

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

August 6, 2025 - 7:30 PM

Call to order: _____ @ _____ P.M.

Roll Call:

Ms. Argenziano	_____
Mr. Choi	_____
Ms. Estrems	_____
Ms. Lee	_____
Ms. Li	_____
Ms. Micera	_____
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 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

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 July 16, 2025, Board of Education meeting minutes.

B. 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, 2026:

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

- Psychological: \$1,000
- Social History: \$750
- Speech/Language: \$1,000
- Visual Acuity: \$1,500

C. **APPROVAL - Acceptance of Donation from the Closter PTO**

Motion to accept, with gratitude, the donation from the Closter PTO in the amount of \$150,000.00.

D. **APPROVAL - Tenakill Middle School's Science Olympiad Fundraisers**

Motion to approve two TMS Science Olympiad fundraisers to sell Crumbl cookies and to open an account with Raise Right (gift cards purchased from this site using a Promo Code would send our account a residual income) to raise funds for lab equipment, supplies and materials for the 2025-2026 school year.

E. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for Temple Emanu-El of Closter**

Motion to approve Temple Emanu-El of Closter's use of the Hillside Elementary School parking lot on September 23, 2025, and October 2, 2025.

F. **APPROVAL - Closter PTO Use of Facilities**

Motion to approve the Closter PTO to host events at Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School during the 2025-2026 school year.

G. **APPROVAL – Disenrollment of Student ID #3854482446**

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Closter Board of Education approves the disenrollment of student ID #3854482446 from Tenakill Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year due to non-residency.

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 - Re-Adoption of all NVCC Core Curriculum Guides for 2025-2026**

Motion to approve for the 2025-2026 school year the re-adoption of the NVCC Core Curriculum Guides for English, ESL, Library/Media, Mathematics, Computer Science Design Thinking, Physical Education & Comprehensive Health, Science, Social Studies, Visual & Performing Arts and World Languages. (There have been no changes from last year.)

B. **APPROVAL - Mentoring Plan and Professional Development Plan for 2025-2026**

Motion to approve the Mentoring Plan and the Professional Development Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

C. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

Motion to approve the following staff conferences for the 2025-2026 school year:

Staff Member(s): Christine Cipollini
Conference: Educator Evaluation Guidance: Flexibilities and Best Practices
Location: Lyndhurst, NJ
Date: 8/5/25
Cost to Board: \$30.60 (Mileage and tolls)

Staff Member(s): Vincent McHale
Conference: Educator Evaluation Guidance: Flexibilities and Best Practices
Location: Lyndhurst, NJ
Date: 8/5/25
Cost to Board: \$25.50 (Mileage and tolls)

Staff Member(s): Vincenzo Salvati
Conference: Brainstorm
Location: Summit, PA
Date: 11/16 - 11/18/2025
Cost to Board: \$974.90 (Registration, hotel, and mileage)

Staff Member(s): Christine Cipollini and Dianne Smith
Conference: Northern Valley Principals Association
Location: Northern Valley Curriculum Center
Date: 9/19/25, 10/17/25, 11/14/25, 1/16/26, 2/13/26, 3/18/26, 4/10/26, 5/8/26 and 6/5/26
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Christine Cipollini and Dianne Smith
Conference: Issues at the Forefront: Leaders' Roundtable Series
Location: Northern Valley Curriculum Center
Date: 10/7/25, 1/7/26, 3/19/26
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s):	Gildardo Castrillon
Conference:	NAETI: OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) Asbestos Refresher
Location:	Virtual
Date:	8/8/25
Cost to Board:	\$220.00 (Registration)
Staff Member(s):	Dianne Smith
Conference:	K-3 Literacy Requirements Initiative Pt. 2
Location:	Northern Valley Curriculum Center
Date:	8/12/25
Cost to Board:	\$0
Staff Member(s):	Mary Auriti
Conference:	NJ International Dyslexia Association Fall Conference
Location:	Somerset, NJ
Date:	10/17/25
Cost to Board:	\$302.64 (Registration and mileage)
Staff Member(s):	Lori Cohen
Conference:	NJ Association of Pupil Services Administrators - Advanced Cohort for New Directors
Location:	Red Bank, NJ
Date:	12/5/25, 1/9/26, 2/6/26, 3/13/26, 3/20/26, 4/24/26
Cost to Board:	\$1,844.33 (Registration and mileage)
Staff Member(s):	Lori Cohen
Conference:	NJ Special Educators Administrators Association Meetings
Location:	Washington Township, NJ
Date:	9/17/25, 10/22/25, 11/19/25, 12/17/25, 1/28/26, 2/25/26, 3/25/26, 4/29/26, 5/27/26
Cost to Board:	\$409.90 (Registration and mileage)
Staff Member(s):	Rebecca Callahan, Catherine Chow and Chelsea Ward
Conference:	Realtime Training
Location:	Virtual
Date:	TBD
Cost to Board:	\$400.00 (Registration)
Staff Member(s):	Floro Villanueva Jr.
Conference:	Bergen County Association of School Board Officers Monthly Meetings
Location:	River Vale, NJ

Date: 9/18/25, 10/16/25, 12/12/25, 1/22/26, 2/26/26, 3/26/26, 4/23/26
5/21/26, 6/12/26

Cost to Board: \$30.42 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Floro Villanueva Jr.

Conference: School Boards Insurance Meetings

Location: River Vale, NJ

Date: 9/17/25, 11/12/25, 2/11/26, 5/27/26, 6/17/26

Cost to Board: \$16.92 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Kristen Zanin

Conference: Northern Valley Curriculum Leaders Meetings

Location: Northern Valley Curriculum Center

Date: 9/19/25, 10/22/25, 11/19/25, 12/17/25, 1/21/26, 2/13/26, 3/18/26, 4/10/26
5/13/26, 6/5/26

Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Kristen Zanin

Conference: K-3 Literacy Requirements Initiative Meeting

Location: Northern Valley Curriculum Center

Date: 8/12/25

Cost to Board: \$0

D. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School: Tenakill Middle School

Group: Grade 8

Month: September 2025

Destination: 9/11 Memorial

Location: Closter, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School

Group: Grade 8

Month: October 2025

Destination: Northern Valley Regional High School-Demarest

Location: Demarest, NJ

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 - 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 2025.
- b. Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for June 2025.
- c. Transfer of funds for June 2025.

B. APPROVAL - Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the payment of bills from July 1, 2025, to July 31, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,363,899.13
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 17,170.00
Capital Projects (Fund 30)	\$ 26,819.99
NJ Dept of Labor & Workforce Development	\$ 12,082.49
Total	\$1,419,971.61

C. APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration

Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Mary Auriti
Course: Teaching Grammar in Context
College/University: Fresno Pacific University
Remuneration: \$460.00

D. APPROVAL – Tuition Contracts for Received Students

Motion to approve tuition contracts for received students as outlined below for the 2025-2026 school year:

<u>NJSMART#</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>District</u>
5419375807	\$16,546.00	8	Parent Paid

E. **APPROVAL - Amendment to the 2025-2026 Budget**

Motion to approve an amendment to the 2025-26 Budget, appropriating Fiscal Year 2025 Extraordinary Aid and Non-Public Transportation Reimbursement as follows:

Revenue

10-3131-000	Extraordinary Aid	\$498,703
10-3121-001	Non-Public Transportation Reimbursement	\$ 13,417
<i>Total Increase in State Aid</i>		<i>\$512,120</i>

Appropriation

11-000-100-562	Other LEAs (Spec. Ed Tuition)	\$270,820
11-000-217-320	Extraordinary Services OOD	\$ 25,000
11-000-221-320	NV Curriculum Center**	\$ 30,000
11-000-222-100	Ed Media Salaries - HES	\$ 11,300
11-000-261-420	Maintenance Services	\$ 25,000
11-130-100-101	Grades 6-8 Salaries	\$ 30,000
11-190-100-600	Tech Hardware	\$ 60,000
11-190-100-610	Classroom Supplies**	\$ 30,000
11-421-100-100	After School Academic Support	\$ 30,000
<i>Total Increase in Appropriations</i>		<i>\$512,120</i>

**Allocation to cover loss of Title II, III, III Immigrant, and IV Funds

F. **APPROVAL – Purchase and Price of Milk**

Motion to approve the purchase of milk from Swede Farms in Tenaflly, NJ, and that the price of milk shall be \$0.40/half-pint for the 2025-2026 school year.

