

REGULAR MEETING
April 28, 2026
AGENDA

*A regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education will be held on
April 28, 2026 at 6:00 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

4.1 Executive Session

RESOLVED, that pursuant to NJS.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 the Chester Board of Education holds a closed session on April 28, 2026 at ____ p.m. to discuss personnel. 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

4.2 Return to Public Session Time _____

Motion by _____

Seconded by _____

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

5. Presentations

- Official 2024-2025 HIB Grades Report -Mr. Brad Currie
- Council for Exceptional Children Convention-Dr. Richard Celebre

6. Administration

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

6a. Superintendent's Report

- 2024 - 2025 NJQSAC Updated Results

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 March 19, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on **March 19, 2026**.

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on **March 19, 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	03/27/26	\$714,893.57
Payroll	04/15/26	\$738,842.60
Bills List	04/15/26	\$291,128.31
Bills List	04/28/26	\$1,002,385.54

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for February 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2025-2026 budget for the months of **February 2026** 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 February 2026

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3, the Chester Board of Education approves the Monthly Report of Transfers for **February 2026**; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for February 2026

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 **February 2026**; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for February 2026

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 **February 2026**; 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 February 2026

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 **February 2026** 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
05/07/2026	Colleen Cahill Regional Women's Educational Leadership Forum and Luncheon Kean University, Union , NJ	\$60	\$36.19	\$96.19
05/07/2026	Danielle Guli Regional Women's Educational Leadership Forum and Luncheon Kean University, Union, NJ	\$60	\$36.19	\$96.19

11h. Approves Shared Services Agreement with Education Services Commission

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 shared services agreement for the bidding and purchasing program with Education Services Commission of Morris County

11i Approves Service Agreement for Vehicle Repairs with Roxbury Twp. Public Schools for 07/01/26 - 6/30/27.

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Service Agreement for Vehicle Repairs with Roxbury Twp. Public Schools for 07/01/26 - 6/30/27.

11j Approves Outside Vendors/Service Providers for 2026-2027 School Year

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Outside Vendors/Service Providers for the 2026-2027 school year to provide the necessary contracted services.

Name of Vendor	Service	Not to Exceed
CL Educational Services, LLC	BCBA	\$130,000
Stepping Stones Group	Registered Behavior Technicians (2)	\$80,000 x 2 = \$160,000
Jammin' Jen	Music Therapy	\$12,600
United Therapy Solutions	Physical Therapist	\$60,000

Educational Services Commission of Morris County	Therapeutic Services, Professional Support Services	\$50,000
Learning Tree	Bilingual Evaluations	\$30,000
Mindspace	Psychiatric Evaluations	\$12,000
J&B Therapy	Therapeutic Services, Professional Support services	\$15,000

11k. Approves Spring 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:

At Black River Middle School, on April 21, 2026 at 2:25 p.m. in the front parking lot of school, bus evacuation drills were held for bus routes 1-11 and vans 7 and 8 by Principal Andrew White.

11l. Approves Bid #2602 for Snow Removal Services (Harrington Construction Services, Inc.)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Bid #2302 for Snow Removal Services with Harrington Construction Services, Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount not to exceed \$240,000.

11m. 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 \$2,696.84.

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 Non-Tenured Teachers/Nurses for the 2026-2027 School Year

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following non-tenured teachers for the 2026-2027:

Location	Name	Tenure Date	Guide/Step	Salary
Bragg	Amendola, Brianna	09/03/2029	MA Step 11-12	\$ 72,815.00
Bragg	Bogart, Steven	01/08/2030	BA Step 4-5	\$ 59,855.00

Bragg	Cassels, Maribeth	09/03/2029	MA+30 Step 9	\$ 72,185.00
Bragg	Fazio, Kylie	08/27/2028	MA Step 2-3	\$ 65,455.00
Bragg	Haggerty, Danielle	09/03/2029	MA+30 Step 7	\$ 42,591.00
Bragg	O'Melia, Cheryl	03/02/2028	MA+30 Step 19	\$ 90,640.00
Bragg	Pigott, Alison	08/31/2027	MA+30 Step 4-5	\$ 69,980.00
Bragg	Ryan, Marisa	08/31/2027	MA Step 9	\$ 68,060.00
BRMS	Baldassari, Dennis	02/03/2030	BA Step 9	\$ 62,060.00
BRMS	Bloemeke, Steven	09/09/2029	MA Step 11-12	\$ 72,815.00
BRMS	Callahan, Nicole	08/31/2027	MA Step 2-3	\$ 65,455.00
BRMS	Cecala, Kathryn	09/03/2029	MA+30 Step 13	\$ 79,480.00
BRMS	Gallagher, Kathryn	09/03/2029	MA+15 Step 14-15	\$ 78,745.00
BRMS	Morris, Timothy	09/17/2028	MA Step 18	\$ 83,575.00
BRMS	Rittenhouse, Nicole	10/07/2027	BA+30 Step 16-17	\$ 79,985.00
BRMS	Wilhite, Ashley	08/31/2027	MA Step 11-12	\$ 72,815.00
Dickerson	Collins, Theresa	12/18/2027	MA Step 20	\$ 89,555.00
Dickerson	Getto, Katarzyna	08/27/2028	BA+15 Step 22	\$ 91,435.00
Dickerson	Lawrence, Pierre	11/02/2027	BA+30 Step 11-12	\$ 72,065.00
Dickerson	Matus, Kimberly	09/03/2029	BA Step 19	\$ 80,515.00
Dickerson	Pela, Lisa	08/31/2027	BA Step 14-15	\$ 71,995.00
Dickerson	Pepe, Samantha	08/31/2027	BA Step 7	\$ 60,860.00
Dickerson	Stachura, Alyssa	08/31/2027	BA Step 4-5	\$ 59,855.00
Dickerson	Tracey, Josephine	09/03/2029	BA Step 1	\$ 59,055.00

Dickerson	Twynam, Jessica	09/03/2029	BA Step 1	\$ 59,055.00
District	Morrison, Danielle	11/25/2029	MA Step 11-12	\$ 72,815.00
District	Sciancalepore, Erika	01/27/2030	MA Step 1	\$ 39,033.00

12b. Approves Staff Members to Receive Tenure in the 2026-2027 School Year

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following teachers who will receive tenure in the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	Position	Guide/Step	Salary	Tenure Date
Angulo, Darnell	Bragg Secretary	Step 8	\$59,910.00	07/26/2026
Budzinski-Flores, Julie	Bragg Teacher	BA+15 Step 11-12	\$68,315.00	03/22/2027
Matthews, Cathleen	Bragg Teacher	BA Step 11-12	\$43,429.75	08/31/2026
Gangemi, Jordyn	Dickerson Teacher	BA Step 4-5	\$59,855.00	08/23/2026
Pecoraro, Gabrielle	Dickerson Teacher	MA Step 4-5	\$65,855.00	08/23/2026

12c. Approves Non-Tenured Administrators

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following non-tenured administrators for the 2026-2027 school year.

Name	Position	Salary	Tenure Date
Celebre, Richard	Director of Student Services	\$129,062.50	07/15/2029
Tarnofsky, Michele	Dickerson Principal	\$149,247.88	07/16/2028
Mercurio, Peter	Bragg Principal	\$170,362.50	07/02/2029
Tsihlas, Rebecca	BRMS Vice Principal	\$117,490.24	07/11/2027

12d. Approves Nurse for Out of District Students (Farley)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Jean Farley to provide nursing services to student # 20496, for up to five hours daily at the rate of \$77.00 an hour for the 2025-2026 school year.

12e. Approves Leave of Absence (Employee # 1263)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee # 1263:

FMLA Start Date (unpaid, with benefits)	03/25/26
Date of Return	04/13/26

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

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

12g. Approves 2026 ESY Junior Aides

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following junior aides for the ESY program from July 6, 2026, through August 6, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16 for up to 4.5 hours daily for up to 20 days, at a total of \$1,440 pending any working papers requirements and the approval of the criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018:

1. Mark Gyselman
2. Mackenzie Gyselman
3. Aimee Koby
4. Mackenzie Humphreys

12h. Approves Transfer of Staff Member (Lawrence)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Pierre Lawrence to transfer from the position of Dickerson music teacher to Bragg music teacher effective the 2026-2027 school year.

12i. Approves Leave of Absence (Employee #1106)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following leave

of absence for employee #1106:

Leave (Start Date)	08/25/26
Accumulated Sick Days (Applied)	43
FMLA Start Date	08/25/26
NJFLA Start Date	11/16/26
Unpaid Leave Start Date	02/15/27
Return to Work Date (Anticipated)	04/05/27

12j. Approves Summer Hours for School Guidance Counselors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Guidance Counselors for 2026 summer work at the contracted professional rate of \$62.00 per hour for up to 35 hours for a total of \$2,170 each:

Amal Azzara
Jenna Spence
Andrea Di Fabrizio
Karen Andolina
Timothy Morris

12k. Accepts Retirement (Vanderhoof)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of BRMS custodian Ronald Vanderhoof with much gratitude for 27 years of service with the Chester Board of Education.

12l. Accepts Resignation (Rau)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Dickerson Special Education teacher Kaitlyn Rau effective June 30, 2026.

12m. Approves Leave Replacement Teacher (Lohrmann)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Sara Lohrmann as Leave Replacement Teacher effective August 24, 2026 through April 5, 2027 at a salary of \$59,455, Step 2-3 BA.

12n. Approves Special Education Teacher (Palomino)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of

Education approves Michelle Palomino as a Dickerson Special Education teacher to be paid \$64,375, BA Step 10 for the 2026-2027 school year pending the approval of the criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018.

12o Approves Transfer of Staff Member (Cassels)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Maribeth Cassels to transfer from the position of Bragg 4th Grade teacher to BRMS ILA teacher effective the 2026-2027 school year.

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 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

13b. Approves First Reading of 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

13c. 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 and adoption of revised policy 5142-Student Safety.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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

13d. Approve Revised 2026-2027 School Calendar

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the revised 2026-2027 calendar to include August 24, 2026 as a Professional Day for Staff.

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 **April 28, 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

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

SLIDE PRESENTATION

Dr. William Kochis, Superintendent.
Peter Frascella, SBA

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS (BUDGET)

A. Board of Education Comment

B. Public Comment

1. Approves Adoption of 2026-2027 School Budget

BE IT RESOLVED that the 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 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	\$26,624,878	\$0	\$200,000	\$459,909	\$1,162,550	\$28,447,337
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$3,229,678	\$0	\$200,000	\$459,909	\$0	\$3,889,587
Taxes to be Raised	\$23,395,200				\$1,162,550	\$24,557,750

2. Adjustment for Health Care Costs: \$318,657

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$318,657. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

3. 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 years.

4. 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 budget

a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$95,000 for the 2026-27 school year.

5. 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 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.

6. Establishes the 2026-2027 Maximum Level for Professional Services

WHEREAS, the 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 above for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motioned by_____ Seconded by_____

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

19. Adjournment Time_____

Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

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