

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

March 12, 2026 - 7:30 PM

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

The following Board Members were present:

Mr. Shih, Ms. Estrems (Virtual), Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, Mr. Paldi, Mr. Choi (Arrived at 7:38),
Ms. Finkelstein

The following Board Members were absent:

Ms. Argenziano, Ms. Lee

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

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Ms. Dianne Smith, Principal of Hillside Elementary School, shared her report with the Board and the community:

- *Hillside's current enrollment stands at 606 students.*
- *Parent/Teacher Conferences Parent/Teacher Conferences were a great success. She thanked our families for their continued partnership in supporting their child's education.*
- *PTO Events Our students did an outstanding job in their performance of The Little Mermaid, Jr. She is incredibly proud of their hard work and the talents they shared with our community.*
- *Security Drills: Taking advantage of the spring weather, we conducted a fire drill on Tuesday. An additional planned security drill is scheduled for later this month.*

- *Math Committee: This week's Math Committee meeting provided teachers with an opportunity for vertical articulation discussions (grades 1–2 and 3–4) to share mathematical thinking across grade levels and reflect on key takeaways. Kindergarten's focus was on reviewing and updating information shared with incoming students to best prepare them for math instruction.*
- *Counseling: With the warmer weather and opportunities for outdoor recess, our counselors took time to prepare a "spring refresh," revisiting recess rules with students and making connections to responsible decision-making, skills that carry over into many aspects of their daily lives.*
- *PAC: This evening Ms. Smith led the third PAC meeting. We reviewed the results of the ThoughtExchange completed by the committee, worked on an implementation plan with proposed dates and resources, and look forward to sharing that information with the board.*
- *ACCESS Testing: Our multilingual learners are expected to complete their ACCESS testing this week.*
- *Book Fair: The Book Fair will be held March 17–19.*
- *CogAT Administration: CogAT administration will take place at the end of the month for students in grades 2 and 4, as well as students new to the district in grade 3. Mr. O'Neill is planning to meet with grade-level teams to review administration procedures and protocols.*
- *ICARE / School Safety: At our next ICARE/School Safety meeting on April 6, we will review student and staff data to develop a plan that includes a timeline and identified resources. From my review, there are common themes emerging between staff and parent feedback, and through meetings with our counselors, we have developed ideas to bring to the meeting.*
- *Upcoming Dates & Reminders:*
 - *Kindergarten Parent Orientation: Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m.*
 - *April 3: School closed*
 - *April 13–17: School closed for Spring Break*

Ms. Christine Cipollini, Principal of Tenakill Middle School, shared with the Board and the community her report:

- *As of today, TMS enrollment stands at 587 students.*
- *Our March SEL pillar of the month is Relationship Skills. In grade 5 advisory this week, students are exploring empathy and how having and expressing empathy is an important relationship skill, as it helps us to understand and build stronger connections with others. Grade 6 students are exploring listening skills and how listening helps us work through conflicts, understand others' perspectives, and work well in a group. In Grade 7, students are learning about stress-coping strategies and practicing active listening skills through group discussions. In grade 8, students are building relationship skills by discussing emotional reactions through scenario work, which also helps facilitate a foundation of developing empathy and understanding for others.*
- *Congratulations to all students who will be participating in this weekend's Porchlight Production of Aladdin Jr.! The students will perform two shows this Saturday at 11am and 3pm. Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring this program and for their support of the arts!*
- *An additional thank you to the PTO for sponsoring our Spring assembly taking place on March 31st. All students will attend an assembly with motivational speaker Ms. Christine Conti from*

Truth Speaks. Christine will speak about her personal experiences with bullying and how those experiences shaped who she is today. During her visit, Christine will share her story and talk about the importance of using kind words, respectful actions, and empathy to help create a positive and supportive school community. Her message reminds us that the choices we make every day—what we say and how we treat others—can have a powerful impact on the people around us. Please remember to be respectful and attentive during the presentation, and think about how each of us can contribute to making Tenakill a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and included.

- *The TMS PAC met this evening to discuss attendance support and ongoing collaborative support regarding improving student attendance. The committee learned a bit about supports currently in place, provided feedback, and had a discussion about how the home-school connection can be strengthened to support improved student attendance.*
- *Congratulations to our TMS Science Olympiad team on their accomplishment in earning first place for the second year in a row at the State Championships! Results will become official next week. They are now in pursuit of nationals, which will take place at USC. The team came in first place overall and earned 1st place in anatomy & physiology, codebusters, and crime busters, and fourth place in Disease Detectives. Congratulations to the team of students, and a special thank you to Mrs. Moidu and Mr. Hernandez for their work with the students.*
- *In connection with district goal 3, the TMS SEL team will be meeting on Friday, March 20th, to review the first draft of the SWOT analysis and begin making recommendations and an implementation plan for improvements regarding CharacterStrong and SEL instruction. Thank you to all stakeholders (including parents, students and staff) who participated in various survey to share their feedback and input.*
- *On Monday, March 2nd, TMS welcomed Mrs. Bernadette Flood, special education teacher as the new SGLC teacher. Mrs. Flood comes to TMS with experiences across K-8 and has been a welcome addition to the TMS staff!*
- *Over the next two weeks, our multilingual learners will be participating in ACCESS for ELLs testing. ACCESS is a statewide assessment required by the New Jersey Department of Education that measures students' progress in developing English language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The results help inform instructional planning and support services, ensuring students continue to grow academically while strengthening their English language skills. We appreciate families' support in ensuring students arrive to school on time and ready to do their best.*
- *Clarie Kim, in grade 8, earned Regional Honorable Mention in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for her painting titled "Traditional Korean Mask Dance Painting." Congratulations to Claire on this major accomplishment!*
- *The PTO Scholastic book fair will be taking place at TMS on March 18th and 19th. All information regarding the schedule for ELA class attendance and details regarding eWallets can be found in the March edition of the Tenakill Times.*
- *As always, thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration!*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Vincent McHale, Superintendent of Schools, shared with the Board and the community his report:

- We celebrated Read Across America Week last week at Hillside Elementary School. There were many reading events during the week, including a Stop Everything and Read moment each day and read-alouds by staff and visitors. The Closter Police Department visited and spent a morning reading to students in 18 classrooms. The whole week celebrated the joy of books and reading!
- Congratulations to our Science Olympiad Team! The team competed in the New Jersey state finals tournament on Monday, March 9, 2026, at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ. The Tenakill Middle School team has placed first in the Division B competition! We are so proud of our students for placing first in the state for the second year in a row. Thank you to Ms. Moidu and Mr. Hernandez for leading the team!
- The Profile of a Closter Learner Rubric Committee met again last week and continued their work on our district goal. As the committee progresses through its work, it is giving deep thought to how best to implement the rubric once it is complete. The three subcommittees (PreK-2, Grades 3-5, and Grades 6-8) have completed their drafts of the rubric, with descriptors for each characteristic at three proficiency levels. So, for each of the six characteristics listed in the Profile, they have identified two or three indicators of how students in the grade band would demonstrate that characteristic, and then what that looks like for a student who is approaching, meeting, or exceeding proficiency. At the next Profile Rubric committee meeting, the committee will align the indicators across grade bands to ensure progression of skills for each of the six characteristics.
- He is excited to share that our district, Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School websites have been updated with a fresh new look and improved navigation. If you haven't had a chance to explore them yet, we encourage you to take a few minutes to check them out! As we continue to make improvements, you'll notice we'll be refreshing the photos throughout the sites to feature the faces you know best — our own students and staff. Be sure to visit the Latest News section on the district homepage to stay up to date on the most recent announcements, highlights, and happenings from across our schools. He hopes you enjoy the new sites — as always, your feedback is welcome!
- What a spectacular performance! On Saturday, March 7th, Porchlight Productions brought the magic of The Little Mermaid, Jr. to life, and our students did not disappoint. Twenty-eight talented performers from grades 2 through 4 took the stage and wowed the audience with their singing, dancing, and storytelling. From the opening number to the final bow, it was clear that our young performers had worked incredibly hard, and their enthusiasm and talent shone through every moment of the show. A huge thank you to the dedicated crew and staff who worked behind the scenes to make the production a success. We are so proud of each and every one of our student performers — you were absolutely amazing! Bravo! Aladdin, Jr. will be performed by students in grades 5-8 on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Come support our performing artists!
- The Closter PTO will host their annual gala next Friday, March 20, 2026, from 7:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Edgewood Country Club in River Vale. The theme is a Garden Soirée. Tickets are on sale on the Closter PTO webpage. Don't miss out on this fun evening!
- The administration and Board Finance and Physical Plant Committee have spent considerable time over the past several months working collaboratively to prepare the preliminary 2026-2027 budget, which Floro Villanueva, our Business Administrator, will walk us through this evening. This budget reflects our continued commitment to protecting all student programs and

maintaining our facilities, while remaining mindful of the financial impact on our taxpayers. Floro Villanueva's outstanding leadership throughout this process deserves recognition, as does the dedication of the Board Finance and Physical Plant Committee members, whose efforts help ensure that every student benefits from a quality education in safe, well-equipped, and up-to-date facilities. Following Board approval of the preliminary budget, it will be forwarded to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval. The public hearing for the final budget will take place at our Board of Education meeting on April 30, 2026. We are video recording tonight's presentation, and it will be posted to our district website (under Latest News) for anyone who was unable to attend the presentation and wants to learn more about our budget.

BOARD COMMITTEES

There were no board committee reports.

SY 2026 - 2027 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Villanueva presented the preliminary budget for the 2026-2027 school year, as recommended by the Finance and Physical Plant Committee.

The proposed budget preserves all current programs and staffing levels. It continues to invest in technology upgrades, including laptops, Promethean boards, and network infrastructure improvements, while maintaining funding for facilities maintenance and instructional resources. Significant capital projects planned for the year include continuing the network infrastructure upgrade, sidewalk and curb improvements to ensure safe access to school buildings, and ongoing facilities maintenance across both buildings.

On the revenue side, the district projects a 6.69% increase in the local tax levy, utilizing all allowable adjustments under state law. Tuition revenue will increase based on the current structure of the integrated preschool program. Miscellaneous revenue from interest earnings and facility rentals will supplement the budget, while state aid will decrease by 3% to \$1,652,351, reflecting a reduction from the prior year amount of \$1,703,454. The district will also apply prior-year surplus and withdraw funds from the Maintenance Reserve and Capital Reserve to fund maintenance and capital projects. Federal and state grants will continue to provide additional support, and debt service aid will offset bond repayment costs.

On the appropriations side, salaries and employee benefits continue to represent the largest share of the budget, consistent with prior years. Purchased services, including special education tuition for out-of-district placements, professional services, facilities maintenance and capital work, supplies, and miscellaneous expenses, account for the remaining appropriations. This year's biggest challenge is the overall increase in health benefits (31.9% in FY 2026, and projected 25% for FY 27).

To help offset the impact of the levy increase, the district is withdrawing \$255,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to cover the principal portion of the debt service payment. This reduces the Debt Service levy by \$246,733, or 81.31%, while the General Fund levy increases by \$1,569,169, or 6.64%, resulting in a net overall school tax levy increase of 5.52%, or \$1,322,436.

Despite the levy increase, the average Closter homeowner will see a reduction in their school tax bill. Due to a \$198.95 million increase in Closter Borough's total assessed property value, the levy is spread over a larger tax base, lowering the effective rate per home. For a home at the average assessed value of \$944,688, estimated school taxes decrease from \$8,173.34 in 2025-2026 to \$8,046.28 in 2026-2027 — a reduction of \$127.06, or 1.55%.

The budget is submitted to the County Superintendent of Schools for review and approval before advertising. The public hearing and adoption of the SY 2026-2027 budget is scheduled for the April 30, 2026, meeting.

Mr. Villanueva thanked the Board's Finance and Physical Plant Committee, Mr. McHale, the Administrators, and other staff involved in developing the budget.

Ms. Finkelstein thanked Mr. Villanueva and expressed her appreciation for the time and effort invested in developing a budget that preserves all current staffing and program levels. She noted that as news continues to emerge about districts across the state struggling to balance their budgets and facing serious financial hardship, Closter Public Schools continues to navigate these same challenges with a thoughtful, long-term plan. Ms. Finkelstein commended Mr. Villanueva for his leadership in guiding the district through a difficult budget environment while keeping the interests of students and staff at the forefront.

A recording of the Preliminary Budget Presentation is available on the district website:
<https://www.closterschools.org/preliminary-budget-presentation-recording-available>

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Mr. Paldi ▾ 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. Micera ▾ , seconded by Mr. Paldi ▾ to resume the regular order of business.

BOARD OPERATIONS

Moved by Mr. Shih ▾ , seconded by Ms. Micera ▾ to approve Motions A and B.

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

YEAS: Mr. Shih, Ms. Estrems, Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, Mr. Paldi, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein

NAYS: None

A. **APPROVAL - Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the February 26, 2026, Board of Education meeting minutes.

B. **APPROVAL - Donation of 20 New Soccer Balls to Tenakill Middle School**

Motion to accept the donation of 20 new soccer balls, totaling \$700, from SJ Enrichment to TMS.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

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

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Mr. Paldi ▾ to approve Motion A.

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

YEAS: Mr. Shih, Ms. Estrems, Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, Mr. Paldi, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein

NAYS: None

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: Katharine Meyers
Course No./Title: 1) EDUC 719X Implementing Playful Learning in Pre-K-2 Classrooms
2) EDUC 717M Understanding Dyslexia
3) EDUC 717W How the Brain Learns to Read: Decoding Comprehension and Motivation
4) EDUC 719L Project-Based Learning
Institution: University of LaVerne
Credits: 12 (3 credits each)

Staff Member: Paul Aguirre
Course No./Title: 1) Spanish Grammar 1
2) History of the Spanish Language
3) Resources for the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language
4) Contemporary Spanish Literature
5) History of Spain
6) Spanish Culture I

Institution: 7) Hispanic Civilization I
 University of Salamanca
 Credits: 16 total credits

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

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

Ms. Micera asked whether the state aid amount listed under Item C was the final figure presented during the budget presentation. Mr. Villanueva confirmed that it was.

Moved by Mr. Choi, seconded by Mr. Paldi to approve Motions A - M.

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

YEAS: Mr. Shih, Ms. Estrems, Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, Mr. Paldi, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein

NAYS: None

A. APPROVAL - Payment of Bills

Motion to approve payment of bills from March 1, 2026, to March 12, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,660,755.06
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 5,388.01
Enterprise (Milk – Fund 60)	\$ 714.27
Total	\$1,666,857.34

B. APPROVAL - Staff Remuneration

Motion to approve remuneration to staff members as follows:

Staff Member: Songhee (Joy) Lee
 Course: EDUC 7130 Building Classroom Discipline
 College/University: University of LaVerne
 Remuneration: \$420.00

Staff Member: Megan Weis
 Course: EDUC 7130 Building Classroom Discipline
 College/University: University of LaVerne
 Remuneration: \$420.00

Staff Member: Kaitlyn Yu
 Course: EDUC 7130 Building Classroom Discipline

College/University: University of LaVerne
 Remuneration: \$420.00

C. **APPROVAL - SY 2026 - 2027 Preliminary Budget**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Closter Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the preliminary 2026-2027 school year budget and authorizes the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary to submit the preliminary budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Local Tax Levy</i>
General Current Expense (Fund 11)	\$ 28,502,054	\$ 25,203,081
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 1,658,191	
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

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a meeting will be held at the Tenakill Middle School Media Center on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the SY 2026-2027 budget.

D. APPROVAL - SY 2026-2027 Preliminary Budget – Adjustment for Health Care Costs

BE IT RESOLVED that the Closter Board of Education approves the use of an adjustment for increase in health care costs, permitting the tax levy to increase above 2% in the amount of **\$1,096,491**. The adjustment will be used to support the rising cost of health benefits for eligible district staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to submit the preliminary budget with the inclusion of the health care costs adjustment as noted above.

E. 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 **\$1,649,000**.

F. **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.

G. **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 \$21,929.35 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.

H. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Cengage Learning**
Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year agreement with Cengage Learning for the National Geographic digital access and student workbooks until June 2029, at a total cost of \$40,443.86.

I. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Riverside Insights**
Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year agreement with Riverside Insights for the three-year COGAT testing materials starting SY 2025-2026 until SY 2027-2028, at a total cost of \$17,896.54.

J. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with EdPuzzle Inc**
Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year agreement with EdPuzzle Inc. for the three-year Ed Puzzle subscription for Science & Social Studies, March 2029, at a total cost of \$7,837.50. The contract reflects a 5% discount.

