

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Closter, New Jersey

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Tenakill Middle School
February 27, 2020
7:30 PM

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

The following Board members were present:

*Ms. Bhagat, Ms. Cross, Ms. Kwon, Mr. Linn, Ms. Micera, Ms. Finkelstein,
Mr. Lambert*

The following Board members were absent:

Ms. Kothari, Ms. Lee

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

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Ms. Smith provided the board with the following updates on all the activities and events in Hillside Elementary School:

- Thank you to the parents who attended Hillside Happenings with the Principal. Twenty two parents attended and the next one is planned for April 24 at 2:15pm.
- Student Council members were inducted by Senator Troy Singleton. Special thanks to Ms. Stern for organizing this special ceremony for our students.
- Student Council raised over \$1,000 for the Australian wildfires.
- Students in grades 2-5 will participate in the annual spelling bee on Friday, Feb. 28 at 6pm in the Hillside Gym. Thank you to the PTO for offering this free event for our students.

- Students in Ms. Lee and Ms. Ricca's class shared their knowledge of historical figures at their Wax Museum. Some notable figures included Albert Einstein, Rosa Parks, Amelia Earhart and Sacagawea.
- The First (what we hope to be annual) Al Baffa Badminton tournament was held at Tenakill on 2/10. It was a well attended event and much fun was had by all.
- Pop Up PD will take place on Friday.
- 100 Days at Hillside! Students and staff dressed as 100 year olds, HNN celebrations, songs, classroom activities and first grade stations with parents. What fun ways to celebrate 100.
- Next week we will celebrate Read Across America. The Student Council is sponsoring the theme days for the week.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. McHale shared with the board and community the following updates:

- Letter was sent to all families to alert them to the preventive measures that the district is taking regarding the Coronavirus. Mr. McHale will continue to monitor the virus situation and will follow all recommendations of the NJ Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- The District Evaluation Advisory Committee (DEAC) met again this week. The committee members collaboratively developed a guidance sheet for the annual summative conference process. The DEAC will meet again on March 30th.
- Closter Improvement Commission is sponsoring *One World Expo 2020* on March 22nd. This International Day will encourage members of the community to showcase their culture and traditions through food, crafts, and performances.
- Upcoming PTO Events:
 - 6th Annual Spelling Bee for grades 3, 4 and 5 - February 28th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Annual Dinner Dance on March 6th
 - TMS Talent Show on March 21st

BOARD OPERATIONS

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

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

NAYS: None

- Motion to approve February 13, 2020 minutes.
- Motion to affirm the decision of the Superintendent of Schools regarding Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) incident(s) reported to the Board in Executive Session at the February 13, 2020 Workshop Meeting.

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. Micera to approve Motions A-B. Motions were approved by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

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

NAYS: None

A. APPROVAL - Staff Conferences

Motion to approve the following staff conferences:

Staff Member/s: Alexandra Earle
Conference: BCSCA K-8 Cohort Meeting
Location: Englewood Cliffs, NJ
Date: 3/20/20 (AM only)
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member/s: Erica Cho
Conference: Future Ready Meeting (#2)
Location: Hillside
Date: 3/3/20 (AM only)
Cost to Board: \$45.00

Staff Member/s: Charlene Gerbig
Conference: NVCC Coaching
Location: Demarest Elementary School
Date: 3/10/20
Cost to Board: \$45.00

- B. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**
 Motion to approve the following field trips:

School: Hillside
 Group: Grade 2
 Month: May 2020
 Destination: Newark Museum
 Location: Newark, NJ

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE
Chairperson Ms. Kwon, Ms. Kothari, Ms. Finkelstein

Moved by Ms. Kwon, 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. Kwon, Mr. Linn, Ms. Micera, Ms. Finkelstein,
 Mr. Lambert
 NAYS: None

- 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 January 2020.
- b. Board of Education’s Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for January 2020.
- c. Transfer of funds for January 2020.

- B. **APPROVAL - Monthly Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from February 12, 2020 to February 25, 2020 in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$860,593.25
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 3,518.11
Debt Services (Fund 40)	\$290,921.25
TOTAL:	\$1,155,032.61

- C. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities**

Motion to approve Hillside Gymnasium for a PTO Family Volunteer Food Drive, March 2020

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Chairperson Ms. Lee, Mr. Lambert

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

YEAS: Ms. Bhagat, Ms. Cross, Ms. Kwon, 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 Teacher

Naynaben Dhorajia

Certification

NJ Substitute Certification

Paraprofessional

Penelope Michelis

Custodian

Nelson Amaya* (**pending criminal history approval*)

B. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Paraprofessional**

Motion to approve, with regrets, the resignation of paraprofessional Christina Santa Maria, effective March 2, 2020.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Finance Committee - met earlier in the evening to go over the proposed SY 2020-2021 Budget. The Committee is going to meet again on March 12th.

Negotiations Committee - will continue to meet with the CEA

Curriculum & Instruction Committee - will schedule a meeting

Policy Committee - will schedule a meeting

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McHale asked the Board to consider revising the tutoring policy to allow the Superintendent to approve staff members tutoring students as long as the student is not in his/her class.

Policy will be revised and presented for approval at the next BOE meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

There were no public comments.

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

CLOSED SESSION MOTION (If required)

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

YEAS: Ms. Bhagat, Ms. Cross, Ms. Kwon, 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:

Personnel Matter

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 7:54 PM.
The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 8:05PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Micera, seconded by Mr. Linn to adjourn the meeting at 8:06PM.

Respectfully,



Florio Villanueva, Jr.
Business Administrator/Board Secretary