

**REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2021  
MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

Mike Tomasco, Board President, called the meeting to order on January 18, 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 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	Liz Madinabeitia	Absent
Carolyn Kleppe-Collins	Yes	Heather Ronco (left 7:25)	Yes
Rebekah Forlenza	Yes	Mike Tomasco	Yes
Sara Kalashian	Yes	Kerri Wright	Yes
Christopher Lowry	Yes	<b>Quorum</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**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**

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

**6. President's Comments**

**7. Presentations-None**

**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:*

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

**9a. Approves Reorganization Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2021**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on January 4, 2021

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	LM	HR	MT	KW
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes

**10. Committee of The Whole—All.**

**10a. Approves School Board Recognition Month**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2021 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.



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**10b. Approves MOA between Chester BOE and Chester Administrators/Supervisors Association.**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the MOA between Chester Board of Education and Chester Administrators and Supervisors Association.

**10c. Accepts Board Member Resignation**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Board member Liz Madinabeitia effective immediately.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	LM	HR	MT	KW
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes

**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.

Bills List	Totals
Payroll 01/15/2021	\$608,957.78
Bills List 12/29/2020	\$8,582.44
Bills List 01/18/2021	\$929,277.79

**11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for December 2020**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2019-2020 budget for the month of December 2020 in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-16.10 (c) 1.; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

**11c. Approves Monthly Transfer Report for December 2020**

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3, the Chester Board of Education approves the Monthly Report of Transfers for December 2020; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

**11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for December 2020**

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(h), the Chester Board of Education approves the Report of the Board Secretary for December 2020; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

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**11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for December 2020**

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36, the Chester Board of Education approves the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for December 2020; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

**11f. Approves Certification of Secretary and Treasurer Report for December 2020**

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation; and

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4, the Chester Board of Education has reviewed for the minutes of this meeting the Board Secretary and Treasurer's monthly financial report for December 2020 and that no major account or fund has been over-expended.

**11g. 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:

Date	Employee Conference/Workshop	Registration- Tuition	Travel Misc.	Estimated Total Expense
01/25/2021- 05/14/2021	Christine Donlon FDU Orton-Gillingham Course	\$2,550	Virtual	\$2,550
01/25/2021- 05/14/2021	Jillian Soden FDU Orton-Gillingham Course	\$2,550	Virtual	\$2,550

**11h. Approves Supplemental Contract (Porter)**

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves a supplemental contract for COVID-19 services for a total cost of \$6,000 for Dr. Matthew Porter.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	LM	HR	MT	KW
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes



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- 12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel—*Liz Madinabeitia, Heather Ronco, and Mike Tomasco***

**12a. Adopts 2021-2022 School Calendar**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education adopts the 2021-2022 school calendar; a copy of which is available for public review on the Chester School District's website.

**12b. Approves Long Term Substitute (Frazee)**

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Kelly Frazee as a long term maternity leave replacement for employee #1254 assigned to Bragg School, at a salary of \$61,455, Step 1 MA +30 prorated to \$34,692.32 with benefits effective January 25, 2021 through June 30, 2021 pending the approval of the criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c 5.

**12c. Approves Increase in Hours (Spence)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the increase in hours for Jenna Spence, Bragg School Guidance Counselor from .67 FTE to 1 FTE for the 2020-2021 school year.

**12d. Accepts Retirement (Heisler)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Ilene Heisler, a Resource Teacher at Black River Middle School with much gratitude for 21 years of service with the Chester School District, effective July 1, 2021.

**12e. Approves Substitute Nurse (Farley)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following substitute nurse for the 2020-2021 school year pending approval of certification as a substitute School Nurse from the Executive County Superintendent office in Morris County:

Jean Farley

**12f. Approves Professional Work (Meekings)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Danielle Meekings for up to 4 hours a week through March 26, 2021 as an interim math coach at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62 for a total of up to \$2,976.

**12g. Approves Stipend (Stagg)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Michael Stagg for a Science Fair stipend with hours to be determined.

**12h. Approves Special Education Teacher (Blazier)**

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Linda Blazier as a Special Education Teacher assigned to Bragg

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School, at a salary of \$58,150 Step 1 MA +15 prorated to \$33,451.89 with benefits effective January 21, 2021 through June 30, 2021 pending the approval of the criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c 5.

**12i. Approves Elementary School Teacher (Allen)**

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Laura Allen as an Elementary Education Teacher assigned to Bragg School, at a salary of \$51,580 Step 1 BA prorated to \$27,731.20 with benefits effective February 4, 2021 through June 30, 2021 pending the approval of the criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c 5.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

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

**13. 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 January 18, 2021 at 7:29 p.m. to discuss HIB cases. 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	LM	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes

**14. 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 7:39 p.m.*

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	LM	HR	MT	KW
7-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Absent	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 7:40 p.m.*

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Tanya Dawson  
Board Secretary