

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

November 15, 2023 - 7:30 PM

Call to order: _____ @ _____ P.M.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Ms. Fanelli | _____ |
| Ms. Kwon | _____ |
| Ms. Li | _____ |
| Ms. Micera | _____ |
| Dr. Puttannah | _____ |
| Ms. Wagner | _____ |
| Ms. Yeoh | _____ |
| Ms. Salamea-Cross | _____ |
| 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 DISCUSSION 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 - Minutes**

Motion to approve the October 26, 2023, and the November 6, 2023 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-2324-05, TMS-2324-06, TMS-2324-07, TMS-2324-08, and TMS-2324-09, as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the October 26, 2023, meeting.

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

Motion to affirm the decision of the Superintendent of Schools regarding Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (HIB) incidents TMS-2324-10, TMS-2324-11, TMS-2324-12, and TMS-2324-13, as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the November 6, 2023, meeting.

D. **APPROVAL - Safe Return Plan Update**

Motion to approve the Safe Return Plan Update attached hereto as Appendix A.

E. **APPROVAL - Use of Facilities for Girl Scouts Closter Brownies Troop #98006**

Motion to approve Troop #98006 to hold their monthly meeting in a classroom at Hillside Elementary School during the 2023-2024 school year.

- F. **APPROVAL - Acceptance of Donation from USA Architects Planners + Interior Designers**
Motion to accept, with gratitude, the donation from USA Architects Planners + Interior Designers for \$500.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Dr. Puttannah; Members: Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Yeoh

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 2023-2024 as recommended to the Superintendent by the Principals:

Staff Member: Erika Dunn
Course No./Title: 1) EDUC-902: Address Bullying & Aggression for SEL
2) EDUC-905: Making Meaning with Vocabulary Instruction
3) EDUC-928: Whole Student Education for Social Emotional Learning
Institution: Fresno Pacific University
Credits: 9 (3 credits each)

B. **APPROVAL - Staff Conferences**

Motion to approve the following staff conferences:

Staff Member(s): Vincent Salvati
Conference: Techspo 24
Location: Harrah's, Atlantic City, NJ
Date: 1/24/24 - 1/26/24
Cost to Board: \$1,058.72

Staff Member(s): Vincent McHale
Conference: Techspo 24
Location: Harrah's, Atlantic City, NJ
Date: 1/24/24 - 1/26/24
Cost to Board: \$1,058.72

Staff Member(s): Leeann Cameron
Conference: Basic K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training
Location: Virtual
Date: 1/18/24
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Dara Weiss
Conference: Basic K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training
Location: Virtual
Date: 11/16/23
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Suzanne Lang
Conference: Basic K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training
Location: Virtual
Date: 2/29/24
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Suzanne Lang
Conference: Northern Valley Wellness Fair
Location: NVRHS-D, Demarest, NJ
Date: 11/17/23
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Margaret Tahtabrounian and Kathy Lee
Conference: NJTESOL / NJBE, Inc.
Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Brunswick, NJ
Date: 5/29/24 - 5/30/24
Cost to Board: \$291.68 (\$145.84 per employee) Paid with Title III funds

Staff Member(s): Eileen Kennedy
Conference: Basic K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training
Location: Virtual
Date: 1/18/24
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Elizabeth Apollo and Eileen Kennedy
Conference: Best Practices for a Defensible Process and Special Ed. Considerations
Location: Virtual
Date: 11/17/23
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Elizabeth Apollo
Conference: Basic K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training
Location: Virtual
Date: 11/16/23
Cost to Board: \$0

Staff Member(s): Mary Auriti, Erika Dunn, Alexandra Earle, Brianna McSweeney,
Dianne Smith, Lori Cohen, Callie Stabile and Dara Weiss
Conference: I & RS Team Training
Location: Tenakill Middle School
Date: 12/14/23
Cost to Board: \$1,647.00 (includes training and half-day subs for Dunn and McSweeney)

Staff Member(s): Alexandra Earle
Conference: NV Counselors Meeting - H.S. Scheduling
Location: NVRHS-D or NVRHS-OT (TBD)
Date: 12/15/23
Cost to Board: \$0

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

Motion to approve the following field trips:

School: Hillside Elementary School
Group: Grade 1
Month: March 2024
Destination: Bergen PAC
Location: Englewood, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 7
Month: June 2024
Destination: Boston, MA

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

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

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motions A - E.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **APPROVAL - 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. Board Secretary and School Treasurer Financial Reports for October 2023.
- b. Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for October 2023.
- c. Transfer of funds for October 2023.

B. **APPROVAL - Monthly Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from October 25, 2023, to October 31, 2023, in the amount of:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund (Fund 10) | \$745,458.48 |
| Special Revenue (Fund 20) | \$ 3,232.50 |
| Total | \$748,690.98 |

C. **APPROVAL - Monthly Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from November 1, 2023, to November 13, 2023, in the amount of:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| General Fund (Fund 10) | \$1,217,280.67 |
| Special Revenue (Fund 20) | \$ 19,025.16 |
| Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60) | \$ 999.82 |
| New Jersey Department of Labor | \$ 7,834.05 |
| Total | \$1,245,139.70 |

D. **APPROVAL – Lease Agreement – Postage Machine**

Motion to approve the agreement with Pitney Bowes for a 60-month lease of a postage machine in the amount of \$33.82 per month or \$405.84 per year, effective January 1, 2024.

E. **APPROVAL - Disposal of Laminator**

Motion to approve the disposal of a broken laminator from Hillside Elementary School, tag #10322.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motions A - H.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

A. **APPROVAL - Ashley Lewis as Clinical Intern**

Motion to approve Ashley Lewis, Montclair State University student, as a clinical intern working with Dara Weiss for the 2023-2024 school year, pending criminal history background approval. Ms. Lewis will complete a 100-hour practicum, followed by a 600-hour internship at Hillside Elementary School.

B. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence for Ashley Buckley, Hillside MSR/Special Ed Teacher**

Motion to approve a leave of absence for Ashley Buckley effective October 30 - December 22, 2023, using 36 sick days, with an anticipated return date of January 2, 2024.

C. **APPROVAL - Extension of Phyllis Viole as Long-Term Leave Replacement - Grade 5**

Motion to approve the extension of Phyllis Viole as Long-Term Leave Replacement - Grade 5 Teacher (A.K.) - from October 27, 2023 to November 28, 2023.

D. **APPROVAL - Transfer of Assignment - Andrea Watkins**

Motion to approve the temporary assignment for Andrea Watkins to MSR/Special Education teacher from November 13, 2023, until December 22, 2023.

E. **APPROVAL - Lori Cohen as Administrator on Assignment**

Motion to approve the appointment of Lori Cohen as Administrator on Assignment effective November 27, 2023, to December 15, 2023, at a pro-rated salary of \$135,000.

F. **APPROVAL - Lori Cohen as Interim Director of Special Services**

Motion to approve the appointment of Lori Cohen as Interim Director of Special Services, effective December 16, 2023, to June 30, 2024, at a pro-rated salary of \$135,000.

G. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Bianca DiQuattro, Special Education Teacher**

Motion to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Bianca DiQuattro, Special Education Teacher, effective January 5, 2024.

H. **APPROVAL - Henry Hathaway as Hillside School Paraprofessional**

Motion to approve Henry Hathaway as HES Paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year at a salary of \$20.22 per hour, 5.75 hours per day, pending criminal history background check.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Fanelli; Members: Ms. Finkelstein, Ms. Li, Ms. Micera

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 the second reading of the following Policies and Regulations, as per Appendix C:

- Policy 2270 Religion in the Schools - Revised
- Policy and Regulation 2419 School Threat Assessment Teams - Revised
- Policies 3161 and 4161 Examination for Cause- Revised
- Policies and Regulations 3212 and 4212 Attendance - Revised/Mandated
- Policies 3324 and 4324 Right of Privacy - Revised
- Policy and Regulation 5111 Eligibility of Resident/NonResident Students - Mandated
- Policy and Regulation 5116 Education of Homeless Children and Youths - Revised
- Policy 8500 - Food Services - Revised/Mandated

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Moved by _____ , seconded by _____ to open the meeting to public discussion.

Moved by _____ , seconded by _____ to close the meeting to public discussion.

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:

**Legal Matters
Personnel 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 _____ PM.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at _____ PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by _____ , seconded by _____ to adjourn the meeting at _____ PM.