

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

January 6, 2022 - 7:30 PM

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

Roll Call:

Ms. Cross	_____
Ms. Fanelli	_____
Ms. Finkelstein	_____
Ms. Kothari	_____
Ms. Kwon	_____
Ms. Micera	_____
Dr. Puttaniah	_____
Ms. Wagner	_____
Ms. Yeoh	_____

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, remote access information, 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

**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 - D.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

**A. APPROVAL - Minutes**

Motion to approve December 9, 2021, minutes.

**B. APPROVAL - Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)**

Motion to affirm the decision of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the following Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) incidents reported to the Board in Executive Session at the December 9, 2021, Meeting:

- Incident #TMS-2122-06
- Incident #TMS-2122-07

**C. APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for the PTO After School Sports Program**

Motion to approve the use of Hillside Elementary Gym for the PTO After School Sports Program January 2022 through June 2022.

**D. RESOLUTION - Opposition on the Opening of the Medical Marijuana Treatment Center and Dispensary in Closter**

Whereas, Closter is a family-friendly community in which our students are safe to walk through town in a safe environment; and

Whereas, Closter students often walk home from school, congregating at various shopping and dining establishments in town; and

Whereas, there is currently a proposal for a medical marijuana treatment center and dispensary to open in Closter near shopping centers that our students pass when walking to and from school; and

Whereas, the presence of a medical marijuana treatment center and dispensary would change the character of our community and be a threat to the safety and well-being of our students due to the visibility and presence of controlled substances, increased activity and traffic in the area, increased possibility for drivers under the influence of marijuana; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Closter Board of Education is in opposition to the opening of the proposed medical marijuana treatment center and dispensary in Closter; and be it further

Resolved, that the Closter Board of Education urges the Closter Mayor and Council to use all available resources to stop the opening of the proposed medical marijuana treatment center and dispensary in Closter.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE**

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 2021-2022 as recommended to the Superintendent by the Principals:

Staff Member: Brittany Steele  
Course No./Title: ED 5553 Assessment-Based Reading Instruction  
Institution: Capella University  
Credits: 3

Staff Member: Laura Abbey  
Course No./Title: TEC-968N Youtube for Teachers  
Institution: Fresno Pacific University  
Credits: 3

Staff Member: Kathy Lee  
Course Nos./Titles: 1) EDU 930 Cultural Intelligence in Education  
2) EDU 900 Engaging All Students Through Cooperative Learning  
Institution: Fresno Pacific University  
Credits: 6

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

Motion to approve the following staff conferences:

Staff Member(s): Theresa Whitchurch  
Conference: STEM Class Observation  
Location: NVRHS-D  
Date: 1/6/22  
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Erika Dunn  
Conference: STEM Class Observation  
Location: NVRHS-D  
Date: 1/19/22  
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Keith McElroy  
Conference: Link-It Winter User Group  
Location: Virtual  
Date: 1/18/22  
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Margaret Churchill  
Conference: NJPSA ELL Committee Meeting  
Location: Virtual  
Date: 1/24/22  
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Jennifer Annese  
Conference: Constructing Reading Comprehension: A Blueprint and Instructional  
Tools Provided  
Location: Virtual  
Date: 3/9/22 and 3/16/22  
Cost to Board: \$115.00

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

Motion to approve the following field trips:

School: Tenakill  
Group: TEP 7  
Month: February  
Destination: Demarest Middle School  
Location: Demarest, NJ

School: Tenakill  
 Group: TEP 8  
 Month: February  
 Destination: Demarest Middle School  
 Location: Demarest, NJ

**FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE**

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 - Monthly Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from December 10, 2021 to December 23, 2021 in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,587,412.80
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 33,462.32
Total	\$1,620,875.12

**B. APPROVAL - Monthly Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from January 1, 2022 to January 4, 2022 in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$138,976.24
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 4,254.53
Total	\$143,230.77

**C. APPROVAL – Tuition Contracts for Received Students**

Motion to approve tuition contracts for received students as outlined below for the 2021-2022 school year:

<b><u>NJSMART#</u></b>	<b><u>Tuition</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>	<b><u>District</u></b>
TBD	\$19,065.24	Pre-K	Northvale

**D. APPROVAL – Special Education Placements**

Motion to approve the following 2021-2022 Special Education placements for Closter Students:

<b><u>NJSMART#</u></b>	<b><u>Tuition</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>	<b><u>Placement</u></b>
4621240704	\$41,412.00	K	Brownstone school
2515429166	\$44,010.00 (est.)	5	The Park Academy

E. **APPROVAL - Continued Membership in the Northeast Bergen County School Board Insurance Group (NESBIG)**

WHEREAS, a number of Boards of Education in Bergen County have joined together to form a Joint Insurance GROUP as permitted by N.J. Title 18A-.18B and;

WHEREAS, said GROUP was approved effective July 1, 1985 by the New Jersey Commissioner of Insurance and has been in operation since that date and;

WHEREAS, the Bylaws and regulations governing the creation and operation of this Insurance GROUP contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a GROUP, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Closter has determined that membership in the NORTHWEST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP is in the best interest of the District;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education of Closter does hereby agree to renew membership in the NORTHWEST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP and hereby accept the Bylaws as approved and adopted. The renewal term is from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the District and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the GROUP as are required by the Group's Bylaws and to deliver the same to the Executive Director.

F. **APPROVAL - Pre-School Tuition Rates**

Motion to approve the following tuition rates for the 2022-2023 school year:

Pre-School Full Day Program	\$11,150.00
PSD Voluntary Half-Day Extension	\$ 8,400.00

**PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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 - Substitute Teacher**  
 Motion to approve Theresa Flannery as a substitute teacher for the 2021-2022 school Year, pending background verification.
- B. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence**  
 Motion to approve Naynaben Dhorajia, Tenakill School paraprofessional, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 24, 2022, with an anticipated return date of March 28, 2022.
- C. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence**  
 Motion to approve Laurie Rochlin, Tenakill School LDTC, for a medical leave of absence using 30 sick days beginning January 7, 2022, with an anticipated return date of February 28, 2022.
- D. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence**  
 Motion to approve Katrina Vastano, Hillside School teacher, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning February 28, 2022, with an anticipated return date of April 25, 2022.
- E. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence**  
 Motion to approve Nila Vora, Hillside School paraprofessional, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 14, 2022, with an anticipated return date of February 7, 2022.
- F. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence**  
 Motion to approve Dara Weiss, Hillside School Counselor, for an unpaid leave of absence using FMLA beginning January 5, 2022, with an anticipated return date of February 7, 2022.
- G. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Employees**  
 Motion to approve, with regrets, the resignations of the following employees, with dates:
  - Donna (Guerrera) Ahearn - Effective 1/4/22
  - Vickie Aponte-Solomon - Effective 1/14/22
  - Tarannunigar Contractor - Effective 1/13/22

**BOARD COMMITTEES**

**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.