

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

February 12, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Call to order: _____ @ _____ P.M.

<i>Roll Call:</i>	
Ms. Argenziano	____
Mr. Choi	____
Ms. Estrems	____
Ms. Lee	____
Ms. Micera	____
Ms. Ravid	____
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 - 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 January 22, 2026, 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 TMS-2526-14 and TMS-2526-15 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the January 22, 2026, meeting.

C. APPROVAL - Tenakill Middle School's Fundraisers for the 2025-2026 School

Year

Motion to approve the following TMS fundraisers:

- Green Team's online plant sale. Funds will be used toward Green Team initiatives at TMS to help build an eco-friendly school.
- Student Council's Valentine's lollipop sale. Funds will go toward Student Council activities to help grow school spirit.
- Student Ambassadors' snack sale. Student Ambassador members will run an after-school snack sale to raise money for new students' welcome events.

D. APPROVAL - Donation of Accuscope 3080 Microscopes to Tenakill Middle School

Motion to accept the donation of two Accuscope 3080 Microscopes, totaling \$500, from the John Simon Instrument Company to TMS.

E. APPROVAL - Hillside Elementary School Summer Programs for July 2026

Motion to approve the summer programs to be offered at Hillside Elementary School in July 2026:

- Summer STEM Program
 - Facilitators: Ms. Joanne Iyo and Ms. Silvia Jost
 - Dates: July 6-10, 2026, and July 13-17, 2026
 - Tuition: \$185 per student per week
- Summer Readers' Theater Program
 - Facilitator: Ms. Alyssa Levy
 - Dates: July 6-10, 2026
 - Tuition: \$185 per student
- Power in Our Words
 - Facilitator: Ms. Alyssa Levy
 - Dates: July 13-17, 2026
 - Tuition: \$185 per student
- Math Mavens
 - Facilitators: Ms. Charlene Gerbig and Ms. Allison Bachmann
 - Dates: July 13-17, 2026, and July 20-24, 2026
 - Tuition: \$185 per student

F. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities by Closter Recreation Department - Summer Program**

Motion to approve the Closter Recreation Department's use of Tenakill Middle School for their Summer Recreation Camp from June 29, 2026, to August 7, 2026.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

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

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 - Staff Coursework**

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

Staff Member:	Silvia Jost
Course No./Title:	EDUC 713K: The Differentiated Classroom
Institution:	University of LaVerne
Credits:	3

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

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

Staff Member(s): Justin O'Neill and Vincenzo Salvati
Conference: In-Person District Test & Technology Coordinator Training
Location: Park Ridge Marriott
Date: February 24, 2026
Cost to Board: \$18.88

Staff Member(s): Lauren Engle
Conference: NJ Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Spring Conference
Location: Ramapo College
Date: February 24-26, 2026
Cost to Board: \$196.05 (Registration and mileage)

Staff Member(s): Lori Cohen
Conference: Innovations in Special Education Technology (I-SET) Conference
Location: Foundation for Educational Administration (FEA), Monroe, NJ
Date: March 13, 2026
Cost to Board: \$56.12 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Lori Cohen
Conference: NJ Association of Pupil Services Administrators (NJAPSA) Winter Academy Conference
Location: Forsgate Country Club, Monroe, NJ
Date: February 27, 2026
Cost to Board: \$55.87 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Floro M. Villanueva Jr.
Conference: Public Risk Management Conference
Location: Fort Lauderdale, FL
Date: June 7-10, 2026
Cost to Board: \$0 (Paid by NESBIG)

Staff Member(s): Andrew Enrique
Conference: Administrative Assistant Program
Location: Whippany, NJ
Date: 5/19/26
Cost to Board: \$176.40 (Registration and mileage)

Staff Member(s): Justin O'Neill
Conference: Northern Valley Curriculum Leaders Meetings
Location: Northern Valley Curriculum Center
Date: 2/13/26, 3/18/26, 4/10/26, 5/13/26, 6/5/26
Cost to Board: \$0

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Science Olympiad
Month: March 2026
Destination: Middlesex College
Location: Edison, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: You Be the Chemist (The Chemistry Club)
Month: March 2026
Destination: Virtual Chemistry Assessment

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Choi; Members: Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, Ms. Finkelstein

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

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 January 23, 2026, to January 31, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$819,421.38
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 1,500.00
Total	\$820,921.38

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from February 1, 2026 to February 12, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$571,046.89
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$ 1,024.33
Debt Service (Fund 40)	\$109,275.00
Total	\$681,346.22

C. **APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration**

Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Eileen Kennedy
Course: Prevention and Intervention in Tiered Systems
College/University: Rutgers University
Remuneration: \$1,000.00

D. **APPROVAL - Amendment of ESEA Title I Grant**

Motion to approve the amendment of the ESEA Title IA Grant to include carryover funds from the 2024-2025 school year:

Original Grant Award (SY 25-26)	\$ 48,809
Carryover:	<u>\$ 6,712</u>
<u>New Title IA Grant</u>	<u>\$ 55,521</u>

E. **APPROVAL - Submission of Waiver of Requirements (SEMI Program)**

Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2026-2027 school year; and

Whereas, the Closter Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver because it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid-eligible classified students and participation in SEMI would not provide a cost benefit to the district based on the projection of the district's available SEMI reimbursement for the 2026-2027 budget year;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Closter Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Bergen an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2026 - 2027 school year.

F. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with JAMF Software LLC**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with JAMF Software LLC for the JAMF Pro Device Management System until November 2029, at a total cost of \$22,491.00.

G. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Infobase**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with Infobase for the World Almanac for Kids until June 2029, at a total cost of \$2,256.45.

H. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with COMPanion Corp.**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with COMPanion Corp for the Alexandria- Library Automation Software System until June 2029, at a total cost of \$4,773.00 for Hillside Elementary School, and \$4,593.00 for Tenakill Middle School.

I. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with World Book**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with World Book for the OL Advanced Reference Suite – online reference and research database until June 2029, at a total cost of \$2,894.06.

J. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Scholastic Digital**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with Scholastic Digital for Bookflix - online literacy resource until September 2029, at a total cost of \$4,275.00.

K. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Tech4Learning**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with Tech4Learning for Wixie - student creativity and learning platform until June 2029, at a total cost of \$6,786.00. The amount includes a \$1,111.50 discount.

L. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Capstone**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with Capstone for PebbleGo - online research and literacy platform for grades K - 3, until June 2029, at a total cost of \$6,488.40.

M. **APPROVAL - Substitute Nursing Contracts**

Motion to approve the following substitute nursing contracts for the 2025-2026 school year:

- EmpowerCare Healthcare Staffing
- BrightStar Care Home Care Medical Staffing

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldi; Members: Mr. Shih, Ms. Finkelstein

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 - Sarah Cho, Physical Therapist Intern**
Motion to approve Sarah Cho for an internship as a physical therapist under the supervision of Region III Physical Therapist Kasey Caggiano for the 2025-2026 school year. Ms. Cho will intern on Mondays and Wednesdays in the Closter School District.
- B. **APPROVAL - Parent-Paid AG Behaviorist Renee Nemeth for Student #8096612745**
Motion to approve Renee Nemeth, parent-paid behaviorist from AG Behaviorists for student #8096612745, for the 2025-2026 school year.
- C. **APPROVAL - Paid Leave of Absence for Scott Lewis, Tenakill Middle School Grade 8 Teacher**
Motion to approve the paid leave of absence for Scott Lewis, TMS grade 8 teacher, from February 25, 2026, through March 30, 2026.
- D. **APPROVAL - Change of Long-Term Leave Replacement Appointment of Anthony Scrazati**
Motion to approve the change in the conclusion date of Anthony Scrazati's appointment as Long-Term Leave Replacement Custodian, effective March 13, 2026, and his return to duties as Substitute Custodian beginning March 14, 2026, at the applicable substitute rate.
- E. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Susan Osso, Tenakill Middle School Special Education Teacher**
Motion to accept the resignation of Susan Osso, TMS Special Education Teacher, effective April 6, 2026.
- F. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Bernadette Flood as Tenakill Middle School Special Education Teacher**
Motion to approve the appointment of Bernadette Flood as full-time, tenure track TMS Special Education Teacher, for the 2025-2026 school year, at a salary of \$92,450, MA +30 Step 9, starting on March 2, 2026, pending criminal history background check.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Micera; Member: Ms. Finkelstein

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motion A.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **APPROVAL - Second Reading of Policy 1644 - Discretionary Uncompensated Leave**

Motion to approve the second reading of policy 1644 - Discretionary Uncompensated Leave, as per Appendix A.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- SY 2026-2027 School Calendar Discussion
- Draft Budget Overview and Preliminary Scenarios

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.