REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 13, 2024 MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Sarah Schultz, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Borough Courthouse, 50 North Road, Chester, 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

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

^{*}Arrived 7:10 PM

4. Pledge of Allegiance

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

5. Presentations:

None

6. Administration-Dr. Christina VanWoert and

Peter Frascella Business Administrator/Board Secretary

6a. Superintendent's Report

Dr. VanWoert discussed the start of school and PowerSchool opening on 8/19/24.

6b. Business Administrator's Report

None

7. President's Comments

Sarah welcomed back the students and staff for the 2024-2025 school year.

8. Public Commentary

None

9. Approval of Minutes

9a. Approves Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2024 Board Retreat Meeting, June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 16, 2024 Special Meeting

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on June 10, 2024 Board Retreat Meeting, June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 16, 2024 Special Meeting.

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2024 Board Retreat Meeting, June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 16, 2024 Special Meting

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on June 10, 2024 Board Retreat Meeting, June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 16, 2024 Special Meeting.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Adam Sorchini

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	CB	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
7-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes

10. Committee of The Whole—All.

None

11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance— Carolyn Byszewski (Chair), Adam Sorchini, Adam Colicchio and John Barounis

Mr. Frascella discussed cleaning and projects that the committee is looking into.

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	06/14/2024	\$738,614.46
Payroll	06/18/2024	\$541,598.01
Payroll	06/28/2024	\$241,971.33
Payroll	07/15/2024	\$130,526.85
Payroll	07/30/2024	\$199,659.36
Bills List	06/30/2024	\$461,319.69
Bills List	07/19/2024	\$700,254.17
Bills List	08/13/2024	\$825,020.38

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for May 2024 and June 2024

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

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3, the Chester Board of Education approves the Monthly Report of Transfers for May 2024 and June 2024; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for May 2024 and June 2024

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 May 2024 and June 2024; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for May 2024 and June 2024

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 May 2024 and June 2024; 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 May 2024 and June 2024

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 May 2024 and June 2024 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
9/26/2024	Danielle Guli Exploring the NJ ELA Standards Rutgers University-Bush Campus Rutgers, NJ	\$180.00	\$26.32	\$206.32
10/17-10/18 2024	Michele Tarnofsky 2024 NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Fall Conference Atlantic City, NJ	\$410.00	\$118.10	\$528.10

Date	Employee Conference/Work- shop	Registration- Tuition	Travel Misc.	Estimated Total Expense
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	Sarah Schultz NJSBA Fall Conference		\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	Dr. Van Woert NJSBA Fall Confer- ence		\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	Peter Frascella NJSBA Fall Conference		\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	Brad Currie NJSBA Fall Conference		\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	Melissa Mauro-Duffy NJSBA Fall Conference		\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	Erick Arostegui NJSBA Fall Confer- ence	Group Registration \$2,200	\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	Adam Sorchini NJSBA Fall Conference		\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	John Barounis NJSBA Fall Conference		\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	Carolyn Byszewski NJSBA Fall Confer- ence		\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2024	Dr. Suzanne Dundon NJSBA Fall Conference		\$650.00	\$850.00
10/21/2024- 10/24/2025	Andrew White NJSBA Fall Confer- ence		\$650.00	\$850.00

Date	Employee Conference/Work- shop	Registration- Tuition	Travel Misc.	Estimated Total Expense

11h. Approves Renewal of Joint Transportation Trip Agreement (Washington Twp. BOE)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, the Chester Board of Education approves renewal of Joint Transportation Trip Agreement with Wasington Twp. Board of Education effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

11i. Approves Nisivoccia

Resolved that the Chester Board of Education approves Nisivoccia to perform Statutory Annual Audit & CAFR Report as of June 30, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$27,500 as outlined in the attached proposal.

11j. Approves School Trips (Bragg)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following school trips for the 2024-2025 school year for Bragg School:

Field Trip	Location	Grade/Group
Waterloo Village	Byram, NJ	Grade 3
Thomas Edison	Orange, NJ	Grade 3
MPAC	Morristown, NJ	Grade 4
Liberty Hall Museum	Union, NJ	Grade 4
State House	Trenton, NJ	Grade 5
Planetarium	Branchburg, NJ	Grade 5
Jockey Hollow	Morristown, NJ	Grade 5
BRMS (2 Trips)	Chester, NJ	Grade 5
Escape Room	Rockaway, NJ	GIST

11k. Approves Commission for the Blind Services

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Level 1 Commission for the Blind Services. The cost for student # 20496 is \$2,200 and the cost for student #20879 is \$2,200

111. Approves Music Therapy

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Jammin Jen to provide music therapy for the preschool program at a rate of 4 visits (\$70.00 a session) for a total of \$12, 600 for the 2024-2025 school year.

11m. Approves School Trips (Dickerson)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following school trips for the 2024-2025 school year for Dickerson School:

Field Trip	Location	Grade/Group
Ort Farm	Long Valley	Kindergarten
Grove Street	Chester	Kindergarten
Chester Library	Chester	Grade 1
Chester Post Office	Chester	Grade 1
Frelinghuysen Arboretum	Morristown	Grade 1
Mayo Performing Arts Center	Morristown	Grade 2
Great Swamp	Sterling	Grade 2

11n. Approves Bus/Van Routes for the 2024-2025 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following bus routes for the 2024-2025 school year, a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

School	Contractor/BOE	Route Numbers
Black River Middle	Roxbury BOE	BR01, BR02, BR03, BR05, BR08,
School		BR10
Black River Middle	Mendham BOE	BR04, BR06, BR07, BR09, BR11
School		
Black River Middle	Chester BOE	BRV7, BRV8
School		
Bragg & Dickerson	Roxbury BOE	BD01, BD02, BD03, BD04, BD07,
		BD08
Bragg & Dickerson	Mendham BOE	BD05, BD06, BD09, BD10, BD11,
		BD12, BD13, BD14, BD15
Bragg & Dickerson	Chester BOE	BDV7, BDV8, BDV5
Dickerson Preschool	Chester BOE	BDV7, BDV8

110. Approves Soliant Registered Behavior Tech Services

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Soliant to provide Registered Behavior Tech services for 10 hours a week at \$65.00 an hour for the 2024-2025 school year up to a total of \$23,400.

11p. Approves Submission and Acceptance of the 2024-2025 ESEA Grant

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the submission and acceptance of the 2024-2025 ESEA Grant in the following amounts:

Title I Basic \$38,490 Title II Part A \$13,792 Title IV \$10,000 11q. Approves the Resolution not to Apply for Title III for the 2024-2025 ESEA Grant Resolved, that the Chester Board of Education will not apply for Title III funds as allocated under the ESEA Consolidated Subgrant for the 2024-2025 School Year.

11r. Approves Submission of the 2024-2025 IDEA Grant

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the submission of the 2024-2025 IDEA Grant in the following amounts:

Basic \$311,476 Preschool \$ 21,717

11s. Approves Mendham Township to transport out-of-district students

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Mendham Township to transport two out-of-district students w/ nurse to P.G. Chambers for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of \$92,100.

Motion by John Barounis

Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	CB	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
7-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes

12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel— Melissa Mauro Duffy (Chair), Erick Arostegui, Suzanne Dundon and Matthew Downs

12a. Approves 2024 Camp Achieve Paraprofessional (Youtz)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Christine Youtz as a paraprofessional for the Camp Achieve/ Camp Success summer program from July 8, 2024, through August 8, 2024, (20 days) at the contracted hourly rate for up to 6.5 hours daily.

12b. Approves Chester Paraprofessionals as 2024 Camp Achieve Substitutes

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves district paraprofessionals to substitute for the Camp Achieve/ Camp Success summer program from July 8, 2024, through August 8, 2024, (20 days) at their contracted hourly rate for up to 6.5 hours daily.

12c. Approves Professional Work (Christal)

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Jennifer Christal for professional work for the summer at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62 for up to an additional 30 hours for a total of up to \$1860.

12d. Approves Custodian (Phillips)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Joseph Phillips as custodian effective July 29, 2024 at the annual salary of \$42,000 with benefits prorated for the 2024-2025 school year pending approval of

criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12e. Approves Substitute Custodian (Guzman)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Luis Guzman as substitute custodian effective July 29, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$20.00 per hour for the 2024-2025 school year pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12f. Approves Technology Director (Licwinko)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Dr. Kathryn Nieves Licwinko as Technology Director at the annual salary of \$93,000 with benefits prorated for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 26, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12g. Approves BRMS Guidance Counselor (Morris)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Timothy Morris as BRMS Guidance Counselor at the annual salary of \$79,335 with benefits for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 26, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12h. Approves Substitute Nurses

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following nurses as substitute nurses for the 2024-2025 school year at a daily rate of \$250 effective August 26, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

Leslie Carlucci, RN Lauren Beam, RN

12i. Approves Summer Curriculum Work

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members for curriculum work at the contracted rate:

Subject Area Grade Level		Staff Member	Hours
ELA	Oversee K-5 Work	Danielle Guli	40
ELA	Kindergarten	Cassie Bruno, Barbara Knowles	20 Split
ELA	1st Grade	Nicole Healy, Christine Donlon	20 Split
ELA	2nd Grade	Kerri Mottola, Valerie Lemp	20 Split
ELA	3rd Grade	Erin Beil, Alli Johnson, Lauren Scarfo	20 Split

ELA	4th Grade	Gretchen Jacot, Katie Strauss	20 Split
ELA	5th Grade	Julie Flores	20
ELA	6th Grade	Taryn Mansolino, Milli Roskie	20 Split
ELA	7th Grade	Joe Pizzo, Milli Roskie	20 Split
ELA	8th Grade	Doreen Aiello	20
ELA	K-2 ELL	Saucedo	20
ELA	Bragg CAAP	Bedkowski	20
STEM	3rd Grade	Jerry Castro	20
STEM	4th Grade	Jerry Castro	20
STEM	5th Grade	Jerry Castro	20
Preschool	Preschool	Elizabeth Wilson	20
Preschool	Preschool	Jennifer Christal	20
Social Studies	6th Grade Civics	Catherine McPherson	20
Social Studies	7th Grade Civics	Kevin Cullen	20
Social Studies	8th Grade Civics	Sean McQueeney	20

12j. Approves 2024-2025 Team Leaders

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members as Team Leaders to be paid an annual stipend of \$1,141each or \$570.50 if Split as per agreement with the Chester Education Association.

Staff Member	School	Grade
Dorianne Taquinto	Dickerson	Kindergarten
Rebecca Gambuti	Dickerson	First Grade
Kerri Mottola	Dickerson	Second Grade
Pierre Lawrence	Dickerson School	Related Arts
John Christie	Dickerson School	Special Education (Split)
Liz Madinabeitia	Dickerson School	Special Education (Split)
Kelli Dolan	Bragg School Third Grade (Split)	
Lauren Scarfo	Bragg School	Third Grade (Split)
Katie Strauss	Bragg School	Fourth Grade (Split)
Brian Seeley	Bragg School	Fourth Grade (Split)
Nicole Hey	Bragg School	Fifth Grade (Split)
Julie Flores		
Christa Bedkowski	Bragg School	Related Arts (Split)

Kelly Tompkins	Bragg School	Related Arts (Split)
Maryanne Vindici	Bragg School	Special Education (Split)
Alexis Carle	Bragg School	Special Education (Split)
Sarah Warren	BRMS	Special Education (Split)
Erika Rosamilia	BRMS	Special Education (Split)
Deb Androvette	District	Multilingual

12k. Accepts Resignation (Spicehandler)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education accepts resignation of Kindergarten Literacy Aide, Molly Spicehandler effective June 30, 2024.

121. Approves Dickerson Cafeteria Aide (Berg)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Nicole Berg as Dickerson cafeteria aide for 3 hours daily at an annual salary of \$5,655.06 for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 28, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12m. Approves Memorandum of Agreement with CEA (Custodians/Maintenance)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the Chester Education Association to commence on July 1, 2023 and will expire on June 30, 2026 (3 years).

12n. Approves Chester School District Paraprofessional (Gern)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Kimberley Gern as a paraprofessional for 7 hours daily at an annual salary of \$27,720 with benefits for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 28, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

120. Approves Chester School District Paraprofessional (Marks)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Dina Marks as a paraprofessional for 7 hours daily at an annual salary of \$27,720 with benefits for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 28, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12p. Approves Chester School District Paraprofessional (Kovach)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves John Kovach as a paraprofessional for 7 hours daily at an annual salary of \$27,720 with benefits for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 28, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12q. Approves Dickerson Kindergarten Literacy Aide (Astuni)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board

of Education approves Katherine Astuni at an annual salary of \$12,342.37 for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 28, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12r. Approves Dickerson Kindergarten Literacy Aide (Costanza)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Lauren Costanza at an annual salary of \$12,342.37 for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 28, 2024 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12s. Accepts Resignation (Saha)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Bragg Paraprofessional, Mou Saha effective August 8th, 2024.

12t. Approves Leave of Absence (Employee # 1152)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee # 1152:

Unpaid Leave Start Date (Pension LTD)	09/03/2024
Anticipated Date of Return	09/01/2025

12u. Approves Statement of Assurance Professional Development/Mentoring Plan and Mentors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the submission of the 2024-2025 Statement of Assurance Professional Development/Mentoring Plan and the following mentors for new teachers:

New Employee (New to profession must pay mentor \$550 or prorated amount)	Mentor	School
Kylie Fazio	Nicole Hey	Bragg
Michele Tarnofsky	Assigned by NJPSA L2L	Dickerson

12v. Approves Bayada Nursing Services

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Bayada Nursing Services to provide a Nurse for student #20754 for the 2024-2025 school year for 3 hours daily at \$67.00 per hour.

12w. Approves Designation of Patriot's Week

WHEREAS, On December 18, 2001, Public Law 107-89 of the 107th Congress with bipartisan approval proclaimed September 11 as Patriots Day to be observed every year to honor and remember those who sacrificed on that day in 2001.

WHEREAS, The Chester School Board, by establishing a week of remembrance, rather than a single day, allows a more in-depth education of the bravery, courage, selflessness and sacrifice made that day, that week, and the subsequent events and further sacrifice in the years following.

WHEREAS, Patriot's Week observance provides "A Day of Charity" giving students and educators time to engage in civic activities, acts of charity and selflessness in the name of those who perished on September 11.

WHEREAS, The Chester School District further commits it resources to ensure the education of September 11, 2001 during the week of September 8-September 14, 2024 and throughout the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Chester School Board does PROCLAIM the week of September 8-14, 2024, PATRIOTS WEEK

John Barounis asked if 9/11 curriculum is being taught in the schools?

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Jogn Barounis

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	СВ	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
7-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes
5-1-1 (12m.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	No

13. Policy-Adam Sorchini (Chair), Adam Colicchio, John Barounis and Melissa Mauro Duffy *None*

14. 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 August 13, 2024 at 7:17 p.m. to discuss HIB, personnel and items falling under attorney client privilege. 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	EA	JB	СВ	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
7-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes

15. Return to Public Session

Upon the motion of Erick Arostegui and seconded by Adam Colicchio the Board returned to Public Session at 7:51 p.m.

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	СВ	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
7-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes

16. Committee of The Whole—All.

None

17. Unfinished Business

None

18. New Business

None

19. Adjournment Time

There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Carolyn Byszewski and seconded by John Barounis the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	CB	AC	MD	SD	MMD	SS	AS
7-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Frascella

Board Secretary