for 2022-2023 School Year**  
 Motion to approve Jake Fiordelisi as Long-Term Leave Replacement - Middle School Math Teacher (M.K.) - and upon return of tenured teacher, as an in-house substitute teacher from September 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Salary will be \$200 per day on days 1 through 10; the beginning of day 11, BA Step 0 (\$52,309) pro-rated, pending a criminal history background check.
- E. **APPROVAL - Donna Koniuch - Plus Teacher Leave of Absence Replacement for 2022-2023 School Year**  
 Motion to approve Donna Koniuch as Long-Term Leave Replacement - Plus Teacher (J.M.) - from October 3, 2022, through May 31, 2023. Salary will be \$200 per day on days 1 through 10; the beginning of day 11, MA Step 0 (\$60,839) pro-rated, pending a criminal history background check.
- F. **APPROVAL - SY 2022-2023 Paraprofessionals' Hours**  
 Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Paraprofessionals for the 2022-2023 School Year, attached hereto as Appendix B.
- G. **APPROVAL - Paraprofessionals for the 2022-2023 School Year**  
 Motion to approve the following paraprofessionals for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$19.23 per hour, pending criminal history background check:
- Angie Osorio-Borys
  - Victoria Foley
- H. **APPROVAL - Substitute Teachers**  
 Motion to approve the following substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 School Year:
- | <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Certification</u></b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Suzanne Weiss      | NJ Teacher Certification    |
| Suzanne Kwon       | NJ Substitute Certification |
- I. **APPROVAL - Bass ABA Therapists for Student ID #361001**  
 Motion to approve the following parent-paid Bass ABA Therapists for Student ID #361001 for the 2022-2023 school year:
- Alec Birenbaum
  - Andre Cabrera
  - Jacqueline Duarte-Nova
  - Emily Gordon

- Jessica Hill
- Teresa Hill
- Kiara Ortiz
- Victoria Vartolone

J. **APPROVAL - Min Jeong Kim for 90-Hour NJ Principal Internship & 30-Hour Supervisory Internship**

Motion to approve Min Jeong Kim for 90 hours of principal internship with mentor William Tantum and 30 hours of supervisory internship with mentor Keith McElroy for a NJ Principal Certificate of Eligibility, to be completed during non-instructional time.

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

*Chairperson: Ms. Micera; Members: Ms. Fanelli, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Kothari*

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve Motion A.

Motions was \_\_\_\_\_ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **APPROVAL - First Reading of Policy and Regulation 8611**

Motion to approve the first reading of Policy and Regulation 8611 - Subscription Busing as per Appendix C.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to open the meeting to public discussion.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to close the meeting to public discussion.

**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.