

**ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.  
Approved October 20, 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  
Christopher McGee  
Loretta Reed  
Patrick Smith

Absent

Louis Cartabona arrived at 7 :04 p.m.

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**

None

**III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2020 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020 regular meeting.

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

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020 executive session.

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

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

None

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

None

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

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Louis Cartabona, 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 **August 2020** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **August 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 Christopher McGee, seconded by Louis Cartabona, to approve the August 14, 2020 through September 15, 2020 current expense bill list for check numbers 19408 to 19455 totaling \$353,142.54.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**VIII. PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Louis Cartabona, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:09 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.

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3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**X. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Christopher McGee, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:20 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

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

Mr. Cohen told the Board that there was Library Committee meeting in August.

Mr. Cohen reported that the Hackettstown and Greenwich School District's have reported confirmed cases of COVID.

Mr. Cohen said that the staff is improving on interactive learning opportunities and that it continues to be a work in progress. He told the Board that the school work pick up rate for remote learners has much better this previous Friday.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that they were still waiting on cameras and chromebooks to come in.

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**1.1** To approve the Indoor Air Quality Management Program.

**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 **3.2**.

Motion carried by roll call vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Louis Cartabona abstaining from motion 3.2.

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- 3.1** To approve a \$700 stipend for Sarah Payne for technical support throughout the 2020-21 school year required due to the unique circumstance dictating additional technical help for remote learners.
- 3.2** To hire Kelly Welch as a full time aid for the 2020-21 school year, beginning August 31<sup>st</sup>, at an annual salary of \$24,000.

**Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Robert Melick, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve a 2020-2021 tuition contract with the Phillipsburg School District for 85 students at an annual tuition rate of \$15,618 per student, plus prior year adjustments in the amount of (\$70,921) for a total of \$1,256,609.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Phillipsburg School District's multiple disabilities program for the 2020-21 school year at an annual tuition rate of \$22,991 per student.
- 4.3** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Phillipsburg School District's cognitive program for the 2020-21 school year at an annual tuition rate of \$32,222 as well as a personal aide at an annual rate of \$31,000 for a total cost of \$63,222.
- 4.4** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Phillipsburg School District's learning language disabilities program for the 2020-21 school year at an annual tuition rate of \$19,828.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Cohen discussed the proposed building use resolution provided to the Board for their input. He said that the NJDOE County office and the Department of Health both suggested that building use be extremely limited to outside groups so as to keep as many people out of the building as possible. The Board agreed with the resolution and it will be on the October agenda for approval.

**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