

REGULAR MEETING
October 14, 2025
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Sarah Schultz, Board President, called the meeting to order at **7:02 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	Absent	Suzanne Dundon	Yes
John Barounis	Yes	Melissa Mauro-Duffy	Yes
Amy Buck Faundez	Yes	Sarah Schultz	Yes
Carolyn Byszewski	Yes	Adam Sorchini	Yes
Adam Colicchio	Yes	Quorum	Yes

4. Pledge of Allegiance

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

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kochis thanked Dr. Celebre for the Multi Linguel family night. Last week, October 6th - 10th, was Week of Respect, there were some great activities. Jared Campbell and Jordan Toma assembly went great. Yesterday the school's Professional Development Day went well. Dr. Kochis thanked Brad and Rich for their presentations.

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

6a. Presentations:

Brad Currie presented the 2024-2025 HIB Grades Report
 Brad Currie presented the 2024-2025 NJSLA and Dr. Celebre did the presentation for DLM and ACCESS

6b. Business Administrator's Report

None

7. President’s Comments

Sarah stated the Jordan Toma assembly was great, she and Amy Busk Faudez attended. The school needs to nominate an Educator of the Year. Sarah discussed Board goals and classes they will attend at the NJSBA Workshop.

8. Public Commentary

None

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
8-0	Absent	Yes							

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

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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 Amy Buck Faudez

Seconded by Melissa Mauro Duffy

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

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 John Barounis Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

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

12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel— Melissa Mauro Duffy (Chair), Erick Arostegui, Suzanne Dundon and Amy Buck Faundez.
John Barounis does not agree with offering clubs for video and computer gaming.

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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)
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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.

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- 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 John Barounis

Seconded by Adam Colicchio

Roll Call Vote	EA	JB	ABF	CB	AC	SD	MMD	SS	AS
8-0	Absent	Yes							
7-1(12b.)	Absent	No	Yes						

- 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 Melissa Mauro Duffy

Seconded by John Barounis

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

- 14. Executive Session**
None

- 15. Committee of The Whole**
None

- 16. Unfinished Business**
None

- 17. New Business**
Black River Middle School playoffs for sports teams were discussed.

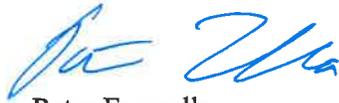
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18. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Carolyn Byszewski and seconded by Amy Buck Faundez the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 8:40 P.M.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter Frascella

Board Secretary