

**REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2023
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

Sarah Schultz, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the cafeteria of Black River Middle School, 133 North Road, Chester, NJ 07930

2. Sunshine Announcement

Sarah Schultz, Board President announced that the 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	Rebekah Forlenza (7:05)	Yes
Carolyn Byszewski	Yes	Christopher Lowry (7:45)	Yes
Adam Colicchio	Yes	Sarah Schultz	Yes
Matthew Downs	Yes	Adam Sorchini	Yes
Melissa Mauro-Duffy	Yes	Quorum	Yes

4. Pledge of Allegiance

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

5. Presentations:

- Start Strong Data Presentation by Mr. Brad Currie, Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation

- Strategic Planning Presentation by Dr. Christina VanWoert, Superintendent

6. Administration-Dr. Christina VanWoert and James Olobardi, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

6a. Superintendent's Report

6b. Business Administrator's Report

7. President's Comments

Board President, Sarah Schultz commented on:
Newspaper Club
Inspiration Café

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New Board Member Orientation

8. Public Commentary
None

9. Approval of Minutes

The Board took the following action:

- 9a. Approves Meeting Minutes from January 5, 2023**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Regular meeting minutes of the Reorganization meeting held on January 5, 2023
- 9b. Approves Executive Meeting Minutes from January 5, 2023**
RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Executive meeting minutes of the meeting held on January 5, 2023.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Matthew Downs

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

10. Committee of The Whole—All.

10a. Approves School Board Recognition Month

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey’s status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

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WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2023 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state’s local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

Motion by Rebekah Forlenza

Seconded by Christopher Lowry

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

10b. Approves Superintendent’s Recommendation for HIB Case # 4

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent’s recommendation for HIB Case # 4. **(Tabled)**

Motion by John Barounis

Seconded by Adam Colicchio

Voted on after Executive Session

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
10b. 9-0-1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain

10c. Approves Superintendent’s Recommendation for HIB Case # 5

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the Superintendent’s recommendation for HIB Case # 5. **(Tabled)**

Motion by Christopher Lowry

Seconded by Rebekah Forlenza

Voted on after Executive Session

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
10c. 9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

11. Buildings, Grounds, Transportation/Finance— Carolyn Byszewski (chair)

Christopher Lowry, Adam Colicchio & Adam Sorchini

Carolyn Byszewski stated the next committee meeting date 1/30/2023

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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	01/13/2023	\$688,046.99
Bills List	01/17/2023	\$912,408.30

11b. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for November 2023

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2022-2023 budget for the month of November 2023 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 2023

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 2023; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11d. Approves Board Secretary Report for November 2023

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 2023; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11e. Approves Board Treasurer Report for November 2023

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 2023; 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 2023

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 2023 and that no major account or fund has been over-expended.

11g. Approves Monthly Appropriation Transfers for December 2023

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approves the following transfers within the 2022-2023 budget for the month of December 2023 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.

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11h. Approves Monthly Transfer Report for December 2023

RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3, the Chester Board of Education approves the Monthly Report of Transfers for December 2023; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11i. Approves Board Secretary Report for December 2023

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 December 2023; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11j. Approves Board Treasurer Report for December 2023

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 December 2023; a copy of which is available for public review in the Chester Board of Education Business Office.

11k. Approves Certification of Secretary and Treasurer Report for December 2023

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 December 2023 and that no major account or fund has been over-expended.

11l. 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
March 19-22, 2023	Evan Morley NJSBA Annual Expo Conference Atlantic City, NJ	\$325.00	\$515.00	\$840.00
February 27-28, 2023	Melissa D’Auria SHAPE NJ Annual Conference Princeton, NJ	\$275.00	\$0	\$275.00

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by John Barounis

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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12. Curriculum/Governance/Personnel—John Barounis (chair), Matthew Downs, Rebekah Forlenza & Melissa Mauro-Duffy

12a. Approves Professional Work (2023 Science Fair Judges)

RESOLVED: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following staff members for up to 4 hours each to be 2023 Science Fair Judges at the contracted professional hourly rate of \$62.00.

Laura Allen
Christa Bedkowski
Brendan Kornbluh
Joseph Pizzo
Katherine Strauss
Lauren Scarfo

12b. Approves Staff Member for Extra-Curricular Activity (Kozlowski)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following staff member to conduct a board approved extra-curricular activity for the 2022-2023 school year with stipend as determined by Schedule “B” of the Agreement between The Chester Board of Education and The Chester Education Association:

Activity	Advisor
BRMS Science Fair Teacher Advisor	Sara Kozlowski

12c. RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the following extended leave of absence for employee # 1453:

Extended Leave Start Date (Unpaid, without benefits)	02/22/2023
Date of Return	03/13/2023

12d. Approves Extra Hours (Crisis Prevention Training)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves the following paraprofessionals to attend Crisis Prevention Training on January 16, 2023 and to be compensated 7 hours at the contracted hourly rate.

Sarah Bridge
Stephanie Weiss

12e. Approves Project Literacy Teachers

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Project Literacy program to provide instruction at the professional rate of \$62 for up to 1.5 hours per week effective February 2, 2023 for ten weeks to be funded by the Title 3 Grant.

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Jennifer Christal
John Christie
Lauren Marianino
Maryanne Vindici

12f. Approves Project Literacy Substitute Teachers

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approve the following substitute teachers for the Project Literacy for the 2023 session at the professional rate of \$62 to be funded by the Title 3 Grant.

Cathleen Matthews
Denielle Saucedo

12g. Approves Project Literacy Bus Drivers

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education approve the following bus drivers for the 2023 Project Literacy Session for 10 weeks to be paid 1 hour per week at their hourly contracted rate.

Holly Law
Pam Roberts

12h. Accepts Retirement (Stanton)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Michele Stanton with much gratitude for 33 years of service effective July 31, 2023.

12i. Accepts Retirement (Cianci)

RESOLVED, that the Chester Board of Education accepts the retirement of Kathy Cianci with much gratitude for 21 years of service effective June 30, 2023.

Dr. VanWoert addressed Principal Stanton's planned retirement after 33 years with our district.

12j. Approves LDTC Practicum Student (Hart)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Chester Board of Education approves Rutgers Graduate School of Education student, Amy Hart, under the supervision of Andrea Colicchio, LDTC for the Chester School District effective January 18, 2023 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, Pending the approval of the criminal history background check for school employees and compliance with P.L. 2018, c5.

Motion by Carolyn Byszewski

Seconded by Adam Colicchio

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
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 January 17, 2023 at 8:30 p.m. to discuss HIB and School Board

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Training. It is expected that the minutes will be made public as soon as official action is taken.

Motion by Matthew Downs

Seconded by Adam Colicchio

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

14. Return to Public Session

Upon the motion of Carolyn Byszewski and seconded by Matthew Downs, the Board returned to Public Session at 8:57 p.m.

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

15. Unfinished Business

John Barounis commented on an Ad Hoc Committee Attorney and that an OPRA request has been made with Chester Township regarding contamination in wells.

16. New Business

None

17. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, upon the motion of Matthew Downs and seconded by John Barounis the Board considered a motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.

Roll Call Vote	JB	CB	AC	MD	MMD	RF	CL	SS	AS
9-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

James Olobardi
Interim Board Secretary