

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved January 19, 2021

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
Travis Conway
Christopher McGee
Patrick Smith

Absent

Louis Cartabona
Loretta Reed

Others Present

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

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 Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

The Alpha, Bloomsbury and Pohatcong Boards of Education each received letters from the DOE stating that their combined population at Phillipsburg High School is below the 15% minimum required for the three school's to share a seat on the Phillipsburg Board of Education. Mr. Cohen gave the Board a legislative update regarding regaining that seat.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, 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 **November 2020** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **November 30, 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.

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Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the November 18, 2020 through December 15, 2020 current expense bill list for check numbers 19547 to 19589 totaling \$565,516.26.

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 Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:23 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

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XI. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen reviewed what was discussed at the meeting he had with the AYAA.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the district's QSAC review scheduled for Thursday was switched to Monday.

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the HIB Self-Assessment.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda item **3.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3.1 To hire Lorraine Veal as a part-time Art teachers for the 2020-21 school year, beginning on December 16, 2020, at an annual salary of \$25,815, Step H, BA prorated for time worked.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

The Board scheduled its re-organizational meeting for January 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Cohen thanked Robert Melick for his years of service and support as a member of the Alpha Board of Education.

Mr. Cohen said that the Pandemic Committee meet and concluded that remote learning was not optimal for the students. The Committee is exploring avenues towards improvement.

Mrs. Pettinelli commented that, should the weather warrant it, snow days should happen this year rather than simply having another remote learning day. She requested that this be discussed at the next Pandemic Committee meeting. Mr. Cohen explained his rationale for the remote day under those circumstances.

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XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Bob Merryman wished Robert Melick luck in his new position on the Town Council and said it has been a pleasure working with him over the years.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. on a motion by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary