

# CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Closter, New Jersey*

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

*Tenakill Middle School*

*March 26, 2026 - 7:30 PM*

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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 12, 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-2526-17, TMS-2526-18, TMS-2526-19, TMS-2526-20, and TMS-2526-21 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the March 12, 2026, meeting.

C. **APPROVAL - Tenakill Middle School Fundraisers for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Motion to approve the following TMS Fundraisers for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Student Council’s TMS Teacher vs. Student Kickball Baseball Game. All proceeds will support Student Council activities and events.
- Science Olympiad’s Launch a Pie at a Teacher catapult game. All proceeds will support the Science Olympiad National Tournament trip.
- Science Olympiad’s sale of long-sleeve sweatshirts with TMS branding. All proceeds will support the Science Olympiad National Tournament trip.

D. **APPROVAL - Donation of 30 Children’s Books to Hillside Elementary School**

Motion to accept the donation of 30 children’s books to HES from Ms. Sarah Glowacki.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE**

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

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve Motion A.

Motion was \_\_\_\_\_ by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

**A. APPROVAL - Field Trips**

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

School: Hillside Elementary School  
Group: Grade 4 Special Education  
Month: May 2026  
Destination: Tenakill Middle School  
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Hillside Elementary School  
Group: Grade 4  
Month: June 2026  
Destination: Tenakill Middle School  
Location: Closter, NJ

School: Hillside Elementary School  
Group: Grade 3  
Month: June 2026  
Destination: NJ Sea Life Aquarium  
Location: East Rutherford, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School  
Group: Science Olympiad  
Month: May 2026  
Destination: University of Southern California  
Location: Los Angeles, CA

School: Tenakill Middle School  
Group: TEP Grades 7 and 8  
Month: June 2026  
Destination: Bergen Brain Busters - Ramapo College  
Location: Mahwah, NJ

School: Tenakill Middle School  
 Group: TEP Grade 5  
 Month: May 2026  
 Destination: Harrington Park Public School  
 Location: Harrington Park, NJ

**FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE**

*Chairperson: Mr. Choi; Members: Ms. Micera, Ms. Ravid, 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 - 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 A attached:

- a. Board Secretary and School Treasurer Financial Reports for February 2026.
- b. Board of Education’s Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for February 2026.
- c. Transfer of funds for February 2026.

**B. APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve payment of bills from March 13, 2026, to March 26, 2026, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,056,444.31
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 4,785.85
Capital Fund (Fund 30)	\$ 77,003.40
Total	\$1,138,233.56

**C. APPROVAL - Special Services Rates for SY 2026-2027**

Motion to approve the following special services rates for the 2026-2027 school year for Region III students who will attend Closter Public Schools. These rates will also be used to calculate the cost of services for in-district students when determining extraordinary aid:

	<u>Group</u>	<u>Individual</u>
Speech/Session	\$45.00	\$90.00
OT/PT/Session	\$50.00	\$100.00
MSR/Session	\$45.00	\$90.00

Counseling/Session	\$45.00	\$90.00
ELL Session	\$45.00	\$90.00

D. **APPROVAL - Tuition Rates for SY 2026-2027**

Motion to approve the following tuition rates for the school year 2026-2027:

Kindergarten	\$18,912
Grades 1-5	\$18,691
Grades 6-8	\$18,906
PreSchool Disabled	\$38,625
Learning and/or Language Disabilities	\$41,936
Emotional Regulation Impairment	\$28,540

E. **APPROVAL - Closter Public Schools' Participation in the LEAP Implementation Grant**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has appropriated \$2 million for Shared Services and Implementation, Challenge, and County Shared Services Coordinator Grants to assist local units with the study, development, and implementation of new shared and regional services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP); and

WHEREAS, LEAP Implementation Grants exist to support costs associated with shared service implementation to ensure that meaningful, efficiency-generating initiatives are not hindered by short-term transitional expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Valley Regional High School District (NVRHSD) and the Closter Public Schools propose to enter into a shared services agreement, but face certain expenses associated with implementation that present a burden to the local units; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this shared services agreement is to build, equip, and furnish a Career and Professional Learning Center, which will benefit the students and staff of NVRHSD and the school district of Closter; and

WHEREAS, the NVRHSD has agreed to be the lead agency in this program and will submit the application to DLGS on behalf of all participating units; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Closter Public Schools, that the Closter Public Schools does hereby join with NVRHSD in applying for a LEAP Implementation Grant in the amount of \$300,000 to support implementation of this shared service.

F. **APPROVAL – Purchase of a Multi-Year License Agreement with ExploreLearning**  
Motion to approve the purchase of a multi-year license agreement with ExploreLearning for Gizmos and Reflex Math until June 2029 for \$13,701.15. The contract reflects a \$1,522.35 discount.

G. **APPROVAL - Closeout of the Boiler Replacement Project**  
Motion to approve the closeout of the Boiler Replacement Project, which was funded through the referendum. The contract in the amount of \$930,000, including a \$100,000 allowance, was awarded to CJ Vanderbeck and Sons, Inc. The following change orders were included in the project:

- Change Order #1: Replace four (4) main isolation stop valves on the existing heating system for the two new boilers: \$3,810.00. Remove and replace the upper damaged stack; fabricate and install a new double-wall stack system with apron and flashing curb: \$18,760.00 (Approved on 8/6/25).
- Change Order #2: Supply and install sump pump: \$3,800.00 (Approved on 10/29/25).
- Change Order #3: HES Front Boiler Room - sand and prepare floors, including patching and filling any cracks, then finish with epoxy floor paint: \$37,372.00 (Approved on 11/19/25).
- Change Order #4: Install new testable backflow devices for \$8,980.00 (Approved on 12/10/25).

The final project cost is \$902,722.00, with \$27,278.00 remaining unused from the allowance. The district has received all required warranty documents, and the project is now considered complete.

H. **APPROVAL - Closeout of the Tenakill Middle School Gym HVAC Upgrade**  
Motion to approve the closeout of the Tenakill Middle School GYM HVAC upgrade, which was funded through the referendum. The contract in the amount of \$889,000, including a \$100,000 allowance, was awarded to Panoramic Windows & Door Systems, Inc. The following change orders were included in the project:

- Change Order #1: \$4,400 for gas regulator and control valve supply and installation
- Change Order #2: District credit for overtime costs related to building access during school breaks - \$2,078.62.

The final project cost is \$791,321.38, with \$95,600 (plus \$2,078.62 credit) remaining unused from the allowance. The district has received all required warranty documents, and the project is now considered complete.

#### **PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve Motions A - G.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

- A. **APPROVAL - Extension of Paul Donevan as Long-Term Leave Replacement - Tenakill Middle School ELL Teacher**  
 Motion to approve the extension of Paul Donevan as Long-Term Leave Replacement, TMS ELL Teacher, from April 1, 2026, through the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
- B. **APPROVAL - Appointment of Amanda Cummings as Mentor for Provisionally Licensed Teacher**  
 Motion to approve the appointment of Amanda Cummings as a mentor to provisionally licensed teacher, Paul Donevan.
- C. **APPROVAL - Catherine Ianni and Erika Dunn to Provide Instructional Coverage to Special Education Classes**  
 Motion to approve the appointment of the following teachers to provide instructional coverage for Brittany Trivisano's special education classes in place of their prep period, beginning approximately April 27, 2026, until the end of the 2025-2026 school year:
- Erika Dunn (Period 1) - \$83.78
  - Catherine Ianni (Period 6) - \$81.40
- D. **APPROVAL - Substitute Teachers/Paraprofessionals/Custodians**  
 Motion to approve the following substitute teachers/paraprofessionals/custodians for the 2025-2026 school Year:
- | <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Certification</u></b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Scott Finan        | Substitute Certificate      |
| Arleen Rosa        | Substitute Certificate      |
| Noelle Hoffman     | Substitute Certificate      |
- E. **APPROVAL - Leave of Absence for Alice Clifford, Tenakill Middle School Teacher**  
 Motion to approve the leave of absence for Alice Clifford, TMS Teacher, from April 7, 2026, to May 6, 2026, using three (3) personal days, 12 sick days, one (1) banked sick day, and one (1) unpaid day.
- F. **APPROVAL - Lyneah Lucious as Clinical Intern for the 2025-2026 School Year**  
 Motion to approve Lyneah Lucious, Seton Hall University clinical intern, to work with Dara Weiss for the 2025-2026 school year, pending criminal history background check.
- G. **APPROVAL - Resignation of Kristen Zanin, Hillside Elementary School Assistant Principal**  
 Motion to accept the resignation of Kristen Zanin, HES Assistant Principal, effective June 30, 2026.

**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:

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ PM.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at \_\_\_\_\_ PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ , seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to adjourn the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ PM.