

**REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

Sarah Schultz, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Black River Middle School, 133 North Rd NJ, 07930.

2. Sunshine Announcement

Sarah Schultz, Board President, 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 has been posted on the District website prior to the Board meeting.

3. Roll Call

John Barounis	Yes	Rebekah Forlenza	Yes
Carolyn Byszewski	Yes	Christopher Lowry	Yes
Adam Colicchio	Yes	Sarah Schultz	Yes
Matthew Downs	Yes*	Adam Sorchini	Absent
Melissa Mauro-Duffy	Yes	Quorum	Yes

* Arrived 7:10 PM

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Sara Schultz, Board President, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Presentations/ Celebrations-

- Celebration of the Retirement of Robin Kaufer: *Dr. Van Woert, Dr Krone and Mike DeLoreto spoke.*
- Celebration of BRMS 2023 County Champions: *Mr. White and the coaches introduced the Championship Teams.*
- BRMS Girls Soccer Team
- BRMS Boys Soccer Team
- BRMS Boys Cross Country Team
- Public Hearing on HIB - Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, the Superintendent will report to the Board of Education all acts of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB) which occurred during the previous reporting period, July 2023 through December 2023: *Dr. VanWoert presented the information on HIB's.*

6. Administration - Dr. Christina VanWoert Superintendent and Peter Frascella Business Administrator/Board Secretary

6a. Superintendent's Report

None

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6b. Business Administrator's Report

None

7. President's Comments

Sarah Schultz congratulated all the Championship teams and players. She also thanked Mr. Lowry and Mrs. Forlenza for all their time and hard work while on the Chester Board of Education.

Chris Lowry thanked everyone for his time on the Chester Board of Education. He wished the new board members the best. He felt like over his tenure he had been apart of some great things for the district.

8. Public Commentary

None

9. Approval of Minutes

9a. Approves Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2023

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 2023.

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2023

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on, November 14, 2023.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Rebekah Forlenza

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

10. Committee of The Whole—All.

10a. Approves Reorganization Meeting Date

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Reorganization Meeting for January 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Board of Education, at the cafeteria of BRMS, 133 North Road, Chester, NJ.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by John Barounis

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance- Carolyn Byszewski (chair)

Christopher Lowry, Adam Colicchio & Adam Sorchini

Carolyn Byszewski discussed the ROD Grants impact on the calendar ad other projects for the 2024 summer.

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	11/15/2023	\$689,512.75
Payroll	11/30/2023	\$677,981.94
Bills List	12/12/2023	\$683,237.19

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for October 2023

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2023-2024 budget for the month of October 2023 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 October 2023

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3, the Chester Board of Education approves the Monthly Report of Transfers for October 2023; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for October 2023

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 October 2023; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for October 2023

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 October 2023; 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 October 2023

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 October 2023 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:

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1/29/24	Colleen Cahill Guided Math Grades K-3 Virtual	\$279.00	\$0.00	\$279.00
2/27/2024	Melissa D'Auria Physical Edge PE & Health Workshop Morristown Centercourt	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$125.00

11h. Approves Tuition Rates for Preschool for 2024-25 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of approve the tuition rates below for Chester School District Preschool Program for the 2024-25 school year.

5 full days per week \$1,100 monthly: \$11,000 for the school year
5 half days per week \$550 monthly: \$5,500 for the school year

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Adam Colicchio

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel-John Barounis (chair), Matthew Downs, Rebekah Forlenza & Melissa Mauro-Duffy

John Barounis discussed the calendar, capping PreK class sizes and congratulated the Championship teams. He discussed the Middle School ranking 25th in the state and congratulated the Administration and teachers. He spoke of the post graduation successes of our ELL students in college and the military. He also discusses the articulation meetings that were taking place with the High School district.

12a. Approves Leave of Absence (Employee #1010)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves a leave of absence for employee #1010:

NJFLA Start Date (with benefits)	12/18/2023
Sick Days Used	4.50
Date of Return	04/01/2024

12b. Approves Revised 2023-2024 Bragg Club Advisors/Extra Curricular Advisors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Bragg Club and Extra Curricular Advisors for the 2023-2024 school year.

From:

Student Council/Safety Patrol	Bragg	\$1,864.00	Gretchen Capan
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To:

Student Council/Safety Patrol	Bragg	\$1,864.00 (Split)	Gretchen Capan and Kelli Dolan
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12c. Approves Dickerson Kindergarten Literacy Aide (Mikos)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Cheryl Mikos as Dickerson Literacy Aide at a salary of \$11,953 and an annual educational stipend of \$1,500 effective December 13, 2023 through June 30, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12d. Approves School Psychologist Doctoral Student (Zhou)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Joy Zhou as Rutgers University school Psychologist Doctoral student under the supervision of Dr. Sara Southwick beginning January 2024 for the remainder of the school year pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12e. Approves CANDO-NJ4S Parent Meeting Attendance

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the CANDO parent meeting on November 21st and be compensated at the contracted professional rate:

Nicole Callahan
Sarah Warren
Ashley Wilhite

12f. Approves Extra Curricular Activity (Mansolino)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Taryn Mansolino for the supervision of students # 19862 and # 19319 during extracurricular activities for the 2023-2024 school year to be compensated at the contracted rate.

12g. Approves Project Literacy Teachers

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approve the following teachers for the 2023-2024 Project Literacy program to provide instruction for up to 4 hours per week effective January 8, 2024 for up to 9 weeks to be paid the contracted professional rate funded by the Title 3 Grant.

John Christie
Jennifer Christal
Denielle Saucedo
Lauren Marianino

12h. Approves Multilingual Replacement Leave Teacher (Varughese)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Andrea Varughese as a replacement leave teacher effective January 2 through March 29, 2024 to be paid \$65,525 prorated Step 1, MA+30.

12i. Approves Bus Aide (Alban)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Rose Alban as a bus aide for the 2023-2024 school year at the contracted rate.

12j. Approves BRMS Social Studies Leave Replacement Teacher (Cooper)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Grace Cooper as BRMS Leave Replacement teacher effective January 2, 2024 through June 2024 at Step 1 BA to be paid \$55,400 prorated year pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12k. Approves BRMS Ski/Snowboard Club Parent Chaperones

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following chaperones for the BRMS 2023-2024 Ski/Snowboard Club.

Jeff Strickland	Jackie Snellings
Kadin Sheikh	Matthew Wilk
Shawn Coughlin	Allen Tresselt
Mark Broek	Claire Sheaffer

12l. Approves BRMS Ski/Snowboard Club Chaperones

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members for the BRMS 2023-2024 Ski/Snowboard Club to be paid the contracted chaperone rate.

Chris Duffy
Sean McQueeney

12m. Awards Compensation (VanWoert)

WHEREAS, the employment contract for Dr. Christina Van Woert, Superintendent of Schools, provides for merit goals pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1 € (10); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christina Van Woert, Superintendent of Schools, successfully attained the following Qualitative Goal as outlined below.

Qualitative Merit Goal	
The Superintendent will lead a series of Parent Information Initiatives regarding the revised and updated Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Law as released by the New Jersey Department of	2.5% of salary

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Education on July 19, 2023; the impact of Technology and Social Media on our families; and Safety and Security initiatives district and borough/township wide in conjunction with the Chester Police Department. The Superintendent will organize and lead a series of meetings and information sessions (3 - 1 at each of our schools open to families district wide) with parents to listen to their thoughts and concerns. As a result of these parent forums, the Superintendent will also create a FAQ document answering general questions on these issues as collected at these information sessions and a video presentation to further share and disseminate this information.	
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12n. Approves Home School Teacher (Gilbert)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Jean Gilbert as home school teacher for student #20927 effective December 13, 2023 for up to 5 hours per week to be paid \$55 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion by Chris Lowry

Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

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 December 12, 2023 at 8:25 p.m. to discuss HIB and personnel. It is expected that the minutes will be made public as soon as official action is taken.

Motion by Adam Colicchio Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

14. Return to Public Session

Upon the motion of Carolyn Byszewski and seconded by Matt Downs, the Board returned to Public Session at 8:40 pm.

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

15. Committee of The Whole—All.

15a. 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 Adam Colicchio

Seconded by Matt Downs

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Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

16. Unfinished Business

Dr. VanWoert thanked all the Board Members and wished them all a Happy Holidays!

17. New Business

None

18. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Rebekah Forlenza and seconded by Chris Lowry the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
8-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter Frascella
Board Secretary