

**REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 13, 2021
MINUTES**

1. Call To Order

Mike Tomasco, Board President, called the meeting to order on April 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Google Meet. The meeting was also available to the public through the district website quick link page.

2. Sunshine Announcement

Mike Tomasco, Board President, announced that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 (Sunshine Law) and that adequate notice of the date, time and location has been sent to the Daily Record and has been posted and filed with the Chester Township and Chester Borough Clerks. The annual meeting calendar has also been sent to each District school and the Chester Post Office. Additionally, the agenda has been posted on the District website prior to the Board meeting.

3. Roll Call

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|----------------------|------------|
| Amy Collins | Yes | Heather Ronco | Yes |
| Carolyn Kleppe-Collins | Yes | Mike Tomasco | Yes |
| Rebekah Forlenza | Yes | Billy Webster (7:13) | Yes |
| Sara Kalashian | Yes | Kerri Wright | Yes |
| Christopher Lowry | Yes | Quorum | Yes |

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Tomasco, Board President, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Administration- Dr. Christina VanWoert and Tanya Dawson

5a. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Van Woert gave an update on the return of BRMS students

5b. Business Administrator's Report

- April 19, 2021 Finance/Buildings & Grounds Meetings
- Budget has been approved by County DOE Business Official with no changes.
- Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for April 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

6. Oath of Office

Administered by Tanya Dawson, Board Secretary, to the newly elected Board Member William Webster: (Policy 9115, N.J.S.A.18A:12-2.1, R.S. 41:1-3

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

7. Executive Session

RESOLVED, that pursuant to NJS.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 the Chester Board of Education holds a closed session on April 13, 2021 at 7:33 p.m. to discuss Personnel and HIB It is expected that the minutes will be made public as soon as official action is taken.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Heather Ronco

| Roll Call Vote | AC | CKC | RF | SK | CL | HR | MT | BW | KW |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 8-0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

7a. Return to Public Session

Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Heather Ronco the Board considered a motion to return to public session at 7:48 p.m.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Heather Ronco

| Roll Call Vote | AC | CKC | RF | SK | CL | HR | MT | BW | KW |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 8-0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

8. Public Commentary made via Video and/or audio:

Lucy Giannattasio-

Ms. Giannattasio expressed frustration and concern of negative effects on the students at BRMS not attending school full time.

Caroline Rodriguez-

Ms. Rodriguez asked about the procedure for appointing the new Board Member and if it was publicly advertised.

Karen Prignano-

Ms. Prignano expressed concern over BRMS students not attending school 5 days a week.

Public Commentary submitted in writing which were read by Board Secretary:

Michele Drag-see attached Comment #1

Danielle Shesky-see attached Comment #2

9. Approval of Minutes

The Board took the following action:

9a. Approves Regular Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2021

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RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on March 15, 2021

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Heather Ronco

| Roll Call Vote | AC | CKC | RF | SK | CL | HR | MT | Vacant | KW |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|
| 8-0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Abstain | Yes |

10. Committee of The Whole—All.

The Board took the following action:

10a. Approves Superintendent's Recommendation for HIB case #3

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation for HIB Case #3.

10b. Approves Superintendent's Recommendation for HIB case #4

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation for HIB Case #4.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

| Roll Call Vote | AC | CKC | RF | SK | CL | HR | MT | BW | KW |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|
| 9-0-1 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Abstain | Yes |

11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance—Amy Collins, Rebekah Forlenza, Sara Kalashian and Chris Lowry

Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Heather Ronco, the Board approved the following resolutions:

11a. Approves Bills List

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, the Chester Board of Education approves payment of the bills list as approved by the Finance Committee.

| Bills List | Totals |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Payroll 03/26/2021 | \$630,677.45 |
| Bills List 04/13/2021 | \$605,357.02 |

11b. Approves Travel Requests

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 and N.J.A.C.6A:23A and Board Policy 9250 and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following travel requests:

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| Date | Employee Conference/Workshop | Registration- Tuition | Travel Misc. | Estimated Total Expense |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| June 8-11, 2021 | Deborah Foster Visualizing and Verbal- izing | \$750.00 | \$459.97 Materials | \$1,209.97 |
| April 20, 22, 27, 29 2021 | Tanya Dawson Public School Purchas- ing-Shoop SBA, LLC | \$900.00 | Virtual | \$900.00 |
| April 20, 22, 27, 29 2021 | Vanessa Sturtevant Public School Purchas- ing-Shoop SBA, LLC | \$900.00 | Virtual | \$900.00 |
| April 17- 25, 2021 | Katherine Strauss Intermediate IMSE Orton Gillingham Training | \$1,275.00 | Virtual | \$1,275.00 |
| April 17- 25, 2021 | MaryRose Walsh Intermediate IMSE Orton Gillingham Training | \$1,275.00 | Virtual | \$1,275.00 |
| May 4, 6, 11, 13, 2021 | Kathryn Maxton SQL Series Customiza- tion Webinar | \$280.00 | Virtual | \$280.00 |
| June 2021 | Andrew White Schools to Watch Con- vention | \$249.00 | Virtual | \$249.00 |
| June 2021 | Joseph Pizzo Schools to Watch Con- vention | \$249.00 | Virtual | \$249.00 |
| June 2021 | Kenneth Piascik Schools to Watch Con- vention | \$249.00 | Virtual | \$249.00 |

11c. Approves Disposal of Trailer (2001)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves disposal of unusable 2001 trailer previously used by Buildings and Grounds department.

11d. Approves MOA with Drew University

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Memorandum of Agreement with Drew University, Madison, NJ for the purpose of the District making its schools available for the clinical learning experience of the University's students commencing on June 1, 2021 and terminating on May 31, 2024.

11e. Approves Renewal of Agreement with ESS Northeast, LLC (Substitute Service)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves renewal of agreement with ESS Northeast, LLC from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 with no increase in cost.

11f. Approves Physical Therapy Services

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Dr. Donna Detore to provide physical therapy services for the Camp Achieve summer program from July 6, 2021, through August 9, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$95 for nine hours weekly for a total cost of up to \$4,275.

11g. Accepts Donation (Chester PTO)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education, accepts with gratitude the donation of in the amount of \$4500 (\$1500 for each school) from the Chester PTO to be used for the purchase of new books.

11h. Declares Equipment Obsolete

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education declares equipment obsolete and directs the School Business Administrator to remove these items from the District's asset inventory if necessary; copy of which is attached.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Heather Ronco

| Roll Call Vote | AC | CKC | RF | SK | CL | HR | MT | BW | KW |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel— Heather Ronco and Mike Tomasco

Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Kerri Wright, the Board approved the following resolutions:

12a. Accepts Resignation (Kilpatrick)

RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Stephanie Kilpatrick, a 5th grade teacher at Bragg School, with a resignation end date of April 9, 2021.

12b. Accepts Retirement (Basanese)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Diane Basanese, Instructional Special Education Coach with much gratitude for over 25 years of service, effective June 30, 2021.

12c. Accepts Retirement (Campbell)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Leroy Campbell, BRMS Custodian with much gratitude for 36 years of service, effective June 30, 2021.

12d. Approves 5th grade Teacher (Allen)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Laura Allen as a 5th grade Teacher at Bragg School beginning April

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12, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, Step 1 BA, at an annual salary of \$51,580 with benefits prorated up to \$15,252.16.

12e. Approves Math Instructional Coach (Cahill)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Colleen Cahill as Math Instructional Coach Grades K-8 for the 2021-2022 school year.

12f. Approves Non-Tenured Teachers

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following non-tenured teachers for the 2021-2022 school year:

| BRMS | Bragg | Dickerson |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Michelle Belfiore | Cassandra Cangiano | Julie Curtin |
| Alexis Carle | Robyn Cawood | Sarah Skrabal |
| Melissa D'Auria | Stephanie Damiano | Katherine Turnbull |
| Alexandra Livesey | Gretchen Jacot | Christie Yates |
| Lauren Marianino | Christopher Jala | |
| Catherine McPherson | Patricia Lewis | |
| Amy Schwartz | Lauren Seibert | |
| Jacquelyn Tasker | Katherine Strauss | |
| Lorri Willis | Wendy Talik | |
| | | |

