

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved May 19, 2020

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Jennifer Pettinelli called the meeting to order at 7:01 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
Loretta Reed
Patrick Smith

Absent

Louis Cartabona
Christopher McGee

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 Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2020 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Jennifer Pettinelli reminded any Board members who have yet to do so, to please complete the Personal/Financial Disclosure forms online.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, 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 **March 2020** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education

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certifies that as of **March 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 Loretta Reed, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the March 18, 2020 through April 28, 2020 current expense bill list for check numbers 19218 to 19264 totaling \$610,949.83.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$44,374.07 as presented for the period March 18, 2020 through April 28, 2020 noting that Commissioner approval was not required as the year to date transfers on a cumulative basis do not exceed 10% pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen thanked and applauded Bob Plimpton, Lori Walker, Melissa Yale, Lynn Olah and Stuart Davis for all of their work and efforts during this trying time. They have all done tremendous jobs.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the teachers have done a great job with online learning. The district is dealing with a few student compliance issues but the teachers have been flexible and willing to help in any way possible to help work through any problems.

Mr. Cohen made the Board aware of a potential furlough bill that might be passed going forward. However, at the moment, there is no certainty of the bill being made into law and the district will do its best to deal with whatever requirements that might be imposed.

Mr. Cohen congratulated Tom Olah on his retirement and thanked him for all of his hard work and service to the district over the years.

ACTION ITEMS: Chief School Administrator's Recommendations

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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 Travis Conway, to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the second reading and adoption of the following policies and regulations:

- Policy 0152: Board Officers
- Policy & Regulation 1581: Domestic Violence
- Policy 2422: Health and Physical Education
- Policy 3421.13: Postnatal Accommodations
- Policy 4421.13: Postnatal Accommodations
- Policy & Regulation 5330: Administration of Medication
- Policy 7243: Supervision of Construction
- Policy 8210: School Year
- Policy & Regulation 8220: School Day/School Closings
- Policy 8462: Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2.1 To adopt the following resolution to approve the 2020-21 school district budget;

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the 2020-2021 school district budget as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$6,122,023	\$3,613,714
Special Revenue Fund	<u>119,376</u>	
Total Base Budget	\$6,241,399	\$3,613,714

WHEREAS, the Alpha Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to

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receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$15,000 for all staff and board members.

- 2.2** To approve an agreement with Maschio's Food Service, Inc. to provide operation and management of the district's food service program for the 2020-21 school year for a management fee of \$7,960.02 and a breakeven, no-cost guarantee food service operation, including the management fee.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.5**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve hiring Stuart Davis as a Summer Custodian, beginning June 1, 2020 through August 21, 2020, at an hourly rate of \$12.75.
- 3.2** To approve hiring Raymond Abney as a Summer Custodian, beginning June 1, 2020 through August 21, 2020, at an hourly rate of \$12.75.
- 3.3** To approve hiring Nick Favino as a Summer Custodian, beginning June 1, 2020 through August 21, 2020, at an hourly rate of \$12.75.
- 3.4** To accept Thomas Olah's letter of retirement effective August 1, 2020.
- 3.5** To approve the following revised Chief School Administrator goals for the 2019-20 school year:

Qualitative Goal #1: Technology/Design Thinking: To raise community expectations and foster STEM skills and thinking. Successfully code a game of their design at least 3 students at grade 7&8 will design, using district maker-space technology, a product for the holiday gift shop.

Qualitative Goal #2: Character Education: The CSA will implement character education programs school wide which will culminate in identifying district wide character education goals for the immediate future.

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Qualitative Goal #3: Math Skills: While the 2019 8th grade PARCC math scores showed a 20% improvement in the passing rate, we need to do better. After January Math Benchmarks, 30% of students are going to show growth.

Quantitative Goal #4: Writing Skills: The School has shown growth in ELA, however our writing is not consistently meeting our goals. This year students in grades 4-5 will improve their first draft writing skills. This will be measured by scoring students writing on the NJPARCC rubric in the first Marking Period and then the most recent writing piece before building closure. Eighty Percent (80%) of non SPED Students who have attended a full year of school will demonstrate growth by moving at least 1 level on the rubric.

Quantitative Goal #5: Reading: We continue to pursue our goal of 1 year's growth in 1 year's time. At least 60% of Students in grades K-3 will demonstrate growth using the Running Record Evaluation

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4.1 To approve the 2020-21 school year calendar.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Jennifer Pettinelli said that this week was “Teacher Appreciation Week”. She will send the staff and email on behalf of the Board recognizing their work.

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

Travis Conway asked that, should school come back to session this year, what would happen if a parent was not comfortable sending his/her student back to school. Mr. Cohen said that, should school re-open, students would expected to be in district. However, the district would cross that bridge when it comes.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. on a motion by Robert Melick, seconded by Travis Conway.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary