

# ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.  
Approved April 28, 2020

## I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

### CALL TO ORDER:

Vice- President, Robert Melick 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:

Robert Melick 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

Vice-President, Robert Melick  
Travis Conway  
Christopher McGee  
Patrick Smith

#### Absent

President, Jennifer Pettinelli  
Louis Cartabona  
Loretta Reed

#### Others Present

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

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

Vice- President Robert Melick 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**

Mr. Cohen and Melissa Bickert handed out the honor roll awards.

Students from the third grade class of Elizabeth Farnsworth and Kelly Phillips conducted science presentation on balancing forces.

**III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

None

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, 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 **January 2020** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **January 31, 2020**, 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.

**VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the January 22, 2020 through February 18, 2020 current expense bill list for check numbers 19134 to 19184 totaling \$536,976.88..

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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**VIII. PUBLIC INPUT**

Tammy McGee gave a PTO report highlighting recent and upcoming fundraising events for the new playground.

**IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

None

**X. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Cohen said that there was one ongoing HIB investigation for the month.

**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 Christopher McGee, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**1.1** To approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS,** The Alpha Borough Board of Education, Bloomsbury Board of Education, and Pohatcong Board of Education, all districts which serve students in grades Pre-K through 8, are in a sending/receiving agreement with the Phillipsburg of Education for students in grades nine through twelve, and

**WHEREAS,** N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2, **Representation from sending school district to a board of receiving school district, states,**

*"A school which is sending pupils to another school district pursuant to N.J.S.18A:38-8 shall have representation on the board of education of the receiving school district as follows:*

*If the pupils of the sending district comprise less than 10 percent of the total enrollment of the pupils in the grades of the receiving district in which the pupils of the sending district will be enrolled, the sending, district shall have no representation on the receiving district board of education.*

*If the pupils of the sending district comprise at least 10 percent of the total enrollment of the pupils in the grades of the receiving district in which the pupils of the sending district will be enrolled, the sending district shall have one representative on the receiving district board of education*

*If the total number of pupils of two or more sending districts, which do not qualify for representation under subsection a. of this section, comprise at least 15 percent of the total*

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*enrollment of the pupils in grades of the receiving district in which the pupils of the sending districts will be enrolled, they shall have collectively two representatives, in the event more than two districts collectively qualify under this subsection, shall be rotated among the board of education of the sending districts according to a schedule determined by the joint agreement of the boards*

*Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections a. and b. and this section, the number of representatives designated by the sending districts to be additional members shall not exceed three additional members on a receiving board with originally nine or more members, two additional members on a receiving board with originally seven or eight members, and additional member one on a receiving board with originally less than seven members. In the event that this restriction results in an unequal representation of sending districts, the annual designation of the representative or representatives shall be rotated among the boards of education of the sending districts according to a schedule determined by the joint agreement of the boards.*

*A representative of a sending district board of education shall be designated at the meeting of the board which is closest in time to the annual organizational meeting of the receiving district board of education and shall serve a one-year term beginning with the organizational meeting of the receiving district board of education.*

*The calculation of percentages required under this section shall be based on the number of pupils reported as of the last school day prior to Oct 16 of each pre-budget year”, and*

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education is the local entity making important decisions which profoundly impact New Jersey’s public school students both during the time they are educated in the District, and long after they leave the District, and

**WHEREAS**, Recognizing that the needs of the students are best understood and represented by the elected members of their own communities, the State of New Jersey affirmed the importance of sending districts to participate in decisions made by the board of education in their receiving school district, thereby encoding such a requirement into law, and

**WHEREAS**, The law currently requires certain sending student enrollment for representation on the receiving Board of Education, and

**WHEREAS**, Many areas of the State, especially small, rural communities, are experiencing an exodus of families to communities that offer greater economic opportunities, which has resulted in a decline in overall school enrollment in those districts, and

**WHEREAS**, This decline in community population reduced the numbers of students our Boards send to our receiving high school district, which now jeopardizes our representation on the Board and voice and decision-making concerning our student’s education and the expenditure of our own tuition dollars, and

**WHEREAS**, As currently written, the statute on sending district representation on the receiving Board currently disallows a community that experienced decreased school enrollment but still pays substantial property taxes from participating in making decisions of grave importance regarding a thorough and efficient education for its students as they continue their schooling ,

**WHEREAS**, The Delegate Assembly is the official policy making body of the New Jersey School Boards Association; and

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**WHEREAS**, Education-related policies resulting from prior Delegate Assembly and Board of Directors actions are codified in the NJSBA's Manual of Positions and Policies on Education,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** Alpha Borough Board of Education, Bloomsbury Board of Education, and Pohatcong Board of Education propose the following new policy language for adoption by the Delegate Assembly and inclusion in NJSBA's Manual of Positions and Policies on Education regarding districts in sending/receiving agreements:

If the total number of pupils of two or more sending districts do not qualify those districts for representation by a minimum of two representatives on the receiving district board under subsection a. of this section, then the sending school districts shall have collectively two representatives on the receiving district board of education, when combined enrollment percentages comprise at least 10%. Such representatives shall be rotated among the board of education of the sending districts according to a schedule determined by the joint agreement of the sending districts.

**1.2** To approve a request from the Alpha Board of Education to the Alpha Municipality to construct an additional crosswalk by the main entry doors of the Alpha School to further ensure the safety of the students while crossing the road.

**Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**2.1** To approve a joint transportation agreement with the Warren County Special Services School District for the 2020-2021 school year with an Administrative Fee of 4%.

**Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.3**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**3.1** To approve Michelle Wranitz to do five hours of classroom observation for Educational Psychology class and twenty hours of observation for Foundations of Education class for Warren County Community College.

**3.2** To approve Natalie Kelson to perform five hours of elementary education observation.

**3.3** To approve Aimee Castellana to perform twenty hours of administrative observation.

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**Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS**

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**4.1** To approve Kim Gilles to attend the Foundations CPI two day training on 2/11/20 and 2/12/20 in Edison, NJ. Cost is \$1,900 registration fee and mileage.

**4.2** To approve the following building use requests:

- Alpha School Teachers on 2/5/20 from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom for a new teacher “Meet and Great”.
- APS Spring Musical to use the gym for practices and the Spring Musical performance.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade class on 3/15/20 from 4:00pm to 7:00 pm in the kitchen and cafeteria to host a spaghetti dinner.

**4.3** To approve the following fundraiser requests:

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to hold a spaghetti dinner to raise money for the class.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**XII. PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:32 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

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- public upon resolution of all information discussed.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**XIV. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:57 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. on a motion by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz  
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary