

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**April 28, 2026**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Sarah Schultz, Board President, called the meeting to order at **6:03 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 Schultz       | Yes        |
| Carolyn Byszewski | Yes   | Adam Sorchini       | Yes        |
| Adam Colicchio    | Yes   | <b>Quorum</b>       | <b>Yes</b> |

*\*Arrived 6:10 PM      \*\*Arrived 6:15 PM      \*\*\*Arrived 6:25 PM*

**4. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**4.1 Executive Session**

RESOLVED, pursuant to NJS.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 the Chester Board of Education held a closed session on **April 28, 2026** at **6:05 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 Sarah Schutz

Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

| Roll Call Vote | EA  | JB     | ABF | CB  | AC  | SD     | MMD    | SS  | AS  |
|----------------|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|-----|-----|
| 6-0            | Yes | Absent | Yes | Yes | Yes | Absent | Absent | Yes | Yes |

**4.2 Return to Public Session**

*Upon the motion of Carolyn Byszewski and seconded by Suzanne Dundon, the Board returned to Public Session at **7:15 p.m.***

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

**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**

*Dr. Kochis presented the 2024 - 2025 NJQSAC updated results. Discussed the Science Fair, Drama Club at Bragg and Dickerson Spring Conference. Spoke about Take you Child to Work day, Spring Stampede. He thanked the Education Foundation. BRMS career day.*

*Dr. Kochis discussed the Walking Policy and the process to make changes in the policy.*

*Sarah discussed Board the position on walking, Went to School Board Conference on PR and AI at the County Lunch Board Meeting.*

**6b. Business Administrator's Report**

**7. President's Comments**

**8. Public Commentary**

*\*Lisa Gerzo discussed Walking Policy and stated the many benefits for the children when walking home.*

*\*Hudson Gerzo spoke of his personal benefits to himself from walking to and from school.*

*\*Liz Gugliemini asked the Board to make a change to the policy in regards to the age range.*

*\*Mike Gurzo discussed possible liabilities and legal cases. He also discussed the campaign promises made by all the Board members.*

*\*Laurie LaSorsa spoke about when her children attended Bragg they would walk home from school. She discussed the independence they gained and friendships made from walking home is invaluable.*

**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.**

Motion by Carolin Byszewski

Seconded by John Barounis

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

**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<br>Conference/Workshop | Registration /<br>Tuition | Travel /<br>Misc. | Estimated<br>Total Expense |
|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 05/07/2026 | Colleen Cahill                  | \$60                      | \$36.19           | \$96.19                    |

|            |                                                                                                           |      |         |         |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------|---------|
|            | Regional Women's Educational Leadership Forum and Luncheon<br>Kean University, Union , NJ                 |      |         |         |
| 05/07/2026 | Danielle Guli<br>Regional Women's Educational Leadership Forum and Luncheon<br>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 the 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 Amy Buck Faudez      Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

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

- 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<br>Teacher | BA Step 4-5 | \$59,855.00 | 08/23/2026 |
| Pecoraro, Gabrielle | Dickerson<br>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<br>(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 effective June 30, 2026.

**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 Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by John Barounis

| Roll Call Vote     | EA         | JB         | ABF        | CB         | AC         | SD         | MMD        | SS         | AS             |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 9-0<br>8-0-1 (12c) | Yes<br>Yes | Yes<br>Yes | Yes<br>Yes | Yes<br>Yes | Yes<br>Yes | Yes<br>Yes | Yes<br>Yes | Yes<br>Yes | Yes<br>Abstain |

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

*\*Erick discussed Policies up for approval.*

**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.

*\*Suzanne discussed grade 3 and up.*

*\*Sarah discussed a walking club at Dickerson*

*\*John discussed the process of policy development and he agrees with only the 4th and 5th grade, safety first.*

*\*Amy shared a personal statement about concerns on the Walking Policy*

*\*Adam Colicchio discussed the time and effort put into the policies.*

*\*Melissa spoke about how geographically different the Chester Borough and Chester Township are.*

*\*Erick thanked Hudson for speaking. Discussed personal examples and stated safety first.*

Motion by John Barounis

Seconded by Adam Colicchio

| Roll Call Vote | EA  | JB  | ABF | CB  | AC  | SD  | MMD | SS  | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 8-1            | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |

**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 Adam Colicchio

Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

| Roll Call Vote | EA  | JB  | ABF | CB  | AC  | SD  | MMD | SS  | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 8-1            | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |

**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 John Barounis

Seconded by Carolyn Byszewski

| Roll Call Vote | EA  | JB  | ABF | CB  | AC  | SD  | MMD | SS  | AS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 8-1            | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |

**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 Adam Colicchio

Seconded by John Barounis

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

**14. Committee of the Whole**  
*None*

**15. Unfinished Business**

*\*Adam Sorchinni asked to have the Sexual Misconduct Policy looked at.*

*\*Sarah was okay to delay less screen usage. It will be discussed at the Board Retreat.*

**16. New Business**  
*None*

## 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<br>FUND | CAPITAL<br>RESERVE | MAINT<br>RESERVE | SPECIAL<br>REVENUES | DEBT<br>SERVICE | TOTAL        |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>2026-27 Total</b> |                 |                    |                  |                     |                 |              |
| <b>Expenditures</b>  | \$26,624,878    | \$0                | \$200,000        | \$459,909           | \$1,162,550     | \$28,447,337 |
| <b>Less:</b>         |                 |                    |                  |                     |                 |              |
| <b>Anticipated</b>   |                 |                    |                  |                     |                 |              |
| <b>Revenues</b>      | \$3,229,678     | \$0                | \$200,000        | \$459,909           | \$0             | \$3,889,587  |
| <b>Taxes to be</b>   | \$23,395,200    |                    |                  |                     | \$1,162,550     | \$24,557,750 |
| <b>Raised</b>        |                 |                    |                  |                     |                 |              |

##### 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 Adam Colicchio

Seconded by Suzanne Dundon

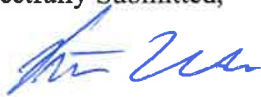
| Roll Call Vote | EA  | JB  | ABF | CB  | AC  | SD  | MMD | SS  | AS  |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9-0            | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

**19. Adjournment**

*There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Carolyn Byszewski and seconded by Amy Buck Faudez, the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 9:00 P.M.*

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter Frascella

Board Secretary