

**REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
AGENDA**

*A regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education will be held on
September 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chester Borough Courtroom,
50 North Road, Chester, NJ 07930*

1. Call To Order

2. Sunshine Announcement

Be advised 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		Heather Ronco	
Carolyn Kleppe-Collins		Mike Tomasco	
Rebekah Forlenza		Billy Webster	
Sara Kalashian		Kerri Wright	
Christopher Lowry		Quorum	Y N

4. Pledge of Allegiance

4a. Public Hearing-Superintendent's Contract

5. Administration- Dr. Christina VanWoert and Tanya Dawson

5a. Superintendent's Report

5b. Business Administrator's Report

6. President's Comments

7. Presentations:

8. Public Commentary

Please be aware that this portion is your opportunity to comment, and is not a forum for the Board to respond to your comments. However, the Board will certainly give all comments appropriate consideration.

When permitted, public participation shall be governed by the following rules under Policy 9325.2:

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1. *Anyone wishing to speak before the Board shall indicate so during the Public Commentary portion of the agenda. The presenter shall give his/her name and address and make the presentation as brief as possible. Unless an extension of time is granted, each speaker should be limited to 3 minutes.*
2. *Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them. But in public session, the Board will not hear concerns about the specific school personnel or any person connected with the school system. Other channels provide the Board consideration and disposition of such matters involving individuals.*
3. *The Board vests in its President or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when they do not adhere to the rules established above.*

9. Approval of Minutes

9a. Approves Regular Meeting Minutes from August 19, 2021

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on August 19, 2021.

9b. Approves Regular Meeting Executive Minutes from August 19, 2021

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting Executive minutes of the meeting held on August 19, 2021.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW

10. Committee of The Whole—All.

10a. Approves Chester Board of Education 2021-2022 Goals

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following Chester Board of Education Goals for 2021-2022.

Board Goal One: Strategic Plan for the Chester School District

After an unprecedented period of disrupted schooling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chester Board of Education will engage the community and all of its stakeholders in researching, drafting and implementing a longer term strategic plan that is reflective of our desired pathways and processes to achieve specific educational, personnel, technological, financial and operational goals. The plan will serve as a roadmap to follow towards the future that we aspire to for the children of Chester.

Board Goal Two: Student Learning Needs, Instruction and Assessment

After an unprecedented period of disrupted schooling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chester Board of Education will utilize our ESSER III funding for additional faculty members to assist in assessing the learning needs of our students through standardized state and in-house assessments to fully ascertain each student's learning needs in regard to remediation and acceleration. The faculty and administration will then plan accordingly to design instructional programs to meet those needs and keep all of our Chester

students on the path to academic success. Progress will be continually monitored and shared with the community.

Board Goal Three: School District Facilities, Health and Safety Standards

As the guidance evolves, the Chester Board of Education will provide all Chester School District students and faculty with school facilities that meet or exceed all recommended health and safety standards as outlined in the State of New Jersey's Department of Education and the Department of Health's The Road Forward Plan offering health and safety guidance for the 2021-2022 school year. This will include exploring the expansion and utilization of additional outdoor learning spaces at all of our Chester Schools.

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

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

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW

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	08/15/2021	\$175,621.42
Payroll	08/30/2021	\$156,682.63
Payroll	09/10/2021	\$517,522.23
Bills List	09/14/2021	\$735,783.36

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for July 2021

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2020-2021 budget for the month of July 2021 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 July 2021

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3, the Chester Board of Education approves the Monthly Report of Transfers for July 2021; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for July 2021

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 July 2021; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for July 2021

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 July 2021; 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 July 2021

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 July 2021 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	<u>Employee</u> Conference/Workshop	Registra- tion- Tuition	Travel Misc.	Estimated Total Expense
9/10/2021	Joseph Pizzo A Rooftop Afternoon of Hope and Healing Manhattan, NYC	\$0	\$48.00	\$48.00
11/18/2021- 11/19/2021	Sarah Skrabal ASHA (American Speech- Hearing Assoc.) workshop	\$249.00	Virtual	\$249.00

11h. Approves Out-of-District Placement

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following out-of-district placements for the 2021-2022 school year:

Student #	School Placement	Tuition Rate
19654	Newmark School	\$60,010.20

11i. Approves Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2021-2022 School Year

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18-22 and 23, the Chester Board of Education may jointly, by agreement, provide for goods and services with other boards of education including transportation services; and

WHEREAS, West Morris Regional Board of Education, Washington Township Board of Education, Sussex County Regional Cooperative, and Educational Services Commission of Morris County are able to provide transportation services to children who are residents of the Chester School District.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves a joint transportation agreement for the 2021-2022 school year with West Morris Regional Board of Education, Washington Township Board of Education, Sussex County Regional Cooperative, and Educational Services Commission of Morris County to provide transportation services as the lead agencies where the cost of transportation services will be prorated based on the contractual requirements and actual costs in accordance with the rules, regulations, and policies established by State law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education authorizes West Morris Regional Board of Education, Washington Township Board of Education, Sussex County Regional Cooperative, and Educational Services Commission of Morris County to receive bids, if necessary, on behalf of the board for these transportation services.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW

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

12a. Rescinds Resolution 12mm. (Hamberger)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education rescinds Resolution 12mm. from the August 19, 2021 meeting that approves Kerry Hamberger as an Office Aide, Bragg School.

12b. Amends Resignation Date (Belfiore)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education amends Resolution 12c. from the August 21, 2021 meeting to amend the resignation date for Michelle Belfiore, Guidance Counselor to August 23, 2021.

12c. Amends Contract (Patience)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education amends Resolution 12c. from May 10, 2021 meeting to amend contract for Susannah Patience to Step 1 MA +15 at an annual salary \$59,085.

12d. Approves Increase in Hourly Rate (Sciarello)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves an hourly rate increase to \$15 for Egidia Sciarello, cafeteria aide at Bragg School for the 2021-2022 school year.

12e. Approves Sidebar Agreement between the CEA and the Chester BOE

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education (“Board”) and the Chester Education Association (“Union”) are parties to a collectively negotiated agreement in effect from 2019 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board has a need for a member of the middle school teaching staff to teach an extra class period, totaling seven (7) periods of instructional time per day three days per week (3.25 extra time periods); and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Vespignani, has expressed an interest in teaching an additional period; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Union are desirous of entering into this Sidebar Agreement to permit Kathleen Vespignani, or other individual as assigned by the district, to teach an additional period.

NOW, THEREFORE the parties agree as follows:

1. Kathleen Vespignani, or other individual assigned by the District, shall be permitted to teach an additional period three days per week. For the extra period of instructional time, the employee so assigned shall receive a stipend of \$8,305.38.
2. The Parties recognize that this Agreement is temporary in nature and shall expire when the Board provides notice to the Union that it no longer desires to have Kathleen Vespignani teach an additional class period.
3. This agreement is subject to ratification by the Board of Education and the Union.
4. This agreement shall not be precedent setting in any way nor shall it be used in any other matter, grievance, or proceeding of any kind. This agreement is intended to apply only to the factual circumstances from which it arose and shall not have any precedential value.

12f. Approves Custodian (Biel)

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Sabine Biel as a Custodian assigned to Bragg School, at a salary of \$35,500 prorated effective September 7, 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. Account #11-000-262-100-001-000

12g. Approves Horizontal Advancement on Guide

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

Name	Current Step/Guide	Advance Step/Guide
Cassandra Cangiano	Step 5 BA +30	Step 5 MA
Gretchen Capan	Step 18A MA +15	Step 18A MA +30
Julie Curtin	Step 19 BA	Step 19 BA +15
Francesca Ragonese	Step 9 BA+30	Step 9 MA
Brian Seely	Step 16 BA +15	Step 16 MA
Katherine Strauss	Step 7-8 MA +15	Step 7-8 MA +30

12h. Approves Team Leaders (BRMS)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following BRMS team leaders for the 2021-2022 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

Team Leaders	Grade
Patricia Fisher	6 th Grade
Theresa Meierhofer	7 th Grade
Krista Maico and Christine Sarlo (Split)	8 th Grade
Kathleen Vespignani	Related Arts
Erika Rosamilia	Special Education

12i. Approves Team Leaders (Bragg)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Bragg School team leaders for the 2021-2022 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

Team Leaders	Grade
Kelli Dolan and Lauren Scarfo (Split)	3 rd Grade
Gretchen Jacot	4 th Grade
Cassandra Cangiano and Lauren Seibert (Split)	5 th Grade
Christa Bedkowski and Kelly Tompkins (Split)	Related Arts
Maryanne Vindici	Special Education
Debra Androvette	ELL

12j. Approves Team Leaders (Dickerson)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Dickerson School team leaders for the 2021-2022 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

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Team Leaders	Grade
Dorianne Taquinto	Kindergarten
Rebecca Gambuti	1 st Grade
Kerri Mottola	2 nd Grade
John Christie	Special Education
Francesca Ragonese	Related Arts

12k. Approves Staff for Sports (BRMS)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff for the following coaching positions for the 2021-2022 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
Athletic Director	Kevin Cullen & Andy Gray (split)
Cross Country	James Yankowicz, (Head), Krista Maico (Assistant)
Field Hockey	Laura Garrison (Head), Dennis Zakar (Assistant)
Soccer-Girls	Melissa D’Auria (Head), Catherine McPherson (Assistant)
Soccer-Boys	Kevin Cullen (Head), Andrew Gray (Assistant)

12l. Rescinds Superintendent’s Contract

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education rescinds the Superintendent’s contract effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022.

12m. Approves Superintendent’s Contract

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent’s contract effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

12n. Approves Organization Chart

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Organization Chart for the 2021-2022 school year and affixes a copy to the minutes of this meeting.

12o. Designates School Violence Awareness Week

WHEREAS, NJS.A. 18A:36-5.1 establishes the third Monday in October to be School Violence Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has provided certified specialists to develop age appropriate opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of student diversity, and tolerance; and

WHEREAS, the law identifies this week as a Week of School Violence Awareness.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education designates October 18-22, 2021 as a “School Violence Awareness Week.”

12p. Designates Week of Respect

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-29 establishes the first Monday in October to be Week of Respect; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education recognizes the importance of character education, shall observe the week by developing age appropriate instruction focusing on preventing harassment, intimidation or bullying as defined in section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83; and

WHEREAS, the law also directs throughout the school year that a school district shall provide ongoing age appropriate instruction on preventing harassment, intimidation, bullying in accordance with core curriculum content standards.

RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education designates October 4-8, 2021 as “Week of Respect.”

12q. Designates School Red Ribbon Week

WHEREAS, alcohol and drug abuse affect individuals, families and communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that visible, unified prevention education efforts by community members be launched to prevent drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week offers citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated in communities across the nation on October 23-31; and

WHEREAS, business, government, law enforcement, media, health care providers, religious institutions, schools, and other community-based organizations will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles by wearing red ribbons and participating in drug prevention activities; and

WHEREAS, the community of the Chester School District further commits its resources to ensure the success of the Red Ribbon Campaign;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Chester Board of Education does hereby proclaim October 23-31, 2021, as RED RIBBON WEEK, and encourages all to participate in drug prevention education activities, not only during Red Ribbon Week, but all year long, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free community.

12r. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 2224

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 2224- Nondiscrimination/Affirmative Action.

- 12s. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 3516**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 3516-Safety.
- 12t. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 3542.31**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 3542.31-Free and Reduced Rate Meals.
- 12u. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 5125 Pupil Records**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 5125-Pupil Records.
- 12v. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 5131.6**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 5131.6-Substance Abuse.
- 12w. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 5131**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 5131- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying..
- 12x. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 5141.23**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 5141.23-Food Allergies.
- 12y. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 5142**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 5142-Pupil Safety.
- 12z. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 6142.10**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 6142.10-Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Forms.
- 12aa. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 6154**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 6154-Homework.
- 12bb. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 6162.5**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 6162.5-Research and Student Surveys.
- 12cc. Approves for First Reading and Adoption Policy 6171.3**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading and adoption Policy 6171.3-Title I.

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12dd. Approves for First Reading Policy 5141.10

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading Policy 5141.10-Face Coverings.

12ee. Approves for First Reading Policy 5141.11

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves for first reading Policy 5141.11-Vaccination and Testing.

12ff. Amends Resolution 12uu. (Anderson)

RESOLVED that, the Chester Board of Education amends Resolution **12uu.** from the August 19, 2021 to change the end date for Alisa Anderson to September 30, 2021.

12gg. Approves Bus Aides for the 2021-2022 school year

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following certificated staff to serve as bus aides for the 2021-2022 school year for up to two bus runs daily at the contracted rate of \$31.

Sara Kozlowski
Gretchen Capan

12hh. Approves Maternity Leave of Absence (Emp. #1106)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following maternity leave of absence for employee # 1106:

Leave (Start Date)	10/12/21
Accumulated Sick Days (Applied)	45
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	12/20/21
Date of Return (Anticipated)	03/21/22

12ii. Approves Substitute Secretaries

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following substitute secretaries for the 2021-2022 school year at the hourly rate of \$15

Marge Salamone
Nazia Zaidi

12jj. Approves Translator (Capan)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Gretchen Capan to translate documents from English to Spanish for up to 10 hours per month for the 2021-2022 school year at the professional hourly rate of \$62 for a total cost of up to \$6,200.

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12kk. Accepts Resignation (EMP# 1492)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Employee #1492 effective September 10, 2021.

12ll. Approves Certificated Staff as Substitute Bus Aides

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Chester certificated staff to serve as substitute bus aides for the 2021-2022 school year at the contracted hourly rate of \$31.

12mm. Amends Resolution to Include total Cost (Foster)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education amends Resolution (12pp.) from the August 19, 2021 meeting to increase the number of curriculum writing hours for Deborah Foster from 20 hours to 30 hours for a total cost not to exceed \$1,860.

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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 September 14, 2021 at ____ p.m. to discuss ____ It is expected that the minutes will be made public as soon as official action is taken.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW

14. Return to Public Session

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW

15. Unfinished Business

16. New Business

17. Adjournment

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

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