

**REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 4, 2025  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Sarah Schultz, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Blacker River Middle School, 133 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	Absent	Adam Sorchini	Yes
Adam Colicchio	Yes	<b>Quorum</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**4. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**5. President's Comments**

*Sarah discussed the Superintendent hiring process/*

**6. Public Commentary**

*None*

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

**7a. Approval of Superintendent Contract**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approve the Superintendent contract for William Kochis, Ed. D effective on or about June 5, 2025- June 30, 2029.

**7b. Approves Interim Superintendent Contract (Ficarra)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approve the Interim Superintendent contract for Thomas Ficarra, Ed.D. effective March 24, 2025 through June 6, 2025 to be paid the per diem rate of \$900 for each day worked.

**7c. Approves Interim Bragg School Principal (Schilp)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approve the Bragg School Interim

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Principal contract for Russel Schilp effective March 10, 2025 through June 13, 2025 to be paid \$125,000 prorated.

*Sarah read Carolyn's statement endorsing the hiring of the Superintendent.*

Motion by Adam Sorchini

Seconded by John Barounis

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS
7-0-1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Sarah read a statement discussing the qualifications of Dr. Kochis.*

**8. Executive Session**

RESOLVED, that pursuant to NJS.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 the Chester Board of Education held a closed session on March 4, 2025 at 6:40 p.m. to discuss personnel, negotiations 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 John Barounis

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

**9. Return to Public Session**

*Upon the motion of Melissa Mauro Duffy and seconded by Erick Arostegui the Board returned to Public Session at 7:23 p.m.*

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

**10. Unfinished Business**

*None*

**11. New Business**

*None*

**12. Adjournment**

*There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Melissa Mauro Duffy and seconded by John Barounis, the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.*

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter Frascella  
Board Secretary