

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved February 16, 2021

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, Patrick Smith
Travis Conway
Christopher McGee

Absent

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.

II. PRESENTATION

None

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III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021 reorganization meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen and Jennifer Pettinelli met with a New Jersey School Boards Association representative about the Board's strategic planning. The initial planning meeting is scheduled for January 28th.

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 **December 2020** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **December 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 Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the December 16, 2020 through January 19, 2021 current expense bill list for check numbers 19590 to 19622 totaling \$548,615.15.

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Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$6,845.75 as presented for the period December 16, 2020 through January 19, 2021 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. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:09 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 20 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 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 said that the district was in the midst of another week of remote learning.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the district’s GoMath subscription was up. The administration is exploring various options for going forward but would have a difficult time assessing the effectiveness of other curriculum avenues until the students were able to be in-person full time. As a result, the school will attempt to renew the GoMath subscription for one year.

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 Patrick Smith, to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 1.1** Be it resolved that the Alpha Board of Education approves the filing of a waiver to exempt the Alpha School District’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) due to the fact that the district projects an enrollment of less than 40 Medicaid eligible students.

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 2.1** To accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Auditor’s Management Report on Administrative Findings for the Year Ending June 30, 2020 and order that a copy be filed in the business office and with the New Jersey Department of Education.
- 2.2** To acknowledge that there were no audit recommendations under the following headings and to approve the corrective action plan.

Audit for Year Ending June 30, 2020

Schedule of findings of Non-Compliance None

Summary of Recommendations

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures None

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2. Financial Accounting and Reporting	None
3. School Purchasing Programs	None
4. School Food Service	None
5. Student Body Activities	None
6. Applications for State School Aid	None
7. Pupil Transportation	None
8. Facilities and Capital Assets	None
9. Miscellaneous	None
10. Follow-up on prior year findings	None

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Christopher McGee, 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 Aaliyah Gregorio to be home schooled during the 2020-21 school year.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen told the Board that 40% of the building's heating units are 50 years old and 30% are over 20 years old. Due to their age, the units are consistently breaking down with the necessary replacement parts to repair the units impossible to get. In addition, the software originally used to regulate the units is no longer functioning. Mr. Cohen suggested that the Board strongly consider replacing the units.

Mr. Cohen stated that the fire alarm system needs to also be replaced as it does not communicate trouble signals to the appropriate parties.

Mr. Mantz discussed various options for the Board to consider financing these projects.

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. on a motion by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary