

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

ORGANIZATION MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

January 3, 2024 - 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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melody Finkelstein	1,092 votes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sung H. Kwon	902 votes
<u>Write-in Votes</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edmund Choi	118 votes
Gal Paldi	104 votes
Farhat Khaliq	28 votes
Other Write-ins (18 names)	20 votes

ORGANIZATION STATEMENT

A Board of Education is a non-continuous body which 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. Melody Finkelstein**, **Ms. Sung H. Kwon**, and **Mr. Edmund Choi** shall be sworn in at this time.

Roll Call:

Mr. Choi	___
Ms. Fanelli	___
Ms. Finkelstein	___
Ms. Kwon	___
Ms. Li	___
Ms. Micera	___
Ms. Salamea-Cross	___
Ms. Wagner	___
Ms. Yeoh	___

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-HH**.
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 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 approved previously 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 Pupil Records**

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

- a. Observations, evaluations and ratings of the individual pupils by professional staff members acting within their sphere of competency;
- b. Samples of pupil work;
- c. Information obtained from professionally acceptable standard instruments of measurement, such as: interest inventories, aptitude tests, vocational preference inventories, achievement tests, standardized intelligence tests;
- d. Authenticated information provided by a parent/guardian or adult concerning achievements and other school activities which the pupil 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 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 – Cheryl Boehm
\$500.00	Tenakill Middle School	Principal – William Tantum and Secretary – Catherine Chow

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 Closter Board of Education hereby establishes the school district's maximum travel expenditure for the 2023-2024 school year as the sum of \$30,000; and be it further

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 Educational Services Commission 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, 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 the through Educational Services Commission of New Jersey from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

S. **Procurement of Goods and Services through the Morris Educational Services Commission 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 Morris Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, 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 the through Morris Educational Services Commission of New Jersey from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

T. **Procurement of Goods and Services through Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission**

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 Hunterdon County Educational 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 the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

U. 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.

V. School Tax Payment Schedule for the Remainder of 2023-2024 school year

Payment	Date	General	Debt Service	Amount Due
7	January 2024	\$ 1,865.248.00	\$ 138,172.00	\$ 2,003,420.00
8	February 2024	\$ 1,865.248.00		\$ 1,865.248.00
9	March 2024	\$ 1,865.248.00		\$ 1,865.248.00
10	April 2024	\$ 1,865.248.00		\$ 1,865.248.00
11	May 2024	\$ 1,865.248.00		\$ 1,865.248.00
12	June 2024	\$ 1,865.245.00		\$ 1,865.245.00
		\$ 11,191,485.00	\$ 138,172.00	\$ 11,329,657.00

W. 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	Keith McElroy
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
Data Coordinator	William Tantum

X. **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.

Y. **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
- NY Life Insurance & Annuity Corporation
- Security Benefit
- Vanguard*

**Only for existing plan members*

Z. **Resolution to Establish Bid Threshold and Appointment of Floro M. Villanueva, Jr. as the District’s Qualified Purchasing Agent**

WHEREAS, changes to the Public School Contracts Law gave boards of education the ability to increase their bid threshold up to \$44,000; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3a, permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold; and

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

WHEREAS, Floro M. Villanueva, Jr. possesses the designation of a Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Closter Board of Education desires to increase the bid threshold as provided in N.J.S.A.18A:18A-3; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Closter Board of Education in the County of Bergen, in the State of New Jersey hereby increases its bid threshold; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby appoints Floro M. Villanueva, Jr. as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2b, with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the Board of Education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby authorizes the Qualified Purchasing Agent to award contracts up to the bid threshold; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby sets the quote threshold at 15% of the bid threshold amount; 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.

AA. **Appointment of Board Attorneys**

WHEREAS, Fogarty & Hara, Esqs. 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, Esqs. 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, Esqs. and Cleary|Giacobbe|Alfieri|Jacobs LLC to provide professional services to the Board; be it

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

Fogarty & Hara, Esqs. – Hourly Rates

\$175 for Partners

\$155 for Associates

Cleary|Giacobbe|Alfieri|Jacobs LLC – Hourly Rates

\$165 for Attorneys
\$90 for Paralegals

BB. Appointment of Auditor

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

WHEREAS, Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP have 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.

Audit fee for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 is estimated to be \$32,000 with additional introductory and statistical sections fees for June 30, 2024 including Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), GASB 44, 68, 75 and 87 Compliance, ASSA and DRTRS audits and other financial consultations.

Auditor – Hourly Rates

Partners	\$150-\$175/hour
Managers	\$125-\$140/hour
Senior Accts/Supervisors	\$ 90-\$115/hour
Staff Accts	\$ 75-\$85/hour

CC. Appointment of Architect of Record

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

WHEREAS, Dicara|Rubino Architects have 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 its Architect of Record from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year.

Architect of Record – Hourly Rates

\$175 for the Principal
\$165 for Senior Architect
\$150 for the Project Manager
\$140 for Project Architect

DD. **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.

EE. **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.

FF. **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 2024.

GG. **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.

HH. **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 aloud the Code of Ethics for School Board Members.

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.