

**REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2024
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

Sarah Schultz, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at Chester Borough Courtroom, 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	Yes
Amy Buck Faundez	Yes	Sarah Schultz	Yes
Carolyn Byszewski	Yes	Adam Sorchini	Absent
Adam Colicchio	Yes	Quorum	Yes

4. Pledge of Allegiance

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

5. Presentations

- 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 2024 through December 2024.

- Gifted and Talented Presentation by Dr. Christina Van Woert and Kelly Tompkins

6. Administration

Dr. Christina VanWoert and Peter Frascella Business Administrator/Board Secretary

6a. Superintendent's Report

None

6b. Business Administrator's Report

None

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7. President's Comments

Sarah discussed update of Superintendent search. Also discussed second round will take place next week.

8. Public Commentary

None

9. Approval of Minutes

9a. Approves Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2024

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the Reorganization meeting held on December 10, 2024.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Adam Colicchio

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

10. Committee of The Whole—All.

10a. Approves School Board Recognition Month

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2024 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public-school students

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and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Amy Buck Faundez

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

- 11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance-** Adam Colicchio (Chair), Adam Sorchini, Carolyn Byszewski and John Barounis
Adam Colicchio spoke about the school walk through, Pomptonian, ROD Advertisement, Septic and JCP&L.

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 12/13/2024	\$700,078.53
Payroll 12/20/2024	\$706,098.87
Payroll 01/15/2025	\$695,105.79
Bills List 12/31/2024	\$1,165.00
Bills List 01/10/2025	\$428,888.07
Bills List 01/21/2025	\$709,197.34

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for November 2024

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2023-2024 budget for the month of November 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 November 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 November 2024; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for November 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 November 2024; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

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11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for November 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 November 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 November 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 November 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	<u>Employee</u> Conference/Workshop	Registra- tion- Tuition	Travel Misc.	Estimated Total Expense
3/7/2025	Erica David Meeting the Needs of Our Gifted Students and Ad- vanced Learners Virtual	\$295.00	\$0.00	\$295.00
3/7/2025	Kelly Tompkins Meeting the Needs of Our Gifted Students and Ad- vanced Learners Virtual	\$295.00	\$0.00	\$295.00
3/17/2025	Marisa Cumello High Leverage Practices / NJ CEC 2025 Spring Conference Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ	\$175.00	\$40.33	\$215.33
03/20/2025	Samantha Pepe GUIDED MATH Grades K-3 Virtual	\$295.00	\$0.00	\$295.00
03/18/2025	Alison Pigott GUIDED MATH Grades 3-6 Virtual	\$295.00	\$0.00	\$295.00

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06/25-06/28 2025	Dr. Kenneth Piascik National School Watch Conference Alexandria, VA	\$499.00	\$1,863.84	\$2,362.84
06/25-06/28 2025	Joseph Pizzo National School Watch Conference Alexandria, VA	\$549.00	\$1342.00	\$1891.00
03/18/2025	Nicole Hey GUIDED MATH Grades 3-6 Virtual	\$295.00	\$0.00	\$295.00
03/19/2025	Joseph Pizzo NJAMLE State Conference Brookdale Community College Lincroft, NJ	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
2/11/2025	Anne Pape School Nurses, Best Strategies for Helping Students with Asthma, Allergies and Anaphylaxis	\$295.00	\$0.00	\$295.00
03/22 – 03/26 2025	Joseph Pizzo NCMLE State Conference Alexandria, VA	\$399.00	\$414.00	\$813.00
03/22 – 03/26 2025	Dr. Kenneth Piascik NCMLE State Conference Alexandria, VA	\$399.00	\$996.80	\$1395.80
03/18/2025	Dana Militante GUIDED MATH Grades 3-6 Virtual	\$295.00	\$0.00	\$295.00
02/06-02/09 2025	Lori Mauger NJEA Educational Support Professionals Conference Atlantic City, NJ	\$	\$	\$

11h. Approves School Trips

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

Field Trip	Location	Grade/Group
American Dream Mall, The Escape Game	East Rutherford, NJ	5 th Grade GIST
MPAC	Morristown, NJ	8 th Grade-Arts

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11i. Approves Home Instruction

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approved LearnWell to provide home instruction to student # 20222 for 10 hours a week at a cost of \$58.75 per hour effective 1/2/2025.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Erick Arostegui

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

12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel – Melissa Mauro Duffy (Chair), Erick Arostegui, Suzanne Dundon and Amy Buck Faundez.

Melissa spoke about the Principals Round Table and gave an update on the G & T

12a. Approves Leave of Absence for Employee #1297

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following revised leave of absence for employee # 1297:

Leave Start Date	01/24/2025
Paid Sick Days	11
Anticipated Date of Return	02/10/2025

12b. Approves Professional Work (CANDO Meeting)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following employees to be paid the contracted professional rate to attend the CANDO parent meetings:

Amy Hayes- 4 hours
Gretchen Capan - 2 hours
Timothy Rain - 2 hours

12c. Approves Registered Behavior Training

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester board of education approves the following para professionals to complete 40 hours each of training to earn registered behavior certification at their hourly rate.

Salvatore Giordano
Brian Gallagher

12d. Approves Professional Work (David)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester board of education approves Erica David for 20 hours of Gifted and Talented Study to be paid the professional hourly rate of \$62 as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association.

12e. Awards Compensation (Van Woert)

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 Goals as outlined below.

Qualitative Merit Goals	
In keeping with NJAC 68:8-3.1, <i>Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act</i> , the Superintendent will research, examine and compare a number of exemplary Gifted and Talented Education Programs across the state to determine how to successfully and strategically employ the most current best practice teaching and learning models and pedagogy to meet the needs of our Gifted and Talented students and help them attain the highest levels of academic success.	2.5% of salary
In keeping with our Chester Board of Education goals for increased opportunities for Community Enrichment, the Superintendent will organize a series of Superintendent and Principal Roundtable Open Forums with our two new principals at our Dickerson School K - 2; and our Bragg School 3 - 5. Helping to facilitate community engagement, the Superintendent and Principals will organize four community forums (two at each school) to invite parents and community members in to meet and get to know the two new principals, along with their educational philosophies and plans for each school.	2.5% of salary

12f. Approves Extra Hours (Andolina)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester board of education approves Karen Andolina for extra hours to be paid \$60.79/hour from January 24, 2025 through February 7, 2025

12g. Accepts Retirement (Capone)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Dickerson Paraprofessional, Michele Capone, effective February 25, 2025.

Motion by John Barounis

Seconded by Melissa Mauro Duffy

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

13. Policy-Adam Sorchini (Chair), Adam Colicchio, John Barounis and Melissa Mauro Duffy
Adam discussed Policy updates.

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13a. Approves First Reading of Policy 4119.26-Electronic Communications

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of Policy 4119.26-Electronic Communications.

13b. Approves First Reading of Policy 3570-District Records and Reports

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of Policy 3570-District Records and Reports.

Motion by John Barounis Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

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

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 January 21, 2025 at 7:38 p.m. to discuss HIB and 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 Carolyn Byszewski Seconded by Melissa Mauro Duffy

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

15. Return to Public Session

Upon the motion of Erick Arostegui and seconded by Suzanne Dundon the Board returned to Public Session at 8:50 p.m.

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

16. Committee of The Whole—All.

16a. Approves Superintendent's Recommendation for 2024-2025 HIB Case # 8

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation for 2024-2025 HIB Case # 8

Motion by John Barounis Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

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

17. Unfinished Business

Carolyn looked at how we used enrichment time at Black River Middle School.

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18. New Business

None

19. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Amy Buck Faundez and seconded by Melissa Mauro Duffy, the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter Frascella
Board Secretary