

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

July 16, 2025 - 7:30 PM

Call to order: _____ @ _____ *P.M.*

Roll Call:

Ms. Argenziano	_____
Mr. Choi	_____
Ms. Estrems	_____
Ms. Lee	_____
Ms. Li	_____
Ms. Micera	_____
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 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 - F.

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 June 26, 2025, Board of Education 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-2425-24 and TMS-2425-25, as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the June 26, 2025, meeting.

C. APPROVAL - Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs Plan for the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to approve the Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs Plan for SY 2025-2026, as per Appendix A attached.

D. APPROVAL - Establishment of Updated Bid and Quote Thresholds

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a) permits boards of education to increase their bid threshold to the amount authorized by the Governor and the State Treasurer upon the appointment of a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA); and

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 412 and N.J.S.A. 52:34-7, and in consultation with the Governor, the State Treasurer authorized the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property to increase the bid threshold from \$44,000 to \$53,000 effective July 1, 2025;

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 Closter Board of Education, with the authority, responsibility, and accountability for the district's purchasing activities as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(b);
2. Establishes the district's new bid threshold at \$53,000 effective July 17, 2025;
3. Sets the quote threshold at \$7,950, which is 15% of the updated bid threshold, in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law;
4. Authorizes the Qualified Purchasing Agent to award contracts up to the new bid threshold in compliance with the statutory provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall remain in effect from the date of adoption until the next Organization Meeting of the Board of Education or until such time the Board acts to revise it.

E. **APPROVAL - Revision of Purchasing and SOP Manuals to Reflect Updated Bid and Quote Thresholds**

Motion to approve the revision to the district's Purchasing Manual and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual to reflect the updated bid threshold of \$53,000 and quote threshold of \$7,950, in accordance with the statutory changes effective July 1, 2025.

F. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for Korean School**

Motion to approve the renewal of the Use of Facilities Agreement with the Korean Language and Culture School at the fees established for the 2025-2026 school year, utilizing the Tenakill Middle School auditorium and 17 classrooms.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Finkelstein; Members: Ms. Argenziano, Ms. Lee

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 - Staff Conferences**

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

Staff Member(s): Keith McElroy, Vincent McHale and Kristen Zanin
Conference: BCCC Meetings
Location: Paramus or Lyndhurst, NJ
Date: 9/26/25, November TBD, 12/5/25, January TBD, 3/13/26, 6/5/26
Cost to Board: \$1,144.28 (\$250 membership per person and mileage per person as follows: \$141.56 for McElroy and \$252.72 total for McHale & Zanin)

Staff Member(s): Christine Cipollini and Dianne Smith
Conference: DCP&P / HIB Training with Stephen Fogarty
Location: NVCC
Date: 7/23/25
Cost to Board: \$3.38 (Transportation as follows: \$1.22 Cipollini; \$2.16 Smith)

Staff Member(s): Christine Cipollini
Conference: Reimagining PLCs: Turning Insight into Instructional Action
Location: Virtual
Date: 8/4/25
Cost to Board: \$100.00 (Registration Fee)

Staff Member(s): Dianne Smith
Conference: K-3 Literacy Requirements
Location: NVCC
Date: 7/15/25
Cost to Board: \$2.16

Staff Member(s): Hailey Gabettie, Jamie Kluft, and Megan McCafferty
Conference: Buehler Challenger & Science Center
Location: Paramus, NJ
Date: 9/24/25
Cost to Board: \$26.79 (\$8.93 per person)

B. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 8
Month: April 2026
Destination: Washington, D.C.

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Gardening Club and Grade 8 Science
Month: Each Month of the School Year, Starting September 2025
Destination: Tenakill Brook
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 7
Month: May 2026
Destination: Boston, MA

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Choi; Members: Ms. Estrems, 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 - Preliminary 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. Preliminary Board Secretary and School Treasurer Financial Reports for June 2025.
- b. Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for June 2025.
- c. Transfer of funds for June 2025.

