

# CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Closter, New Jersey*

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

*Tenakill Middle School*

*June 2, 2025 - 7:00 PM*

*Mr. Gregory Shih, appointed on May 21, 2025, to serve a term ending December 31, 2025, was sworn in by Mr. Villanueva.*

The Board meeting was called to order by Ms. Finkelstein at 7:02 PM.

The following Board Members were present:

Mr. Shih, Mr. Choi, Ms. Micera, Ms. Argenziano (Arrived 7:11), Ms. Estrems, Mr. Paldi,  
Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Lee

The following Board Members were absent:

Ms. Li

Also present:

Mr. McHale and Mr. Villanueva

## 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

## CLOSED SESSION #1

Moved by Ms. Micera , seconded by Mr. Paldi to approve the following Closed Session Motion.

Motion was approved by a voice vote of the Board:

YEAS: Mr. Shih, Mr. Choi, Ms. Micera, Ms. Argenziano, Ms. Estrems, Mr. Paldi, Ms. Finkelstein,  
Ms. Lee, Ms. Li

NAYS: None

BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education will adjourn to a Closed Session to discuss the following:

**Student Matters**

**Legal 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 7:05 PM.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 7:32 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Ms. Argenziano ▾ 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.*

***There were no public comments.***

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Ms. Argenziano ▾ to resume the regular order of business.

**BOARD OPERATIONS**

Moved by Ms. Estrems ▾ , seconded by Ms. Micera ▾ to approve Motions A and B.

Motions were approved ▾ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Shih, Mr. Choi, Ms. Micera, Ms. Argenziano, Ms. Estrems, Mr. Paldi, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Lee, Ms. Li

NAYS: None

A. **APPROVAL - Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (HIB)**

Motion to affirm the decision of the Superintendent of Schools regarding Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (HIB) incidents TMS-2425-21 and TMS-2425-22 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the May 21, 2025, meeting.

**B. Resolution Approving Disciplinary Measures Following Student Code of Conduct Violation**

WHEREAS, formal disciplinary proceedings were initiated against a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office for conduct the student engaged in on or about May 20, 2025, in violation of the Board's policies, regulations, and the Student Code of Conduct; and

WHEREAS, on or about May 28, 2025 the student's parents were provided with notice of a disciplinary hearing to be held before the Board on June 2, 2025, and of their right to be represented by counsel, to present evidence and witnesses on behalf of student, to cross-examine the witnesses presented by the Board ("Due Process Rights"); and

WHEREAS, the student's parents have waived their Due Process Rights in writing, and are not contesting the Superintendent's recommendation that the student be suspended for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, and excluded from all activities, including graduation, athletic, co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Board and prohibiting the student from being present for or attending any Board sponsored activities, either on campus or in any school district where the District is participating in the activities; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Superintendent's recommendation is in the best interest of the Closter School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby approves the Superintendent's recommendation to suspend the student for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
2. The Board further approves the Superintendent's recommendation to suspend the student from all activities, including graduation, athletic, co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Board and prohibiting the student from being present for or attending any Board sponsored activities, either on campus or in any school district where the District is participating in the activities. During the period of the student's suspension, the student shall be provided an alternative educational program pursuant to State law, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.2, that meets the Core Curriculum Standards in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.1 et seq.
3. The Board hereby requests the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to notify the student's parents in writing of the Board's decision, together with a copy of this resolution.

**PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*Chairperson: Mr. Paldi, Members: Mr. Shih, Ms. Finkelstein*

*Mr. McHale shared that, barring any additional resignations or retirement notices, the only remaining vacancy is the art teacher position, and interviews are currently being scheduled. He added that once this position is filled, the district will be fully staffed for the 2025–2026 school year.*

Moved by Mr. Paldi ▾ , seconded by Ms. Micera ▾ to approve Motions A - D.

Motions were approved ▾ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Shih, Mr. Choi, Ms. Micera, Ms. Argenziano, Ms. Estrems, Mr. Paldi, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Lee, Ms. Li

NAYS: None

A. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Gabriella Garcia as Tenakill Middle School Mathematics Teacher**

Motion to approve the appointment of Gabriella Garcia as full-time, tenure-track TMS Mathematics Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year at a salary of \$89,780, MA +30 Step 8, starting September 1, 2025, pending a criminal history background check.

B. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Megan McCafferty as Tenakill Middle School Special Education Teacher**

Motion to approve the appointment of Megan McCafferty as full-time, tenure-track TMS Special Education Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year at a salary of \$61,500, BA Step 2, starting September 1, 2025, pending a criminal history background check.

C. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Travis Jackson, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant**

Motion to accept the resignation of Travis Jackson, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, effective August 1, 2025.

D. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Roy John to provide Home Instruction for Student #9441067283**

Motion to approve the appointment of Roy John to provide home instruction for Student #9441067283, at a rate of \$50 per hour, for a maximum of 30 hours through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

*Mr. Villanueva reminded the trustees to complete the CSA evaluation training. Ms. Finkelstein added that board members should check their spam folders, as the CSA Evaluation email is sometimes filtered there.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Ms. Argenziano ▾ to open the meeting for public comments.

***There were no public comments.***

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Mr. Paldi ▾ to close the meeting to public comments.

## **CLOSED SESSION # 2**

Moved by Ms. Lee ▾ , seconded by Ms. Micera ▾ to approve the following Closed Session Motion.

Motion was approved ▾ by a voice vote of the Board:

YEAS: Mr. Shih, Mr. Choi, Ms. Micera, Ms. Argenziano, Ms. Estrems, Mr. Paldi, Ms. Finkelstein,  
Ms. Lee, Ms. Li

NAYS: None

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 7:45 PM.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 7:47 PM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Ms. Argenziano ▾ to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Floro M. Villanueva, Jr.  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary