

**REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2025
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

Sarah Schultz, Board President, called the meeting to order at **7:01 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 | Yes** | Melissa Mauro-Duffy | Yes |
| Amy Buck Faundez | Yes | Sarah Shultz | Yes |
| Carolyn Byszewski | Yes | Adam Sorchini | Yes |
| Adam Colicchio | Yes | Quorum | Yes |

**Arrived 7:03 PM*

***Arrived 7:05 PM*

4. Pledge of Allegiance

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

5. Presentations/Celebrations

Mr. White introduced the coaches who introduced the teams.

- BRMS Boy's Cross Country Team Championship
- BRMS Boy's Soccer Team Championship

6. Administration

- Superintendent - Dr. William Kochis
- Assistant Superintendent - Mr. Brad Currie
- Business Administrator/Board Secretary - Mr. Peter Frascella

6a. Superintendent's Report

Congratulations to the teams. Discussed how great Halloween, TREP and all the other school events were. Discussed Teacher of the Year.

6b. Business Administrator's Report

Discussed the audit approval for December. Also discussed picking the reorganization date of January 6, 2026.

7. President’s Comments

The NJSBA Convention was attended by 8 Board Members. Spoke about School Board Certifications, Morris County Executive Board meeting discussing AI and other topics.

8. Public Commentary

None

9. Approval of Minutes

9a. Approves Minutes from October 14, 2025

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on October 14, 2025

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2025

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on October 14, 2025.

Motion by Adam Sorchini

Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes |

10. Committee of the Whole– All.

None

11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance– Adam Colicchio (Chair), Adam Sorchini,

Carolyn Byszewski, and John Barounis

Adam discussed meeting topics including ROD Grant Project, Audit, Budget and negotiations. He also discussed the Long Range Facilities Plan.

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 | 10/30/2025 | \$719,671.17 |
| Payroll | 11/14/2025 | \$716,735.17 |
| Bills List | 11/19/2025 | \$1,101,029.14 |

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for September and October 2025

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2025-2026 budget for the months of September and October 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.

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

- 11c. Approves Monthly Transfer Report for September and October 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 September and October 2025; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.
- 11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for September and October 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 September and October 2025; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.
- 11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for September and October 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 September and October 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 September and October 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 September and October 2025 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 | Employee Conference/Workshop | Registration / Tuition | Travel / Misc. | Estimated Total Expense |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 2/21-2/23 2026 | Kenneth Piascik Pennsylvania Assoc. Of Middle Level Education State Conference King of Prussia, PA | \$459 | \$ | \$459 |
| 2/21-2/23 2026 | Joseph Pizzo Pennsylvania Assoc. Of Middle Level Education State Conference King of Prussia, PA | \$459 | \$ | \$459 |
| 01/14 2026 | Courtney Nealon Pre-K Today Conference Rutgers University, NJ | \$180 | \$36.32 | \$206.32 |
| 2/23-2/24 | Timothy Rain | \$400 | \$138.70 | \$538.70 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--|------|---------|---------|
| 2026 | NJAPHERD Annual Convention Princeton, NJ | | | |
| 2/23-2/24 2026 | Sara Kozlowski NJAPHERD Annual Convention Princeton, NJ | \$0 | \$93.50 | \$93.50 |
| 12/8 2025 | Danielle Guli Regional Women's Educational Leadership Forum and Breakfast Kean University, NJ | \$65 | \$28 | \$93 |

11h. Approves J&B Therapy

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves J&B Therapy to provide therapy services at an hourly rate of \$97.50 for 30 hours weekly for a total cost of up to \$11,700 for the 2025-2026 school year.

11i. Approves Home Instruction Provided by Stepping Forward, LLC.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Stepping Forward, LLC to provide home instruction to student # 19654 at \$100.00 for up to 10 hours a week effective 11/10/2025 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

11j. Approves Additional Stop to Route BD10

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approve an additional stop to BD10 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 and for future years to follow.

11k. Approves Submission and Acceptance of the Phone Free Schools Grant

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the submission and acceptance of the 2025-2026 Phone Free School Grant in the amount of \$1,348.

