

**REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022
AGENDA**

*A regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education will be held on
September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chester Borough Courtroom,
50 North Road, Chester, NJ*

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

John Barounis		Christopher Lowry	
Amy Collins		Heather Ronco	
Matthew Downs		Sarah Schultz	
Rebekah Forlenza		Kerri Wright	
Sara Kalashian		Quorum	Y N

4. Pledge of Allegiance

**5. Presentations - Andrew White, Ken Piascik and
Joe Pizzo will present BRMS Schools to Watch**

6. Administration-Dr. Christina VanWoert and Tanya Dawson

6a. Superintendent's Report

6b. Business Administrator's Report

7. President's Comments

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 Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2022

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on August 16, 2022.

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2022

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on, August 16, 2022.

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW

10. Committee of The Whole—All.

10a. Approves Chester Board of Education 2022-2023 Goals

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following Chester Board of Education Goals for 2022-2023.

Board Goal One: Research, Restore and Reinvent Current and New Educational Programs and Approaches to Teaching and Learning

Board Goal Two: Expand Student Opportunities for Growth and Development Beyond the Classroom Through Sports and Extracurricular Activities

Board Goal Three: Focus on District Wide Facilities Improvements

10b. Accepts QSAC Scores

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the 2022 QSAC Scores:

NJSAC Areas	Initial Placement (August 2022)
Instruction and Program	89%

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Fiscal Management	100%
Governance	94%
Operations	95%
Personnel	100%

10c. Approves Revised 2022-2023 School Calendar

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the revised 2022-2023 school calendar to include April 20, 2022 and April 21, 2022 as early dismissal for Bragg Dickerson conferences.

11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance— *Amy Collins (chair) Matthew Downs, 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	08/30/2022	\$128,279.83
Payroll	09/09/2022	\$511,253.56
Payroll	09/15/2022	\$126,885.45
Bills List	09/13/2022	\$882,430.14

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for July 2022

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2021-2022 budget for the month of July 2022 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 2022

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 2022; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for July 2022

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 2022; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for July 2022

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 2022; 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 2022

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 2022 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	Registration- Tuition	Travel Misc.	Estimated Total Expense
10/24/2022- 10/26/2022	Sarah Schultz NJSBA Fall Conference	\$550.	\$560.	\$1,110.
10/24/2022- 10/26/2022	Dr. VanWoert NJSBA Fall Conference	\$550.	\$560.	\$1,110.
10/24/2022- 10/26/2022	Tanya Dawson NJSBA Fall Conference	\$550.	\$560.	\$1,110.
10/24/2022- 10/26/2022	Kerri Wright NJSBA Fall Conference	\$550.	-	\$550.
10/19/2022	Sarah Warren Reading, Writing and the Brain	\$219.	virtual	\$219.

11h. Approves SEB Speech and Feeding Therapy, LLC

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves SEB Speech and Feeding Therapy, LLC to provide therapy to student #20754 for the 2022-2023 school year at an hourly rate of \$215. up to a total cost of \$7,740.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW

12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel—*Heather Ronco (chair) John Barounis, Rebekah Forlenza and Sarah Schultz*

12a. 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 2022 to 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Board has a need for a member of the middle school teaching staff to teach an extra class period of 37 minutes, totaling seven (7) periods of instructional time per day five days per week; 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 five days per week. For the extra period of instructional time, the employee so assigned shall receive a stipend of \$8,364.36
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.

12b. 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
Linda Blazier	Step 15 MA + 15	Step 16 MA+30
Evelyn Casperson	Step 5 BA	Step 6 BA +15
Nicole Hey	Step 16 MA	Step 17 MA+30
Christopher Jala	Step 4 BA	Step 5 BA+30
Krista Maico	Step 14 MA	Step 15 BA+15

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Catherine McPherson	Step 5 BA	Step 6 BA+15
Sean McQueeney	Step 12-13 BA	Step 13-14 BA+15
Erika Rosamila	Step 17 BA+15	Step 18 MA
Amy Schwartz	Step 18A MA+15	Step 19 MA+30

12c. 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 2022-2023 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
Sarah Warren	Special Education

12d. 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 2022-2023 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
Nicole Hey and Lauren Allen (Split)	5 th Grade
Christa Bedkowski and Kelly Tompkins (Split)	Related Arts
Maryanne Vindici and Robin Kaufer	Special Education
Debra Androvette	ESL

12e. 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 2022-2023 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
Dorianne Taquinto	Kindergarten
Rebecca Gambuti	1 st Grade
Kerri Mottola	2 nd Grade
John Christie	Special Education
Francesca Ragonese	Related Arts

12f. 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 2022-2023 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

Fall Sport	Head Coach/Assistant Coach
Athletic Director	Kevin Cullen & Andy Gray (split)
Cross Country	James Yankowicz, (Head), Krista Maico (Assistant)
Field Hockey	Kathy Vespignani (Head), Laura Garrison (Assistant)
Soccer-Girls	Terri Meierhofer (Head), Melissa D’Auria (Assistant)
Soccer-Boys	Kevin Cullen (Head), Taryn Mansolino (Assistant)
Unified Soccer	Chris Duffy (Head)

12g. 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 17-21, 2022 as a “School Violence Awareness Week.”

12h. 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 3-7, 2022 as “Week of Respect.”

12i. Designates School Red Ribbon Week

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

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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, 2022, 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.

12j. Approves Leave of Absence (Emp. #1121)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following maternity leave of absence for employee # 1121:

Leave (Start Date)	09/13/2022
Accumulated Sick Days (Applied)	25
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	10/20/2022
Date of Return (Anticipated)	10/26/2022

12k. Approves Leave of Absence (Emp. #1029)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following maternity leave of absence for employee # 1029:

Leave (Start Date)	10/07/2022

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Accumulated Sick Days (Applied)	29
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	11/21/2022
Date of Return (Anticipated)	02/22/2023

12l. Approves Revised Leave of Absence (Emp. #1095)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following maternity leave of absence for employee # 1029:

Leave (Start Date)	01/09/2023
Accumulated Sick Days (Applied)	0
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	01/09/2023
Date of Return (Anticipated)	02/06/2023

12m. Accepts Resignation (Robinson)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Mary Robinson, Special Education Paraprofessional at Dickerson school effective September 12, 2022.

12n. Approves Leave of Absence Substitute (Pela)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves long term substitute, Lisa Pela effective August 22, 2022 through anticipated date of February 22, 2023 at a prorated salary of \$53,870, Step 1 BA.

12o. Approves Camp Achieve Substitute (Matthews)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves 2022 Camp Achieve substitute Cathleen Matthews from July 6, 2022 through August 9, 2022 at her contracted hourly rate.

12p. Approves 2022-2023 School Trips (BRMS)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following BRMS field trips for the 2022-2023 school year:

Field Trip	Location	Grade/Group
02/03/2023	Drew University	8 th grade GIST
03/13/2023 – 03/14/2023	Morristown Unitarian Fellowship	8 th grade students

12q. Approves Translator (Capan)

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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 2022-2023 school year at the professional hourly rate of \$62 for a total cost of up to \$6,200.

12r. Approves Teachers as Substitute Bus Paraprofessionals

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves teachers as substitute bus paraprofessionals for the 2022-2023 school year at the contracted rate.

12s. Approves District-Wide Curriculum

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year:

Technology	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2022
21 st Century Life and Careers	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2022
World Languages	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2022
Visual and Performing Arts: Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2022

12t. Approves Chester School District Virtual and Remote Instruction Plan

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the Chester School District Virtual and Remote Instruction plan for the 2022-2023 school year.

12u. Approves Updated HIB Policy

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the Chester School District updated HIB policy.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW

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 13, 2022 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	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW
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14. Return to Public Session

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW

15. Unfinished Business

16. New Business

17. Adjournment

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW