

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

ORGANIZATION MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

January 7, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Call to order: _____ @ _____ P.M.

(NOTE: The Board Secretary Chairs this meeting until the Board President is elected)

NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:

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

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE SCHOOL ELECTION

Votes for Members of the Closter Board of Education (3-year term)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janine Micera	1,311 votes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gal Paldi	1,216 votes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gregory Shih	1,014 votes

Write-in Votes for the 1-year unexpired term

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avishag Ravid	153 votes
Other write-in names	

ORGANIZATION STATEMENT

A Board of Education is a non-continuous body that exists from organization to organization meeting. As such, a board cannot bind a future board unless specifically authorized by statute. Therefore, upon reorganization, in addition to administering the oaths of office and electing a president and vice president, the board shall address certain governance and contractual issues.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE

Pursuant to NJ Statutes, elected board members **Ms. Janine Micera, Mr. Gal Paldi, and Mr. Gregory Shih** shall be sworn in to serve a three-year term. **Ms. Avishag Ravid**, the highest vote-getter for the unexpired one-year term ending December 31, 2026, will also be sworn in.

Roll Call:

Ms. Argenziano	_____	
Mr. Choi	_____	
Ms. Estrems	_____	
Ms. Finkelstein	_____	
		Ms. Lee _____
Ms. Micera	_____	
Mr. Paldi	_____	
		Ms. Ravid _____
Mr. Shih	_____	

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

1. _____ nominated for President by _____, seconded by _____.
2. _____ nominated for President by _____, seconded by _____.

Motion to close nomination for the position of President made by _____ seconded by _____

VOTE:

Nomination #1: _____ Votes Nomination #2: _____ Votes

The newly elected President of the Closter Board of Education assumes the Chair of the Meeting.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

1. _____ nominated for Vice-President by _____, seconded by _____.
2. _____ nominated for Vice-President by _____, seconded by _____.

Motion to close nominations for the position of Vice-President made by _____, seconded by _____.

VOTE:

Nomination #1: _____ Votes Nomination #2: _____ Votes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to open the meeting to public comments.

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to resume the regular order of business.

REQUIRED RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND APPROVALS Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. 6A et. seq.

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve **Motions A-FF.**

Motions were _____ a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **Open Public Meetings Act**

RESOLVED, to act in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act Resolution per **Appendix A** (attached).

B. **Establishment of Meeting Dates, Time and Place**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education agrees to meet on the dates, time and location as per Schedule of Board Meetings per **Appendix B** (attached).

C. **Adoption of Policies, Bylaws and Regulations**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education shall approve and adopt all Policies, Bylaws and Regulations as on file with the Board Secretary; it is understood that all of the policies, bylaws and regulations contained therein are subject to continuing review and revision by the Closter Board of Education.

D. **Adoption of Code of Ethics**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education shall adopt the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within this recent amendment to the School Ethics Act, C.178, P.L. 2001 as per **Appendix C** (attached).

E. **Appointment of Delegates and Representatives**

RESOLVED, that the following delegates/representatives be appointed:

Bergen County School Boards Association

President

Alternate to the Bergen County School Boards Association

Vice-

President

New Jersey School Boards Association

President

Alternate to the New Jersey School Boards Association

Vice-President

F. **Designation of Official Newspapers**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education designates *THE RECORD* as its official newspaper for the publication of all legal notices from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year with the *NORTHERN VALLEY SUBURBANITE* as an alternate newspaper.

G. **Designation of Official Depository**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education designates Capital One Bank as the Depository of School Funds from this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

H. **Designation of Authorized Signatures**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education designates signatories for Board of Education accounts as listed in **Appendix D** (attached) and to authorize the School Business Administrator or, in his absence, the Superintendent of Schools to wire transfer funds between the previously approved named depositories of school funds.

I. **Adoption of Curriculum**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education adopts all current Northern Valley written curriculum guides, courses, textbooks, workbooks, and any other ancillary materials on file with the Superintendent, and be it further

RESOLVED that this Resolution is in effect from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

J. **Permitted Student Records**

RESOLVED, to approve the collection of permitted student records as follows:

- a. Observations, evaluations and ratings of the individual students by professional staff members acting within their sphere of competency;
- b. Samples of student work;
- c. Information obtained from professionally acceptable standard instruments of measurement, such as: interest inventories, aptitude tests, vocational preference inventories, achievement tests, and standardized intelligence tests;
- d. Authenticated information provided by a parent/guardian or adult concerning achievements and other school activities which the student wants to make a part of the record;
- e. Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns;
- f. Extracurricular activities and achievements

K. **Continued Implementation of the School Budget**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent and the School Business Administrator to continue to implement the school budget from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

L. **Authorization of Petty Cash**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to establish the following petty cash fund accounts in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:4-15 and:19-13 and N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.10; and be it further

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Authorized Signatories</u>
\$500.00	Hillside Elementary School	Principal Dianne Smith and Secretary – Rebecca Callahan

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Authorized Signatories</u>
\$500.00	Tenakill Middle School	Principal – Christine Cipollini and Secretary – Catherine Chow

The Business Administrator and the Superintendent of Schools are also authorized to sign Petty Cash checks.

RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby sets the maximum single Petty Cash expenditure at \$25.00.

M. **Remuneration and Reimbursement**

WHEREAS, District Policy 6471: School District Travel and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum travel expenditure for the budget year, which the school district shall not exceed.

RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

N. **Internal Controls and Standard Operating Procedures**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education reapproves the Internal Controls and Standard Operating Procedures for Business Functions per N.J.A.C.6A:23A-6.4-6.6 per **Appendix E & F** from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

O. **Board Governance Manual**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education approves the Board Governance Manual per **Appendix G** from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

P. **Uniform Chart of Accounts**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education approves the current Uniform Chart of Accounts which conforms to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

Q. **Procurement of Goods and Services through New Jersey State Contracts**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10 provides that, a board of education, without advertising for bids, or after having rejected all bids obtained pursuant to advertising therefore, by resolution may purchase any goods or services pursuant to a contract or contracts for such goods or services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property, and

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education has the need, on a timely basis, to procure goods and services utilizing state contracts, and

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education desires to authorize its purchasing agent to make any and all purchases necessary to meet the needs of the school district throughout the school year.

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education does hereby authorize the district purchasing agent to make purchases of goods and services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

R. Procurement of Goods and Services through the Various Educational Services Commissions in the State of New Jersey

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, Morris Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, Hunterdon County Education Services, Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission, and Camden County Education Services Commission – the “Lead Agency”, has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchases of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education has the need, on a timely basis, to procure goods and services utilizing Cooperative Pricing Agreements; and

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education does hereby authorize the district purchasing agent to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement for the provision and performance of goods and services with various Educational Services Commissions in New Jersey from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

S. Authorization of Payment of Bills between Board Meetings

WHEREAS, prompt payment to vendors for goods and/or services leads to more effective competitive bidding and provision of services; and

WHEREAS, Title 18A:19-2 permits a Board of Education to designate a person to approve the payment of claims between meetings of the Board; and

WHEREAS, it is in the District’s best interest to take advantage of discounts and to avoid the payment of late fees;

RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to make payments between Board meetings for all claims that have been duly audited under the provisions of 18A: 19-3 & 4; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator shall present a listing of all bills paid under this provision for approval at the Board's next regular meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this authorization is in effect from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

T. School Tax Payment Schedule for the Remainder of 2025-2026 School Year

Payment	Date	General	Debt Service	Amount Due
7	January 2026	\$ 1,969,493.00	\$ 72,139.00	\$ 2,041,632.00
8	February 2026	\$ 1,969,493.00		\$ 1,969,493.00
9	March 2026	\$ 1,969,493.00		\$ 1,969,493.00
10	April 2026	\$ 1,969,493.00		\$ 1,969,493.00
11	May 2026	\$ 1,969,493.00		\$ 1,969,493.00
12	June 2026	\$ 1,969,491.00		\$ 1,969,493.00
		\$ 11,816,956.00	\$ 72,139.00	\$ 11,889,095.00

U. Appointments

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education appoints the individuals listed in this Resolution from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
Treasurer of School Monies	Michael Donow
Affirmative Action Officer	Floro M. Villanueva Jr.
AHERA Compliance Officer	Joseph Scaglione
Indoor Air Quality Officer	Joseph Scaglione
Integrated Pest Management Coordinator	Joseph Scaglione
Right to Know Contact Person	Joseph Scaglione
504 Compliance Officer (Hillside)	Dara Weiss
504 Compliance Officer (Tenakill)	Alexandra Earle
Public Agency Compliance Officer	Floro M. Villanueva Jr.
Custodian of Public Records	Floro M. Villanueva Jr.
Homeless Education Liaison	Vincent McHale
District Educational Stability Liaison	Vincent McHale
District Testing Coordinator	Kristen Zanin
District Safety Coordinator	Dianne Smith

V. Approval of Section 125 Plan Administrator

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education approves Horizon Healthcare for the performance of administrative services in conjunction with the following *Section 125 Plan Benefits*: a "Premium Option Plan (POP)" and a "Flexible Spending Account (FSA)" and be it further

RESOLVED, that this approval is in effect from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

W. **Approval of 403(b) Plan Providers**

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education approves US OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services as the Third Party Administrator of the listed 403(b) Plan Providers from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

403(b) Plan Providers

AIG Retirement Services

Equitable

Faculty Services Corporation

Fidelity Investments*

Invesco Oppenheimer Funds

Lincoln Investments

NY Life Insurance & Annuity Corporation

Security Benefit

Vanguard*

**Only for existing plan*

members

X. **Resolution - Appointment of Floro M. Villanueva, Jr. as the District's Qualified Purchasing Agent and Establishment of Bid and Quote Thresholds**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a) permits boards of education to increase their bid threshold up to \$53,000 if a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) is appointed; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(b), grants a Qualified Purchasing Agent the authority to negotiate and award contracts below the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for certification as a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Floro M. Villanueva, Jr. has met the requirements and possesses the certification as a Qualified Purchasing Agent, as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby:

1. Appoints Floro M. Villanueva, Jr. as the Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) for the district, granting him the authority, responsibility, and accountability for all purchasing activities as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(b);
2. Sets the district's bid threshold at \$53,000;
3. Establishes the quote threshold at 15% of the bid threshold, as required under the Public School Contracts Law;
4. Authorizes the Qualified Purchasing Agent to award contracts up to the bid threshold in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is in effect from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

Y. **Appointment of Board Attorneys**

WHEREAS, Fogarty, Hara, LaPira, and Cherry LLC and Cleary|Giacobbe|Alfieri|Jacobs LLC have a fee structure that is most advantageous to the Board, price and other factors considered; and

WHEREAS, Fogarty, Hara, LaPira, and Cherry LLC and Cleary|Giacobbe|Alfieri|Jacobs LLC have the expertise and experience to provide professional services to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of appointing Fogarty, Hara, LaPira, and Cherry LLC and Cleary|Giacobbe|Alfieri|Jacobs LLC to provide professional services to the Board; be it

RESOLVED, the Closter Board of Education appoints Fogarty, Hara, LaPira and Cherry LLC (General Counsel) and Cleary|Giacobbe|Alfieri|Jacobs LLC as the Board Attorneys from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

Fogarty, Hara, LaPira, and Cherry LLC – Hourly Rates

\$185 for Partners
\$165 for Associates
\$125 for Law Clerk
\$ 85 for Paralegals

Cleary|Giacobbe|Alfieri|Jacobs LLC – Hourly Rates

\$185 for Partners/Counsel
\$175 for Associates
\$100 for Paralegals

Z. **Appointment of Auditor**

WHEREAS, Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP has a fee structure that is most advantageous to the Board, price and other factors considered; and

WHEREAS, Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP has the expertise and experience to provide professional services to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of appointing Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP to provide professional services to the Board; be it

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education appoints Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP as its Auditor from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

The audit fee for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is estimated to be \$40,000 with additional introductory and statistical section fees for June 30, 2026, including Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), GASB 44, 68, 75, and 87 Compliance, ASSA and DRTRS audits, and other financial consultations.

Auditor – Hourly Rates

Partners	\$160-\$200/hour
Managers	\$135-\$165/hour
Senior Accts/Supervisors	\$ 100-\$135/hour
Staff Accts	\$ 80-\$105/hour

AA. **Appointment of Architect of Record**

WHEREAS, Dicara|Rubino Architects has a fee structure that is most advantageous to the Board, price and other factors considered; and

WHEREAS, Dicara|Rubino Architects has the expertise and experience to provide professional services to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of appointing Dicara|Rubino Architects to provide professional services to the Board; be it

RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education appoints Dicara|Rubino Architects as the Architect of Record from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

Architect of Record – Hourly Rates

\$180 for the Principal
\$170 for Senior Architect
\$155 for the Project Manager
\$145 for Project Architect

BB. **Appointment of Insurance Risk Manager**

RESOLVED, to appoint Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. as the Closter Board of Education's Risk Manager of Record from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Fund (NESBIG) to pay Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. as compensation for services rendered, an amount approved by the NESBIG Executive Board.

CC. **Appointment of Broker of Record for Employee Benefits**

RESOLVED, to appoint Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors as the Closter Board of Education's Broker of Record for employee benefits from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

DD. **Appointment of Medical Examiner/School Physician**

RESOLVED, to reappoint Dr. Nancy Rothenberg of Old Tappan, NJ, as the Closter Board of Education's medical examiner/school physician of record from the date of this Organization Meeting through June 2026.

EE. **Transfer Authority between Board Meetings**

RESOLVED, as provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 amended, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall be authorized to approve such line-item budget transfers as necessary between board meetings, and that such transfers shall be reported, ratified, and duly recorded in the minutes of the next regular Board meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution is in effect from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

FF. **APPROVAL - Marshall Evaluation Rubric for All Certificated Staff**

Motion to approve the Marshall Evaluation Rubric for all certificated staff.

CODE of ETHICS

At this time, the Board Members will take turns reading the Code of Ethics for School Board Members aloud.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to open the meeting to the public comments at _____ PM.

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to resume the regular order of business at PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to adjourn the meeting at _____ PM.