

**REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2022  
MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Kerri Wright, Board President called the meeting to order on February 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the Black River Middle School, 133 North Road, Chester, NJ

**2. Sunshine Announcement**

Kerri Wright, Board 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**

John Barounis	Yes	Christopher Lowry	Yes
Matthew Downs	Yes	Heather Ronco	Yes
Amy Collins	Yes	Sarah Schultz	Yes
Rebekah Forlenza	Yes	Kerri Wright	Yes
Sara Kalashian	Yes	<b>Quorum</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**4. Pledge of Allegiance**

Kerri Wright, Board President, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. Presentations:**

Start Strong Assessment Data Presentation by Brad Currie, Danielle Meekings, Coleen Cahill and Jen Christal

**6. Administration-Dr. Christina VanWoert and Tanya Dawson**

**6a. Superintendent's Report**

- Discussion of District's Face Covering Policy and Governor Murphy's Executive orders
- Strategic Planning-First Meeting March 3, 2022
- QSAC Visit-March 7, 2022

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

- School Ethics Financial Disclosure
- School Board Training

**7. President's Comments**

None

**8. Public Commentary**

1. Carolyn Byszewski - Apologize to Sara Kalashian as her statement was not directed to her personally. She clarified that her statement was to the Board and its decision to appoint Sara seemed inappropriate. Also stated she would like to see the masking policy sunset and let parents voice their opinion.
2. Dr. Pappas - Wanted to share data with the Board regarding COVID and the lack of effectiveness of the vaccine and masks.
3. Matthew Frederick - Strongly encourages the Board to let the mask policy sunset.
4. Nancy Kofford - Shared an experience with her family in support of giving students/staff the choice regarding wearing masks.
5. Stela Stefanova - We don't need to survey regarding masks. We voted for 3 candidates who understood what the community wanted. Masks are not needed.
6. Lucy Giannattasio - Read a statement regarding the Board not being politically affiliated and regarding COVID.
7. Nina Edwards - Read a statement regarding removing masks, plexi and social distancing requirements.
8. Melissa Duffy - Read a statement regarding masks and its negative impact on students. Please make wearing masks optional.

**9. Approval of Minutes**

*The Board took the following action:*

**9a. Approves Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2022**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education reapproves the Regular meeting minutes of the meeting held on January 18, 2022.

Motion by Rebekah Forlenza

Seconded by Heather Ronco

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>JB</b>	<b>AC</b>	<b>MD</b>	<b>RF</b>	<b>SK</b>	<b>CL</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>SS</b>	<b>KW</b>
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**10. Committee of The Whole—All.**

None

**11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance—**

**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.

<b>Bills List</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Payroll 1-30-22	\$664,375.15
Bills List 1-31-22	\$545,907.71
Bills List 2-08-22	\$1,005,580.29

**11b. 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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Employee Conference/Workshop</b>	<b>Registration- Tuition</b>	<b>Travel Misc.</b>	<b>Estimated Total Expense</b>
02/14/22- 02/15/22	Sara Kozlowski Annual SHAPE NJ Society of Health & Physical Education Convention	\$0	\$89.60	\$89.60
03/08/22	John Machusky NJECC Conference Montclair State University	\$110.00	\$22.40	\$132.40
02/14/22- 02/16/22	Ronald Fazekas Annual NJAHPERD Convention Long Branch, NJ	\$249.00	\$152.30	\$401.30
03/10/22- 03/11/22	Meryl Ironson Nation Association of Multicultural Education	\$120.00	Virtual	\$120.00
04/08/22	Vivian Norman NJALC Spring Conference	\$130.00	Virtual	\$130.00

**11c. Approves Speech Services (Bresky)**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves Gail Bresky, speech specialist, to provide speech services for up to 15 hours a week at \$90 an hour effective March 1, 2022 through June 15, 2022.

**11d. Accepts Bid for Van #4 from Belair Services**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, the Chester Board of Education accepts the highest bid offer from Belair Services, Orange, NJ for sale of Van #4.

RESOLVED, that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A-65-1, et. seq. and N.J.S.A 18A:6-51, the Chester Board of Education, via active Inter-Local Sale Agreement with HCESC accept highest bid offer at a sealed-bid public bid opening held on January 26, 2022 at the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission Administrative offices, located at 37 Hoffmans Crossing Road, Califon, New Jersey 07830

Bidder Name	Amount of Bid
Belair Services	\$20,000
8 Transportation	\$19,419
O'Dowd Transportation	\$18,750
Holcomb	\$14,970
Nelvi Transportation	\$13,000
Mayors	\$12,560
Michael A. Loori	\$12,103
Garas Transportation	\$12,001
Car County USA	\$10,109
Jersey Auto One	\$5,626

RESOLVED, that as per this agreement the Chester Board of Education does agree to pay a 10% commission to the HSESC, which handled all the legal advertisements, bid documentation, promotion, and sealed-bid public bid opening for this vehicle. Of which, based upon the sale price of \$20,000.00, Chester Board of Education will net 90% equaling \$18,000 and HCESC will net 10% equaling \$2,000. The vehicle and title will be released to buyers after the Chester Board of Education and HCESC receive these amounts paid in full by the winning bidder.

**11e. Approves Revised Administrative Budget Calendar**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the revised Administrative Budget calendar for preparation of the 2022-2023 budget.

Motion by Rebekah Forlenza

Seconded by Heather Ronco

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel—**

**12a. Approves Leave of Absence (Emp. #1071)**

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee #1071:

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	<b>From</b>
Leave (Start Date)	2/28/2022
Accumulated Sick/Personal Days (Applied)	44
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	05/09/2022
Date of Return (Anticipated)	10/03/2022

**12b. Approves Leave of Absence (Emp. #1095)**

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee #1095:

	<b>From</b>
Leave (Start Date)	02/23/2022
Accumulated Sick/Personal Days (Applied)	37
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	04/25/2022
Date of Return (Anticipated)	08/22/2022
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	09/12/2022
Date of Return (Anticipated)	10/10/2022

**12c. Approves Leave of Absence (Emp. #1200)**

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following leave of absence for employee #1200:

	<b>From</b>
Leave (Start Date)	04/18/2022
Accumulated Sick/Personal Days (Applied)	30
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	05/30/2022
Date of Return (Anticipated)	08/22/2022
FMLA/NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	08/29/2022
Date of Return (Anticipated)	11/21/2022

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**12d. Approves Destination Imagination Appraiser (Rodriguez)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Cinthia Rodriguez to attend two hours of required training on March 5, 2022 in order to serve as an appraiser for the Destination Imagination program, at the professional rate of \$62 for a total cost of up to \$124.

**12e. Approves Destination Imagination Appraiser (Rodriguez)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Cinthia Rodriguez to serve as an appraiser for the New Jersey State Destination Imagination Tournament on March 26, 2022 for up to eight hours at the chap-erone rate of \$86 for a total cost of up to \$688.

**12f. Approves Horizontal Advancement on Guide**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves advancement on the salary guide for the following staff members effective March 1, 2022.

Name	Current Step/Guide	Advance Step/Guide
Tara Bagnole	Step 7-8 BA+15 \$56,435	Step 7-8 BA+30 \$60,185

**12g. Approves Staff for Project Literacy Program**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following teachers for the Project Literacy program to provide instruction at the professional rate of \$62 for up to 4 hours per week effective February 15, 2022 for up to ten weeks to be funded by the Title III Grant.

Gretchen Capan  
Jennifer Christal  
Cathleen Matthews  
Maryanne Vindici  
Sarah Warren

**12h. Approves Staff for Project Literacy Program**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following substitute teachers on an as needed basis for the Project Literacy program to provide instruction at the professional rate of \$62 for up to 4 hours per week effective February 15, 2022 for up to ten weeks to be funded by the Title III Grant.

Deb Androvette  
Candace Caddo  
Denielle Saucedo

**12i. Approves Student Experience Survey (BRMS)**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the Student Experience Survey for Black River Middle School Students.

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**12j. Approves English Language Learner Program**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approve the Chester English Language Learner Three-Year Program Plans 2021-2024.

**12k. Approves Summer Scholars Program Teacher/Staff**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following teacher/staff for the **2022 Summer Scholars program**, at the contracted hourly rate from July 6, 2022 through August 9, 2022 for 4 days a week (20 days):

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Total</b>
Colleen Cahill - Lead Teacher (30 hours advance prep)	\$1,860
Lauren Scarfo–Secretary (30 hours advance prep)	\$450
Colleen Cahill - Lead Teacher (3.5 hours/day)	\$4,340
Lauren Scarfo – Secretary (4 hours/day)	\$1,200

**12l. Approves Teachers for Strategic Planning Committee**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following teachers for the Strategic Planning Committee for up to four (4) one (1) hour evening meetings at the professional rate of \$62 for a total cost of up to \$248:

- Debra Androvette
- Linda Blazier
- Kevin Cullen
- Nicole Healy
- Barbara Knowles
- Sara Kozlowski
- Liz Madinabeitia
- Dana Mazza
- Taryn Mansolino
- Susannah Patience
- Kenneth Piascik
- Joseph Pizzo
- Francesca Ragonese
- Lauren Scarfo
- Kathleen Vespignani

**12m. Approves SEMI Waiver**

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2022-2023 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having 40 or fewer Medicaid eligible Special Education Students.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chester Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent

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of Schools in the County of Morris an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2022-23 school year.

Motion by Heather Ronco

Seconded by Rebekah Forlenza

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**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 February 8, 2022 at 9:30 p.m. to discuss HIB It is expected that the minutes will be made public as soon as official action is taken.

Motion by Sara Kalashian

Seconded by Amy Collins

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**14. Return to Public Session**

*Upon the motion of Heather Ronco and seconded by Rebekah Forlenza the Board considered a motion to return to public session at 9:39 p.m.*

Motion by Heather Ronco

Seconded by Rebekah Forlenza

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**15. Unfinished Business**

None

**16. New Business**

The Board had a discussion regarding Governor Murphy’s announcement on mask mandate and how our policy would sunset. The Board continued the discussion on how we as a district would like to move forward.

**16a. Motion Introduced**

A motion was introduced that the Chester Board of Education approves of Governor Murphy’s announcement and plan to end the mask mandate in New Jersey’s public schools via the expiration of his executive order as of March 7, 2022.

Motion by Sarah Schultz

Seconded by John Barounis

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



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**16b. Approves Mask Mandate Expiration March 7, 2022**

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves of Governor Murphy's announcement and plan to end the mask mandate in New Jersey's public schools via the expiration of his executive order as of March 7, 2022.

Motion by Sarah Schultz

Seconded by John Barounis

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**17. Adjournment**

*There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Sara Kalashian and seconded by Heather Ronco the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.*

Motion by Sara Kalashian

Seconded by Heather Ronco

Roll Call Vote	JB	AC	MD	RF	SK	CL	HR	SS	KW
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Tanya Dawson  
Board Secretary