

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved February 19, 2019

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Jennifer Pettinelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a subsequent moment of silence.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

Jennifer Pettinelli read the following statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is either discussed or acted upon. The Board has fully complied with the notice requirements by advertising in The Express Times and The Star-Ledger posting publicly and by notifying the Municipal Clerk of the date, time and place of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present

President, Jennifer Pettinelli
Vice-President, Robert Melick
Travis Conway
Patrick Smith

Absent

Christopher McGee
Loretta Reed

Others Present

Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator
Tim Mantz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

President Jennifer Pettinelli read the District Mission Statement:

The mission of the Alpha Public School is to provide every student with the opportunity to receive a high quality education, in a small, personal, caring, safe and positive environment in which all students at all grade levels achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. In partnership with the parents and the community, a competent and dedicated staff guides students to develop confidence and become productive and contributing members of a constantly changing society.

II. PRESENTATION

None

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III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2018 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2018 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2019 re-organizational meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen said that the Board had received no bidders for the security project. The architect felt that there were likely two reasons. One being that the project was small and two, potential bidders were worried about being able to integrate newer technology with the antiquated phone and PA system in the school. To widen the scope of the project and to attract bidders, the architect will look to add a new phone and PA system along with the other security upgrades.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve, on the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of **December 2018** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **December 31, 2018**, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(a)1 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the December 19, 2018 through January 15, 2019 current expense bill list for check numbers 18541 to 18579 totaling \$506,862.31.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Jody Smith introduced herself to the Board as a new Councilwoman for Alpha.

IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Jonathan Biczak gave his report.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:09 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 20 minutes. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is Personnel, Negotiations, Student Issues, and/or Legal Matters.

It is anticipated that action pursuant to this executive session will not be taken.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alpha Borough Board of Education, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter.
2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public upon resolution of all information discussed.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

XI. RECONVENE

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:26 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

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XII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen told the Board that there was one founded incident of HIB for the month of December.

ACTION ITEMS: Chief School Administrator's Recommendations

CONSENT AGENDA: Matters listed within the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Board of Education and/or its standing committees, for reading and study, are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion.

Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.3**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 1.1** To approve the PreK aide job description as presented.
- 1.2** To approve the 2018-19 Memorandum of Agreement.
- 1.3** To accept the donation of reading and writing skills games, phonics magnetic word building boards, classroom magnetic letters kit, two Amazon fire kids edition tablets, 4th grade audiobooks and Maxell headphones from the Donors Choose Organization.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.7**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve Melissa Bigelli as a part-time aide for the 2018-19 school year, beginning on 1/14/19, at an hourly rate of \$12.
- 3.2** To approve a consultant agreement with Debbie Diller & Associates, Inc. to provide professional development on March 8, 2019 at a rate of \$3,500.
- 3.3** To accept David Engle's letter of retirement effective April 30, 2019.
- 3.4** To approve Amy Castellana to provide Language Arts coaching services on 1/8/19 and 1/22/19 for 6 hours a day at a rate of \$150/hr.
- 3.5** To approve a horizontal guide move for Sarah Payne from Step G, MA+15 to Step G, MA+30 resulting from the completion of the appropriate course work.
- 3.6** To approve Glenn Warkala as substitute teacher for the 2018-19 school year.
- 3.7** To approve Patricia Cote and Diane Laustsen as co-advisors for the spring musical.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.2**.

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Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4.1 To approve the placement of the identified students in the Phillipsburg School District's early childhood learning center for the 2018-19 school year, beginning on December 7, 2018, at an annual tuition of \$13,505 prorated for time in attendance.

4.2 To approve the following building use requests:

- PTO on 3/15/19 from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym and cafeteria for the Spring Dance.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen discussed three potential options for handling classes and class sizes for 2019-20 with the Board.

Mr. Cohen told the Board of various grants that the school has been looking at or has applied for.

Mr. Cohen said that he and Lori Walker would be out of the building on February 7th and 8th. In their absence, MaryJane Deutsch would provide coverage for the building.

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on a motion by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary