

**CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 3, 2024**

1. Call to Order

Peter Frascella, School Business Administrator and Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Black River Middle School, 133 North Rd, NJ 07930

2. Sunshine Announcement

Peter Frascella, School Business Administrator and Board Secretary, 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 will be posted on the District website prior to the Board meeting.

**REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE
CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**

3. Results of the Annual School Election

Peter Frascella, School Business Administrator and School Board Secretary will report on the results of the annual school election held on November 7, 2023.

Candidate for Three Year Term	Votes
Carolyn Byszewski	1,399
Suzanne Dundon	1,325
Erick Arostegui	1,178

4. Oaths of Office

Administered by Peter Frascella, Board Secretary, to the newly elected Board Members: (Policy 9115, N.J.S.A.18A:12-2.1, R.S. 41:1-3) Carolyn Byszewski, Suzanne Dundon, Erick Arostegui

5. Roll Call

Erick Arostegui	Yes	Suzanne Dundon	Yes
John Barounis	Yes	Melissa Mauro-Duffy	Yes
Carolyn Byszewski	Yes	Sarah Schultz	Yes
Adam Colicchio	Yes	Adam Sorchini	Yes
Matthew Downs	Absent	Quorum	Yes

6. Pledge of Allegiance

Administered by Peter Frascella, Board Secretary, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

7. Election of President

The Board Secretary declares nominations are in order for the position of President.

Nomination: *Sarah Schultz* is nominated by *Melissa Mauro Duffy*, seconded by *John Barounis*

Vote for President	EA	JB	CB	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
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Name: Sarah Schultz 8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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Election Results:

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1 and Policy 9121, the Chester Board of Education elects *Sarah Schultz* as President of the Chester Board of Education effective January 3, 2024 for a term prescribed by law.

8. President Takes Chair

9. Election of Vice President

The President declares nominations are in order for the position of Vice President.

Nomination: *John Barounis* is nominated by *Carolyn Byszewski*, seconded by *Adam Sorchini*

Vote for President	EA	JB	CB	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
Name: John Barounis 7-0-1	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Election Results:

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1 and Policy 9121, the Chester Board of Education elects *John Barounis* as Vice President of the Chester Board of Education effective January 3, 2024 for a term prescribed by law.

10. Vice President Takes Chair

11. Reorganization Action Items

11a. Approves Committee and Administrative Appointments

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following committee appointments:

Assignments	Members Assigned
Curriculum & Personnel/Governance Committee	Melissa Mauro Duffy, Erick Arostegui, Suzanne Dundon and Matthew Downs
Finance, Buildings/Grounds and Transportation Committee	Carolyn Byszewski, Adam Sorchini, Adam Colicchio and John Barounis
Policy Committee	Adam Sorchini, Adam Colicchio, John Barounis and Melissa Mauro Duffy

11b. Appoints Delegate to New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA)

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education desires to send a delegate and alternate to the New Jersey School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education Policy 9140 states that such designation be established by the Board President,

RESOLVED, that Board of Education recognizes the appointment of *John Barounis* as delegate and *Melissa Mauro Duffy* as an alternate to the New Jersey School Boards Association, (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-46), effective immediately until the next reorganization meeting as prescribed by law.

11c. Appoints Delegate to Morris County School Boards Association (MCSBA)

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education desires to send a delegate to the Morris County School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education Policy 9140 states that such designation be established by Board President Appointment,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education recognizes the appointment of *Sarah Schultz* delegate to the Morris County School Boards Association, effective immediately until the next reorganization meeting as prescribed by law.

11d. Appoints Delegate to Educational Services Commission of Morris County

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education desires to send a delegate to the Educational Services Commission of Morris County, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education Policy 9140 states that such designation be established by board president appointment,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education recognizes the appointment of *Adam Colicchio* as delegate to the Educational Services Commission of Morris County, effective immediately until the next reorganization meeting prescribed by law.

11e. Approves NJSBA Code of Ethics as Official Code of Ethics

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey School Boards Association "Code of Ethics" shall be considered the official Code of Ethics of the Chester Board of Education:

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
- c. I will confine my Board action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board members, to see that they are well run.
- e. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
- f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan, political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

11f. Approves Meeting Schedule of the Chester Board of Education

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education is directed to meet at least once every two months during the period in which the schools in the District are in session (N.J.S.A. 10:4-18, 18A:10-6); and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires notice of regularly scheduled meetings within seven days following the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following notice of regularly scheduled meetings be adopted:

NOTICE is hereby given that a Regular Meeting of the Chester Board of Education will be held at Chester Board of Education Office on or about the third Tuesday of each month commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Board of Education Office, unless otherwise posted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforesaid notice of regularly scheduled meetings will be posted in the Board of Education Administrative Office, 50 North Road, Building 4, Chester, New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforesaid notice be mailed to the Daily Record the newspaper designated by this Board to receive the notice required by the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforesaid notice be filed with the Clerk of Chester Borough and of Chester Township and the Chester Post Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the regular meetings during the period of January 2024 through December 2024 shall be as listed below:

Day	Meeting Date	Meeting	Time
Wednesday	January 3, 2024	Reorganization Meeting (BRMS)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	January 23, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	February 13, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	March 19, 2024	Regular Meeting-Budget Approval (BRMS)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	April 23, 2024	Regular Meeting-Budget Hearing	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	May 14, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	May (TBD) 2024	Board Retreat	9:00 a.m.
Monday	June 10, 2024	Regular Meeting (BRMS) Awards Assembly	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	June 25, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	August 13, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	September 24, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	October 15, 2024	Regular Meeting (BRMS)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	November 12, 2024	Regular Meeting (BRMS)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	December 10, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.

(Schedule is subject to change with proper notice)

Notes:

- Special Public Meetings where official action is taken will be scheduled as needed with proper notice.

- Closed Executive Sessions with the public excluded for discussion of personnel and legal matters, will be authorized as needed by resolution during public meetings or by special notice.

11g. Approves Appointments

RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education approves the following appointments which are in effect until the next board reorganization meeting or changed by resolution:

POSITION	APPOINTMENT
Board Secretary	Peter Frascella
Assistant Board Secretary	Donna Babcock and Dr. Christina Van Woert
Auditing Firm	Nisivoccia LLP
Treasurer of School Monies	Mary Parasugo
Board Attorney	Matthew Giacobbe <i>Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs, LLC</i>
Architect of Record	DI Group
Risk Management Consultant	Brown & Brown Metro
Continuing Disclosure Agent	Phoenix Advisors, LLC
Right to Know Contact Person	Evan Morley
Asbestos/ADHERA Coordinator	Evan Morley
Integrated Pest Management	Evan Morley
Indoor Air Quality Coordinator	Evan Morley
Safety Coordinator	Brad Currie
Affirmative Action Officer	Peter Frascella
District Purchasing Agent	Peter Frascella
Open Public Records Act Officer	Peter Frascella
Public Agency Compliance Officer	Peter Frascella
Investments and Wires Designated Officer	Peter Frascella
Attendance Officer/Dickerson School	Melissa Fair
Attendance Officer/Bragg School	Michael DeLoreto
Attendance Officer/BRMS School	Andrew White
American Disability Act Coordinator	Dr. Jeanette Krone
Section 504 Officer/Dickerson School	Melissa Fair
Section 504 Officer/Bragg School	Michael DeLoreto
Section 504 Officer/BRMS School	Andrew White
School Safety Specialist	Brad Currie
Anti-Bullying Compliance Coordinator (HIB)	Brad Currie
Homeless Student Liaison	Dr. Jeanette Krone
Title IX Coordinator	Dr. Jeanette Krone
Custodian of Records— <i>Personnel and Student</i>	Dr. Christina Van Woert
Custodian of Records— <i>Business and Financial</i>	Peter Frascella
Tax Sheltered Annuity 403(b) 457 (b)	AXA Equitable Life, Vanguard and Voya Financial
Medical Inspector/School Physician	Dr. Thomas Porter
Fixed Asset & Appraisal Firm	Kroll, LLC.
Benefits Advisors	Brown & Brown

11h. Approves Standard Operating Procedure Manual

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.6, the Standard Operating Procedure Manual for the Chester School District.

11i. Approves School Depositories and Signatures

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves that all checks, drafts or other orders for payment or withdrawal of money from said account be signed by the person holding the appropriate title as listed below (N.J.S.A 19-1):

Account	Signature	Bank
General Operating (3 Signatures)	Treasurer Board President or Vice President Business Administrator or Superintendent	Valley National Bank
Capital Reserve (Online Transfer Only)	Business Administrator or Accounts Payable	Valley National Bank
Payroll (1 Signature)	Treasurer or Board President	Valley National Bank
Payroll Agency (1 Signature)	Treasurer or Board President	Valley National Bank
Cafeteria (2 Signatures)	Treasurer Business Administrator or Superintendent	Valley National Bank
Unemployment (2 Signatures)	Treasurer Business Administrator or Superintendent	Valley National Bank
Dickerson General Organization (2 Signatures)	Principal or Principal's Secretary Business Administrator or Superintendent	Valley National Bank
Bragg General Organization (2 Signatures)	Principal or Principal's Secretary Business Administrator or Superintendent	Valley National Bank
BRMS General Organization (2 Signatures)	Principal or Principal's Secretary Business Administrator or Superintendent	Valley National Bank
BRMS Student Athletic (2 Signatures)	Principal or Principal's Secretary Business Administrator or Superintendent	Valley National Bank

Maintenance Reserve (Online Transfer Only)	Business Administrator or Accounts Payable	Valley National Bank
BOE Miscellaneous (2 Signatures)	Business Administrator or Superintendent Payroll Administrator or Administrative Assistant to Superintendent	Valley National Bank

11j. Approves Bank Resolution

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education (the “Public Entity”) desires to obtain certain cash management services from Valley National Bank (the “Bank”), pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Master Cash Management Services Agreement between the Company and Bank along with the applicable Service Supplements, the Selection of Services Schedule and Service Addenda incorporated therewith (collectively the “Cash Management Documents”); and

WHEREAS, that the Public Entity make, execute and deliver the Cash Management Documents, and make all representations, warranties, covenants and guaranties contained in the Cash Management Documents; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cash Management Documents and any and all other contemporaneous or supporting documents may be in such form and may contain such other terms, provisions, conditions, stipulations and agreements, as shall be consented to, now or at any time in the future, by an officer, manager, or partner, as applicable, of the Chester Board of Education required by Bank to obtain the cash management services from Bank:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mary Parasugo	Treasurer
TBD	Board President
TBD	Board Vice President
Dr. Christina Van Woert	Superintendent
Peter Frascella	Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above officers, managers, or partners are authorized to act any two; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any of the above mentioned officers, managers or partners, as applicable, of the Chester Board of Education, any successors in office and any of their designees is, acting in the manner noted above, authorized, on behalf of the Chester Board of Education and in its name, to perform or receive all activities and services contemplated under the Cash Management Documents, including, without limitation, management of the Public Entity’s accounts, transfers of funds between Public Entity’s accounts, transfer of funds to or from third parties by ACH, or wire transfer or other electronic means permitted under the Cash Management Documents, receipt of lockbox services and any other cash management activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bank is hereby authorized to honor any order or instruction, whether written (including by email, website functions, or other electronic means, including, without limitation, ACH or wire transfer) or oral (including by telephone), to transfer monies

between any accounts of the Public Entity or to an account of any third party by any person representing himself to be one of the authorized signatories or by any use of the functionalities provided by the cash management services under the Cash Management Documents and Bank shall be entitled to rely on such person's statements and the use of such functionalities as to his or her or the user's identity and authority to make the transfer.

11k. Approves Designation of Official Newspaper for Legal Notices

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education designates The Daily Record as the official newspaper for legal notices and the Observer Tribune be so designated should it be impossible to advertise in Daily Record for reasons of timely notice, emergency, or other reasons (N.J.S.A. 18A:14-19, 22-11, 39-3 and 10:4-8d), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board secretary send all notices of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting to any individual requesting to be placed on a mailing list as provided by N.J.S.A. 10:4-19 and upon the prepayment of a fee of \$30.00 per year. Such requests for notices under this resolution shall terminate at midnight on June 30th of each school year.

11l. Approves Petty Cash Organization Accounts

WHEREAS, there has been established a petty cash fund for the purpose of making immediate payments of comparatively small amounts as per Policy 3451; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has amended N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.10 to establish requirements which strengthen the fiscal controls and accountability for petty cash funds.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education authorizes the establishment of the following petty cash funds in the amounts and responsible parties indicated below:

<u>School</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>
Athletics	\$2,500	Board Secretary
Board Office	\$750	Board Secretary
Cafeteria	\$250	Board Secretary

Each responsible person shall insure that:

- a. Petty cash funds are spent only for budgeted items.
- b. Petty cash funds are not to be used for travel or food reimbursement.
- c. No single purchase for petty cash may exceed \$120 for Athletics or \$75 for Board Office.
- d. Funds are not used to subvert the regular purchasing procedures.
- e. The checking accounts are to be reconciled on a monthly basis and reported to the board.
- f. Petty cash is distributed in check form on the signature of Responsible party.
- g. All disbursements for petty cash shall be reported at the next regular meeting of the Board as it is reimbursed. All petty cash funds shall be established by board approved voucher and all unused cash is to be returned to the depository at the close of each fiscal year.

11m. Approves Purchasing Agent

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 provides that contracts that do not annually exceed in the aggregate, the bid threshold (currently \$44,000) may be awarded by the purchasing agent without advertising for bids when so authorized by Board Resolution, and

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 provides that all contracts that are in the aggregate less than 15% of the bid threshold may be awarded by the purchasing agent without soliciting competitive quotations, if so authorized by Board Resolution,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education approves Peter Frascella as the Purchasing Agent for the district according to the rules and regulations of P.L. 1999 c.440, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Purchasing Agent is authorized to award contracts up to the bid threshold of \$44,000 and establish the quote threshold at \$6,600 as per N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2.

11n. Authorizes the Use of State Contracts

WHEREAS, Title 18A:18A-10 provides that, "A board of education, without advertising for bids, or after having rejected all bids obtained pursuant to advertising therefore, by resolution may purchase any goods or services pursuant to a contract or contracts for such goods or services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education has the need, on a timely basis, to procure goods and services utilizing state contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education desires to authorize its purchasing agent for the 2023-2024 school year to make any and all purchases necessary to meet the needs of the school district throughout the school year,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Chester Board of Education does hereby authorize the District Purchasing Agent to make purchases of goods and services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property.

11o. Approves Chart of Accounts

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education designates the NJDOE Chart of Accounts as the minimum Chart of Accounts for use in the district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Office is authorized to add additional sub-account designations (both within the existing sub-accounts as well as additional positions), as the School Business Administrator may deem necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized to make any necessary transfers below the level of the NJDOE Chart of Accounts.

11p. Approves Collection and Maintenance of Pupil Records

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education authorizes certified school personnel to collect and maintain the following mandated pupil records as per N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.3:

1. Personal data, which identify each pupil, enrolled in the school district. These data shall include the pupil's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, name of parent(s), gender, citizenship, standardized assessment and test answer sheets (protocol), grades, attendance, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed.
2. Record of daily attendance.
3. Description of pupil progress according to the system of pupil evaluation used in the district; including record grade levels or other program assignments.
4. History and status of physical health compiled in accordance with state regulations including results of any physical examination given by qualified district employees.
5. Records pursuant to rules and regulations regarding education of students with disabilities.
6. All other records required by State Board of Education.

11q. Approves Designation of Superintendent: Transfer Authority

RESOLVED, that as provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 amended, the Superintendent of designee, be designated to approve such line item budget transfers as are necessary between Board of Education meetings, and that such transfers shall be reported to the Board of Education, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting.

11r. Readopting of Policy Manual

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves that all current written policies, by-laws and rules/regulations in the official Policy Manual of the Chester School District be readopted for the period from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year unless modified by the Board of Education in accordance with those applicable policies, by-laws and/or rules/regulations.

11s. Approves the Memorandum of Agreement Between School Officials and Law Enforcement

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement Between School Officials and Law Enforcement.

Motion by Adam Sorchini

Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	CB	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

12. Public Commentary

None

13. Unfinished Business

Sarah Schultz Would like to vote on the 2024-2025 School Calendar at the January 23, 2024 meeting.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Carolyn Byszewski and seconded by Adam Sorchini the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	CB	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter Frascella
Board Secretary