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve the payment of bills from June 27, 2025, to June 30, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$
Total	\$

C. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve the payment of bills from July 1st to July 16th, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$
Total	\$

D. **APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration**

Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Grace Park
Courses: 1) Creating a Mindful Environment
2) Motivating Students Who Don't Care
College/University: University of LaVerne
Remuneration: \$840.00

E. **APPROVAL – Application & Acceptance of IDEA Grants**

Motion to approve the application and acceptance of IDEA Grants for School Year 2025-2026 in the following amounts:

<u>TOTAL IDEA GRANT</u>	<u>\$294,288</u>
IDEA Basic	\$ 282,059
IDEA PreSchool	\$ 12,229

F. **APPROVAL - District Share of Region III Consortium**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education hereby approves the SY 2025-2026 portion of the Consortium with Northern Valley Regional High School acting as the LEA (Local Education Agency) for Region III as follows:

<u>Program/Service</u>	<u>25-26 Contribution</u>
Special Education	\$122,144.00
Physical Therapy (Additional Services)	\$ 50,000.00 (estimate)
Occupational Therapy (Additional Services)	\$ 70,000.00 (estimate)

G. **APPROVAL - Participation in Region III Transportation Consortium**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education hereby approves participation in the 2025-2026 Region III - Special Education Transportation Consortium with Northern Valley Regional High School acting as the LEA (Local Education Agency) for the District's special education transportation.

H. **APPROVAL - Mental Health Support Services Provider**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a District Mental Health Support Services provider, and

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education authorized and issued a request for proposal to engage a firm to act as a Mental Health Support Services Provider for the district; and

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education received approval from the Division of Local Government Services to use competitive contracting to procure mental health support and counseling services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that after considering the proposals received, the Board approves West Bergen Mental Health Care, Inc. as the district's mental health support services provider for 184 days for SY 2025-2026 in the amount of \$91,250.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the Board's Business Administrator/Board Secretary are authorized and directed to execute an appropriate contract embodying the terms of the Request for Proposal.

I. **APPROVAL - Instructional Programs and Web-based Services**

Motion to approve the purchase of the following proprietary instructional programs and web-based services:

- IXL Learning (Grades 5-8) - \$11,718.75
- Actively Learn - Achieve 3000 (Grades 5-8) - \$14,684.80
- Scholastic (Grades 5-8) - \$7,789.35

J. **APPROVAL - Acceptance of Donation Funds to Tenakill Middle School Library**

Motion to approve the donation of \$1,630.00 to the TMS Library from the 2025 TMS Grade 8 Graduating Class.

K. **APPROVAL - Disposal of Mac Servers at Tenakill Middle School**

Motion to approve the disposal of the Mac server at TMS, fixed asset tags #10149 and #10019.

L. **APPROVAL - Disposal of Old Camera DVR at Hillside Elementary School**

Motion to approve the disposal of an old camera DVR at HES, fixed asset tag #10252.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldi; Member: Mr. Shih

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 - Appointment of Paraprofessionals for the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to approve the appointment of the following paraprofessionals for the 2025-2026 school year at a salary of \$21.59 per hour, 5.75 hours per week, pending a criminal history background check:

- Ajida Desic
- Jack Halperin
- Maria Perez
- Jennifer Varon

B. APPROVAL - Nora Khatami - Field Experience for the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to approve Nora Khatami, Montclair State University student, to obtain field experience working with Maci DeCarlo, School Psychologist, for the 2025-2026 school year, pending criminal history background check.

C. APPROVAL - Dara Weiss for Two Additional Work Days for Summer 2025

Motion to approve Dara Weiss for two additional days of summer 2025 employment, not to exceed 12 total hours, at a rate of \$50 per hour, to prepare Suzanne Lang's 504 plans for the 2025-2026 school year.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Micera; Member: Ms. Li

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motion A.

Motion was _____ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. APPROVAL - First Reading of Policies and Regulations

Motion to approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations shown as Appendix C:

- Policy 3216 Dress and Grooming
- Policy 4216 Dress and Grooming
- Regulation 5511 Dress Code

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

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:

(If required)

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.