- K. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Rethink Ed**
Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year agreement with Rethink Ed for the three-year Rethink Behavior/Skills Success subscription until October 31, 2029, at a total cost of \$8,397.00. The contract reflects a 10% discount.
- L. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with Learning Ally Inc.**
Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year agreement with Learning Ally for the three-year Learning Ally subscription (small district) until June 30, 2029, at a total cost of \$9,117.15. The contract reflects a 5% discount.
- M. **APPROVAL – Purchase of iPad with Apple Care and Case with Apple Inc.**
Motion to approve the purchase of 24 iPads with Apple Care from Apple Inc. and 24 Logitech Rugged combo cases with keyboards in the amount of \$15,550.80 through the Ed Services Commission of Morris, Apple Contract #1670625. 19 devices are purchased for Hillside and 5 for Tenakill.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Mr. McHale read into the record Mr. Green's letter of resignation for retirement purposes and extended the Board's best wishes as he begins this new chapter.

Moved by Mr. Paldi , seconded by Ms. Micera to approve Motions A - G.

YEAS: Mr. Shih, Ms. Estrems, Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, Mr. Paldi, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein

NAYS: None

- A. **APPROVAL - Retirement of Scott Greene, Hillside Elementary School Grade 4 Teacher**
Motion to approve the retirement of Scott Greene, HES Grade 4 teacher, effective June 30, 2026.
- B. **APPROVAL - Allocation of Title I Funds for Ellen Monaghan's Salary**
Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the payment of a portion of the salary for Ellen Monaghan, BSI Teacher at Tenakill Middle School, from Title I funds as follows:

20-231-100-100-060-00-0	\$ 31,000 (26.06%)	Title I
11-230-100-101-060-01-0	\$ 87,933 (73.94%)	District Funds
- C. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Gina Cocca, Tenakill Middle School Paraprofessional**
Motion to accept the resignation of Gina Cocca, TMS paraprofessional, effective March 3, 2026.
- D. **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>
Mary Lombino	Substitute Nurse
Malikha Ghauri	Substitute Certificate
Carol Laux	Substitute Certificate
Shireen Bora	Substitute Certificate
Theresa Tejada	Substitute Custodian
Taylor Paster	Substitute Certificate

E. APPROVAL - Leave of Absence for Ashley Buckley, Hillside Elementary School Special Education Teacher

Motion to approve Ashley Buckley, HES Special Education teacher, for a leave of absence from June 13, 2026, through November 24, 2026, as follows:

- Paid sick leave from June 13, 2026, through June 24, 2026, and
- 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.

F. APPROVAL - Leave of Absence for Dana Hollywood, Hillside Elementary School Grade 1 Teacher

Motion to approve Dana Hollywood, HES Grade 1 teacher, for a leave of absence from May 26, 2026, through November 24, 2026, as follows:

- Paid sick leave from May 26, 2026, through June 10, 2026;
- Personal leave from June 11, 2026, through June 15, 2026;
- An FMLA leave for personal disability from June 16, 2026, through June 24, 2026;
- An FMLA and NJFLA child bonding leave from September 1, 2026, through November 17, 2026; and
- An NJFLA child bonding leave from November 18, 2026, through November 24, 2026, with an anticipated return to work on November 25, 2026.

G. APPROVAL - Resignation of Margaret Churchill, Tenakill Middle School ESL Teacher

Motion to accept the resignation of Margaret Churchill, TMS ESL teacher, effective June 30, 2026.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Villanueva informed the Board that he will be executing a commitment letter to secure the equipment for the Network Infrastructure Project. He explained that because the FY2027 purchase order cannot be processed until after the public hearing, the commitment letter ensures that the equipment is reserved at the current pricing and delivered in time for the scheduled summer installation.

The trustees approved Mr. Villanueva to sign commitment letters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Mr. Paldi ▾ to open the meeting for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Mr. Paldi ▾ to close the meeting to public comments.

CLOSED SESSION MOTION (If required)

Moved by Ms. Ravid ▾ , seconded by Ms. Micera ▾ to approve the following Closed Session Motion.

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

YEAS: Mr. Shih, Ms. Estrems, Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, Mr. Paldi, Mr. Choi, Ms. Finkelstein

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 8:50 PM.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 9:08 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Micera ▾ , seconded by Mr. Paldi ▾ to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



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