

REGULAR MEETING
March 19, 2026
AGENDA

*A regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education will be held on
March 19, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Chester Borough Courtroom,
50 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

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 February 24, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2026

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2026.

Motion by _____

Seconded by _____

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

10. Committee of the Whole– All.

None

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	02/27/26	\$723,637.77
Payroll	03/13/26	\$710,669.65
Bills List		\$1,195,941.76

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
3/22-3/25 2026	Evan Morley NJSBGA EXPO/Conference 2026 Atlantic City, NJ	\$350	\$603	\$953
05/13-05/15 2026	Dr. William Kochis NJASA/NJAPSA Spring Leadership Conference Atlantic City, NJ	\$0	\$451.81	\$451.81
05/12/2026	Brianna Amendola Treatment for Childhood Apraxia: A Practical Guide Lafayette, NJ	\$100	\$17.86	\$117.86
06/02 - 06/05 2026	Peter Frascella NJASBO Conference 2026 Atlantic City, NJ	\$500	\$830	1330
04/13,20,28 2026 05/04,11 2026	Jennifer Christal Intervention-OG+Lift NEw Providence, NJ	\$1750	\$89.30	\$1839.30

11c. Approves 2026 ESY Off-Site Trips

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following social skills trips.

- Buttermilk Falls - 97 Ironia Rd, Mendham Twp, NJ
- Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge in Harding, NJ
- Hacklebarney Park (and the Chester Diner)
- Wildcat Ridge in Rockaway, NJ

11d Approves Kit Consulting

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Kit Consulting to provide BCBA services for 3 additional hours a week at \$125.00 an hour for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year effective 3/20/2026.

11e. Approves School Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Agreement with Washington Twp. BOE for 07/01/26 - 6/30/27.

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Contract with the Washington Township BOE for 07/01/26 - 6/30/27.

11f. 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 March 9, 2026.

Student #	Student Placement	Tuition Rate
20935	The Calais School	\$91,572.60 Prorated (\$30,524.20)

11g. Approves Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2026-2027 School Year (Roxbury)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 1SA:39-11 provides that the Boards of Education of two or more school districts may provide jointly for the transportation of pupils to and from any school or schools within or without the district, and

RESOLVED, in order to accomplish the above purposes, **Roxbury School District** and Chester School District are desirous of entering into this non-profit agreement for the transportation of pupils jointly in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education governing the transportation of pupils.

11h. Approves Renewal of Joint Transportation Agreement (ESC of Morris County)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, the Chester Board of Education approves renewal of Joint Transportation Agreement with Educational Service Commission of Morris County effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

11i. MAINTENANCE RESERVE Maintenance Reserve Account Withdrawal: \$180,000 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$180,000 for the purpose of providing facilities maintenance projects in accordance with the M-1 and CMP for 25-26 school year.

11j. Approves Adoption of Tentative 2026-2027 School Budget

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year using the state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18.A:7F-6:

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL RESERVE	MAINT RESERVE	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2026-27 Total Expenditures	\$26,658,806	\$0	\$200,000	\$459,909	\$1,162,550	\$28,481,265
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$3,233,606	\$0	\$200,000	\$459,909	\$0	\$3,893,515
Taxes to be Raised	\$23,425,200				\$1,162,550	\$24,587,750

11k. Adjustment for Banked Cap: \$318,957

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$318,957. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to/for [state specific purpose(s)]. The Board will complete this by June 30, 2027 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

11l. MAINTENANCE RESERVE Maintenance Reserve Account Withdrawal: \$200,000

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$200,000 for the purpose of providing facilities maintenance projects in accordance with the M-1 and CMP for 26-27 school year.

11m. Approves Maximum Travel

WHEREAS, Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education includes in the tentative budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$95,000 for the 2026-27 school year.

11n. Approves Travel Expense Threshold

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget

travel and related expense reimbursement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of \$95,000, for all staff and board members for the 2026-27 school year. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

11o. Establishes the 2026-2027 Maximum Level for Professional Services

WHEREAS, the tentative budget includes the following appropriations:

Legal Services \$50,000

Auditing Services \$40,000

Architectural Services \$15,000

Medical \$15,000

WHEREAS, the administration needs to notice the board if there arises a need to exceed said maximums; upon which the board may adopt a dollar increase in the maximum amount through formal board action; and

WHEREAS, the Board and Administration wishes to minimize the amount of paperwork involved in this area;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education establishes maximums for professional services in the area listed abo for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motioned 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. Approves Leave of Absence (Employee #1588)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee # 1588:

Leave Start Date	06/01/2026
Accumulated Sick Days (Applied)	10
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	06/15/26
Date of Return (Anticipated)	10/05/26

12b. Approves Home Instruction Teachers

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following staff members to provide up to 10 hours a week of home instruction 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 for student #20057 as needed, for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

- Steven Bloemeke
- Joseph Pizzo

12c. Revises 2026 BRMS Assistant Coach (Track & Field)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Nicole Callahan as Assistant Coach for the 2026 Track & Field team replacing Christina Sarlo to be paid the contracted stipend of \$2,848.

12d. Approves Dickerson Leave Replacement Teacher (Lohrmann)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Sara Lohrmann as Dickerson Leave Replacement Teacher effective April 1, 2026 through June 19, 2026 at a salary of \$59,055 prorated Step 1 BA .

12e. Approves BRMS Long Term Substitute Teacher (Garzon)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves John Garzon as BRMS Long Term Substitute Teacher effective March 23, 2026 through June 19, 2026 at a salary of \$78,745 prorated Step 14-15 MA+15 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L. 2018, c5.

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

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members as chaperones during a board approved club and extra-curricular activities for the 2025-2026 school year with stipend of up to \$86 for 2 hours.

- Christa Bedkowski
- Kelli Dolan

12g. Approves Bragg Classroom Observation (Bochner)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Madison High School student Anna Bochner for classroom observation with Mrs. Jacot from May 4, 2026 through June 12, 2026 pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L. 2018, c5.

12h. 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 prorated effective March 23, 2026 through May 31, 2026.

12i. Approves Staff Bus Safety Training

RESOLVED, that up the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members to complete annual bus safety training to be paid their contracted hourly rate for up to 7 hours each:

Rose Alban	Maria Jorgensen
Melissa Ask	John Kovach
Dana Bulcavage	Holly Law
Jill Cohen	Alison Mercurio
Katherine Colonna	Pamela Roberts
Carmen Fabiola Medina	Edgida (Jill) Sciarelo
Kim Gern	Linda Jasinkiewicz
Jade Holzworth	Christine Youtz

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

13a. Approves Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 4119.26, 4219.26 - Electronic Communication

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves second reading and adoption of policy 4119.26, 4219.26 - Electronic Communication.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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

13b. Approves Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 4111 - Recruitment, Selection and Hiring

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves second reading and adoption of policy 4111 - Recruitment, Selection and Hiring.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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

13c. Approves First Reading of Policy 5142.1 - Pupil Supervision after School Dismissal

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of policy 5142.1-Pupil Supervision after School Dismissal.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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

13d. Approves First Reading new regulation 5142.1r - Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal Waiver

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of new regulation 5142.1r-Pupil Supervision after School Dismissal Waiver.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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

13e. Approves First Reading of Revised Policy 5142 - Student Safety

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of revised policy 5142-Student Safety.

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 **March 19, 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

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