

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 12, 2025**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Sarah Schultz, Board President, called the meeting to order at **7:00** p.m. at the 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	Absent	Melissa Mauro-Duffy	Yes
Amy Buck Faundez	Absent	Sarah Schultz	Yes
Carolyn Byszewski	Yes	Adam Sorchini	Yes
Adam Colicchio	Yes	<b>Quorum</b>	Yes

**4. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**5. Presentations:**

*None*

**6. Administration-** Superintendent Dr. William Kochis, Assistant Superintendent Brad Currie and Peter Frascella Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**6a. Superintendent’s Report**

*2024-2025 QSAC results*

*Dr. Kochis discussed our school scheduler app. Thanked Building & Grounds and complimented them for all the summer work. Discussed the successful summer program.*

**6b. Business Administrator’s Report**

*National School Lunch Service*

*Carolyn asked about break even points in terms of menu sales.*

*Erick asked if we will see the financials throughout the year to assess programs success.*

*Mr. Frascella gave an update on the construction.*

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**7. President’s Comments**

*Sarah welcomed back all the teachers and students. She hoped they all had a wonderful summer and wished them the best for the 2025-2026 school year.*

**8. Public Commentary**

*None*

**9. Approval of Minutes**

**9a. Approves Meeting Minutes from June 9, 2025 and July 16, 2025**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on June 9, 2025 and July 16, 2025.

**9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from June 9, 2025 and July 16, 2025**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on June 9, 2025 and July 16, 2025.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Melissa Mauro Duffy

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

**10. Committee of The Whole—All.**

*None*

**11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance— Adam Colicchio (Chair), Adam**

*Sorchini, Carolyn Byszewski and John Barounis*

*Adam Colicchio stated that negotiations and Long-Range Facilities Plan updates were discusses at committee meeting.*

**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 06/13/2025	\$771,891.02
Payroll 06/30/2025	\$230,570.36
Payroll 07/15/2025	\$177,954.04
Bills List 06/30/2025	\$200,664.37
Bills List 07/15/2025	\$519,482.07
Bills List 07/31/2025	\$244,122.42

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**11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for May 2025 and June 2025**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2023-2024 budget for the month of May 2025 and June 2025 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 2025 and June 2025**

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 2025 and June 2025; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

**11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for May 2025 and June 2025**

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 2025 and June 2025; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

**11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for May 2025 and June 2025**

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 2025 and June 2025; 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 2025 and June 2025**

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 2025 and June 2025 and that no major account or fund has been over-expended.

**11g. Approves Soliant for Behavior Technician**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Soliant to provide 8 hours a week as a registered behavior technician at \$80.00/hour from July 7 through August 7, 2025 totaling \$3840.

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

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Mendham Township to transport two out-of-district students to P.G. Chambers for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of \$117,495.

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- 11i. Approves Soliant ABA Services for ESY**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Soliant to provide applied behavioral therapy services for up to 18 hours a week at \$80.00/hour from June 30 through July 31, 2025, for a total cost of \$7200.
- 11j Rescind 11o. Approves Physical Therapist (Detore)**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Dr. Donna Detore to provide physical therapy services at an hourly rate of \$95 for 11.5 hours weekly for a total cost of up to \$39,330 for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 11k. Approves Soliant ABA Services for 2025-2026 School Year**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Soliant to provide applied behavioral therapy services for up to 20 hours a week at \$80.00/hour for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 11l. Rescind Approves Camp Achieve Applied ABC**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Soliant to provide 8 hours a week as a registered behavior technician at \$80.00/hour from July 7 through August 7, 2025 totaling \$3840.
- 11m. Rescind Resolution to Approve Camp Achieve Music Therapy Services**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Jammin Jen to provide 10-30 minutes music therapy services at \$70 per visit for a total cost of \$700.00
- 11n. Approves Out of District Placements for the 2025-2026 School Year**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following out-of-district placements for the ESY & 2025-2026 school year.

Student #	Student Placement	Tuition Rate
#1642 (new to district)	Pillar Elementary School	7/2/2025 (ESY) and 2025-2026 school year \$92,444.10
#19654	Calais	\$91,572.60 for the 2025-2026 School Year

- 11o. Rescind resolution to Approve ABA Therapist**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves The Stepping Stones Group to provide an ABA (Applied Behavior Analyst) therapist to services for 20 hours a week at \$65.00 an hour for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year effective 5/15/2025.
- 11p. Approves Contract with Saint Clare’s Behavioral Health**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the contract with Saint Clare’s Behavioral Health to conduct back-to-school evaluations at a rate of \$250.00 per evaluation for the 2025- 2026 school year.

