

# ***CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION***

***Closter, New Jersey***

***MINUTES***

***WORK SESSION***

***Tenakill Middle School***

***February 13, 2020***

***7:30 PM***

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The Board meeting was called to order by Mr. Lambert at 7:30PM

The following Board members were present:

Ms. Bhagat, Ms. Cross, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Ms. Lee, Mr. Linn, Ms. Micera  
Ms. Finkelstein, Mr. Lambert

The following Board members were absent:

None

Also present:

Mr. McHale and Mr. Villanueva

## **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, 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**

Mr. McHale reported the following items to the board:

- The district website showcases the math counts competition winners.
- Pre-K registration is now open.
- Lunar New Year assembly - he thanked the committee and the teachers who helped prepare the students. It was an exciting day that was both entertaining and educational.
- The second Conversations with the Superintendent was held on February 6th with 19 parents in attendance. He shared district news, progress toward district goals, received input from parents and informed parents of the budget process.
- Congratulations to the PTO and the students who presented Willy Wonka, Jr. on February 8th.
- The Hillside Elementary School Student Council was sworn in on February 12th

at Stern and Bow Restaurant. State Senator Troy Singleton or Burlington County sworn in the officers.

- New Jersey Student Learning Assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics (NJSLA ELA/Math) will be administered to students in grades 3-8 during this year's testing window of April 20-May 29, 2020. The NJSLA for Science will be administered to students in grades 5 and 8 during the same testing window.
- Upcoming PTO Events:
  - 6th Annual Spelling Bee for grades 3, 4 and 5 on Friday, February 28th.
  - Annual Dinner Dance - March 5th.
- School district will be closed from Monday, February 17th to Friday, February 21st.

### MINUTES

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Finkelstein to approve the January 23, 2020 Minutes. Motion was approved by voice vote of the Board:

### PUBLIC DISCUSSION on AGENDA ITEMS

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Finkelstein 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. 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.*

**There were no public comments.**

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Finkelstein to resume the regular order of business.

### CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

**Chairperson Ms. Bhagat, Mr. Linn, Ms. Cross**

Moved by Ms. Bhagat, seconded by Ms. Finkelstein to approve Motions A - C. Motions were approved by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS: Ms. Bhagat, Ms. Cross, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Ms. Lee, Mr. Linn, Ms. Micera, Ms. Finkelstein, Mr. Lambert  
NAYS: None

A. **APPROVAL - Staff Coursework**

Motion to approve the following courses for 2019-2020 as recommended to the Superintendent by the Principals:

Staff Member: Meghan Pleus  
Course No./Title: EDUC 7603 Multisensory Reading III  
Institution: Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Credits: 3

Staff Member: Mary Lotito  
Course No./Title: EDUC 7603 Multisensory Reading III  
Institution: Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Credits: 3

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

Motion to approve the following staff conferences:

Staff Member/s: Lauren Mandal  
Conference: Art Smart: Learning Exchange for K-8 Educators  
Location: TBD  
Date: 3/4/20  
Cost to Board: \$90.00

Staff Member/s: Charlene Gerbig  
Conference: Awakening Joy Workshop  
Location: NVCC  
Date: 2/13/20  
Cost to Board: \$90.00

Staff Member/s: Charlene Gerbig, Lauren Barbieri  
Conference: DEAC Meeting  
Location: TMS  
Date: 2/25/20  
Cost to Board: \$90.00

Staff Member/s: Charlene Gerbig, Amy Kenny  
Conference: Regional Professional Development Board Meeting  
Location: NVCC  
Date: 6/1/20  
Cost to Board: \$90.00

Staff Member/s: Alexandra Earle  
Conference: 2020 Statewide Assessment Training  
Location: Monroe Township, NJ  
Date: 3/4/20

Cost to Board: \$39.41 (Mileage only)

C. **APPROVAL - 2020-2021 School Calendar**

Motion to approve the Closter Public Schools 2020-2021 School Calendar as per Appendix A.

Mr. McHale informed the board that the calendar was planned to align with NVRHS calendar and within the scope of the CEA contract.

**FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE**

***Chairperson Ms. Kwon, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Finkelstein***

Moved by Ms. Kwon, seconded by Ms. Micera to approve Motions A- J.  
Motions were approved by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS: Ms. Bhagat, Ms. Cross, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Ms. Lee, Mr. Linn, Ms. Micera, Ms. Finkelstein, Mr. Lambert  
NAYS: None

A. **APPROVAL - Monthly Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from January 24, 2020 to February 12, 2020 in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,078,672.31
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 3,518.11
NJ Compensation Unemployment Reimbursement	\$ 169.69
Enterprise (Fund 60)	\$ 683.52
TOTAL	\$1,082,873.94

B. **APPROVAL - Fundraising**

Motion to approve a Marketplace Fundraiser for Mr. Shapiro's third grade class. Funds will be used to purchase water bottle holders for his students.

C. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities**

Motion to approve Girl Scouts to use a classroom at Hillside Elementary School once a month from February 2020 to June 2020.

- D. **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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 school year.

- E. **APPROVAL - Purchase of Paging System for HES**  
Motion to approve the purchase of paging system for Hillside Elementary School from Eastern Datacomm in the amount of \$11,463.00 through the Emergency Notification Systems Bid #ESCNJ18/19-16.

- F. **APPROVAL - Additional Related Services Rates for SY 2019-2020**  
Motion to approve an additional related services rates for SY 2019-2020:

	<u>Group</u>	<u>Individual</u>
ELL Sessions	\$35.00	\$70.00

- G. **APPROVAL - Substitute Nursing Services for SY 2019-2020**  
Motion to approve substitute nursing services with Ridgewood Registered Professional Nurses Association, Inc. at a rate of \$56.50/hour.

- H. **APPROVAL - Nursing Services for SY 2019-2020**  
Motion to approve nursing services with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. at a rate of \$55.00/hour for an RN and \$46.00/hour for an LPN.

- I. **APPROVAL - Disposal of Broken/Obsolete Equipment**  
Motion to approve the disposal of one broken HP Laserjet printer model #P2015.

- J. **APPROVAL - Shared Services for Speech Therapist**  
Motion to approve the shared services agreement with Demarest Public Schools for Speech Therapist for two days per week at an estimated cost of \$9,400 and anticipated start date of March 2, 2020.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Chairperson Ms. Lee, Mr. Lambert**

Moved by Ms. Lee, seconded by Ms. Micera to approve Motions A - G. Motions were approved by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS: Ms. Bhagat, Ms. Cross, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Ms. Lee, Mr. Linn, Ms. Micera, Ms. Finkelstein, Mr. Lambert

NAYS: None

**A. APPROVAL - Substitutes**

Motion to approve the following substitutes for the 2019-2020 school year:

**Substitute Teachers**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>
Rosemarie Villani	Teacher Certificate
Lauren Finan	NJ Substitute Certificate
*Dasia Melendez Mandal	NJ Substitute Certificate
<b>*Pending criminal history verification</b>	

**Substitute Paraprofessional**

Lauren Cooper

**Substitute Custodian**

Agustina Guillon

**B. APPROVAL - Paraprofessionals**

Motion to approve the following paraprofessional for the 2019-2020 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Building</u>
*Caterina Belvedere	\$18.03	5.5	Hillside Elementary School
<b>*Pending criminal history verification</b>			

**C. APPROVAL- Change of Hours for Paraprofessional**

Motion to approve Kara Fowler's revision of hours for the 2019-2020 school year from 5 hours to 5.75 hours.

**D. APPROVAL- Resignation**

Motion to approve, with regrets, the resignation of the following Paraprofessionals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective Date:</u>
Michele Marinuzzi	Hillside Elementary School	February 7, 2020
Sonia Atkins	Hillside Elementary School	February 12, 2020

E. **APPROVAL - Retirement**

Motion to approve, with regrets, the retirement of Marie Barbagallo as an elementary school teacher effective July 1, 2020.

F. **APPROVAL - Job Description**

Motion to approve the following job description as per Appendix B attached hereto:

- School Counselor

G. **APPROVAL - Student Observation**

Motion to approve Amanda Lacorazza from Bergen Community College for 10-hours of observation time with Resource Room/BSI (Ms. Vogel) in spring 2020.

**BOARD COMMITTEES**

The Finance Committee met at 6:30 to discuss the budget for SY 2020-2021.

Curriculum and Instruction, and Personnel and Management committees will schedule their meetings.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Villanueva reminded the board members to complete their School Ethics Commission Financial Disclosure.

Mr. Villanueva shared with the Board that he requested a quote from the architects to prepare various options to consider as the district plans to address the space issue in HES. The cost for this work is \$9,000. The board members are in agreement to table this plan for another year and carefully look at the enrollment numbers in Hillside.

Mr. McHale shared with the board the district's core beliefs statements.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Lee to open the meeting to public discussion.

Dolores Witko shared with the board that the Mayor and Council are close to passing an ordinance banning the use of styrofoams in Closter. She also invited board members to participate in the Stigma Free Committee.

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Lee to close the meeting to public discussion.

CLOSED SESSION MOTION (If required)

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Ms. Finkelstein to approve the following Closed Session Motion. Motion was approved by a voice vote of the Board:

YEAS: Ms. Bhagat, Ms. Cross, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Kwon, Ms. Lee, Mr. Linn, Ms. Micera, Ms. Finkelstein, Mr. Lambert  
NAYS: None

BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education will adjourn to a Closed Session to discuss the following:

HIB  
Personnel

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 8:02PM.  
The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 8:17PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms Micera, seconded by Ms. Finkelstein to adjourn the meeting at 8:18PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Floro M. Villanueva, Jr.  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary