

CLOSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closter, New Jersey

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Tenakill Middle School

October 29, 2025 - 7:30 PM

Call to order: _____ @ _____ P.M.

Roll Call:

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

NJSLA 2024-2025 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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 October 15, 2025, 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-2526-02, TMS-2526-03 and TMS-2526-04 as reported to the Board in Executive Session at the October 15, 2025, meeting.

C. APPROVAL - Hillside Elementary School’s Fundraisers for the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to approve the following HES fundraisers:

- Student Council will collect new or gently-used coats, gloves, and hats throughout the 2025-2026 school year. All proceeds will benefit Bergen’s Promise, an organization dedicated to addressing the mental health and wellness of children and young adults.
- Student Council will collect hygiene products such as toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, soap, etc., in February 2026. All proceeds will benefit veterans’ organizations.
- Student Council will collect non-perishable food items during Spring 2026. All donated items will go to the Closter Food Pantry.

D. APPROVAL – Disenrollment of Student ID #8917498202

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Closter Board of Education approves the disenrollment of student ID #8917498202 from the Closter School District for the 2025-2026 school year due to non-residency.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

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

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: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Science Olympiad
Month: November 2025
Destination: Mason Invitational Competitions
Location: Virtual (After school)

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: Science Olympiad
Month: November 2025
Destination: Rickards Invitational Competitions
Location: Virtual (After school)

School: Tenakill Middle School
Group: TEP Grades 7 and 8
Month: February 2026
Destination: Demarest Middle School
Location: Demarest, NJ

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Choi; Members: Ms. Estrems, 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 - 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 September 2025.
- b. Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Budgetary Major Account /Fund status for September 2025.
- c. Transfer of funds for September 2025.

B. **APPROVAL - Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve the payment of bills from October 16, 2025, to October 29, 2025, in the amount of:

General Fund (Fund 10)	\$1,011,440.92
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 5,528.73
Capital Projects (Fund 30)	\$ 227,747.20
Total	\$1,244,716.85

C. **APPROVAL - Change Order on Boiler Replacement Project**

Motion to approve the change order for the boiler replacement project at Hillside Elementary School with CJ Vanderbeck and Sons, Inc. The total amount of the change order will be deducted from the allowance included in the base bid:

- Change Order #3 – Supply and install sump pump: \$3,800.00

D. **APPROVAL - 403(b) Investment Option for Employees**

Motion to approve the addition of Lincoln Investment to the district's 403(b) investment option for all eligible district employees, to be offered alongside the existing traditional 403(b) plan, with no cost or financial obligation to the district.

E. **APPROVAL - Contract Award for Bergen County Special Services School District for Chapter 192/193 Non Public Services**

Motion to award and approve the contract with Bergen County Special Services School District to provide remedial and auxiliary services to eligible students attending non-public schools for the 2025-2026 school year.

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Paldj; Member: Mr. Shih

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 - Math Counts Volunteers

Motion to approve the following NVRHS-D students to assist Mr. McElroy for the 2025-2026 school year, pending a criminal history background check:

- Jisoo Kim
- Sean Oh (criminal background check has been completed)
- Jiyun Park
- Ryan Pham

B. APPROVAL - Science Olympiad Volunteer

Motion to approve Irene Bae, an NVRHS-D student, to assist Ms. Moidu for the 2025-2026 school year. Criminal background check has been completed.

C. APPROVAL – Appointment of Alexis Kastrinos as Substitute Teacher for Catherine Gibney’s Leave

Motion to approve the appointment of Alexis Kastrinos as substitute teacher for Catherine Gibney’s replacement, from December 4, 2025, through January 19, 2026. Salary will be \$200 per day on days 1 through 10; then beginning on day 11, MA Step 0, \$65,500 pro-rated. A criminal history background check is on file.

D. APPROVAL - Kristen Zanin, Hillside School Assistant Principal, Leave of Absence

Motion to approve Kristen Zanin, HES Assistant Principal, for a leave of absence from February 23, 2026, through June 30, 2026, as follows:

- Personal leave from February 23 through February 25, 2026,
- Paid sick leave from February 26 through March 19, 2026,
- Paid sick bank days from March 20 through April 2, 2026,
- Paid vacation leave from April 6 through April 20, 2026, and
- An FMLA and NJFLA child bonding leave from April 21 through June 30, 2026, with an anticipated return to work on July 1, 2026.

E. APPROVAL - Appointment of Kelly Kawaguchi as Hillside Elementary School Library Media Specialist Long-Term Leave Replacement

Motion to approve the appointment of Kelly Kawaguchi as HES Library Media Specialist Long-Term Leave Replacement from January 5, 2026, through February 9, 2026. Salary will be MA Step 0 at \$65,500, pro-rated. A criminal history background check is on file.

F. **APPROVAL - Joanne Iyo, Hillside School Technology Teacher, for Gifted & Talented Coverage**

Motion to approve Joanne Iyo, HES Technology Teacher, for one hour of extra pay at \$82.00 per hour on Letter C Day to provide coverage for Gifted & Talented instruction until February 6, 2026.

G. **APPROVAL - Substitute Teachers/Paraprofessionals/Nurse**

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>
Lauren Kessler	Substitute Certificate
Maribel Velasco	Substitute Nurse Certificate
Sing Han	Standard Teaching 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:

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.