G. **APPROVAL - Disposal of Laptop at Tenakill Middle School**

Motion to approve the disposal of a laptop at TMS, fixed asset tag #10270.

H. **APPROVAL - Change Orders on Boiler Replacement Project**

Motion to approve the following change orders for the boiler replacement project at Hillside Elementary School with CJ Vanderbeck and Sons, Inc. The total amount of the change orders will be deducted from the allowance included in the base bid:

- Change Order #1 – Replace four (4) main isolation stop valves on the existing heating system for the two new boilers: \$3,810
- Change Order #2 – Remove and replace the upper damaged stack; fabricate and install a new double-wall stack system with apron and flashing curb: \$18,760

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldi; Member: Mr. Shih

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 - Appointment of Alina Zankevich as Paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Motion to approve the appointment of Alina Zankevich as paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year at a salary of \$21.59 per hour, 5.75 hours per week, with a start date of September 2, 2025, pending a criminal history background check.

B. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Chelsea Ward as HES Office Paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Motion to approve the appointment of Chelsea Ward as HES Office Paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year at a salary of \$21.59 per hour, 5.75 hours per week, with a start date of September 24, 2025, pending a criminal history background check.

C. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Dianna Juechter as Paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Motion to approve the appointment of Dianna Juechter as a paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year, 5.75 hours per day, at a salary of \$21.59 per hour, with a start date of September 2, 2025, pending a criminal history background check.

D. **APPROVAL - Rescindment of Appointment - Ajida Desic as Paraprofessional**

Motion to rescind the appointment of Ajida Desic as Hillside School Paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year.

E. **APPROVAL - Ramapo College Clinical Intern Placements**

Motion to approve the following Ramapo College clinical interns to conduct required fieldwork and classroom observation at Hillside Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year, pending criminal history background checks:

- Melissa Adelun to work with Allison Esposito
- Kaitlyn Dobson to work with William Potkulski
- Nina Lang to work with Catherine Ricca
- Emily Manghisi to work with Jodi Belnick
- Kellie Yu to work with Katharine Meyers

F. **APPROVAL - Extension of Jose Raudales' Leave of Absence**

Motion to approve the extension of Jose Raudales' leave of absence through August 25, 2025, with an anticipated return to work date of August 26, 2025.

G. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Kelly Kawaguchi as Hillside Elementary School Pre-K Long-Term Leave Replacement**

Motion to approve the appointment of Kelly Kawaguchi as Long-Term Leave Replacement - HES Pre-K Teacher from September 2, 2025, through October 9, 2025, pending a criminal history background check. Salary will be \$200 per day on days 1 through 10; and then, starting on day 11, MA Step 0, \$65,500 pro-rated.

H. **APPROVAL - AG Behavioral Services Therapists for Student ID #8096612745**

Motion to approve the following parent-paid therapists from AG Behavioral Services for Student #8096612745:

- Gabrielle Ciarallo
- Alea Hemming
- Amanda Jeon
- Dina Marinaccio
- Maria Rojas

POLICY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Micera; Member: Ms. Li

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motions A and B.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **APPROVAL - First Reading of Policies**

Motion to approve the first reading of the following policies shown as Appendix B (***revised since the July 16, 2025, Board of Education meeting***):

- Policy 3216 Dress and Grooming
- Policy 4216 Dress and Grooming

B. **APPROVAL - Second Reading of Regulation**

Motion to approve the second reading of the following regulation shown as Appendix B:

- Regulation 5511 Dress Code

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.