

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

April 30, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Call to order: _____ @ _____ P.M.

Roll Call:

Ms. Argenziano	_____
Mr. Choi	_____
Ms. Estrems	_____
Ms. Lee	_____
Ms. Micera	_____
Ms. Ravid	_____
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

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BOARD COMMITTEES

SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027 DISTRICT BUDGET PRESENTATION

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 - C.

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 April 9, 2026, Board of Education meeting minutes.

B. APPROVAL - Monetary Donations to Science Olympiad Team - Tenakill Middle School

Motion to accept the monetary donations totaling \$6,000.00 from the following organizations, to the TMS Science Olympiad team toward their trip to the Science Olympiad Nationals in California:

- \$1,000 donation from MEK Tutoring - Closter Campus
- \$2,000 donation from Closter Lions Club
- \$3,000 donation from Closter KPG

C. APPROVAL - Students of Northern Valley Regional High School-Demarest - Senior Service Workplace Learning Experience for the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to approve students participating in the workplace learning experience for the 2025-2026 school year, as per Appendix A.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Lee; Members: Ms. Argenziano, Ms. Estrems

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 - Staff Coursework**

Motion to approve the following courses for the 2025-2026 school year as recommended to the Superintendent by the Principals:

Staff Member: Erika Dunn
Course No./Title: 1) EDUC 945 The Happy Classroom: Practicing and Teaching Well-Being
2) SED 913 Executive Functioning and Behavioral Support Plans
3) TEC 994 The Chromebook Classroom
Institution: Fresno Pacific University
Credits: 9 (3 credits each)

Staff Member: Lori Cohen
Course No./Title: LDTC 500 The Impact of Neurological and Physiological Factors on Student Performance
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): Vincenzo Salvati
Conference: Technology Leadership Series Event
Location: Mercer County College
Date: 5/15/26
Cost to Board: \$70.97 (Mileage)

Staff Member(s): Joseph Scaglione
Conference: National Asbestos Environmental Training Institute (NAETI) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) Update Refresher
Location: Virtual
Date: 5/7/26
Cost to Board: \$215.00 (Registration)

Staff Member(s): Vincent McHale
Conference: NJ Association of School Administrators (NJASA) Spring Leadership Conference 2026
Location: Atlantic City, NJ
Date: 5/13/26 - 5/15/26
Cost to Board: \$523.48 (Hotel, mileage, and meals)

Staff Member(s): Vincent McHale & Floro M. Villanueva Jr.
Conference: Strauss Esmay Annual Policy Workshop 2026
Location: Brookdale Community College
Date: 5/29/26
Cost to Board: \$115.80 (\$57.90 per person mileage)

C. **APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: 7th Graders Remaining in School During the Boston Trip
Month: May 2026
Destination: Walking Trips to Various Closter Locations
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Grade 8
Month: May & June 2026
Destination: Outdoor Classroom During Language Arts Periods
Location: Memorial Park, Closter, NJ

D. **APPROVAL - NVRHS Consortium Memorandum of Agreement - 2026-2027 School Year**

Motion to approve the Title IIA, III, III-Immigrant, and IV-Part A Consortium Memorandum of Agreement between the Northern Valley Regional High School Board of Education, as Lead Applicant, and the Closter Public Schools for the 2026-2027 school year.

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Choi; Members: Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, Ms. Finkelstein

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

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 March 2026.
- b. Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for March 2026.
- c. Transfer of funds for March 2026.

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from April 10, 2026, to April 30, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,071,031.60
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 2,712.80
Total	\$1,073,744.40

C. **APPROVAL - School Year 2026 - 2027 District Budget**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the 2026-2027 school year budget

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Local Tax Levy</i>
General Current Expense (Fund 11)	\$ 28,451,051	\$ 25,203,081
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 1,658,091	\$ 0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$ 30,109,142	\$ 25,203,081
Special Revenue Fund (Fund 20)	\$ 471,107	\$ 0
Debt Service Fund (Fund 40)	\$ 472,275	\$ 56,719
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 31,052,524	\$ 25,259,800

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Fund tax levy of **\$25,203,081** is approved to support the Current General Expense, which includes the use of **\$1,096,491** Health Care Costs Adjustment. The total budget tax levy, including Debt Service Fund, is **\$ 25,259,800**

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education accepts the State School Aid for the 2026-27 school year as follows:

Transportation Aid	99,146
Special Education Aid	1,378,573
Security Aid	174,632

Debt Service Aid	160,556
Less: SDA Assessment	<u>-14,941</u>

Total Aid **\$ 1,797,966**

D. **APPROVAL - Capital Reserve Withdrawal (Other Capital Projects) for SY 2026-2027**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education, County of Bergen, includes in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620, a withdrawal in the amount of **\$1,369,000** from the Board of Education’s approved **Capital Reserve Account** to fund Other Capital Projects:

Hillside Elementary School

- Phone Systems Upgrade
- Sidewalk and Curb Replacement
- Replacement of Interior Doors

Tenakill Middle School

- Phone Systems Upgrade
- Network Infrastructure Phase 4
- Lunch Room/Gym Wall Table Replacement
- Replacement of Interior Doors
- Vertical Unit Replacement (HVAC)

The total cost of the projects represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner of Education as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Any funds withdrawn from the Capital Reserve and unspent by the end of the school year shall be returned to the Capital Reserve fund.

Another withdrawal from the Capital Reserve Account (Budget Line 625) in the amount of **\$255,000** will be made as a transfer to the Debt Service Fund. This one-time transfer will be used to pay down the principal on the 2023 bond series, thereby reducing the overall tax impact.

The Total Capital Reserve Withdrawal is **\$1,624,000**.

E. **APPROVAL - Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal for SY 2026-2027 Budget**

BE IT RESOLVED that as per N.J.A.C 6A:23A-14.2(d), the Closter Board of Education withdraws **\$340,000** from the Board of Education’s approved **Maintenance Reserve Account** for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan pursuant to N.J.A.C 6A:26-20.5.

F. **APPROVAL - Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement for SY 2026-2027**

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education recognizes that school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these

expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education has determined that the maximum travel expenditure amount includes all travel that is supported by state and local funds; and

WHEREAS, the Closter Board of Education established \$35,000.00 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has an obligated balance of \$24,755.35 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Closter Board of Education hereby establishes the maximum travel and related expense reimbursement for the 2026 - 2027 school year at \$38,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

G. **RESOLUTION - Authorizing the Submission of Application and Approval of Allocation for The School Lead Filters Program**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education has announced the opening of the School Lead Filters Program, established pursuant to P.L. 2025, c.76; and

WHEREAS, the program provides reimbursement to school districts for the purchase and installation of filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets; and

WHEREAS, the Closter Public Schools wishes to apply for and accept the allocated reimbursement funds available under said program within the designated funding period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission of the application and approval of the allocation under the New Jersey Department of Education's School Lead Filters Program for filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets, for a maximum reimbursement of \$1,774.94; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator is authorized to execute all necessary documents and take all required actions in connection with this application and allocation within the applicable funding period.

H. **APPROVAL – Contract with Dyntek (dba Arctiq) for Network Infrastructure Project**

Motion to approve the contract with Dyntek (dba Arctiq) for the purchase and installation of various network components (Network Infrastructure Project, Stage 4), as follows:

- NJ State Contract (NVP AR3227, PA #21-TELE-01506) – \$82,600.38
- Additional equipment (supported by two quotes) – \$11,101.75
- Total project cost – \$93,702.13

All costs to be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund, as included in the SY 2026–2027 budget.

I. **APPROVAL - Professional Services for Capital Projects with B|W|S Architects**

Motion to approve the agreement with B|W|S Architects (formerly DiCara Rubino Architects), Architect of Record for the Closter Public Schools, for professional architectural services for the following SY 2026–2027 Capital Reserve projects:

- Classroom HVAC Replacements at Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School – maximum fee of \$39,500
- Sidewalk Improvements at Hillside Elementary School – base fee of \$38,500, plus \$14,300 for base mapping, stormwater management memo, and HEP Soil Conservation Control permitting

The scope of services includes schematic and design development, construction documents, bidding and award, and contract administration. All project costs are to be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund, as included in the SY 26-27 budget.

