

**ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved February 18, 2020**

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
Louis Cartabona
Travis Conway
Christopher McGee
Loretta Reed
Patrick Smith

Absent

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.

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II. PRESENTATION

The 2nd grade conducted a “Knowing Science” experiment presentation.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2020 reorganizational meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Jennifer Pettinelli said that the Board received a thank you letter from The Salvation Army’s Camp Ladore for its donation in the memory of Stephen E. Kaminski.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen told the Board he would be meeting with Diane Mandry, Superintendent of the Pohatcong Township School, Dr. Jenniffer Marycz, Superintendent of the Bloomsbury School and Kathy Helewa, a NJSBA representative to craft a resolution regarding the elimination of the rotating Board seat to the Phillipsburg Board of Education shared amongst the three districts. Once the resolution is formulated, it would be forwarded to the NJSBA Delegate Assembly for consideration.

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 2019** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **December 31, 2019**, 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.

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Motion carried by roll call vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Louis Cartabona abstaining.

VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the December 18, 2019 through January 21, 2020 current expense bill list for check numbers 19087 to 19133 totaling \$563,799.44.

Motion carried by roll call vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Louis Cartabona abstaining.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:18 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 15 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.

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XI. RECONVENE

Motion made by Robert Melick, seconded by Christopher McGee, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:28 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

XII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen said that there were no HIB investigations for the month. There was one HIB investigation involving an Alpha student placed out of district but it was concluded that no HIB occurred.

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 Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 Be it resolved that the Alpha Board of Education approves the filing of a waiver to exempt the Alpha School District's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) due to the fact that the district projects an enrollment of less than 40 Medicaid eligible students.

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 **3.3**.

Motion carried by roll call vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Louis Cartabona abstaining.

3.1 To hire Jennifer Truby as a teacher for the 2019-20 school year, beginning on January 2nd, at an annual salary of \$54,685, Step E, MA, prorated for time worked.

3.2 To approve Elizabeth Sinicrope as a substitute teacher for the 2019-20 school year.

3.3 To approve an employment contract for Robert Plimpton as Head Custodian for the 2019-20 school year at an annual salary of \$60,000.

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Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.3**.

Motion carried by roll call vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Louis Cartabona abstaining.

- 4.1** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Stepping Stone School for the 2019-20 school year, beginning on December 16, 2019, at an annual tuition of \$56,630.70 prorated for time in attendance.
- 4.2** To approve Bob Plimpton to attend the 2020 NJSBGA Conference from 3/22/20 to 3/25/20 in Atlantic City, NJ. Cost is \$200 registration fee, lodging, M&IE and mileage.
- 4.3** To approve Robert Miller to the 2020 NJAHPERD Annual Convention on 2/24/20 in Long Branch, NJ. Cost is \$75 registration fee and mileage.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. on a motion by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary