

**REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021  
MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

Mike Tomasco, Board President, called the meeting to order on February 16, 2021 at 6:00 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 was 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	Vacant	----
Carolyn Kleppe-Collins	Absent	Heather Ronco	Yes
Rebekah Forlenza	Yes	Mike Tomasco	Yes
Sara Kalashian	Yes	Kerri Wright	Yes
Christopher Lowry (6:09)	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**

- School Calendar and added snow days
- Update on BRMS: return to school, sports, graduation
- Teacher vaccination letter

**5b. Business Administrator's Report**

- Financial Disclosure: School Ethics Commission Forms
- Additional ESSER# funds
- Increase in financial reporting

**6. President's Comments**

None

**7. Board Candidate Interviews**

Interview conducted with candidate William Webster

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**8. Public Commentary on Agenda Items**  
None

*The Board took the following action:*

**9. Approval of Minutes**

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

**9a. Approves Regular Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2021**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on January 18, 2021

**9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2021**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on January 18, 2021

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes

**10. Committee of The Whole—All.**

**10a. Approves Superintendent's Recommendation for HIB case #1**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation for HIB Case #1.

**10b. Approves Superintendent's Recommendation for HIB case #2**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation for HIB Case #2.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes

**10c. Appoints Board Member**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education appoint William Webster to fill the Board vacancy position pending completion of background check.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes



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

**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.

<b>Bills List</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Payroll 01/29/2021	\$612,970.24
Payroll 02/12/2021	\$613,610.59
Bills List 02/16/2021	\$1,867,690.45

**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:

<b>Date</b>	<b><u>Employee</u> Conference/Workshop</b>	<b>Registration- Tuition</b>	<b>Travel Misc.</b>	<b>Estimated Total Expense</b>
February-May 2021	Kelly Dolan Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275	Virtual	\$1,275
February-May 2021	Gretchen Jacot Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275	Virtual	\$1,275
February-May 2021	Alexandra Johnson Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275	Virtual	\$1,275
February-May 2021	Valerie Lemp Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275	Virtual	\$1,275
February-May 2021	Millicent Roskie Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275	Virtual	\$1,275
February-May 2021	Karen Weber Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275	Virtual	\$1,275

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March 9-12, 2021	Cassie Bruno Visualizing and Verbalizing Training	\$1,150	Virtual	\$1,150
March 9-12, 2021	Nicole Healy Visualizing and Verbalizing Training	\$1,150	Virtual	\$1,150
March 9-12, 2021	Erin Beil Visualizing and Verbalizing Training	\$1,150	Virtual	\$1,150
March 9-12, 2021	Danielle Meekings Visualizing and Verbalizing Training	\$1,150	Virtual	\$1,150
June 7-11, 2021	Christa Bedkowski Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275	Virtual	\$1,275
June 7-11, 2021	Erica David Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275	Virtual	\$1,275

**11c. Approves Breakfast Program**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, the Chester Board of Education approve the Emergency SSO Breakfast contract effective January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. The purpose of this Emergency SSO Breakfast contract is to include the School Breakfast Program for the 2020-21 school year for schools participating in the Seamless Summer option (SSO). Pursuant to USDA's COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #59.

**11d. Approves Out of District Placement (Spectrum 360)**

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approve student #18771 to attend Spectrum 360, Verona, at a tuition rate of \$395.93 per day for a total cost of \$81,165.65 (prorated to \$16,629.02) for the 2020-2021 school year, extraordinary services of \$175.00 per day for a total cost of \$35,875.00 (prorated to \$7,350) effective March 1, 2021.

**11e. Approves Home Instruction (Anthony Hanes & Associates)**

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approve Anthony Hanes & Associates to provide home instruction services to student #19045 at \$65.00 an hour for up to 10 hours weekly effective February 8, 2021 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes



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

**12a. Approves Horizontal Advancement on Guide**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves horizontal advancement on the salary guide for the following staff members effective March 1, 2021:

Name	Current Step/Guide	Advance Step/Guide
Christine Donlon	11-12 BA+15	11-12 BA+30
Francesca Ragonese	8 BA +15	8 BA+30
Millicent Roskie	9-10 BA+30	9-10 MA +30
Lori Vilagos	16 BA+15	16 BA+30

**12b. 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	Advisor
"Encore" Jazz Ensemble/(1)	Kenneth Piascik
Honors Music (1)	Kenneth Piascik

**12c. Approves SEMI Waiver**

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having 40 or fewer Medicaid eligible Special Education Students.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Morris an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2021-22 school year.

**12d. Amends Resolution (Employee #1380)**

Resolved: that the Board of Education amends the Date of Return of the following maternity leave of absence for employee # 1380:

	From	To
Leave (Start Date)	10/19/2020	10/19/2020
Accumulated Sick Days	0	0

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(Applied)		
FMLA/NJFLI Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	12/03/2020	12/03/2020
Extended Leave Start Date (unpaid without benefits)	3/3/2021	3/3/2021
Date of Return (Anticipated)	3/11/2021	<b>8/2021</b>

**12e. Amends Resolution (Becker)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education amends the end date of employment for Kristi Becker a long term maternity leave replacement for employee #1380:

From:	To:
03/19/2021	<b>End of 20-21 SY</b>

**12f. Approves Statement of Assurance Professional Development/Mentoring Plan**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves for the 2020-2021 school year the following mentors for the following new teacher:

<b>New Employee</b> <i>(New to profession must pay mentor fee of \$550 or prorated amount)</i>	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>School</b>
Laura Allen	Christa Bedkowski	Bragg

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes

**13a. 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 February 16, 2021 at 6:28 p.m. to discuss grievance. It is expected that the minutes will be made public as soon as official action is taken.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes

**13b. Return to Public Session**

*Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Kerri Wright the Board considered a motion to return to public session at 6:54 p.m.*



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Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes

**13c. 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 February 16, 2021 at 7:18 p.m. to discuss grievance. It is expected that the minutes will be made public as soon as official action is taken.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes

**13d. Return to Public Session**

*Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Kerri Wright the Board considered a motion to return to public session at 7:33 p.m.*

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes

**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 7:35 p.m.*

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	Vacant	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	----	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Respectfully Submitted,



Tanya Dawson  
Board Secretary