

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

April 9, 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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BOARD COMMITTEES

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 - D.

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 March 26, 2026, Board of Education meeting 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-2526-22 and TMS-2526-23 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the March 26, 2026, meeting.

C. **APPROVAL - Submission and Acceptance of the Funding for Optimal Comprehensive Universal Screeners (FOCUS) Grant**

Motion to approve the application submission and acceptance of the Funding for Optimal Comprehensive Universal Screeners (FOCUS) Grant (25-TL02-G03) for the grant period of June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027. The grant allocation for Closter Public Schools is \$3,544.00

D. **APPROVAL - Donation of Tennis Equipment to Tenakill Middle School**

Motion to accept the donation of the following tennis equipment to TMS from the United States Tennis Association (Net Generation), valued at \$1,200.00:

- 30 youth tennis rackets
- 15 foam tennis balls
- 15 youth tennis ball carrying cases
- Net tape
- Sidewalk chalk

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

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

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ to approve Motions A and B.

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: Kaitlyn Yu
Course No./Title: 1) EDUC 710B I'm So Stressed I Could Scream
2) EDUC 719P Social and Emotional Learning and Character Development
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 6 (3 credits each)

Staff Member: Megan Weis
Course No./Title: 1) EDUC 710B I'm So Stressed I Could Scream
2) EDUC 719P Social and Emotional Learning and Character Development
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 6 (3 credits each)

Staff Member: Songhee Lee
Course No./Title: Master's in Teacher Leadership:
1) Teacher Leadership and Learning Communities
2) Curriculum Development for Teacher Leaders and Other School Professionals
3) Teacher Leadership in Practice
4) Agency in Teacher Leadership
5) Analysis of Classroom Teacher Behavior
6) Educational Change
7) Clinical Self-Study in Teacher Leadership
8) Issues in Language and Cultural Diversity in ESL/Bilingual Programs
9) Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition for Teaching Languages
10) Planning, Teaching, and Assessment in ESL Classrooms
11) Understanding Immigrant-Origin Students: Language, Culture and Mobility
12) Integrating Language and Content in the ESL/Bilingual Education Classroom

Institution: Rowan University
Credits: Master's Program

B. APPROVAL - NJ School Boards Conference 2026

Motion to approve the attendance of the following trustees and district employees at the NJ School Boards Conference in Atlantic City on October 19-22, 2026:

Trustees: Edmund Choi, Marilyn Estrems, Melody Finkelstein, Cathy Lee, Janine Micera, Gal Paldi, Avishag Ravid, and Gregory Shih
Staff: Vincent McHale, Floro Villanueva Jr.
Cost to Board: Group Registration of \$2,300
Individual Lodging, mileage, meals, and incidentals not to exceed \$831.48 per person, in accordance with GSA-approved travel regulations and applicable OMB New Jersey regulations.

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

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

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 - Payment of Bills

Motion to approve payment of bills from April 1, 2026, to April 9, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$566,645.47
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 275.18
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$ 1,108.23
Total	\$568,028.88

B. APPROVAL – Special Education 1:1 Paraprofessional Continuation

Motion to approve the continuation of a Special Education 1:1 Paraprofessional for Cluster Student for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year:

<u>NJSLEDS#</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Placement</u>
5536231421	\$16,555.55	K	Valley Program

C. **APPROVAL – Renewal of Athletic Transportation Contract**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education approves renewing the athletic transportation contract for the Closter Board of Education Athletics Route with Valley Transportation Co., Inc. for the 2026-2027 school year. The contract renewal is at a 0% increase, or \$425 per trip, with an adjustment of \$50 per ¼ hour for any additional time beyond 2.5 hours.

WHEREAS, this renewal is made in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3, which permits the negotiated renewal of student transportation contracts with current vendors, provided that:

- The terms of the contract remain substantially the same, and
- The increase does not exceed the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) cap set by the Commissioner of Education;

AND WHEREAS, the proposed renewal reflects no increase in cost, remaining within the allowable CPI cap of 3.58% for the 2026-2027 school year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the School Business Administrator / Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such contract and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall submit all required documents to the Executive County Superintendent in accordance with the regulations governing student transportation.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

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 - Revision in Leave of Absence Dates for Ashley Buckley, Hillside Elementary School Special Education Teacher**

Motion to approve Ashley Buckley, HES Special Education teacher, for an FMLA and NJFLA child bonding leave from September 1, 2026, through November 24, 2026, with an anticipated return to work on November 25, 2026.

B. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Michelle Theos, Hillside Elementary School Paraprofessional**

Motion to accept the resignation of Michelle Theos, HES paraprofessional, effective April 10, 2026.

- C. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Katelyn Lee, Hillside Elementary School Grade 2 Teacher**
Motion to accept the resignation of Katelyn Lee, HES Grade 2 teacher, effective June 30, 2026.
- D. **APPROVAL - Retirement of Kathy Hedenberg, Tenakill Middle School Speech Teacher**
Motion to approve the retirement of Kathy Hedenberg, TMS Speech Teacher, effective June 30, 2026.
- E. **APPROVAL - Jenna Komar as Clinical Intern for the 2026-2027 School Year**
Motion to approve Jenna Komar, Montclair State University clinical intern, to work with Lauren Bulger for the 2026-2027 school year, pending criminal history background check.
- F. **APPROVAL - Job Description for Behaviorist**
Motion to approve the job description for Behaviorist as per Appendix A, attached hereto.
- G. **APPROVAL - Termination of Employee #38192724**
Motion to approve the termination of employee #38192724, effective April 10, 2026.
- H. **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>
Amirah Elayan	Substitute Certificate
Daniel Barbo	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

Legal Matters

Negotiations

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.