REGULAR MEETING
October 14, 2025
AGENDA

A regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education will be held on October 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Chester Borough Courtroom. 50 North Road, Chester, NJ, 07930

1. Call to Order

2. Sunshine Announcement
Be advised 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		Suzanne Dundon	
John Barounis		Melissa Mauro-Duffy	
Amy Buck Faundez		Sarah Schultz	
Carolyn Byszewski		Adam Sorchini	
Adam Colicchio		**Quorum**	

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Presentations:
2024-2025 HIB Grades Report
2024-2025 NJSLA. DLM and ACCESS Presentation

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

6a. Superintendent's Report

6b. Business Administrator's Report

7. President's Comments

8. Public Commentary
Please be aware that this portion is your opportunity to comment, and is not a forum for the Board to respond to your comments. However, the Board will certainly give all comments appropriate consideration.

When permitted, public participation shall be governed by the following rules under Policy 9325.2:

1. *Anyone wishing to speak before the Board shall indicate so during the Public Commentary portion of the agenda. The presenter shall give his/her name and address and make the presentation as brief as possible. Unless an extension of time is granted, each speaker should be limited to 3 minutes.*
2. *Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them. But in public session, the Board will not hear concerns about the specific school personnel or any person connected with the school system. Other channels provide the Board consideration and disposition of such matters involving individuals.*
3. *The Board vests in its President or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when they do not adhere to the rules established above.*

9. Approval of Minutes

9a. Approves Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2025
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on September 30, 2025.

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2025
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on September 30, 2025.

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS

10. Committee of The Whole—*All.*

10a. Approves Chester School 2025-2026 Board of Education Goals
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following 2025-2026 Chester School Board of Education goals:

1. Improve communication with Board committees and with the superintendent
2. Prepare for negotiations and engage in negotiations training
3. Establish clear timelines and track progress on the goals throughout the year
4. Complete the requirements to become an NJSBA Certified Board

10b. Approves Chester School District 2025-2026 Goals
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following 2025-2026 Chester School District goals:

1. Instruction, Engagement, and Academics
Goal Statement: Promote a dynamic learning environment that advances academic achievement, fosters student growth, supports educator development, and prepares all learners for future success through thoughtful innovation, continuous improvement, and the development of student leadership and responsibility.

2. Communication and Community Engagement
Goal Statement: Foster transparent, consistent, and collaborative communication among families, staff, administration, and the broader community by enhancing access to information, streamlining digital tools, and creating meaningful opportunities for connection and engagement.

3. Building and Grounds
Goal Statement: Enhance the district's physical environment by exploring sustainable practices, improving food services and nutrition offerings, upgrading facilities for safety and functionality, and creating innovative, student-centered spaces that support learning and engagement.

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS

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

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	10/15/2025	$714,370.88
Bills List	10/14/2025	$1,010,978.58

11b. 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
11/17/2025	Danette Lewis Math Learning Disabilities K-8 Virtual	$295	$0	$295
11/14/2025	Marisa Ryan Just Words Workshop Online	$330	$0	$330

11c. Approves Fall Bus Evacuation Drills RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2, the Chester Board of Education documents that the following bus evacuation drills were held:

1. At Dickerson and Bragg Schools on September 24, 2025 at 3:20 p.m. in the bus pickup/drop-off loop behind the schools in the bus loop for bus routes 1-15 and vans 5, 7 and 8 by Principals Peter Mercurio and Michele Tarnofsky.

2. At Black River Middle School, on October 9, 2025 at 2:25 p.m. in the front parking lot for bus routes 1-11 and vans 7 and 8 by Principal Andrew White and Assistant Principal Rebecca Tsihlas.

3. At Bragg School on October 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the bus loop behind the schools for Bragg and Dickerson non-riders by Principals Peter Mercurio and Michele Tarnofsky.

11d. Authorizes Submission of Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1
WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A, the New Jersey Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public-school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the Chester Board of Education are consistent with these requirements; and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1 in compliance with New Jersey Department of Education requirements.

11e. Approves the Resolution not to Apply for Title III for the 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 School Year.

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS

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

12a. Rescinds Bragg 2025-2026 Club Advisor (Polkowski) from 9/30/25 Agenda
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education rescinds Nicole Polkowski as Minecraft Club Advisor for the 2025-2026 school

year with stipend as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association.

12b. Approves Bragg 2025-2026 Club Advisors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Chester School District Staff members as Club Advisors for the 2025-2026 school year with stipend as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association.

Minecraft Club (1)	Bragg	$1,864.00	Jerry Castro
Minecraft Club (2)	Bragg	$1,864.00	Jerry Castro

12c. Revises BRMS 2025-2026 Club Advisors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education revises the following staff members as Club Advisors for the 2025-2026 school year with stipend as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

From:

Ski/Snowboard Club (1)	BRMS	$1,864.00	Tricia Pohan
Ski/Snowboard Club (2)	BRMS	$1,864.00	Terri Meierhofer

Revised to:

Ski/Snowboard Club (1)	BRMS	$2,525.00	Tricia Pohan
Ski/Snowboard Club (2)	BRMS	$2,525.00	Terri Meierhofer

12d. Revises Dickerson 2025-2026 Club Advisors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education revises the following staff members as Dickerson Music Theater Advisors for the 2025-2026 school year with stipend as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

From:

Music Theater (2)	Dickerson	$1,864.00	Pierre Lawrence & Linda Blazier (Split)

To:

Music Theater (1)	Dickerson	$1,864.00	Pierre Lawrence
Music Theater (2)	Dickerson	$1,864.00	Linda Blazier

12e. Approves 2025-2026 Organization Chart

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Organization Chart for the 2025-2026 school year and affixes a copy to the minutes of this meeting.

12f. Approves Professional Work (2025-26 SEPAG/Multilingual Meetings)
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.

- Gretchen Capan
- Dana Augello

12g. Accepts Resignation (Schultz)
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Speech Language Specialist, Stephanie Schultz effective November 4, 2025.

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS

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

13a. Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 5141.21-Administering Medication
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves second reading and adoption of Policy 5141.21-Administering Medication.

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS

14. Executive Session
RESOLVED, that pursuant to NJS.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 the Chester Board of Education will hold a closed session on October 14, 2025 at ____ 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_____ Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS

15. Return to Public Session Time_____

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS

16. Committee of The Whole
None

17. Unfinished Business

18. New Business

19. Adjournment Time_____

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS