

# ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.  
Approved September 15, 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  
Christopher McGee  
Patrick Smith

#### Absent

Travis Conway  
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 Robert Melick, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick,, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick,, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 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 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 **July 2020** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **July 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.

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

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the July 22, 2020 through August 13, 2020 current expense bill list for check numbers 19379 to 19407 totaling \$120,249.59.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**VIII. PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:08 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 30 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.

**X. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:33 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

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

Mr. Cohen reported that it has become increasingly difficult to obtain tech supplies. To begin the year, teachers will have to use chromebooks to broadcast their lessons.

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Mr. Cohen told the Board that the Governor spoke yesterday and said that schools should open unless they are unable to meet the requirement of the reopening plan. If they are unable to do so, they could go remote but a plan must then be resubmitted for an in person opening in November. Alpha's reopening plan has been approved by the County. However, Mr. Cohen is currently looking for a school nurse. Should a viable candidate not be found, the school will not be permitted to open.

Mr. Cohen said that he has received 15 requests for remote learning to date.

**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: BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**2.1** To approve the following budget adjustment plan for the FY21 school year:

In lieu of a \$56,087 reduction in state aid for the FY21 budget year, the Alpha Board of Education approves a reduction in budget expense appropriations from the level contained in the original FY21 budget certified for taxes as follows:

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 11-190-100-270 | \$38,392 reduction |
| 11-190-100-500 | \$5,000 reduction  |
| 11-190-100-610 | \$10,000 reduction |
| 11-000-262-622 | \$2,695 reduction  |

**Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Louis Cartabona, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**3.1** To hire Theresa Bifano as a part-time special education teacher for the 2020-21 school year at an annual salary of \$25,065, Step E, BA.

**3.2** To approve Kathleen Fabula as a substitute teacher for the 2020-21 school year.

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**Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Louis Cartabona, 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 Jennifer Pettinelli abstaining from motions 4.2 and 4.3.

- 4.1** To approve the district's non-teaching principal waiver for the 2020-21 school year.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Cambridge School for the 2020-21 school year at an annual tuition of \$50,640 per student.
- 4.3** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Cambridge School for the 2020 extended school year at a tuition of \$2,184.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

Jennifer Pettinelli asked the Board if they would consider establishing a tiered substitute teacher pay dependent upon how many days a particular substitute has been in the district. The Board would address this at the next meeting.

Jennifer Pettinelli said that the September 1<sup>st</sup> work session would be changed to a regular meeting.

**XIII. PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. on a motion by Louis Cartabona, seconded by Patrick Smith.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz  
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary