

Laura F. Bond

Chesterfield, NJ 08515

Chesterfield Board of Education  
30 Saddle Way  
Chesterfield, NJ 08515

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Mrs. Christina Hoggan,

As a concerned citizen, taxpayer and supporter of public education I would like express my concern regarding the lack of openness our public and school community has on the Board of Education's subcommittee work.

As it currently stands subcommittee meeting dates are not published on the school website. It has been a standing Chesterfield Board of Education practice that the working agenda or discussion points are not published for public viewing unless you attend a Board meeting to hear the what the chair reports out. Further, it also remains unclear and inconsistent across the chairs how the subcommittees communicate out their work and/or recommendations to the board. As evident in the Board's self assessment discussed at the November 2018 Board meeting, this can create unhealthy fissures on the board when some members have been in the know prior to the meeting and others not. Such nebulous practices for a governance body that holds the stewardship of a taxpayer based public education is irresponsible in a democratic society. Our community, students, citizens and teachers deserve transparency so they are in the know, and not operating in a state of doubt and uncertainty, which can breed misinformation.

I am hoping the examples of local districts that have adopted and committed to transparent practices with their local Board of Education's subcommittees that are referenced in this letter can spur dialogue among the Chesterfield's Board of Education members to consider moving towards transparent practices.

Currently, it appears from the Board's November 2018 public session discussion on the Board self assessment that there is not a standard structure to keep the subcommittee meeting practices consistent, equitable and open for our public to see what was on the agenda is or what was discussed recommended in the subcommittee. NJSBA Field Service Representative, Jesse Adams, stated at that November 2018 Board of Education meeting that committees are not intended to be decision making bodies. Please consider the example of the West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School District which posts on their website the subcommittee meeting summary notes. Their subcommittee summary notes clearly indicate who attended the meeting, the date of the meeting, the key talking points/notes and what talking points led to decisions.

To ensure that processes are consistent among the committee chairs and equitable I urge that you consider clarifying and substantiating to our taxpayers a public record affirming that the Board of Education sub committees are not a decision making body as stated by the previous Board of Education President and current Superintendent. It has been indicated in previous public sessions that the Board of Education subcommittees only make recommendations to the full Board. This can be attained by publishing a record of the subcommittee meetings for the public to access and view.

Given the communities continual commitment for a quality education, I hope you can consider working with the Board's Attorney to reimagine the possibilities of how the Board's subcommittees can operate with transparency. It is understood that the subcommittees are set forth by Board's Bylaws and can thus be revised by the Board. It might be desirable to contemplate how more a dynamic and transparent subcommittee process and procedures might also serve to make decisions on minor issues so the workflow of the school is more agile.

The reach of the School's Governance has lasting and personal impacts on the lives of many. Thus, it is undeniable that the school community and citizens should be privy to a record of what was discussed in the subcommittees. This will also hold school leadership and School Board Members accountable and achieve a clear and common understating of the governance workflow. As demonstrated by the examples of Robbinsville Township Public Schools and the West-Windsor Plainsboro Regional School District I urge that you consider moving towards a model of documenting the subcommittee talking points and making this available for public access and viewing on the school's website.

Last, I ask that you recognize that the cycle of subcommittee meetings that is published on each month's public session agenda is unclear and inadequate. Moving forward can the specific dates, month and day of the sub committee meetings be made public, like the Board's public meeting sessions? At some juncture the Board may need to consider the that there might be a need to move beyond three subcommittee meetings in a single year, for a more responsive model that will make the work flow of the school's governance more nimble. It also appears that down the line that the weight of the subcommittee workflow might exceed the board's capacity to sustain an efficient governance workflow. Adding two additional school board members may serve to abate the growing load on the current five members. The recent school funding campaign and the Board's thoughtful response to pipeline & compressor stations are key examples to illustrate this need.

I thank you for hearing my concerns and taking them into consideration. I hope that the content of this letter excites discussion about equitable, accountable, effective and nimble governance practices that will nurture good will and trust across the school community. Our students, the faculty, parents, school leadership and all taxpayers deserve this peace of mind when they think of our public Elementary School.

In peace,

Laura F. Bond





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**FW: CES BOE Meeting and Teachers Contract**

1 message

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**Patrick Pisano** <nnisano@chesterfieldschool.com>

Mon, Feb 25, 2019 at 11:03 AM

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**From:** A S [mailto:]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2019 3:52 PM  
**To:** Scott Heino; Christina\_hoggan1@chesterfieldschool.com  
**Cc:** Patrick Pisano; A S  
**Subject:** CES BOE Meeting and Teachers Contract

Good afternoon Scott, Patrick and Christina,

Hope you all are enjoying your Sunday!

I would like to bring this to your attention. There is a unity meeting scheduled for the same day and time. Knowing that the CES BOE meeting is rescheduled for this Tuesday 2/26, it is a master stroke by our current BOE? The fact is that the CES BOE will be discussing the upcoming budget. Typically BOE meetings are held on Wednesday!

Apparently something else has come to my attention and would like to know of the truth in the name of the transparency. I've heard that there has been a tentative agreement for the CES teachers contract by negotiation committee and the NJEA members.

What I have also heard is that the CES BOE negotiations committee and the NJEA members are known friends(social media) which is a direct conflict in this teachers contract negotiations.

Were the CES BOE attorney, superintendent, and other representatives present in the negotiations meeting when the tentative agreement was reached? The reason for questioning is due to the conflict stated above.

Why did the negotiations committee decide to negotiate before the fact finder report was released?

Why did negotiations committee felt the need to meet and not wait until the fact finder report came out?

Why did negotiations committee feel that it is not important or valuable to share the fact finder report with the residents about the teachers contract negotiations before reaching

to a tentative agreement?

The fact finder report should be released if and once available(transparency). Personally, I've nothing against teachers.

Please include this email in the correspondence!

Sincerely,

Concerned resident and a taxpayer!

Aparna Shah

**CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Chesterfield, New Jersey**

**FILE CODE: 6163.1**

**Policy**

☐ **Monitored**  
☐ **Mandated**  
☒ **Other Reasons**

**MEDIA CENTER/LIBRARY**

The Chesterfield Township School District's media center/library shall contain a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, appealing to diverse tastes, and presenting different points of view. Every student shall have access to a media collection containing materials appropriate to age level, interests and courses of study. Library/media services connected to classroom studies shall be provided. These services shall include access to computers, approved instructional software, appropriate books including novels, anthologies and other reference materials, and supplemental materials that motivate students to read in and out of school and to conduct research. Library/media services shall be provided under the direction of a certified school library media specialist.

The superintendent has final responsibility for the selection of media center materials by professionally trained personnel including media specialists, teachers, principals and supervisors. Requests from faculty and students shall be given consideration.

In selecting materials to recommend for purchase, the media specialist shall evaluate the existing collection and consult reputable, unbiased, professionally prepared selection aids, and specialists from all departments and/or all grade levels.

In addition to standard book materials, the board shall provide for the use of a wide variety of audiovisual materials and equipment to enhance the curriculum.

The media centers shall offer a continuous program of instruction in library and study skills, preparing students for independent use of learning resources and for development of reading, listening and viewing abilities and tastes.

The superintendent shall develop and present for board approval a media center/library program to provide necessary space, personnel and material to implement this policy.

Adopted: May 13, 2002  
NJSBA Review/Update: June 2011, March 2017  
Readopted: September 21, 2011  
Revised:

**Key Words**

Library, Media Center, Audiovisual Materials

**Legal References:** N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14 School library media specialist  
N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15 Associate school library media specialist  
N.J.A.C. 6A:13-2.1 Standards-based instructional priorities

47 U.S.C. 254(h) Children's Internet Protection Act

Board of Education Island Trees U.F.S.D. v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982)

**Possible**

**Cross References:** \*1312 Community complaints and inquiries  
\*6161.1 Guidelines for evaluation and selection of instructional materials  
\*6161.2 Complaints regarding instructional materials

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy.



**CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Chesterfield, New Jersey**

**FILE CODE: 5118**

☐ **Monitored**

☐ **Mandated**

☒ **Other Reasons**

**Policy**

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**NONRESIDENTS**

The board shall operate the schools of this district for the benefit of all children resident in the district and such others as may be admitted, pursuant to statute and policy of the board. The board reserves the right to verify the residency of any pupil and the validity of any affidavit of guardianship. Documentation required to prove eligibility to attend the schools of this district shall be in accord with policy 5111 Admission and the administrative code.

**Future Residents**

A child otherwise eligible for attendance whose parent/guardian has signed a contract to buy, build or rent a residence in this district shall be enrolled for a period not to exceed \_\_\_\_\_ days previous to the anticipated date of residency without tuition charges. If the child has not become a resident of the district by the end of the period of free attendance, tuition shall be required for the remainder of the time until residency is established.

Parents/guardians of children who are future residents shall be required to demonstrate proof of the anticipated residency. The board reserves the right to verify such claims, and to remove from school a nonresident pupil whose claim cannot be verified.

**Former Residents**

Regularly enrolled children whose parents/guardians have moved out of the school district during the final marking period shall be permitted to finish the school year without payment of tuition. Regularly enrolled children whose parents/guardians move from the district at any other time during the school year may remain enrolled for the remainder of the school year on payment of tuition prorated.

**Children of Nonresident Staff Members**

Children of nonresident employees of the board may be enrolled in the schools of this district on payment of tuition and in accordance with policy for other nonresident pupils.

**NOTE: BECAUSE IT IS A TERM OR CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT, ALLOWING NONRESIDENT STAFF MEMBERS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO DISTRICT SCHOOLS FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN FULL TUITION SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED.**

**Foreign Exchange Students**

The board may admit foreign exchange students into district schools in order to promote cultural awareness and understanding among students.

The board may accept exchange students on a J-1 visa who reside within the district as participants in group-sponsored exchange programs approved by the board. Tuition may be waived for students on a J-1 visa.

The board may accept privately sponsored exchange students on an F-1 visa for attendance only in secondary schools upon payment of tuition at the established district rate. Tuition cannot be waived for students on an F-1 visa, and attendance in district schools shall not exceed 12 months. Students attending the schools of this district on an F-1 visa may not participate in any adult-education programs sponsored by the board under any circumstances.

All potential organizations or individuals applying for admission shall forward the request to the chief school administrator by July 1 proceeding the school year of attendance. Foreign exchange students shall comply with all immunization requirements for students of this district. The chief school administrator shall be

NONRESIDENTS (continued)

responsible for determining the visa status and eligibility of foreign exchange students applying for admission.

Victims of Domestic Violence

A child who moves out of a school district as a result of domestic violence, sexual abuse or other family crises shall be permitted to remain enrolled in that district for the remainder of the school year. If the child remains enrolled in the district for the remainder of the school year, the school district shall provide transportation services to the child, provided the child lives remote from school, and the State shall reimburse the school district for the cost of the transportation services.

Homeless Pupils

The district will determine the educational placement of homeless students in each child's best interest and respond to appeals concerning them made by parents/guardians or other parties in accordance with New Jersey statutes and administrative code, as well as pertinent federal law. The district will designate a "homeless student liaison" to help the homeless student enroll in school, make sure that the homeless student is enrolled and attending school, and see that the district meets federal and state requirements for educating homeless students.

Other Nonresident Pupils

Other nonresident pupils may be admitted to this district on payment of tuition and availability of space.

The chief school administrator shall develop procedures for the enrollment of nonresident children that allow admission of such children only on the proper application of parent/guardian; verify claims of residency and submission of affidavits of guardianship; deny admission where the educational program maintained for the children of this district is inadequate to meet the needs of the applicant; do not exclude any child, otherwise eligible, on the basis of such child's race, color, creed, national origin, affectional or sexual orientation, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait of any individual or ancestry; and make continued enrollment of any nonresident pupil contingent upon maintaining good standards of citizenship and discipline.

When a child must either relocate to or from this district because his/her parent/guardian is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or a member of the reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and has been ordered into active service, the child shall be eligible to attend the schools of this district without paying tuition. The district shall not be responsible for transporting the child.

The chief school administrator or his/her designee shall recommend to the board for its approval the admission of qualified applicants.

The board shall not be responsible for the transportation to or from school of any nonresident pupils, except as may be required by state or federal law.

The board shall annually determine tuition rates for nonresident pupils.

Adopted: January 12, 1998

Revised: July 15, 2002  
September 15, 2003

June 8, 2006

July 18, 2007

October 20, 2010

NJSBA Review/Update: May 2011

Readopted: September 21, 2011



**NONRESIDENTS (continued)****Key Words**

Nonresidents, Tuition Pupil, Affidavit Pupil, Homeless Pupil

<b>Legal References:</b>	<p><u>N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-45</u>  <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1</u>  <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:36B-14 et seq.</u>  <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 et seq.</u>  <u>See particularly:</u>  <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1, 38-2, 38-3, 38-8, 38-9</u>  <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:46-20</u>  <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20</u>  <u>N.J.A.C. 6A:12-1.3 et seq.</u>  <u>N.J.A.C. 6A:17-1.1 et seq.</u>  <u>N.J.A.C. 6A:22</u>  <u>See particularly:</u>  <u>N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3</u>  <u>N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1</u>  <u>N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-19.2</u>  <u>N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-19.3</u></p>	<p><b>Definitions</b>  General mandatory powers and duties  <u>Interdistrict Public School Choice Program Act of 1999</u>  Attendance at school free of charge    Receiving pupils from outside district; establishment of facilities  Powers of board (county vocational schools)  Interdistrict Public School Choice  Education for homeless children and students in state facilities  Student residency    Eligibility to attend school  Students domiciled within the school district  Method of determining the district of residence  Address submission for determining the district of residence</p>
	<p>8 <u>U.S.C. 1101 - Illegal Immigrant and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1997</u>  <u>Board of Education of the Borough of Englewood Cliffs v. Board of Education of the City of Englewood</u>, 132 <u>N.J. 327</u>; cert. denied, 510 <u>U.S. 991</u> (1993); subsequent listing 333 <u>N.J. Super.</u> (App. Div. 2000)</p>	
	<p><u>Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015</u>, Pub. L. 114-95, 20 <u>U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.</u></p>	
	<p><u>J.A. v. Board of Education of South Orange/Maplewood</u>, 318 <u>N.J. Super.</u> 512 (App. Div. 1999)</p>	

**Possible**

<b>Cross References:</b>	<p>3240 Tuition income  *5111 Admission  *5114 Suspension and expulsion  6142.5 Travel and exchange programs  *6151 Class size</p>
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\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.