

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

January 22, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Call to order: _____ @ _____ P.M.

Roll Call:

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

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Board of Education Recognition

SSDS (Student Safety Data System) Reporting - Period 1 for SY 2025-2026

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 - E.

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 7, 2026, Organization and the January 7, 2026, 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-2526-10, TMS-2526-11, TMS-2526-12 and TMS-2526-13 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the January 7, 2026, meeting.

C. APPROVAL - Paraprofessional Staff Statement of Assurance for the 2025-2026 School Year - Period 2

Motion to approve the Statement of Assurance regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for the second period of the 2025-2026 school year.

D. RESOLUTION - School Board Recognition

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2026 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 12th 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 2026 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.

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

Motion to approve the Girl Scouts to use Hillside Elementary School Gymnasium on Friday, March 27, 2026, for the "Me and My Guy Square Dance."

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:	Katherine Dunn
Course No./Title:	EDUC 6814: Structured Literacy: Students with Reading Difficulties 2
Institution:	Fairleigh Dickinson University
Credits:	3

Staff Member: Catherine Ricca
Course No./Title: 1) EDUC 718B: The Special Needs Brain: Helping It Learn
2) EDUC 713K: The Differentiated Classroom
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 6 (3 credits each)

Staff Member: Allison Esposito
Course No./Title: 1) EDUC 712Z: Understanding Autism
2) EDUC 710B: I'm So Stressed I Could Scream
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 6 (3 credits each)

B. APPROVAL - Staff Conferences

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

Staff Member(s): Joseph Scaglione
Conference: NJ Schools Buildings & Grounds Association Expo 2026
Location: Harrah's Conference Center, Atlantic City
Date: 3/22/26 - 3/25/26
Cost to Board: \$786.30 (Registration, hotel, and mileage)

Staff Member(s): Dara Weiss
Conference: NJ Council for Exceptional Children
Location: Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ
Date: 3/16/26
Cost to Board: \$196.05 (Registration and mileage)

Staff Member(s): William Potkulski
Conference: NJ Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
Annual Convention 2026
Location: Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village, Princeton, NJ
Date: 2/23/26 - 2/24/26
Cost to Board: \$639.07 (Registration, hotel, mileage, meals & incidentals)

Staff Member(s): Paul Donevan
Conference: World Class Instructional Design & Assessment (WIDA) Screener and
Access Testing Training
Location: Virtual
Date: 1/22/26, 1/29/26 and 2/5/26
Cost to Board: \$250.00 (substitute fee)

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School: Hillside Elementary School
Group: Grade 2
Month: April 2026
Destination: Newark Museum
Location: Newark, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Science Olympiad
Month: February 2026
Destination: Mason Invitational Competitions
Location: Virtual (After school)

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

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

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

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

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve the payment of bills from January 8, 2026, to January 19, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,483,235.01
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 80,295.40
Total	\$1,618,849.57

C. **APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration**

Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Allison Esposito
Course: 1) Bullying, 2) Effective Character Education, and 3) Creating a Google Apps Classroom
College/University: University of LaVerne
Remuneration: \$1,000.00

D. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Brisk Teaching**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with Brisk Teaching through April 2029, at a total cost of \$12,336.25. The contract reflects a \$3,010.55 discount.

E. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Keyboard Consultants**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with Keyboard Consultants for RADIX Promethean Management Software through January 2029, at a total cost of \$4,888.00.

F. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Typing.com**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with Typing.com for the TC Plus web-based typing tutor through June 2029, at a total cost of \$6,075.00. The contract reflects a 10% discount.

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

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with BrainPOP for the Elementary School Bundle and ELL School Subscription through 2029, at a total cost of \$17,874.00. The contract reflects a 40.9% discount.

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

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with ClassLink for the ClassLink Single Sign-on Platform for all digital learning tools through 2029, at a total cost of \$18,202.50. The contract reflects a 5% upfront purchase discount.

I. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with CodeHS, Inc.**

Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with CodeHS, Inc. for Tynker - student coding platform through 2029, at a total cost of \$9,180.00.

J. **APPROVAL - Renewal of Participation in SEHBP**

Motion to approve the resolution authorizing the renewal of the participation in the School Employees Health Benefits Program of the State of New Jersey, attached hereto as Appendix B.

K. **APPROVAL - Transfer of Funds in Excess of the State-defined 10% Limitation**

Motion to approve the transfer of funds in excess of the State-defined 10% limitation, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3, as follows:

To transfer \$42,000 from Student Transportation Services (Account No. 11-000-270-XXX) to General Administration (Account No. 11-000-230-XXX) to ensure that audit fees are properly encumbered within the General Administration function. This transfer exceeds the 10% threshold and is necessary to comply with the District Auditor's recommendation to align the encumbrance of audit fees with the GAAP compliance cycle and the applicable school year.

L. **APPROVAL – Professional Services, Peter Fallon, Esq.**

Motion to approve the appointment of Peter Fallon, Esq., to provide professional services to the Board per the agreement on file in the Business Administrator's Office regarding certain personnel issues requiring an independent investigation, at a cost not to exceed \$5,500.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldi; Members: Mr. Shih, 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 - ABA Bass Parent-Paid Therapists for Student ID #361001**

Motion to approve Kimberly Cuscou-Shatwell and Jaidan Dumay as ABA Bass parent-paid therapists for Student ID #361001.

B. **APPROVAL - Andie Greenberg - Student Observation Hours with Lauren Bulger for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Motion to approve Andie Greenberg to observe Lauren Bulger for three to four days per week, three hours per day, beginning the first week of May for the 2025-2026 school year.

C. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Susan Hans, Hillside Elementary School Paraprofessional**

Motion to accept the resignation of Susan Hans, HES Paraprofessional, effective January 26, 2026.

D. **APPROVAL - Approval of Externship for Tenakill Middle School Psychologist Kira Cohen**

Motion to approve Dr. Carlea Dries, licensed psychologist, to oversee Kira Cohen, certified School Psychologist, for externship hours specific to licensure as a state-certified psychologist.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Micera; Member: Ms. Finkelstein

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 - Second Reading of Policies / Regulations

Motion to approve the second reading of the following policies and regulations, as per Appendix C:

- P 2530 Resource Materials
- P 2535 Library Material
- P 9130 Public Complaints

- R 2530 Resource Materials
- R 2535 Library Material
- R 9130 Public Complaints

B. APPROVAL - First Reading of Policy 1644 - Discretionary Uncompensated Leave

Motion to approve the first reading of policy 1644- Discretionary Uncompensated Leave, as per Appendix D:

- P 1644 Discretionary Uncompensated Leave

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

School Calendar 2026-2027

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
Personnel 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.