Motion by Erick Arostegui

Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes |

12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel– *Melissa Mauro Duffy (Chair), Erick Arostegui, Suzanne Dundon, and Amy Buck Faundez*
Melissa spoke about Educator/ ESP of the Year. Stated TREP's was great and discussed the Science Fair.

12a. Approves Chaperones for the 2025-26 School Year

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Chester School District Staff members as Chaperones for Board approved clubs/extracurricular activities the 2025-2026 school year with stipend of \$86 per

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

hour for up to 2 hours determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

Jennifer Christal
Alison Pigott

12b. Approves Speech Therapist (Morrison)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Danielle Morrison as a speech therapist for the 2025-2026 school year at Step 11-12, MA at an annual salary of \$72,815 prorated with a projected start date of November 24, 2025 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12c. Approves Home Instruction Teacher (Marianino)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Lauren Marianino to provide up to 10 hours a week of home instruction for student #19654 at a rate of \$50 an hour as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association effective October 21, 2025.

12d. Approves 2025-26 BRMS Winter Athletic Coaches

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following staff members as athletic coaches for the 2025-26 school year to be paid a stipend as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

| Winter Season | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Wrestling</u> | <u>Staff Member</u> | <u>Longevity</u> |
| Head Coach | Sean McQueeney | 11 |
| Asst. Coach | Andy Gray | 3 |
| <u>Cheerleading</u> | | |
| Head Coach | Sarah Warren | 7 |
| Asst. Coach | Gretchen Capan | 3 |
| <u>Girls' Basketball</u> | | |
| Head Coach | Melissa D'Auria | 4 |
| Asst. Coach | Sal Giordano | 1 |
| <u>Boys' Basketball</u> | | |
| Head Coach | Arnel Villalobos | 1 |
| Asst. Coach | Steven Bloemeke | 1 |

12e. Revise Team Leaders

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education revises the following team leaders from the 9/30/25 agenda:

From:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Debra Androvette & Maryanne Vindici | Special Education |
| and Alexis Carle (Split) | |

To:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Maryanne Vindici & Alexis Carle (Split) | Special Education |
| Debra Androvette (Multilingual) | District |

12f. Approves Drew University Student Observations

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following Drew University students for one day of classroom observation and participation at Bragg School:

Maggie Speckhart
 Elianna Hodge
 Julia Romano
 Elizabeth Blank
 Courtney Cushman

12g. Approves West Chester University Student Observation

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following West Chester University student for one day of Guidance Counselor observation at Black River Middle School:

Alyssa Canfield

12h. Accepts Book Donation for Dickerson Library

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accepts the donation to the Dickerson Library of the children’s picture book *The Hungry Little Gopher: Featuring American Sign Language*, by Laura Carolfi with much appreciation to the Truncale Family.

12i. Approves BRMS 2025-2026 Club Advisors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following 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:

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------------|------------|
| Volley Ball Club | BRMS | \$1,864.00 | Dana Mazza |
|------------------|------|------------|------------|

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|------------|----------------------|
| Digital Media Club | BRMS | \$1,864.00 | Maritza Ciottariello |
|--------------------|------|------------|----------------------|

12j. Rescinds Bragg 2025-2026 Club Advisors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education rescinds the following Chester School District Staff members as Club Advisors for the 2025-2026 school year.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|----------------|
| American Sign Language Club | Bragg | \$1,864.00 | Laura Allen |
| Helping Hands/Climate Club | Bragg | \$1,864.00 | Cheryl O'Melia |

12k. Approves Bragg 2025-2026 Club Advisor

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Chester School District Staff member as 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:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------------|
| Homework Club | Bragg | \$1,864.00 | Gretchen Jacot |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------------|

12l. Approves Day Custodian Stipend (Zapata)

RESOLVED, that up the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Bragg Custodian, Dora Zapata to be paid the Day Custodian stipend of \$5,600 for the months of October and November 2025.

12m. Accepts Retirement (Hayes)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of School Social Worker, Amy Hayes effective February 1, 2026 with much gratitude for 28 years of service to the Chester School District.

12n. Approves Chester 2026 Science Fair Positions

RESOLVED, that up the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff member positions for the 2026 Chester Science Fair:

- Science Fair Director - Jennifer Christal (\$3,200 stipend)
- Dickerson Science Fair Coordinator - Katie Strauss (\$1,118 stipend)
- Bragg Science Fair Coordinator - Allison Piggot (\$1,118 stipend)
- BRMS Science Fair Coordinator - Sara Kozlowski(\$1,118 stipend)

12o. Approves Leave of Absence (Employee #1623)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee # 1623:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Sick Leave Start Date | 10/15/2025 |
| Sick Days Used | 10 |
| Unpaid Leave Start Date | 10/29/2025 |
| Anticipated Return to Work Date | 11/17/2025 |

12p. Accepts Resignation (Schilp)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Bragg Physical Education Teacher, Russell Schilp effective December 12, 2025.

12q. Approves Leave of Absence (Employee #1459)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the paid leave of absence for employee # 1459 effective October 21, 2025.

12r. Revises Bragg 2025-2026 Club Advisors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education revises the following 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:

From: 9/30/25 agenda

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| Performing Arts Club (Stipend 1) | Bragg | \$1,864.00 | Robert Gruver |
| Performing Arts Club (Stipend 2) | Bragg | \$1,864.00 | Katherine Strauss |

To:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| Performing Arts Club (Stipend 1) | Bragg | \$2,425.00 | Robert Gruver |
| Performing Arts Club (Stipend 2) | Bragg | \$2,425.00 | Katherine Strauss |

12s. Approves BRMS Ski Club Parent Chaperones

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Parent Ski Club Chaperones for the BRMS Ski Club:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Mark Broek | Damian Ercole |
| Rafi Sheikh | Saleem Khan |
| Matthew Wilk | Carly Melton |
| Natalie McTighe | Kelly Ross |
| Jeff Strickland | Jake Ross |
| Alissa Goldberg | Allison Pajunas |
| Michael Haight | Brianne McBreen |
| Arturo Ruiz | Dimitri Kourkoulakos |
| Adam Cossman | Michael Sweetman |

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Kerri Ercole | Karen Prignano |
|--------------|----------------|

- 12t. Approves County College of Morris Student Observation**
 RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following Morris County College student of Early Childhood Development to conduct a classroom observation at Dickerson school :
 Kaitlyn Marrocco

Motion by John Barounis Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes |

- 13. Policy– Adam Sorchini (Chair), Adam Colicchio, John Barounis, and Melissa Mauro Duffy**
Adam discussed policy for Social Network Sites.

- 13a. Approves the Memorandum of Agreement Between School Officials and Law Enforcement**
 RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement Between School Officials and Law Enforcement.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski Seconded by Erick Arostegui

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes |

- 13b. Approves 2025-26 Chester School District Nurses Services Plan**
 RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the 2025-26 Chester School District Nursing Services Plan a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

Motion by Amy Buck Faudez Seconded by Suzanne Dundon

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes |

- 13c. Approves First Reading of Policy 4120 (Use of Social Networking Sites)**
 RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the first reading of Policy 4120- Use of Social Networking Sites).

Motion by John Barounis Seconded by Adam Colicchio

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes |

13d. Approves 2026-2027 Chester School District Calendar

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 Chester School District calendar.

Calendar A

Motion by John Barounis Seconded by Erick Arostigui

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|
| 4-5 | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No |

Calendar B

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski Seconded by Erick Arostegui

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| 6-3 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |

14. 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 November 19, 2025 at 8:02 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 John Barounis Seconded by ErickArostegui

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes |

15. Return to Public Session

Upon the motion of Carlyn Byszewski and seconded by Erick Arostegui, the Board returned to Public Session at 8:55 p.m.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski Seconded by ErickArostegui

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes |

16. Committee of the Whole

None

17. Unfinished Business

None

18. New Business

John discussed weekly reports from outside organizations using facilities.

Sarah discussed Scoreboards on outdoor facilities.

Carolyn spoke on changes for Foreign Language being evaluated regarding participation.

19. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Carolyn Byszewski and seconded by John Barounis, the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 9:10 P.M.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by John Barounis

| Roll Call Vote | EA | JB | ABF | CB | AC | SD | MMD | SS | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0 | Yes |

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter Frascella

Board Secretary