12g. Approves Teachers Who Receive Tenure in 2021-2022 School Year

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following teachers who will receive tenure for the 2021-2022 school year:

| Name | Position | School | Date of Tenure |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Jillian Soden | 1 st Grade Teacher | Dickerson | 03/02/2022 |
| Andrea Varughese | ELL Teacher | Dickerson | 09/02/2021 |
| Sarah Warren | Resource Teacher | BRMS | 02/02/2022 |

12h. Approves Non-Tenured Secretaries

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following non-tenured secretaries for the 2021-2022 school year:

| Name | School/Department |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Melissa Gordon Sant | Dickerson School |
| Kimberly Vanderwall | BRMS Guidance Department |

12i. Approves Administrative Assistant to Receive Tenure (Bennett)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Eileen Bennett, Student Services Administrative Assistant to receive tenure on April 27, 2021.

12j. Approves Non-Tenured Clerical Positions

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following non-tenured clerical position for the 2021-2022 school year:

| Name | School | Position |
|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Vanessa Sturtevant | District | Purchasing/Account Specialist |

12k. Approves Payroll/Benefits Specialist to Receive Tenure (Weiss)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Cynthia Weiss, Payroll Benefits Specialist to receive tenure on June 2, 2021.

12l. Approves Principal to Receive Tenure (White)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Andrew White, BRMS Principal to receive tenure for the 2021-2022 school year.

12m. Approves Business Administrator to Receive Tenure (Dawson)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Tanya Dawson School Business Administrator to receive tenure May 2, 2021.

12n. Approves Summer Scholars Program Teachers/Staff

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following teachers/staff for the 2021 Summer Scholars program, at the contracted hourly rate, 3.5 hours daily from July 6, 2021 through August 6, 2021 for four days a week (19 days plus one day of prep):

| Teacher | Total |
|--------------------|---------|
| Christa Bedowski | \$4,340 |
| Erin Beil | \$4,340 |
| Cassandra Cangiano | \$4,340 |
| Nicole Hey | \$4,340 |
| Barbara Knowles | \$4,340 |
| Dana Mazza | \$4,340 |
| Nicole Polkowski | \$4,340 |
| Millicent Roskie | \$4,340 |

12o. Approves Substitute for Summer Scholars (Scarfo)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following substitute teacher for the 2021 Summer Scholars program at the contracted hourly rate.

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Lauren Scarfo

12p. Amends Resolution 12c. from 3/15/21 Agenda (BRMS Homework Club)

RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education amends the following Agenda item:

From:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education, approves the following staff to conduct board-approved extra-curricular activities for the 2020-2021 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between the Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

| BRMS Club | Advisors |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Homework Club Hybrid 1 (Split) | Dana Mazza, Kathy Vespignani |
| Homework Club Hybrid 2 (Split) | Christina Sarlo, Sarah Warren |

To:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education, approves the following staff to conduct board-approved extra-curricular activities for the 2020-2021 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between the Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

| BRMS Club | Advisors |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Homework Club Hybrid 2 (Split) | Christina Sarlo, Sarah Warren |

Revised 4/13/2021

| BRMS Club | Advisors |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Homework Club (2) | Kathy Vespignani, Sarah Warren |

12q. Approves Staff for Extra-Curricular Activities (BRMS)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education, approves the following staff to conduct board-approved extra-curricular activities for the 2020-2021 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between the Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

| Sport | Head Coach | Assistant Coach |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Baseball | Timothy Rain | Sean McQueeney |
| Lacrosse-Boys | Christopher Duffy | Andrew Gray |

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| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Lacrosse-Girls | Gina Lorusso | Nicole Hey |
| Softball | Taryn Mansolino | Kevin Cullen |
| Track and Field | Catherine McPherson | Melissa D'Auria |

12r. Approves Staff for Extra-Curricular Activities (BRMS)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education, approves the following staff to conduct board-approved extra-curricular activities for the 2020-2021 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between the Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

| BRMS Club | Head Advisor | Assistant Advisor |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Drama Club (2) | Doreen Aiello | Kathleen Vespignani |

12s. Approves Spring Sports Travel Schedule

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following Black River Middle School 2020-2021 Spring Sports trips; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

12t. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 6164.4

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 6164.4-*Child Study Team*.

12u. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 6161.1

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 6161.1-*Guidelines for Evaluation and Selection of Instructional Materials*.

12v. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 6140

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 6140-*Curriculum Adoption*.

12w. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 5141

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 5141-*Health*.

12x. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 5131

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 5131-*Conduct/Discipline*.

12y. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 4111.1

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 4111.1-*Nondiscrimination/Affirmative Action*.

12z. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 4111.2

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 4111.2-*Domestic Violence*.

12aa. Approves Camp Achieve/Camp Success Program Teacher/Staff

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following teachers/staff for the 2021 Camp Achieve/Camp Success Extended School year program, at the contracted hourly rate from July 6, 2021 through August 9, 2021 for 4 days a week (20 days):

| Teacher | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| John Christie-Lead Teacher (30 hours advance prep) | \$1,860 |
| John Christie-Lead Teacher (5.5 hours/day) | \$6,820 |

12bb. Approves Camp Achieve/Camp Success Program Teacher/Staff

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following special education teachers for the Camp Achieve summer program from July 6, 2021 through August 9, 2021, at the contracted hourly rate (includes two prep days) for up to 4.5 hours daily:

| Teacher | Total |
|-------------------|---------|
| Tara Bagnole | \$6,138 |
| Alexis Carle | \$6,138 |
| Jennifer Christal | \$6,138 |
| Kelli Dolan | \$6,138 |
| Maryanne Vindici | \$6,138 |
| Sarah Warren | \$6,138 |

12cc. Approves Camp Achieve Speech Specialist (Skrabal)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Sarah Skrabal as Speech Specialist for the Camp Achieve summer program from July 6, 2021, through August 9, 2021, at the contracted hourly rate (includes two prep days) for up to 4.5 hours daily at a cost of up to \$6,138.

12dd. Approves Camp Achieve Nurse (Pape)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Anne Pape as School Nurse for the Camp Achieve summer program from July 6, 2021, through August 9, 2021, at the contracted hourly rate (includes one prep day) for up to 5.5 hours daily at a cost of up to \$7,161.

12ee. Approves Camp Achieve School Social Worker (Damiano)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Stephanie Damiano as school social worker for the Camp Achieve summer program from July 6, 2021, through August 9, 2021, at the contracted hourly rate (includes two prep days) for up to 4.5 hours daily at a cost of up to \$6,138.

12ff. Approves Camp Achieve Related Arts Teachers

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following related arts teachers for the Camp Achieve summer

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program from July 6, 2021, through August 9, 2021, at the contracted hourly rate (includes one prep day) for up to nine hours weekly:

| Teacher | Total |
|----------------|---------|
| Gretchen Capan | \$3,069 |
| Sara Kozlowski | \$3,069 |

12gg. Approves Camp Achieve Paraprofessionals

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Paraprofessional for the Camp Achieve summer program from July 6, 2021, through August 9, 2021, at the contracted hourly rate for up to 4.5 hours daily for up to a total of \$1,823:

Liza Harris

12hh. Approves Camp Achieve Aides

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Aides for the Camp Achieve summer program from July 6, 2021, through August 9, 2021, at the hourly rate of \$15 for up to 4.5 hours daily for up to a total of \$1,350:

Rose Alban
Victoria Alban
Samantha Capan

12ii. Approves Camp Achieve Junior Aides

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following aides for the Camp Achieve summer program from July 6, 2021, through August 9, 2021, at the minimum wage for up to 4.5 hours daily for up to a total of \$1,080:

Anthony Amador
Kylie Kennington
Olivia Rose Mancuso
Molly Spence

12jj. Approves Long Term Substitute (Patience)

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Susannah Patience as a long term substitute teacher for 5th grade effective May 17, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year at Step 1BA with an annual salary of \$51,580 prorated up to \$8,319.36 without benefits.

12kk. Accepts Retirement (Giulino)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Carol Giulino, Special Education Teach with much gratitude for over 16 years of service, effective June 30, 2021.

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12ll. Approves Leave of Absence (Emp. #1220)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves an unpaid leave of absence for Employee #1220 effective April 12, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

12mm. Approves Leave of Absence (Emp. #1154)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee #1154:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Leave (Start Date) | 4/12/2021 |
| FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits) | 4/12/2021 |
| Date of Return (Anticipated) | 08/2021 |

12nn. Approves Long Term Substitute (Rolli)

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Marian Rolli as a long term substitute Science teacher for BRMS effective April 12, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year at Step 1BA with an annual salary of \$51,580 prorated up to \$13,865.60 without benefits.

