

REGULAR MEETING
June 16, 2026
AGENDA

*A regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education will be held on
June 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the 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:

- 8th Grade Awards Assembly
- Retirement 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 May 27, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on **May 27, 2026**.

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on **May 27, 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	05/29/26	\$884,976.21
Payroll	06/15/26	\$800,611.32
Bills List	06/16/2026	\$608,650.21

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for April 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within May the

2025-2026 budget for the months of **April 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 April 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 **April 2026**; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for April 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 **April 2026**; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for April 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 **April 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 April 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 **April 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
07/14/2026	Michele Tarnofsky Magnolia Literacy Summit Long Branch, NJ	\$350	\$59	\$409
7/14/2026	Danielle Guli Magnolia Literacy Summit Long Branch, NJ	\$350	\$59.53	\$409.53

11h. Approves School Trips (Dickerson)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following school trips for the **2026-2027** school year for Dickerson Elementary:

Field Trip-Destination	Location-City, State	Grade/Group
Morristown Performing Arts Center	Morristown, NJ	2nd Grade
Great Swamp	Basking Ridge, NJ	2nd Grade
Chester Library	Chester, NJ	1st Grade
Growing Stage Theater	Netcong, NJ	1st Grade
Morristown Performing Arts Center	Morristown, NJ	Kindergarten
Grove Street Park Picnic	Chester, NJ	Kindergarten
Riamede Farm	Chester, NJ	Preschool

11i. Approves School Trips (Bragg)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following school trips for the **2026-2027** school year for Bragg Elementary:

Field Trip-Destination	Location-City, State	Grade/Group
Waterloo Village	Stanhope, NJ	Grade 3
Jockey Hollow	Morristown, NJ	Grade 5
MPAC	Morristown, NJ	Grade 4
Escape Game - American Dream	East Rutherford, NJ	Grade 5 GIST
Buehler Challenger and Space Center	Paramus NJ	Grade 5

11j. Approves School Trips (BRMS)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following school trips for the **2026-2027** school year for Black River Middle School:

Field Trip	Location	Grade/Group
District Band Concert	Mendham HS	6-8 Band Members
District Strings	Mendham HS	6-8 String Players
Dorney Park Competition	Dorney Park, PA	6-8 Band Members
Articulation Concert	Mendham HS	8th Grade Students
Jr. Model UN	Wm. Paterson University, Wayne	7-8 GIST Students
Spelling Bee	Morristown, NJ	6-8 Students (Approx. 10)
Workshop on the Arts	Morristown, NJ	8th Grade Students (Approx. 12)
Turtle Back Zoo	West Orange, NJ	7th Grade Students
Camp Bernie	Port Murray, NJ	8th Grade Peer Leaders

Chester Diner & CASH	Chester, NJ	8th Grade Peer Leaders
Meadowbrook Day Camp	Long Valley, NJ	6th Grade Students
Washington, DC	Washington, DC	8th Grade Students
8th Graduation Practice	Dickerson School	8th Grade Students & Band
Choral Festival	West Morris Central HS	7-8 Chorus Members
Select Chorus Trip	Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn	6-8 Chorus (Approx. 18 Students)
Winter Chorus Trip	State Theater, New Brunswick	6-8 Chorus (Approx. 30 Students)
Navigating the Shift to BRMS	Bragg	Select 6th Grade Students

11k. Approves Contract Renewal of NJSIG (July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, et seq., enables boards of education to join with other boards of education in school board insurance trusts for the purpose of forming self-insurance pools;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (“NJSIG”) is a joint insurance fund authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, et seq. to provide insurance coverage and risk management services for its members;

11l. Approves Purchasing Agent for the 2026-2027 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), designates Peter Frascella, School Business Administrator, Board Secretary, as the Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Board of Education and authorizes him to award contracts, in full accordance with the law, for purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate in a contract year the total sum of \$53,000.00 (bid threshold) without public advertising for bids. Furthermore, Peter Frascella is authorized to solicit competitive quotations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(a) and to award contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(c).

The Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-8.3, et seq., further authorizes Peter Frascella to seek either competitive quotations or competitive bids when original determinations of aggregation are found to be more than anticipated or incorrect.

11m. Approves Adopting of the 2026-2027 Purchasing Manual

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education further recommends the Purchasing Manual prepared by Peter Frascella, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, be hereby adopted for the 2026 – 2027 School Year. The manual outlines the proper purchasing practices that are to be followed by all Board of Education employees to be in compliance with the New Jersey State Law and Board of Education Policy.

11n. Approves Designating Public Agency Compliance Officer--Chester Board of Education

In accordance with N.J. A.C. 17:27-3.2 the Board of Education designates Peter Frascella, School Business Administrator, Board Secretary as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Chester Board of Education.

The Public Agency Compliance Officer is the liaison between the Chester Board of Education and the State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Purchase and Property, Contract Compliance and Audit Unit, EEO Monitoring Program. The Public Agency Compliance Officer is responsible for administering contracting procedures pertaining to equal employment opportunity regarding the Chester Board of Education and the appropriate contracted vendors.

11o. Approves Cooperative Bidding Services

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and approves the procurement of goods and services through the cooperative bidding services of **Educational Data Services** for the 2026-2027 school year.

11p. Approves Cooperative Pricing Agreement

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the **Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission**, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the School Business Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency. The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New

11q. Approves Cooperative Pricing Agreement

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the **Educational Services Commission of NJ**, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency "has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Chester Board of Education.

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

11r. Authorizes the Use of State Contracts

WHEREAS, Title 18A:18A-10 provides that, “A board of education, without advertising for bids, or after having rejected all bids obtained pursuant to advertising therefore, by resolution may purchase any goods or services pursuant to a contract or contracts for such goods or services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education has the need, on a timely basis, to procure goods and services utilizing state contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education desires to authorize its purchasing agent for the 2023-2024 school year to make any and all purchases necessary to meet the needs of the school district throughout the school year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Chester Board of Education does hereby authorize the District Purchasing Agent to make purchases of goods and services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property

11s. Approves HBCBSNJ and Delta Dental Plans Renewals

RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education approves the Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey Health Plan and Delta Dental Plan renewals for the 2026-2027 school year per attached summary prepared by Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors

11t. Approves Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors for the 2026-2027 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, Inc., as the Board’s Broker-of-Record for our group medical, prescription drug, and Delta dental insurance programs. Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, Inc. is authorized to act on behalf of the Board in all matters related to these programs in an amount not to exceed \$72,000 (same rate as last year).

11u. Approves Phoenix Advisors

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Phoenix Advisors, LLC as Financial Advisor at an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the 2026-2027 school year. Special project proposals will be Board approved as needed.

11v. Approves Anticipated Contracts to be Renewed, Awarded or Expired Contracts

Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47 the Chester Board of Education intends to renew, award or permit to expire contracts (a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office) previously awarded by the Chester Board of Education. These contracts are, have been, and will continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey Title 18A:18. et seq, N.J.A.C. Chapter 23 and Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements 2CFR, Part 200.

11w. Approves OMB Mileage Rate

RESOLVED, the Chester Board of Education approves the rate of reimbursement for mileage allowed for employees traveling by personal automobile on official business established through budget language in the state's Annual Appropriations Act each year. The rate for FY27 is \$.47/mile which is the same rate as FY26.

11x. Approves Year-End Deposit to Capital Reserve

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permit a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year end; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permit a Board of Education to transfer anticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by board resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education wishes to deposit anticipated current year surplus into a Capital Reserve Account at year end; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education has determined an amount not to exceed \$500,000 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education hereby authorizes the district's School Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

11y. Authorizes Payment of Summer Bills

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to pay bills and make necessary transfers during June through August 2026 with advice and consent of the Finance Committee; these bills to be approved at the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting.

11z. Approve the Increase of Facilities Use Rates

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the proposed increase to the facilities use fee schedule effective 9/1/26 as follows:

Four-Hour Blocks:				
Location	Non-Profit/District Staff Rates (Current Rates)	Non-Profit/District Staff Rates (Proposed Rates)	For Profit (Current Rates)	For Profit (Proposed Rates)
Classroom	25	50	50	100
Cafeteria/Media	50	100	100	200
Gym	50	100	100	200
Fields (up to 2 hours)	25	50	50	100

Weekends (Additional)				
Per Hour	60	76	60	76

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 Dickerson Music Teacher (Monticciolo)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Christina Monticciolo as Dickerson Music teacher for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$59,855 BA Step 4-5, prior to ratified contract, pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12b. Approves Assistant Superintendent 2026-27 Employment Contract (Currie)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 employment contract for Assistant Superintendent, Brad Currie to be paid an annual salary of \$180,688.

12c. Approves School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Employment Contract (Fracella)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 employment contract for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Peter Fracella to be paid an annual salary of \$196,175.

12d. Approves Substitute School Nurses

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following substitute school nurses for the 2026-2027 school year at a daily rate of \$250.00:

Sally Ahmadi RN
Jean Farley RN
Maaiké Haight RN
Veronica Lifshyts RN
Jen Rosario RN
Kelly Strickland RN

12e. Approves BRMS Night Custodian (Guzman)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Luis Guzman as BRMS Night Custodian for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$42,951 plus \$880.00 night stipend, prior to ratified contract.

- 12f. Approves 2026-2027 Chester School District Virtual Learning Plan**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 Chester School District Virtual Learning Plan.
- 12g. Rescinds 2026 ESY Teacher (Rhatigan)**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education rescinds 2026 ESY teacher Kelly Rhatigan, resolution 12g. from the February 24, 2026 Board agenda.
- 12h. Approves 2026 ESY Teacher (Fike)**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Rachel Fike as teacher for the Extended School Year (ESY) summer program from July 6, 2026 through August 6, 2026, at \$62 (plus one prep day) for up to 4.5 hours daily pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.
- 12i. Approves 2026 ESY Paraprofessionals**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following paraprofessionals for the Extended School Year (ESY) summer program from July 6, 2026 through August 6, 2026, at their contract rate for up to 4.5 hours daily.
- Kim Gern
 - Danielle Van Zile
- 12j. Approves 2026 ESY Substitute Paraprofessional (Bilotta)**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Stacey Bilotta as substitute paraprofessional for the Extended School Year (ESY) summer program from July 6, 2026 through August 6, 2026, at their contract rate for up to 4.5 hours daily.
- 12k. Approves Professional Work (Getto)**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Dickerson Nurse Kat Getto for up to 40 hours of summer prep work to be paid the professional rate of \$62 per hour as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association.
- 12l. Approves BRMS Athletic Directors**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following BRMS Athletic Directors for the 2026-2027 school year with a (split) stipend as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between the Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:
- Kevin Cullen
 - Andrew Gray

12m. Approves Testing Coordinator (Andolina)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Karen Andolina as Bragg Testing Coordinator for the 2025-2026 school year to be paid a stipend of \$1,864 as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between the Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association.

12n. Accepts Resignation (Wang)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Black River Middle School Chinese teacher, Haiping Wang effective.

12o. Approves County College of Morris MOA (Emergency Evacuation Use)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the MOA with County College of Morris for emergency evacuation usage for the 2026-2027 school year.

12p. Approves Bragg Office Aide (Ash)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Melissa Ash as Bragg Office Aide, (.5 FTE, 19.5 hours per week) to be paid \$16,302 annually.

12q. Approves Interventionist (Lewis)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education to revise Danette Lewis job assignment to Full-time Special Education Teacher/ Interventionist for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of MA+15 Step 14-15 \$78,745, prior to ratified contract.

12r. Approves Curriculum Work

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members for 2026-2027 curriculum work at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62.00:

Subject Area(s)	Grade Level(s)	Staff Member(s)	Hours
Middle School Language Arts	BRMS	Millie Roskie	20
Middle School Language Arts	BRMS	Maribeth Cassels	20
Middle School Interventionist	BRMS	Danette Lewis	20

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*
None

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 **June 16, 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 # 8**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent’s recommendation for HIB Case # 8

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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

17. **Unfinished Business**

18. **New Business**