J. **APPROVAL - Purchase of LinkIt!**

Motion to approve the purchase of LinkIt! Assessment Management and Analytics Platform for a 2-year contract term ending June 30, 2028, in the amount of \$48,050, payable in two installments: \$33,000 on or before June 30, 2026, and \$15,050 on or before July 1, 2027.

K. **APPROVAL - Purchase of Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Workbooks**

Motion to approve the purchase of Zaner-Bloser Handwriting workbooks from Zaner-Bloser in the amount of \$21,634.80. The purchase is to support the implementation of the cursive handwriting requirements for grades 3 through 5.

L. **APPROVAL - Purchase of 54 MacBook Air Laptops**

Motion to approve the purchase of 54 MacBook Air laptops from Apple Inc., in the amount of \$86,912 through the Ed Services Commission of Morris County: Apple Contract #1670625.

M. **APPROVAL - Participation in Region V Joint Purchasing Agreement**

Motion to approve the Closter Public Schools' participation in the Region V Joint Purchasing Agreement for Non-Member Districts for the procurement of direct services and evaluations on an as-needed basis for SY 2026-2027.

N. **APPROVAL - Submission of School Facilities Project to the NJ Department of Education**

Whereas, The Board of Education of Closter School District in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board"), desires to proceed with a school facilities project consisting generally of:

SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT AT HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

and

HVAC REPLACEMENT AT TENAKILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Whereas, the Board now seeks to take the initial steps in order to proceed with the Projects:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CLOSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby approves the Schematic Plans prepared in connection with the Project and the Board further authorizes the submission of same to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools and the New Jersey Department of Education for approval.

Section 2. The Board hereby authorizes the amendment to its Long-Range Facilities Plan in order to reflect the proposed Project(s).

Section 3. The School Administration and such other officers and agents of the Board as are necessary, including the Board attorney, bond counsel and architect, are hereby authorized to perform such other acts, to execute such other documents and to do such other things as are necessary to implement the determinations of the Board set forth in this resolution.

Section 4. This project is being funded as an "other capital project" and will not require state funding, and the District is not seeking a Grant.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

O. **APPROVAL – SY 2026-2027 Budget Implementation**

Motion to approve the authorization of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator to implement the 2026-2027 school year budget.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldj; Members: Mr. Shih, Ms. Finkelstein

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 - Clinical Intern Placement for Yaxuan Zhang**

Motion to approve Yaxuan Zhang, Teachers College/Columbia University clinical intern, to conduct required fieldwork and classroom observation in Ms. Charlene Gerbig’s classroom at Hillside Elementary School in the spring of 2026 through the end of the 2025-2026 school year

B. **APPROVAL - Kelly Kawaguchi as Grade 1 Long-Term Leave Replacement**

Motion to approve the appointment of Kelly Kawaguchi as Grade 1 Long-Term Leave Replacement for Dana Hollywood, from May 19, 2026, through June 30, 2026; and September 1, 2026, through November 23, 2026. Salary will be MA Step 0, \$65,500 prorated, for the 2025-2026 school year, per the current Closter Education Association negotiated salary guide; salary for 2026-2027 is pending the 2026-2027 CEA negotiated salary guide.

C. **APPROVAL - Wendy Alfonso as Interim Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant**

Motion to approve the appointment of Wendy Alfonso as an interim LDT-C, starting on or about May 18, 2026, through June 30, 2026, pending a criminal history background check. Ms. Alfonso will work 2.5 days per week at a rate of \$355 per full day and \$177.50 per half day.

D. **APPROVAL - Kaitlyn Dobson as Hillside Elementary School Paraprofessional**

Motion to approve the appointment of Kaitlyn Dobson as HES Paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year, 5.75 hours per day, at a salary of \$21.59 per hour, with a start date of May 1, 2026.

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

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>
Sonjela Cami	Substitute Certificate
Jodi Hughes	Substitute Certificate
Nicole Londono	Substitute Certificate

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:

Personnel Matters
Negotiations
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 _____ PM.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at _____ PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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