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- 11q. 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 2025-2026 school year.
- 11r. Approves Morris County Education Services**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Morris County Education Services to provide occupational therapy services for the Camp Achieve summer program from June 30, 2025 through July 31, 2025 at the contracted rate for 9 hours weekly.
- 11s. Approves Commission for the Blind Services**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Level 1 Commission for the Blind Services. The cost for student # 20496 is \$2,541 and the cost for student #20879 is \$2,541.
- 11t. Approves Shore Orientation and Mobility Training**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Shore Orientation and Mobility Training for student #20496 up to two times a year at a cost of \$350 an hour for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 11u. Approves Submission and Acceptance of the 2025-2026 IDEA Grant**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the submission and acceptance of the 2025-2026 IDEA Grant in the following amounts:
- \$264,943- Basic
  - \$21,610- Preschool
  - Nonpublic Share- \$38,173
- 11v. Approves ABA Therapist with The Stepping Stones Group**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves The Stepping Stones Group to provide an ABA (Applied Behavior Analyst) therapist to provide services for 20 hours a week at \$65.00 an hour for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 11w. Approves Stepping Stones Group for ABA**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves The Stepping Stones Group to provide an ABA (Applied Behavior Analyst) therapist to services for 20 hours a week at \$65.00 an hour for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year effective 5/15/2025.
- 11x. Approves United Therapy Solutions for Physical Therapy**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves United Therapy Solutions to provide 2 physical therapy evaluations at a cost of \$425 per evaluation.
- 11y. Approves Bus/Van Routes for the 2025-2026 School Year**  
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following bus routes for the 2025-2026 school year, a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

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School	Contractor/BOE	Route Numbers
Black River Middle School	Roxbury BOE	BR01, BR02, BR03, BR05, BR08, BR10
Black River Middle School	Mendham BOE	BR04, BR06, BR07, BR09, BR11
Black River Middle School	Chester BOE	BRV7, BRV8
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	BDV5, BDV7

**11z. Approves Recycling of Obsolete Technology Equipment**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Recycling of obsolete/old technology equipment; a list of which can be viewed at the Board of Education Business office.

**11aa. Approves Purchasing Agent for the 2025-2026 School Year**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), designates Peter Frascella, School Business Administrator, Board Secretary, as the Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Board of Education and authorizes him to award contracts, in full accordance with the law, for purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate in a contract year the total sum of \$53,000.00 (bid threshold) without public advertising for bids. Furthermore, Peter Frascella is authorized to solicit competitive quotations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(a) and to award contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(c). The Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-8.3, et seq., further authorizes Peter Frascella to seek either competitive quotations or competitive bids when original determinations of aggregation are found to be more than anticipated or incorrect.

**11bb. Capital Reserve Withdrawal – Septic Replacement at BRMS**

That the Chester Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1 et seq., authorize the withdrawal of \$122,158.23 for the purpose of Septic Replacement at the Black River Middle School.

**11cc. Withdrawal from Participation in the National School Lunch Program**

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) has considered whether to continue the Chester School District’s (hereinafter referred to as the “District”) participation in the National School Lunch Program or to participate in another USDA Funded Programs (hereinafter referred to as the “Programs”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has concluded that it is in the best interests of the District to withdraw from participation in the Programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby withdraws the District from participation in the National School Lunch Program, effective the 2025-2026 school year.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall provide written notice of the District’s withdrawal to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition, effective the 2025-2026 school year.

**11dd. Approves School Lunch Price**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following prices for school lunch program for the 2025-2026 school year:

Dickerson School and Bragg School Student Lunch Price	\$4.75
Black River Middle School Student Lunch Price	\$5.00
Chef Prepared Meals	\$5.25-\$7.00

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Melissa Mauro Duffy

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

**12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel**— Melissa Mauro Duffy (Chair), Erick Arostegui, Suzanne Dundon and Amy Buck Faundez.  
*Melissa discussed QSAC and personnel items at meeting.*

**12a. Approves Dickerson Preschool Teacher (Tracey)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Josephine Tracey as Dickerson Preschool teacher effective September 2, 2025 for the 2025-26 school year to be paid a salary of \$59,055 BA Step 1 with benefits pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L. 2018, c5.

**12b. Accepts Retirement (Taquinto)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Dickerson Kindergarten teacher, Dorianne Taquinto effective September 1, 2025 with much gratitude for 25 years of service to the Chester School District.

**12c. Accepts Resignation (Jacobsen)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Bragg School Office Aide effective June 13, 2025.

**12d. Accepts Resignation (Nugent)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Dickerson Kindergarten Literacy Aide, Heather Nugent effective June 13, 2025.

**12e. Accepts Resignation (Skrabal)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Speech-Language Specialist, Sarah Skrabal effective August 13, 2025.

**12f. Approves Extra Hours (Getto)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves 24 extra hours for summer 2025 for Dickerson School Nurse, Kat Getto to be paid the professional rate of \$62.00 per hour as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association.

**12g. Rescinds BRMS Math Teacher (Mitchell)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education rescinds Madison Mitchell as BRMS Math teacher effective September 2, 2025 for the 2025-26 school year at an annual salary of \$72,815 (Step 11-12 MA) pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

**12h. Rescinds 2025-2026 Curriculum Work (Mitchell)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education rescinds the following staff member for 2025-2026 curriculum work at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62.00:

Subject Area(s)	Grade Level(s)	Staff Member(s)	Hours
Math	Geometry BRMS	Madison Mitchell	20 Hours

**12i. Approves 2025-2026 Curriculum Work**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members for 2025-2026 curriculum work at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62.00:

Subject Area(s)	Grade Level(s)	Staff Member(s)	Hours
Math	Pre-Algebra 6	Nicole Hey	20 Hours
Math	Algebra 1	Nicole Hey	20 Hours
Math	Algebra 1 B	Krista Maico	20 Hours

**12j. Approves Camp Achieve Bus Aide (Capan)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Gretchen Capan as Camp Achieve Bus Aide for 2 hours daily during the 2025 Camp Achieve ESY to be paid \$31.00 per hour.

**12k. Approves Paraprofessional (Wadleigh)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Anne Wadleigh as a Paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year to be paid \$28,631 with benefits.

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**12l. Approves Home Instruction Teacher (Gilbert)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Jean Gilbert to provide up to 10 hours a week of home instruction for student #20927 at a rate of \$55 an hour effective September 2, 2025.

**12m. Approves 2025-2026 Bus Aide (Alban)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Rose Alban as a bus aide at the hourly rate of \$20 for the 2025-2026 school year.

**12n. Approves CST Member to Complete Summer Evaluations (Collins)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Theresa Collins to complete summer evaluations for up to 18 hours (3 cases) from June 30, 2025 through July 31, 2025 at the professional hourly rate of \$62.

**12o. Approves Bragg CAAP Teacher (Haggerty)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Danielle Haggerty as Bragg school CAAP teacher for the 2025-2026 school year at .6 FTE, Step 7 MA+30 with a salary of \$42,291 without benefits pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

**12p. Approves 2025-2026 Curriculum Work**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members for 2025-2026 curriculum work at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62.00:

Math	Pre-Algebra 6	Nicole Hey	20 Hours
Math	Algebra I	Nicole Hey	20 Hours
Math	Geometry	Krista Maico	20 Hours
Math	Algebra IA	Nicole Hey	20 Hours
Math	Algebra IB	Nicole Hey	20 Hours

**12q. Approves 2024-25 Summer Scholars Program Secretary (Bedkowski)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Christa Bedkowski for the 2024-25 Summer Scholars Program to be paid \$26.00 per hour 4 days per week and 30 advance prep hours.

**12r. Approves Professional Work**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members for 1 hour each of professional work to be paid \$62.00.

Sean McQueeney

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Lorri Willis

**12s. Approves Speech Pathologist (Vogt)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Brianna Vogt as Speech Pathologist effective September 2, 2025 for the 2025-26 school year to be paid a salary of \$72,815 MA Step 11-12 with benefits pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L. 2018, c5.

**12t. Approves Staff to attend SEPAG Meetings for the 2025-26 School Year**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following staff members to attend SEPAG/Multilingual meetings for the 2025-2026 school year for 2 hours each at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62.00.

Jennifer Christal	John Christie
Eileen Bennett	Marissa Ryan
Sarah Southwick	Alexis Carle
Melissa Scherzer	Maryanne Vindici
Andrea Colicchio	Linda Blazier
Vivian Norman	Deb Androvette
Amy Hayes	Danette Lewis
Brandon Kornbluh	Nicole Rittenhouse
Josephine Tracey	Nicole Callahan
Courtney Nealon	Sarah Warren
Liz Wilson	Ashley Wilhite
Lisa Pela	Erika Rosamilia
Kaitlyn Rau	Lauren Mariano
Denielle Saucedo	Danette Lewis
Kim Matus	

**12u. Approves Teachers and Paraprofessionals as Substitute Bus Aides**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves teachers and paraprofessionals as substitute bus aides for the 2025-2026 school year at the contracted rate pending completion of the State mandated Special Needs Training and Vector Bus Safety Training.

**12v. Approves Nurse for Student #20754 for 2025 Camp Achieve**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Sally Ahmadi to provide nursing services to student #20754 for up to 3 hours daily at the rate of \$77.00 an hour for the 2025 Camp Achieve program.

**12w. Approves Nurse for Student #20754 for 2025-26 School Year**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Sally Ahmadi to provide nursing services to student #20754 for up to 3 hours daily at the rate of \$77.00 an hour for the 2025-2026 school year.

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**12x. Approves Dickerson Office Assistant (Berg)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the transfer of Nicole Berg from Dickerson Cafeteria Aide to Dickerson Office Assistant to be paid an annual salary of \$16,302 for 19.5 hours weekly effective September 2, 2025.

**12y. Accepts Resignation (Astuni)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Katherine Astuni, Kindergarten Literacy Aide, effective June 30, 2025.

**12z. Approves Kindergarten Literacy Aide (Hodapp)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Sherry Hodapp as Kindergarten Literacy Aide effective September 2, 2025 for the 2025-26 school year to be paid a salary of \$12,743 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L. 2018, c5.

**12aa. Approves Professional Work (Christal)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Jennifer Christal for 30 hours of professional work at the contracted hourly rate.

**12bb. Approves Kindergarten Teacher (Wilson)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the transfer of Preschool Teacher, Elizabeth Wilson, to Kindergarten teacher effective September 2, 2025 to be paid an annual salary of \$87,700.

**12cc. Approves Additional Hours (CST Cases)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following CST members to continue cases up to 20 hours through August 31, 2025 to be paid the contracted hourly rate.

Brandon Kornbluh  
Vivian Norman  
Theresa Collins  
Sarah Southwick  
Andrea Colicchio  
Melissa Scherzer  
Amy Hayes

**12dd. Approves Black River Middle School Math Teacher (Bloemeke)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Steven Bloemeke as Black River Middle School Math teacher effective September 29, 2025 for the 2025-26 school year to be paid a salary of \$72,815 pro-rated MA Step 11-12 with benefits pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L. 2018, c5.

**12ee. Approves Designation of Patriot’s Week**

WHEREAS, On December 18, 2001, Public Law 107-89 of the 107th Congress with bi-partisan 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 its resources to ensure the education of September 11, 2001 during the week of September 8-12, 2025 and throughout the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Chester School Board does PROCLAIM the week of September 8-12, 2025, PATRIOTS WEEK

**12ff. Approves Sidebar Agreement (Vespignani)**

**WHEREAS**, the Chester Board of Education (“Board”) and the Chester Education Association (“Union”) are parties to a collectively negotiated agreement in effect from 2022 to 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has a need for a member of the middle school teaching staff to teach an extra period totaling forty-two minutes of instructional time per day; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board and the Union are desirous of entering into this Sidebar Agreement to permit Kathleen Vespignani, or other individual as assigned by the district, to teach an additional period.

NOW THEREFORE for the 2025-2026 school year the parties agree as follows:

1. Kathleen Vespignani, or other individual assigned by the District, shall be permitted to teach an additional period totaling forty-two minutes per day. For the extra period of instructional time, the employee so assigned shall receive a stipend of \$9,660.60
2. The Parties recognize that this Agreement is temporary in nature and shall expire when the Board provides notice to the union that it no longer desires to have Kathleen Vespignani teach an additional class period.
3. This agreement is subject to ratification by the Board of Education and the Union.

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This agreement shall not be precedent setting in any way nor shall it be used in any other matter, grievance, or proceeding of any kind. This agreement is intended to apply only to the factual circumstances from which it arose and shall not have any precedential value.

**12gg. Approves District-Wide Curriculum**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following curriculum for the 2025-2026 school year:

Computer Science & Design Thinking	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2025
Career Readiness, Life Literacies & Key Skills	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2025
Science	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2025
Social Studies	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2025
Math	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2025
World Languages	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2025
Visual and Performing Arts: Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2025
English Language Arts	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2025
Comprehensive Health & Physical Education	NJ Student Learning Standards	August 2025

**12hh. Approves Team Leaders (Dickerson)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following BRMS team leaders for the 2025-2026 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

Team Leaders	Grade
Barbara Knowles	Kindergarten
Rebecca Gambuti	First Grade
Kerri Mottola	Second Grade
Susan Connelly	Related Arts

**12ii. Approves Dickerson Preschool Teacher (Twynam)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Jessica Twynam as Dickerson Preschool teacher effective September 2, 2025 for the 2025-26 school year to be paid a salary of \$59,055 BA Step 1 with benefits pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L. 2018, c5.

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**12jj. Approves 2025-2026 Head Custodian Positions**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Head Custodian positions for the 2025-2026 school year to be paid \$5,600 included in their annual salary:

Thomas Brady-BRMS  
Doug Clark-Bragg School  
Paul Crider-Dickerson School

**12kk. Accepts Resignation (Mosser)**

RESOLVED, the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Dickerson Literacy Aide, Susan Mosser effective July 30, 2025.

**2ll. Accepts Resignation (Gallagher)**

RESOLVED, the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation Paraprofessional, Brian Gallagher effective July 30, 2025.

**12mm. Approves Professional Work (Cullen)**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves 10 hours of Professional work at the contracted rate for Kevin Cullen for extracurricular activity scheduling and training.

**12nn. Approves Statement of Assurance Professional Development/Mentoring Plan**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the submission of the 2025-2026 Statement of Assurance Professional Development/Mentoring Plan and the following mentor for teachers.

**12oo. Approves Adoption of Danielson Model of Effective Teaching**

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10, Educator Effectiveness, the Chester Board of Education approves the adoption of the Danielson Model of Effective Teaching as an evaluation tool in 2025-2026 for the Chester School District's faculty.

**12pp. Approves NJPEPL Process and Observation Instrument**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the New Jersey Principal Evaluation for Professional Learning (NJPEPL) Process and Observation Instrument as the Principal Evaluation Tool for the Chester School District for the 2025-2026 school year.

**12qq. Rescinds Bragg 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher (Kanaras)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education rescinds Amalia Kanaras as Bragg 4<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA/Social Studies teacher at Step 8 MA to be paid \$67,460 for the 2025-2026 school year pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

**12rr. Approves Paraprofessional (Heady-Mercurio)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Alison Heady-Mercurio as paraprofessional at a salary of \$28,631

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with benefits for the 2025-2026 school year pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

**12ss. Approves Literacy Aide (Tilves)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Michelle Tilves as Kindergarten Literacy Aide at a salary of \$12,743 for the 2025-2026 school year pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

**12tt. 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 2025-2026 Statement of Assurance Professional Development/Mentoring Plan and the following mentors for new teachers:

<b>New Employee</b> <i>(New to profession must pay mentor \$550 or prorated amount)</i>	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>School</b>
Josephine Tracey	Courtney Nealon	Dickerson
Kaitlyn Rau	Jennifer Christal	Dickerson

**12uu. Approves Paraprofessional (Ask)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Melissa Ask as Paraprofessional at a salary of \$28,631 for the 2025-2026 school year pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

**12vv. Approves Team Leaders (Special Education)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following BRMS team leaders for the 2025-2026 school year with stipends as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

<b>Team Leaders</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Courtney Nealon	Dickerson
Maryanne Vindici & Alexis Carle (Split)	Bragg
Sarah Warren & Erika Rosamilia (Split)	BRMS
Deb Androvette (Multilingual)	District

**12ww. Approves Bragg Office Assistant (Balzano)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Melissa Balzano as Bragg Office Assistant for 19.5 hours per week at a salary of \$116,302 for the 2025-2026 school year pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees.

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**12xx. Approves Leave of Absence (Employee # 1466)**

RESOLVED: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee # 1466:

Sick Leave (Start Date)	09/02/25
Accumulated Sick Days (Applied)	15
Date of Return (Anticipated)	09/24/25

Motion by Melissa Mauro Duffy      Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS
6-1	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5-1-1(12t.,12cc.)	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Abstain (12t.,12cc.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

**13. Policy-** Adam Sorchini (Chair), Adam Colicchio, John Barounis and Melissa Mauro Duffy  
*Adam Sorchini discussed policies to be voted on.*

**13a. Approves Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 5131.1 – HIB**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves second reading and adoption of Policy 5131.1 – HIB.

Motion by Erick Arostegui      Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

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

**13b. Approves First Reading of Policy 3220-State Funds, Federal Funds**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of Policy 3220-State Funds, Federal Funds.

Motion by Melissa Mauro Duffy      Seconded by Adam Colicchio

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

**13c. Approves First Reading of Policy 9200-Orientation and Training of Board Members**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of Policy 9200-Orientation and Training of Board Members

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski      Seconded by Melissa Mauro Duffy

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

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**14. Committee of The Whole**

*None*

**15. Unfinished Business**

*None*

**16. New Business**

*Sarah said the Science Fair is something the Board is working on.*

**17. Adjournment**

*There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Erick Arostegui and seconded by Carolyn Byszewski, the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.*

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter Frascella  
Board Secretary