

**REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2021
MINUTES**

1. Call To Order

Mike Tomasco, Board President, called the meeting to order on December 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chester Borough Courtroom, 50 North Road, Chester, NJ 07930

2. Sunshine Announcement

Mike Tomasco, President, announced that this meeting was 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

Amy Collins	Yes	Heather Ronco	Yes
Carolyn Kleppe-Collins	Absent	Mike Tomasco	Yes
Rebekah Forlenza	Yes	Billy Webster (7:38)	Yes
Sara Kalashian (7:20)	Yes	Kerri Wright	Yes
Christopher Lowry	Yes	Quorum	Yes

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Tomasco, Board President, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Administration- Dr. Christina VanWoert and Tanya Dawson

5a. Superintendent's Report

•Curriculum update

5b. Business Administrator's Report

•SDA grant- \$24,388
•Discussed (11n.) FEMA reimbursement

6. President's Comments

Mike Tomasco thanked the people who came out to be interviewed. He also thanked the newly elected members for being here, very impressed with everyone who came.

7. Interviews/Presentations:

7a. Interviews of prospective Board candidates.

All scheduled interviews were completed with:

Dr. Liliya Aulova	Dr.Suzanne Dundon	Heather Gold-Pappas	Sara Kalashian
Carolyn Byszewski	Eric Fehling	Moira Hardesty	
Adam Colicchio	Matthew Frederick	Nancy Kofford	

7b. Public Hearing on HIB - Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, the Superintendent reported to the Board of Education all acts of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB) which occurred during the previous reporting period, July 2021 through December 2021.

8. Public Commentary
Chester PTO commented regarding outdoor learning space at BRMS

9. Approval of Minutes

The Board took the following action:

9a. Approves Regular Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2021
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2021.

9b. Approves Regular Meeting Executive Minutes from November 9, 2021
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting Executive minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2021.

Motion by Kerri Wright

Seconded by Heather Ronco

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW
6-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes

10. Committee of The Whole—All.

Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Kerri Wright, the Board approved the following resolution:

10a. Approves Reorganization Meeting Date
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Reorganization Meeting for January 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Board of Education, 50 North Road Building 4, Chester, New Jersey.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW
8-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Kerri Wright, the Board approved the following resolution:

10b. Approves Superintendent’s Recommendation for HIB case #2

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent’s recommendation for HIB Case #2.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW
8-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance—Amy Collins, Rebekah Forlenza, Sara Kalashian and Chris Lowry

Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Kerri Wright, the Board approved the following resolution:

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	11-30-2021	\$667,005.86
Bills List	12-14-2021	\$686,394.03

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for November 2021

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2021-2022 budget for the month of November 2021 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 November 2021

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3, the Chester Board of Education approves the Monthly Report of Transfers for November 2021; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for November 2021

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 November 2021; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

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11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for November 2021

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 November 2021; 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 November 2021

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 November 2021 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	<u>Employee</u> Conference/Workshop	Registra- tion- Tuition	Travel Misc.	Estimated Total Expense
February 24-25, 2022	Kenneth Piascik NJMEA State Conference Atlantic City Convention Center, NJ	\$180	\$0	\$180
February 14-16, 2022	Timothy Rain NJASPERD Shape NJ Annual Convention Long Branch, NJ	\$249	\$133.35	\$382.35
January 6, 2022-April 14, 2022	Tanya Dawson CELG Rutgers Virtual Program	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000

11h. Approves Stepping Forward Counseling Center Placement (#19746)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves students # 19746 to attend Stepping Forward Counseling Center LLC., Chatham, NJ for 10 hours a week at \$75.00 per hour effective October 12, 2021 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

11i. Approves Submission & Acceptance of SDA Emergent Needs & Capita Maint. Grant

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the submission and

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acceptance of the SDA Emergent Needs and Capital Maintenance in School Districts grant in the amount of \$24,388 for the 2021-22 school year.

11j. Approves Proposal for Strategic Planning

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the proposal from Effective Education Solutions, LLC, Belle Mead, NJ in the amount of \$12,000.

11k. Approves Emergency contract for Engineering and Land Surveying

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves this emergent project per N.J.A.C.6A:23A 14-1 from Edwards Engineering Group, Inc. Somerville, NJ for water service connection per N.J.S.A. 18A: 18A-7. The Chester Board of Education recognizes that an emergency exists at the Dickerson School requiring immediate attention.

11l. Approves Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves disposal of the following obsolete equipment:

- 13 Computer Carts from Black River Middle School
- 6 Computer Carts from Bragg School
- 4 Smart Boards form Bragg School

11m. Approves Agreement with Candoris Technologies, LLC.

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the agreement with Candoris Technologies, LLC. for upgrade of security switches to be paid for with ESSER III funding.

11n. Accepts FEMA Reimbursement

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts reimbursement in the amount of \$38,501.32 for snow related activities from February 2021 winter storm.

11o. Accepts Donation (Life Vac)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts with gratitude the donation of 3 LifeVac anti-choking devices (one for each school) from Mr. John Barounis in memory of Mr. Mike Golden.

11p. Approves Tuition Rates for Preschool for 2022-23 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of approve the tuition rates below for Chester School District Preschool Program for the 2022-23 school year:

5 full days per week \$1,000 monthly; \$10,000 for the school year

5 half days per week \$500 monthly; \$5,000 for the school year

11q. Declares Equipment Obsolete

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education declares the following no longer serviceable School Buses obsolete and directs the School Business Administrator to remove

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the following item for the District’s asset inventory if necessary; copy of which is on file in the Business Office.

Quantity	Item	Department	Identification Number
1	2011Thomas 051Bus	Transportation	1GB6G3AG8A112105
1	2012Thomas 051Bus	Transportation	1GD373BG3B110279

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW
8-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8-1 (11j.)	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain

12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel— Heather Ronco and Mike Tomasco

Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Kerri Wright, the Board approved the following resolution:

12a. Amends 2022-2023 School Calendar

RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education amends the 2022-2023 school calendar to correct the last 3 dates of the end of school.

12b. Approves Teacher for Professional Work Related to QSAC

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following teacher for professional work related to QSAC for the 2021-2022 school year at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62.

Name	Hours	For a Total Up To
Francesca Ragonese	8	\$496

12c. Approves Ski/Snowboard Crew Volunteers/Chaperones

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following Ski/Snowboard Crew Volunteers/Chaperones for the 2021-2022 school year at no cost to the District.

Ryan Collins	Adam Cossman
Nina Edwards	Janna Georgiev
Lucy Giannattasio	Mike Giannattasio
Rumika Isemann	Natalia McTighe

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Karen Prignano	Victor Prignano
Erik Prince	Colin Robina
Rob Spence	Carol Spira
Trevor Thrun	Ron Totams
Allen Tresselt	Paul Wardle
Kevin Cullen	Chris Duffy
Sean McQueeney	Millicent Roskie
Kathy Werner	

12d. Approves Practicum Student

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Melisa Sussex from Rutgers University to complete her practicum School Nurse Certification under the supervision of BRMS School Nurse Anne Pape, January 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

12e. Approves Termination of (Emp. #1455) Resolution Tabled

WHEREAS, Employee #1455, in his/her capacity as Employee of the Board of Education has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities to the Board adequately; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent now recommends the Board terminate the employment of Employee #1455 as of December 2, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chester Board of Education that Employee #1455 be terminated from their employment with the Board of Education, in accordance with any applicable notice provisions of the Employment Contract and/or collective negotiations agreement.

12f. Approves Custodian (Ladinski)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Mark Ladinski as a Custodian, Black River Middle School at a salary of \$36,500 (prorated), paid from Account# 11-000-262-100-001-000 effective January 3, 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, pending the approval of the criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with NJ P.L.2018, c 5.

12g. Accepts Resignation (Lattmann)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Jill Lattmann effective December 31, 2021.

12h. Rescinds Resolution 12z. from October 12, 2021 Agenda (Rain)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education rescinds Resolution 12z. from the October 12, 2021 Agenda approving Tim Rain as Unified Club Advisor at Dickerson.

12i. Approves Unified Sports Club Advisor for Dickerson (Kozlowski)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Chester Board of Education approves the following teacher as Unified Sports Club Advisor for the 2021-2022 school year with stipend as determined by Schedule "B" of the Agreement between

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The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association to be paid by a grant from the Special Olympics of New Jersey:

Name	Stipend Amount	School
Sara Kozlowski	\$1,864	Dickerson

12j. Approves Professional Work (Meekings)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Danielle Meekings for up to 40 hours curriculum work at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62 for a total of up to \$2,480.

12k. Approves Professional Work (Cahill)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Colleen Cahill for up to 40 hours curriculum work at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62 for a total of up to \$2,480.

12l. Approves Professional Work

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff members for up to 20 hours each of social studies or science curriculum work at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62 for a total of up to \$1,240.

Grade Level	Subject	Staff Member
K	Social Studies	Francesca Ragonese
1	Social Studies	Nicole Healy
2	Social Studies	Valerie Lemp
3	Social Studies	Kathrine Strauss
4	Social Studies	Christa Bedkowski
5	Social Studies	Lauren Seibert
6	Social Studies	Catherine McPherson
7	Social Studies	Kevin Cullen
8	Social Studies	Sean McQueeney
Grade Level	Subject	Staff Member
K	Science	Annabelle Edelman
1	Science	TBD
2	Science	Allie Johnson
3	Science	Kelli Dolan
4	Science	Kelli Dolan
5	Science	Cassandra Cangiano
6	Science	Lorri Willis
7	Science	Michael Stagg
8	Science	Christina Sarlo

12m. Accepts Resignation (Livesey)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the resignation of Alexandra Livesey, French Teacher at Black River Middle School, effective December 31, 2021.

12n. Approves Leave of Absence (Emp. #1133)

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee #1133:

	From
Leave (Start Date)	3/17/2021
Accumulated Sick/Personal Days (Applied)	124
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	12/6/2021
Date of Return (Anticipated)	01/10/2022

12o. Approves Termination of (Emp. #1463) Resolution Tabled

WHEREAS, Employee #1463, in his/her capacity as Employee of the Board of Education has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities to the Board adequately; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent now recommends the Board terminate the employment of Employee #1463 as of January 13, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chester Board of Education that Employee #1463 be terminated from their employment with the Board of Education, in accordance with any applicable notice provisions of the Employment Contract and/or collective negotiations agreement.

12p. Approves Practicum Student (Campos)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Elisa Campos from the Rutgers Graduate School of Applied Professional Psychology as a practicum student under the guidance of Dr. Melissa Scherzer and Dr. Sarah Southwick, school psychologists, effective January 1, 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW
8-0 excluding 12e. & 12 o.	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7-1 12c.	Abstain	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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13. 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 December 14, 2021 at 8:12 p.m. p.m. to discuss contract and HIB. It is expected that the minutes will be made public as soon as official action is taken.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW
8-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

14. Return to Public Session

Upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Rebekah Forlenza the Board considered a motion to return to public session at 8:40 p.m.

Motion by Mike Tomasco

Seconded by Kerri Wright

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW
8-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

15. Unfinished Business

None

16. New Business

None

17. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Mike Tomasco and seconded by Kerri Wright the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

Motion by Kerri Wright

Seconded by Mike Tomasco

Roll Call Vote	AC	CKC	RF	SK	CL	HR	MT	BW	KW
8-0	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Respectfully Submitted,


Tanya Dawson
Board Secretary