

**REGULAR MEETING
October 27, 2026
AGENDA**

*A regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education will be held on
**October 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the 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. 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 **October 27, 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

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 September 22, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on **September 22, 2026**.

9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from September 22, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on **September 22, 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
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Payroll	09/30/2026	\$729,149.45
Payroll	10/15/2026	\$736,501.07
Bills List	10/07/2026	\$399,750.91
Bills List	10/27/2026	\$1,336,256.91

- 11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for August 2026 and September 2026**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within May the 2025-2026 budget for the month of **August 2026 and September 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 August 2026 and September 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 **August 2026 and September 2026**; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.
- 11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for August 2026 and September 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 **August 2026 and September 2026**; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.
- 11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for August 2026 and September 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 **August 2026 and September 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 August 2026 and September 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 **August 2026 and September 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
12/10/2026	Steven Bloemeke Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications (BER) Virtual	\$295		\$295
11/16-11/17 2026	John Machusky Brainstorm Educational Technology Conference Pocono Manor, PA	\$470	\$394.96	\$864.96

11h. Approves Fall 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:

1. At Bragg School on October 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the bus loop behind the schools for Bragg and Dickerson non-riders by Principals Peter Mercurio and Michele Tarnofsky
2. At Dickerson and Bragg Schools on October 1, 2026 at 3:20 p.m. in the bus pickup/drop-off loop behind the schools in the bus loop for bus routes 1-15 and vans 5, 7 and 8 by Principals Peter Mercurio and Michele Tarnofsky.
3. At Black River Middle School, on October 15, 2026 at 2:25 p.m. in the front parking lot for bus routes 1-11 and vans 7 and 8 by Principal Andrew White and Assistant Principal Rebecca Tsihlas.

11i. Approves School Trips (Bragg)
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following school trip for the **2026-2027** school year for Bragg Elementary:

Field Trip-Destination	Location-City, State	Grade/Group
NJ State House	Trenton, NJ	Grade 5

11j. Approves Creative Speech Solutions
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved Creative Speech Solutions for various Speech and Language services during the 2026-2027 school year not to exceed \$15,000.

11k. Amend the 2025–2026 Budget
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education hereby approves an amendment to the 2025–2026 school year budget to appropriate prior-year excess Extraordinary Aid and Nonpublic Transportation Aid in the total amount of **\$195,226** to the following budget

account:

11-000-100-566 – Tuition to Private Schools for Students with Disabilities: \$195,226

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustments and submit all required documentation to the New Jersey Department of Education.

11l. Authorizes Submission of Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A, the New Jersey Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public-school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the Chester Board of Education are consistent with these requirements; and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1 in compliance with New Jersey Department of Education requirements.

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 Drew University Student for Classroom Visits (Magliacano)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Drew University student, Olivia Magliacano for classroom visitation under the supervision of Mrs. Colleen Cahill.

12b. Approves Morris County College Student for Classroom Visits (Stritenberger)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Morris County College student, Sydney Stritenberger for kindergarten classroom visitation under the supervision of Miss Mary Diviney.

12c. Approves 2026-2027 SY Bus Aide (Alban)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Rose Alban as bus aide for the 2026-27 school year to be paid \$25 per bus run pending completion of the state mandated Special Needs Training and Bus Safety Training prior to accepting substitute bus aide positions.

12d. Approves Substitute Custodian (Linzer)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Timothy Linzer II as substitute custodian to be paid \$20 per hour pending approval of criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c5.

12e. Accepts Retirement (Kozlowski)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Bragg School Health & Physical Education teacher, Sara Kozlowski effective January 1, 2027 with much gratitude for 29 years of service with the Chester School District.

12f. Accepts Retirement (Fazekas)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Dickerson School Physical Education teacher, Ronald Fazekas effective January 1, 2027 with much gratitude for 33 years of service with the Chester School District.

12g. Approves Professional Work (2026 - 2027 SEPAG/Multilingual Meetings)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following staff members to attend SEPAG/Multilingual meetings for the 2026-2027 school year for 2 hours each at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$64.00.

Tim Rain
Alyssa Stachura
Gretchen Capan

12h. Approves Substitute Custodian (Arias)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves renewing Oscar Arias as substitute custodian to be paid \$20 per hour.

12i. Approves 2026-2027 BRMS Winter Sports Coaches

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members as BRMS Winter Sports Coaches for the 2026-2027 school year with stipend as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

Sport	Role	2026-27 Appointment	2026-2027 Longevity	Stipend	Longevity Pay	2026-2027 Total Stipend
Wrestling	Head Coach	Sean McQueeney	12	\$3,375	\$1,649	\$5,024
Wrestling	Assistant Coach	Andy Gray	NA	\$2,933	NA	\$2,933
Cheerleading	Head Coach	Sarah Warren	8	\$3,375	\$1,033	\$4,408
Cheerleading	Assistant Coach	Gretchen Capan	NA	\$2,933	NA	\$2,933
Girls Basketball	Head Coach	TBD	TBD	\$3,375	TBD	\$3,375
Girls Basketball	Assistant Coach	TBD	NA	\$2,933	NA	\$2,933
Boys Basketball	Head Coach	Arnel Villalobos	2	\$3,375	\$0	\$3,375
Boys Basketball	Assistant Coach	Steven Bloemeke	NA	\$2,933	NA	\$2,933

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 the Memorandum of Agreement Between School Officials and Law Enforcement RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement Between School Officials and Law Enforcement.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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

- 13b. Approves First Reading of Policy 3542.31-Free or Reduced Price Lunches/Milk**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of Policy 3542.31-Free or Reduced Price Lunches/Milk.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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

- 13c. Approves First Reading of Policy 6140-Curriculum Adoption**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of Policy 6140-Curriculum Adoption.

Motion by_____

Seconded by_____

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

- 13d. Approves First Reading of Policy 2224-Nondiscrimination/Affirmative Action**
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves first reading of Policy 2224-Nondiscrimination/Affirmative Action.

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 **October 27, 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