12oo. Approves Professional Work (Schwartz)

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Amy Schwartz for up to 10 hours of curriculum work at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62 for a total of up to \$620.

12pp. Approves Professional Work (Stagg)

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Michael Stagg for up to 10 hours of curriculum work at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62 for a total of up to \$620.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

| Roll Call Vote | AC | CKC | RF | SK | CL | HR | MT | BW | KW |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

13. Executive Session

None

14. Return to Public Session

None

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15. Unfinished Business

None

16. New Business

None

17. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Kerri Wright the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

| Roll Call Vote | AC | CKC | RF | SK | CL | HR | MT | BW | KW |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Respectfully Submitted,



Tanya Dawson
School Board Secretary



Public Comment <publiccomment@chester-nj.org>

BOE meeting 4/13 public comment

1 message

Comment #1**Michelle Drag** <michelle.drag@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 11:09 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@chester-nj.org>

Michelle Drag
4 Orchard Drive

First, thank you to the BOE, administration, and teachers for the tireless efforts to keep our children safe throughout the last two crazy school years. Although, we have now been doing this for over a year, I feel there is still room for improving how information is relayed to the parents/public regarding Covid Cases in the school. I would like to suggest that our district follow suit with what many other districts have done, in creating a Covid Dashboard where all the information desired is in one easy to find place. The information that might be shown would includecurrent positive cases (student and staff counted separately) per school, close contact counts, presumed positive counts, current required days of quarantine, Cali score, who to contact if student has tested positive or has direct exposure, in school transmission numbers, what/how many symptoms require a child to stay home from school, etc.

I would also like to suggest that the district give the courtesy of informing families who are subject to quarantine before releasing the letter publicly that there have been positive cases in the school.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

I am including below a direct link to a local district's covid dashboard for reference to the above: <https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/5e4c425b-98e9-46ed-b5ca-1e5a29150f2e/page/8K5vB>

~Michelle Drag



Public Comment <publiccomment@chester-nj.org>

BOE - 4/13/21

1 message

Comment #2**Danielle Shesky** <danielleshef@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 12:54 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@chester-nj.org>

Public Comment

Danielle Shesky 16 Chilton Road

Thank you for providing this forum for community members to participate in this remote meeting. It would be greatly appreciated if the meeting agenda is posted to the website with adequate notice 24-48 hours before the meeting.

Although there are many questions on my mind. I want to begin giving kudos and credit to all the parents, faculty and especially students who are adapting, adjusting, and learning to be flexible during this period of uncertainty.

I think we need a group of parents and faculty to start a "best practices" committee to ensure we are moving forward with everything we have learned throughout this year due to Covid-19. It has invigorated many community members to take a look at subject matters and topics they may have not thought of in the past.

We are 136 days into this school year and I think we need better procedures in place alerting parents of possible Covid exposure. We need better communication from the school board. Communication is key to eliminating speculation. For example, many have received the district wide general email 1st alerting the public of the exposure and many think they "are in the clear" so to speak. Unfortunately, the parties that are directly impacted are finding out after the initial email is sent. So in turn, some are going about their day, to then stop dead in their tracks with a voicemail or in person call, alerting their student must quarantine. This is causing a lot of anxiety, questions and concerns.

The exposed parties should be notified 1st then a District wide email should go out.

Next, once a student or faculty is notified to quarantine, more specific information should be provided to those parties. (obviously within HIPPA rules) Parents should know if their student will have live instruction or in the very least, have live "help" if a student has a question or further support. The Parents should be informed how long "non live" instruction is anticipated to last, as working parents need to adjust their schedules.

Moreover, the curriculum & daily work should be easily accessible for parents.

In the past, there were class websites that could be easily accessed to find a spelling list, or Math Topic. The majority doesn't have that information anymore.

Thank you for hearing my opinions and I realize this doesn't reflect everyone's point of view. It is only my observations and suggestions.

Thank you

Danielle Shesky