CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
Tenakill Middle School
October 15, 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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

HIB SELF-ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION ON THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

DLM 2024-2025 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Recognition of Employees Celebrating 20 Years in Closter Public Schools

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 - G.
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 September 17, 2025, Board of Education meeting minutes.

B. **APPROVAL - Board and District Goals - 2025-2026 School Year**
Motion to approve the Board and District goals for the 2025-2026 school year, as per Appendix A.

C. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill - HES**
The Board acknowledges that Hillside Elementary School successfully conducted its first emergency school bus exit drill, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2, at 9:00 a.m. on September 16, 2025, at the school's location, 340 Homans Avenue. Andrew Enrique, Board Office Assistant, was the staff member in charge. The drill was for all students and was completed within 3 hours and 30 minutes. The official report is attached as Appendix B.

D. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill - TMS**
The Board acknowledges that Tenakill Middle School successfully conducted its first emergency school bus exit drill, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2, at 12:15 p.m. on September 16, 2025, at Tenakill Middle School, 275 High Street; Keith McElroy, Assistant Principal, was the staff member in charge. The drill was for all students. The drill was completed within 1 hour and 30 minutes. The official report is attached as Appendix C.

E. **APPROVAL - Tenakill Middle School's Fundraisers for the 2025-2026 School Year**
Motion to approve the following TMS fundraisers:

1) Student Council to sell TMS gear throughout the year as a way to boost school spirit and raise funds for future activities. All proceeds will go to the Student Council to support student-led initiatives throughout the year.
2) Student Council to sell bracelets for a Pink Out in October 2025, encouraging students and staff to wear pink to support breast cancer awareness. All proceeds will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.
3) Student Council to collect items for a food drive to benefit the Closter Food Pantry.
4) Debate Team to sell sweatshirts, T-shirts, and sweatpants through Custom Ink. All proceeds will be used to pay for the Debate Team's transportation to competitions and supplies for the team.

F. **APPROVAL - Custom Ink as a Vendor for the 2025-2026 School Year**
Motion to approve Custom Ink as a vendor for the 2025-2026 school year for the TMS Cross Country Team to sell sweatshirts, T-shirts, and sweatpants to students and the TMS community.

G. **APPROVAL - School Self-Assessment For Determining Grades Under The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and Statement Of Assurances for the 2024-2025 School Year**
Motion to approve the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and SOA for the 2024-2025 school year.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
Chairperson: Ms. Finkelstein; Members: Ms. Argenziano, Ms. Lee

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: Margaret Tahtabrounian
Course No./Title: EDUC 716G Bridging the Culture and Poverty Gap in Education
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 3

Staff Member: Sandra Hernandez
Course No./Title: LDTC 503 Addressing the Needs and Diagnosis of Children with Learning Disabilities
Institution: Felician University
Credits: 3

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

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

Staff Member(s):	Lori Cohen
Conference:	Bergen County Women in Educational Leadership
Location:	Paramus, NJ
Date:	November TBA and March 31, 2026
Cost to Board:	$22.07 (Transportation)

Staff Member(s):	Alexandra Earle, Suzanne Lang, Callie Stabile and Dara Weiss
Conference:	Northern Valley Counselors (K-8) Meetings
Location:	Various Northern Valley Towns
Date:	Various Dates from October 2025 to June 2026
Cost to Board:	$0

Staff Member(s):	Dara Weiss
Conference:	Bergen County Counselors (K-8) Meetings
Location:	Lyndhurst, NJ
Date:	10/24/25, 1/23/26, 3/13/26, and 5/29/26
Cost to Board:	$0

Staff Member(s):	Deborah Gonzalez, Kathy Lee, Cassandra San-Emeterio, Margaret Tahtabrounian
Conference:	World Class Instructional Design & Assessment (WIDA) Annual Conference
Location:	Virtual
Date:	10/27/25
Cost to Board:	$1,100.00 (paid with Title III Funds)

Staff Member(s):	Hannah Kang
Conference:	K-5 Art Share
Location:	Emerson, NJ
Date:	1/28/26
Cost to Board:	$3.29

Staff Member(s):	Kristen Haenelt
Conference:	Neffy Epinephrine Webinar
Location:	Virtual
Date:	12/11/25
Cost to Board:	$0

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School:	Hillside Elementary School
Group:	Grade 4
Month:	October 2025
Destination:	Franklin Mineral Mine
Location:	Franklin, NJ

School:	Tenakill Middle School
Group:	Grade 8
Month:	November 2025
Destination:	Statue of Liberty / Ellis Island
Location:	Jersey City, NJ

School:	Tenakill Middle School
Group:	Tenakill Band and Orchestra
Month:	May 2026
Destination:	Six Flags
Location:	Jackson, NJ

School:	Hillside Elementary School
Group:	Grade 1
Month:	May 2026
Destination:	Turtleback Zoo
Location:	West Orange, NJ

School:	Tenakill Middle School
Group:	TEP Grades 7 and 8
Month:	October and December 2025 & February, March and May 2026
Destination:	Cresskill and Alpine Schools
Location:	Cresskill and Alpine, NJ

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Choi; Members: Ms. Estrems, 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 - Payment of Bills**
Motion to approve the payment of bills from September 18, 2025, to September 30, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	$1,068,210.05
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	$ 50,000.00
Total	$1,118,210.05

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**
Motion to approve the payment of bills from October 1, 2025, to October 15, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	$1,221,087.16
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	$ 1,500.00
Capital Projects (Fund 30)	$ 40,143.35
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	$ 1,110.61
Total	$1,263,841.12

C. **APPROVAL – Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1 Worksheet**
Motion to approve the Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1) per N.J.A.C.6A:26A and the annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, as required by the NJQSAC process, as per Appendix D attached.

D. **APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration**
Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Wendy Manning
Course: Implementing Playful Learning in the Pre-K-2 Classroom
College/University: University of LaVerne
Remuneration: $420.00

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldi; Member: Mr. Shih

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 - Movement on the Salary Guide for the 2025-2026 School Year**
Motion to approve movement on the salary guide for the following employees for the 2025-2026 school year, retroactive to September 1, 2025:

NAME	CURRENT PLACEMENT	NEW PLACEMENT	STEP	BASE SALARY
Jennifer Levy	MA +30	MA +60	17	$ 116,933
Wendy Manning	BA	BA +15	14	$ 90,973

B. **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, 5.75 hours per day, at a salary of $21.59 per hour, with a start date pending criminal history background checks:
- Brooke Davis
- Sing Han

C. **APPROVAL - Rescindment of Appointment - Kathleen Hutchings as Paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 School Year**
Motion to rescind the appointment of Kathleen Hutchings as a paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year.

D. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Michelle Kuryllo as Special Education Teacher**
Motion to accept the resignation of Michelle Kuryllo as Special Education Teacher, effective November 26, 2025.

E. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Marino Alexander Nin Vasquez as Custodian for the 2025-2026 School Year**
Motion to approve the appointment of Marino Alexander Nin Vasquez as a full-time custodian for the 2025-2026 school year at a salary of $48,340, Step 3, starting November 1, 2025. A criminal history background check is on file.

F. **APPROVAL - Substitute Teachers/Paraprofessionals/Custodians**

Motion to approve the following substitute teachers/paraprofessionals/custodians for the 2025-2026 school Year:

Name	***Certification***
Dongping Huang	Substitute Certificate
Merve Karakan	Substitute Certificate
Ryan McGowan	Substitute Certificate
Anna Parikos	Substitute Certificate

G. **APPROVAL - Paid Leave of Absence for Catherine Gibney, Hillside Elementary School Special Education Teacher**

Motion to approve Catherine Gibney, HES Special Education Teacher, for a paid leave of absence from December 9, 2025, to approximately January 15, 2026.

H. **APPROVAL - Elizabeth Klink - Extension of Leave of Absence**

Motion to approve the extension of Elizabeth Klink's leave of absence from October 20, 2025, through February 6, 2026, as follows:

- Paid sick leave from October 21, 2025, through November 14, 2025; and
- FMLA from November 17, 2025, through February 6, 2026, with an anticipated return to work on February 9, 2026.

I. **APPROVAL - Extension of Kathy Keller as Long-Term Leave Replacement - Hillside School Library Media Specialist**

Motion to approve the extension of Kathy Keller as Long-Term Leave Replacement, HES Library Media Specialist, from October 20, 2025, through December 22, 2025.

J. **APPROVAL – Hillside Elementary School Academic Support Program Staff**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for Hillside Elementary School Academic Support Program at a rate of $50.00/hour per teacher:

- Lauren Finan
- Deborah Gonzalez
- Catherine Gordon
- Kaitlin Lange
- Alyssa Levy
- Cassandra San-Emeterio
- Substitutes: Charlene Gerbig, Catherine Gibney, Cristina Molina, Sonali Shah

K. **APPROVAL – Tenakill Middle School Academic Support Program Staff**

Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following staff for Tenakill Middle School Academic Support Program at a rate of $50.00/hour per teacher:

- Paul Aguirre
- Margaret Churchill
- Erika Dunn

- Gabriella Garcia
- Olivia Nikol
- Michelle Pletsch
- Christopher Rota
- Substitutes: Rachel Fineman, Anne Haarmann, Catherine Ianni, Julia Palmeri, Brittany Travisano, Michael Wowkun

L. **APPROVAL - Daisy Flores as Clinical Intern for the 2025-2026 School Year**
Motion to approve Daisy Flores, Ramapo College clinical intern, to work with Katelyn Lee for the 2025-2026 school year, pending a criminal history background check.

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 - Second Reading of Policies and Regulations**
Motion to approve second reading of the following policies and regulations, as per Appendix E:
- Policy 0143 - Board Member Election and Appointment
- Policy 0173 - Duties of Public School Accountant
- Policy 0174 - Legal Services
- Policy 0177 - Professional Services
- Policy 1570 - Internal Controls
- Policy 1620 - Administrative Employment Contracts
- Policy 1636.01 - Notification of Promotion, New Job and Transfer Opportunities
- Policy 2422 - Statutory Curricular Requirements
- Policy 5339.01 - Student Sun Protection
- Policy 6111 - Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
- Policy 6220 - Budget Preparation

- Regulation 1570 - Internal Controls
- Regulation 6111 - Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
- Regulation 6220 - Budget Preparation

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:

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.