

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

October 18, 2024 - 4:00 PM

The Board meeting was called to order by Ms. Finkelstein at 7:30 PM.

The following Board members were present:

Ms. Yeoh, Ms. Salamea-Cross, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Fanelli

The following Board members were absent:

Ms. Li, Ms. Micera, Ms. Kwon

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Moved by Ms. Wagner ▾ , seconded by Ms. Wagner ▾ 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. Wagner ▾ , seconded by Ms. Yeoh ▾ to resume the regular order of business.

BOARD OPERATIONS

Moved by Ms. Fanelli ▾ , seconded by Ms. Yeoh ▾ to approve Motion A.

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

YEAS: Ms. Yeoh, Ms. Salamea-Cross, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Fanelli

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 HES-2425-01 and TMS-2425-02 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the October 8, 2024, meeting.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Wagner; Members: Ms. Salamea-Cross, Ms. Yeoh

Moved by Ms. Wagner ▾ , seconded by Ms. Yeoh ▾ to approve Motions A and B.

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

YEAS: Ms. Yeoh, Ms. Salamea-Cross, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Fanelli

NAYS: None

A. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

Motion to approve the following staff conferences for the 2024-2025 school year:

Staff Member(s): Margaret Churchill and Scott Lewis
Conference: WIDA Framework Coaching Session
Location: Virtual
Date: 11/6/24
Cost to Board: \$125.00 (Two half-day substitutes) [Session paid for by Title III funds]

Staff Member(s): Joseph Calabria
Conference: Bergen County Consortium for Teachers of the Gifted
Location: Merritt Memorial School, Cresskill, NJ
Date: 10/24/24
Cost to Board: \$2.63 (total round-trip mileage)

B. APPROVAL - Field Trip

Motion to approve the following field trip for the 2024-2025 school year:

School: Hillside School
Group: Grade 4
Month: November 2024
Destination: Franklin Mineral Mines
Location: Franklin, NJ

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Yeoh; Members: Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Kwon

Moved by Ms. Yeoh , seconded by Ms. Wagner to approve Motion A.

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

YEAS: Ms. Yeoh, Ms. Salamea-Cross, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Fanelli

NAYS: None

A. APPROVAL - Monthly Bills

Motion to approve payment of bills from October 9, 2024, to October 16, 2024, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$ 801,228.68
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 3,206.50
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 804,435.18

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Salamea-Cross; Members: Ms. Fanelli, Ms. Micera

Mr. McHale thanked the trustees for making themselves available for this Special Meeting. After tonight's meeting, the new hires can notify their current employers. He is excited to fill the open positions.

Moved by Ms. Salamea-Cross , seconded by Ms. Wagner to approve Motions A - J.

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

YEAS: Ms. Yeoh, Ms. Salamea-Cross, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Fanelli

NAYS: None

- A. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Bhavisha Parmar, Hillside School Paraprofessional**
Motion to accept the resignation of Bhavisha Parmar as HES Paraprofessional, effective October 14, 2024.
- B. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Ellen Kim, Hillside School Paraprofessional**
Motion to accept the resignation of Ellen Kim as HES Paraprofessional, effective October 23, 2024.
- C. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Kaitlin Lange as Special Education Teacher**
Motion to approve the appointment of Kaitlin Lange as full-time, tenure track Hillside School Special Education Teacher, for the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$76,514, BA Step 9, starting on or around December 18, 2024, pending criminal history background check.
- D. **APPROVAL - Michelle Kuryllo to Provide SGLC Coverage**
Motion to approve Michelle Kuryllo to provide SGLC class coverage during period 2 each day in place of her prep period, beginning the week of October 21, 2024, at a rate of \$75.36 per period.
- E. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Michelle Theos as Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 School Year**
Motion to approve the appointment of Michelle Theos as paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year, 5.75 hours per day, at a salary of \$20.89 per hour, with a start date pending criminal history background check.
- F. **APPROVAL - Appointment of James Gerbig as Long-Term Substitute Teacher**
Motion to approve James Gerbig as a long-term substitute teacher to cover for Noelle Carter from October 21, 2024, through December 5, 2024, at a rate of \$200 per day on days 1 through 10; the beginning of day 11, BA Step 0, \$55,000, prorated.
- G. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence for Monica Chae, Special Education Teacher**
Motion to approve Monica Chae, Hillside School Special Education Teacher, for a leave of absence from February 7, 2025, through June 30, 2025, as follows:
- Paid sick leave from February 7, 2025, to February 14, 2025, using sick and personal days.
 - Discretionary leave of absence from February 24, 2025, to June 30, 2025, with an anticipated return date of September 1, 2025.
- H. **APPROVAL - Kevin Marks, Bass ABA Therapist, for Student ID #361001**
Motion to approve Kevin Marks as parent-paid Bass ABA Therapist for Student #361001 for the 2024-2025 school year, pending criminal history background check.

I. **APPROVAL - Stacey Moses, Parent-Paid Therapist, for Student ID #340008**
Motion to approve Stacey Moses as parent-paid therapist for Student #340008 for the 2024-2025 school year, pending criminal history background check.

J. **APPROVAL - Substitute Teachers/Paraprofessionals/Custodians**
Motion to approve the following substitute custodian for the 2024-2025 School Year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Andrew Enrique	Substitute Custodian

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

During Old and New Business, Mr. McHale addressed the bias incident at Tenakill Middle School. He shared some community responses with the board and emphasized that Closter Public Schools maintain a zero-tolerance policy toward hatred and bias.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Moved by Ms. Fanelli ▾ , seconded by Ms. Yeoh ▾ to open the meeting for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Ms. Wagner ▾ , seconded by Ms. Yeoh ▾ to close the meeting to public comments.

CLOSED SESSION MOTION

Moved by Mr. Choi ▾ , seconded by Ms. Yeoh ▾ to approve the following Closed Session Motion.

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

YEAS: Ms. Yeoh, Ms. Salamea-Cross, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Fanelli

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 8:41 PM.
The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 9:18 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Salamea-Cross , seconded by Ms. Yeoh to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Floro M. Villanueva, Jr.", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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