

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

January 22, 2025 - 7:30 PM

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Call to order: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.

Pursuant to NJ Statutes, elected board member **Ms. Cathy Lee** shall be sworn in to serve a three-year term.

<i>Roll Call:</i>	Ms. Argenziano	_____
	Mr. Choi	_____
	Ms. Estrems	_____
	Ms. Lee	_____
	Ms. Li	_____
	Ms. Micera	_____
	Mr. Paldi	_____
	Ms. Salamea-Cross	_____
	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**

*SSDS (Student Safety Data System) Reporting - Period 1 for SY 2024-2025*

**BOARD COMMITTEES**

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION 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 - Minutes**

Motion to approve the January 2, 2025, Organization and the January 2, 2025, 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) incident #TMS-2425-11, as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the January 2, 2025, meeting.

C. **RESOLUTION - School Board Recognition**

**WHEREAS**, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2025 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

**WHEREAS**, The Closter Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, The Closter Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

**WHEREAS**, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Boards of Education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Closter Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2025 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Closter Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children's education.

D. **APPROVAL - After School Enrichment Program through Kinder Care - Champions**

Motion to approve Kinder Care - Champions to operate an After School Enrichment Program at Hillside Elementary School. Kinder Care - Champions will operate the program independently and compensate the Board of Education with a monthly fee, in addition to their current fee for using the building for Before and After Care services.

E. **APPROVAL - School Calendar for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Motion to approve the Closter School District's school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. See Appendix A.

F. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities by the Girl Scouts**

Motion to approve the Girl Scouts to use Hillside Elementary School Gymnasium on Friday, March 7, 2025, for the "Me and My Guy Square Dance."

G. **APPROVAL - Clinical Affiliation Agreement for the BSN and MSN Nursing Program between Closter Public Schools and Ramapo College**

Motion to approve the Clinical Affiliation Agreement for the BSN and MSN Nursing Program between Closter Public Schools and Ramapo College of New Jersey for the 2024-2025 school year.

**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 - Staff Coursework**

Motion to approve the following courses for 2024-2025 as recommended to the Superintendent by the Principals:

Staff Member: Laura Abbey  
Course No./Title: EDU-950 Whole Brain Child - Book Application  
Institution: Fresno Pacific University  
Credits: 1

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

Motion to approve the following staff conferences:

Staff Member(s): Kristen Zanin  
Conference: NJSLA Training (DTCs)  
Location: Park Ridge Marriott  
Date: 1/23/25  
Cost to Board: \$9.40 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Alexandra Earle and Dara Weiss  
Conference: NJSLA Training (DTCs)  
Location: Park Ridge Marriott  
Date: 1/23/25  
Cost to Board: \$8.18 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Joseph Scaglione  
Conference: NJSBGA 2025 Expo  
Location: Harrah's Atlantic City Conference Center  
Date: 3/23/25 - 3/26/25  
Cost to Board: \$788.18 (Registration \$350, hotel \$300 and mileage \$138.18)

Staff Member(s): Christine Cipollini  
Conference: Educator's Exchange Career Fair  
Location: Montclair State University  
Date: 4/10/25  
Cost to Board: \$228.43 (Registration \$200 and mileage \$28.43)

C. **APPROVAL - Tenakill Middle School to Participate in American Heart Association's American Heart Challenge Fundraiser**

Motion to approve Tenakill Middle School to participate in the American Heart Association *American Heart Challenge* community service fundraiser event to raise funds and awareness for congenital heart defects, nutrition security, CPR training, and mental well-being.

D. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

Motion to approve the following field trips:

School: Tenakill Middle School  
Group: Grade 7 and 8 TEP  
Month: February 2025  
Destination: Demarest Middle School  
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 B attached:

- a. Board Secretary and School Treasurer Financial Reports for December 2024.
- b. Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for December 2024.
- c. Transfer of funds for December 2024.

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve the payment of bills from January 1, 2025, to January 22, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$ 1,751,266.93
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 3,606.50
Capital Projects (Fund 30)	\$ 0.00
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$ 607.62
Total	\$ 1,755,481.05

- C. **APPROVAL - Lease Agreement with United Business Systems**  
 Motion to approve a change to the district's printing plan at a cost of \$253.20 per month, plus overages, and a 60-month equipment lease with United Business Systems starting March 1, 2025, for 14 machines at \$1,302.10 per month. Copies will be billed at \$0.0035 per black-and-white copy and \$0.0445 per color copy, with pricing based on the Canon NJ State Contract M2075 and NJSTART Canon Contract 24-FOOD-52427. Additionally, as outlined, the district acknowledges and approves any required adjustments or overages related to the printing plan and equipment lease.
- D. **APPROVAL – Purchase of iPad with Apple Care and Case with Keyboard**  
 Motion to approve the purchase of 195 iPads with Apple Care from Apple Inc. and 165 Logitech Rugged combo cases with keyboards in the amount of \$128,550.25 through the Ed Services Commission of Morris Apple Contract #18/19-67. Students in Hillside Elementary School will use these devices.
- E. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Formative**  
 Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with Formative (Newsela) through June 30, 2027, at a total cost of \$10,378.00. The contract reflects a discount of \$2,542.00 from the total original price of \$12,920.00.
- F. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year Subscription to Incident IQ Base Platform**  
 Motion to approve the purchase of the Incident IQ Base Platform with Assets Current, a 41-month subscription, from SHI in the amount of \$19,483.39. The purchase is made under the NJSBA-K-12 Classroom Products and Services contract, Contract #E-8801-NJSBA-ACES-CPS.
- G. **APPROVAL - Disposal through Sale of Ford Pickup Truck**  
 Motion to approve the disposal through sale of a broken 2002 Ford F210 pickup truck, fixed asset tag #10009, to DTR Automotive and Towing for the amount of \$3,500.
- H. **APPROVAL - Amendment of the Settlement Agreement for Student ID #8949793385**  
 Motion to approve the amendment of the settlement agreement for Student ID #8949793385 to include the 2025-2026 school year.

**PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*Chairperson: Ms. Salamea-Cross; Members: Mr. Paldi*

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve Motions A - N.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

- A. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Julia Palmeri as Mentor for the 2024-2025 School Year**  
 Motion to approve the appointment of Julia Palmeri as a mentor to provisionally licensed teacher, Madilyn Palmer, for 30 weeks of mentoring.

- B. **APPROVAL - Substitute Teachers/Paraprofessionals/Custodians**  
 Motion to approve the following substitute teachers/paraprofessionals/custodians for the 2024-2025 School Year:
- | <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Certification</u></b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Veronica Greco     | NJ Substitute Certification |
- C. **APPROVAL - Maci DeCarlo - Bullying Research Project for Fairleigh Dickinson University**  
 Motion to approve Maci DeCarlo to conduct a proposed bullying research project for Fairleigh Dickinson University for approximately 9-12 months during 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years. This project will entail analyzing the Superintendent's HIB reports to the Board over the last four to five years to identify common themes, patterns, and trends in bullying. The project will not disrupt the instructional program. See Appendix C.
- D. **APPROVAL - Christine Cipollini - NJ Leaders to Leaders Project**  
 Motion to approve Christine Cipollini to conduct a positive school culture and climate research project for NJ Leaders to Leaders for the 2024-2025 school year. This project will entail connecting with and understanding the Closter Community to continue fostering a positive culture and climate. See Appendix D.
- E. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Eunhwa (Anna) Choi, Paraprofessional**  
 Motion to accept the resignation of Eunhwa (Anna) Choi as Paraprofessional, effective January 20, 2025.
- F. **APPROVAL - Paraprofessional Staff Statement of Assurance for the 2024-2025 School Year - Period 2**  
 Motion to approve the Statement of Assurance regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for the second period of the 2024-2025 school year.
- G. **APPROVAL - Learners Compass Therapist Sarah Seiglie for Student #371001**  
 Motion to approve Sarah Seiglie as parent-paid Learners Compass Therapist for Student #371001. Criminal history background check on file.
- H. **APPROVAL - Kaitlin Lange to Provide Home Instruction for Student #371001**  
 Motion to approve Kaitlin Lange to provide home instruction for Student #371001 up to ten hours per week, which includes one hour per week of teacher preparation time, at a rate of \$50 per hour, until a permanent placement can be secured for the student.
- I. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Nancy Klein as Paraprofessional**  
 Motion to approve the appointment of Nancy Klein as a paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year, 5.75 hours per day, at a salary of \$20.89 per hour, with a start date pending criminal history background check.
- J. **APPROVAL - Alyssa Schneider as School Counseling Clinical Intern for the 2024-2025 School Year**  
 Motion to approve Alyssa Schneider, Georgian Court University School Counseling clinical intern, to work with Dara Weiss for approximately 20 hours in the 2024-2025 school year, pending criminal history background check.

K. **APPROVAL - Academic Assistance Program / High Impact Tutoring Staff for Spring 2025**

Motion to approve the following staff members for the AAP/HIT for Spring 2025:

- Katherine Dunn
- Deborah Gonzalez
- Catherine Gordon
- Alyssa Levy
- Cassandra San-Emeterio
- Kenza Sehbi Tlemcani
- Substitutes: Catherine Gibney and Sarah Menchise

L. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Carmelo Joseph Camillieri as Leave Replacement Teacher**

Motion to approve the appointment of Carmelo Joseph Camillieri as Leave Replacement Teacher at Tenakill Middle School, covering for Jeffrey Roem from January 21-24, 2025, at a rate of \$400 per day.

M. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Lisa Posner as Leave Replacement Teacher**

Motion to approve the appointment of Lisa Posner as Leave Replacement Teacher at Hillside Elementary School, covering for Monica Chae from February 5, 2025, through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Salary will be \$200 per day on days 1 through 10; then beginning on day 11, MA +30 Step 0, pro-rated. Criminal history background check is on file.

N. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Hersh Vora as Leave Replacement Paraprofessional**

Motion to approve the appointment of Hersh Vora as Leave Replacement Paraprofessional at Hillside Elementary School, covering for Lisa Posner, 5.75 hours per day, at a salary of \$20.89 per hour, with a start date pending criminal history background check, through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to open the meeting to public discussion.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to close the meeting to public discussion.

**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.