

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

December 10, 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

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

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 and B.

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 November 19, 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) incidents HES-2526-01 and HES-2526-02 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the November 19, 2025, meeting.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

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

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 - Staff Conferences**

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

Staff Member(s): Dianne Smith
Conference: Advanced K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Through Case Management & Reintegration
Location: Lyndhurst, NJ

Date: 12/11/25
Cost to Board: \$21.06 (Transportation)

Staff Member(s): Kathy Lee, Cassandra San-Emeterio, Margaret Tahtabrounian
Conference: NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages / NJ Bilingual Educators (NJTESOL / NJBE) Conference
Location: New Brunswick, NJ
Date: 5/21/26 and 5/22/26
Cost to Board: \$227.76 (Transportation, tolls, parking) [\$1,100 Registration paid with Title III Funds]

Staff Member(s): Deborah Gonzalez, Kathy Lee and Kristen Zanin
Conference: NJDOE Guidance on Parent Advisory Committee Development & Implementation
Location: Virtual
Date: 12/16/25
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Kathy Lee, Margaret Tahtabrounian and Kristen Zanin
Conference: Title III and Title III Immigrant From Funds to Outcomes
Location: Virtual
Date: 3/26/26
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Elizabeth Brown and Jamie Kluft
Conference: Crisis Prevention Institute Training
Location: Hillside Elementary School
Date: 12/15/25
Cost to Board: \$250.00

Staff Member(s): Kathy Lee
Conference: WIDA (World Class Instructional Design & Assessment) Screener Training, Grades 6-12
Location: Virtual
Date: 12/23/25
Cost to Board: \$0

B. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 8 and Orchestra
Month: June 2026
Destination: NVRHS-D
Location: Demarest, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 5
Month: April and May 2026
Destination: Buehler Science Center
Location: Paramus, NJ

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

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

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

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve the payment of bills from November 20 to November 30, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$815,582.74
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 1,500.00
Total	\$817,082.74

C. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve the payment of bills from December 1, 2025, to December 10, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$705.44
Total	\$

D. **APPROVAL - Change Order on Boiler Replacement Project**

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

- Change Order #5 – Install new testable backflow devices for \$8,980.00. As part of the Plumbing inspection, it was recommended that the existing backflow devices at both Tenakill Middle School and Hillside Elementary School be upgraded to a testable design unit.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldi; Member: Mr. Shih

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 Justin O'Neill as Hillside Elementary School Long-Term Leave Replacement Assistant Principal**

Motion to approve the appointment of Justin O'Neill as HES Long-Term Leave Replacement - Assistant Principal from February 9, 2026, through June 30, 2026, pending a criminal history background check, at a salary of \$125,000, pro-rated.

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

Motion to approve the following substitute teachers/paraprofessionals/custodians for the 2025-2026 school Year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>
Jack Halperin	Substitute Teaching Certificate
Yaxuan Zhang	Substitute Teaching Certificate
Inci Oluc	Substitute Teaching Certificate
Debra Pohl Monesmith	Standard Teaching Certificate

C. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Sonali Shah, Hillside School Paraprofessional**

Motion to accept the resignation of Sonali Shah, HES Paraprofessional, effective December 23, 2025.

D. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Debra Pohl Monesmith as Paraprofessional**

Motion to approve the appointment of Debra Pohl Monesmith 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 pending a criminal history background check.

E. **APPROVAL - Schedule F Changes**

Motion to approve the following changes to the Schedule F positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Girls' Softball: Gabriella Garcia

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- *Reminder: Organization Meeting of the Closter BOE - January 7, 2026 (Wednesday)*

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
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.