REGULAR MEETING
January 20, 2026
AGENDA

A regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education will be held on January 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Black River Middle School Cafeteria. 133 North Road, Chester, NJ, 07930

1. Call to Order Time _____

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/Celebrations

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

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 with 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 Minutes from December 9, 2025 and January 6, 2026
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2025 and January 6, 2026.

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2025 and January 6, 2026
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2025 and January 6, 2026.

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

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

10. Committee of the Whole– *All.*

10a. Approves School Board Recognition Month

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's

status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public-school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

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 12/15/25	$716,858.25
Payroll 12/23/25	$710,109.38
Payroll 01/15/26	$706,404.72
Bills List 12/22/25	$820,990.62
Bills List 01/20/26	$1.213,741.68

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for November 2025
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2025-2026 budget for the months of November 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 November 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 November 2025; a copy of which is availa-ble for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for November 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 forNovember 2025 ; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for November 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 forNovember 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 November 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 November 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 Educa-tion approves the following travel requests:

Date	Employee Conference/Workshop	Registration / Tuition	Travel / Misc.	Estimated Total Expense
01/21/2026	Amy Schwartz Climate Change Workshop Raritan, NJ	$150	$20.77	$170.77
01/22/2026	Brandon Kornbluh Mindfulness Certification Course Self-study-Virtual	$99	$0	$99
03/19/2026	Lauren Freund Bridges Intervention Beyond Getting Started Virtual	$75.	$0	$75
03/10 -3/11 2026	Tricia Pohan 2026 NJECC Annual Educational Technology Conference Montclair University, NJ	$205	$35.74	$240.74
3/10-3/11 2026	Laura Garrison 2026 NJECC Annual Educational	$205	$37.90	$242.90

	Technology Conference Montclair University, NJ			

11h. Approves School Trips (Bragg)
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following school trips for the 2025-2026 school year for Bragg Elementary:

Field Trip	Location	Grade/Group
The Growing Stage	Netcong, NJ	Grade 3

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 # 19746 at $100.00 for up to 10 hours a week effective 1/7/2026 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

11j. Approves Out of District Placement for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following out-of-district placements for the 2025 - 2026 school year, with a start date of January 12, 2026.

Student #	Student Placement	Tuition Rate
20578	Windsor Learning Center	$77,070 (prorated - 1/14/26-6/30/26)

11k. Approves School Trips (BRMS)
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following school trips for the 2025-2026 school year for Black River Middle School:

Field Trip	Location	Grade/Group
Meadowbrook Country Day Camp	Long Valley, NJ	Grade 6

11l. Approves School Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Agreement with Washington Twp. BOE for 1/15/26 - 6/30/26.
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Contract with the Washington Township BOE for 1/15/26 - 6/30/26.

11m. Approves School Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Agreement with Roxbury Township BOE for 1/01/26 - 6/30/26.
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Contract with the Roxbury Township BOE for 1/01/26 - 6/30/26.

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

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

12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel– *Melissa Mauro Duffy (Chair), Sarah Schultz, Suzanne Dundon, and Amy Buck Faundez*

12a. ApprovesRevised Leave of Absence (Employee #1597)
RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following revised leave of absence for employee # 1597:

Leave (Start Date)	12/15/2025
Paid Time Off Used	14 days
Anticipated Date of Return	01/12/2026

12b. Approves Leave of Absence (employee #1285)
RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee # 1285:

Sick Leave (Start Date)	01/13/26
Accumulated Sick Days (Applied)	9 days
Date of Return (Anticipated)	01/26/26

12c. Approves 2026 BRMS Spring Sports Coaches
RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members to coach BRMS athletic teams to be paid a stipend as outlined in Schedule B of the CEA contract and Longevity stipend to Head Coach positions starting at 4 years of longevity:

Position	Name	Longevity Stipend	Stipend amount
Softball Head Coach	Melissa D'Auria	N/A (1 year)	$3,277
Softball Assistant Coach	Cinthia Rodriguez	N/A	$2,848
Baseball Head Coach	Timothy Rain	$1,033 (8 years)	$3,277
Baseball Assistant Coach	Arnel Villalobos	N/A	$2,848
Girls' Lacrosse Head Coach	Laura Garrison	$516 (5 years)	$3,277
Girls' Lacrosse Asst. Coach	Milli Roskie	N/A	$2,848
Boys' Lacrosse Head Coach	Christopher Duffy	$1,649 (19 years)	$3,277
Boys' Lacrosse Asst. Coach	Andy Gray	N/A	$2,848
Track & Field Head Coach	Catherine McPherson	$1,033 (7 years)	$3,277
Track & Field Asst. Coach	Tina Sarlo	N/A	$2,848
Track & Field Asst. Coach	Taryn Mansolino	N/A	$2,848

12d. Approves Appointment

RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education approves the following appointment which is in effective January 1, 2026 until the next board reorganization meeting or changed by resolution:

Treasurer of School Monies	Vanessa Sturtevant	$9,976 (Prorated Stipend)

12e. Approves Professional Work (2026 Science Fair Nurse)
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Katarzyna Getto, to be 2026 Science Fair Nurse to be paid the professional hourly rate of $62 per hour for up to six hours total as determined by Schedule "B" of the agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association.

12f. Approves Professional Work (2026 Science FairTechnology)
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Kathryn Nieves Licwinko for the 2026 Chester Science Fair technology work for up to 20 hours to be paid $75 per hour.

12g. Approves Professional Work (2026 Science FairTechnology)
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following technology staff members to work for the 2026 Chester Science Fair up to 10 hours each to be paid $50 per hour:

John Machusky
Ryan Leone,
Mark Altiero

12h. Approves Professional Work (2026 Science FairSTEM)
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves BRMS teacher Andrew Gray for professional work for the 2026 Chester Science Fair to be paid the professional hourly rate of $62 per hour for up to 8 hours total as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association.

12i. Approves Paraprofessional (Volant)
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Maria Volant as a paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year at a salary of $28,631 + $750 stipend (Bachelor's Degree) pro-rated with benefits pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L. 2018, c5.

12j. 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.

Homework Club Stipend 1	Bragg	$1,864	Allie Johnson

Homework Club Stipend 2	Bragg	$1,864	Maryanne Vindici
Homework Club Stipend 3	Bragg	$1,864	Gretchen Jacot

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

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

13. Policy– *Erick Arostegui(Chair), Adam Colicchio, John Barounis, and Melissa Mauro Duffy*

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 **January 20, 2026** 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

16a. Approves Superintendent's Recommendation for HIB Case # 3
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation for HIB Case # 3

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

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

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