

**ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved May 18, 2021**

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Jennifer Pettinelli called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 arrived at 7 :04 p.m.

Others Present

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

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

Vice- President Patrick Smith 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. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:05 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.

III. RECONVENE

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:44 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

IV. PRESENTATION

Mr. Cohen presented the 2021-2022 budget.

V. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

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VII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen said that Cooper Alarm received the engineer's plans for the fire alarm system today and that he hopes to approve a contract with Cooper at the next meeting.

Mr. Cohen said that that Pandemic Committee recommended having in-person instruction five days a week utilizing an early dismissal schedule.

VIII. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

None

IX. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee to approve the April 21, 2021 through May 4, 2021 current expense bill list for check numbers 19745 to 19760 totaling \$289,008.24.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$26,607 as presented for the period April 21, 2021 through May 4, 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.

X. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XI. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the district passed QSAC therefore the next review will be in three years. He congratulated the teachers for the bump in educational growth reflected in the review.

Mr. Cohen said that he has concerns with staffing for the summer program. The district also has yet to identify the kids who should take part.

Mr. Cohen said that there will be a modified field day this year. The event will be spread out over the course of a week and divided by grade levels.

Mr. Cohen reviewed the 8th grade promotion format.

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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 Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2.1 To adopt the following resolution to approve the 2021-2022 school district budget;

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the 2021-2022 school district budget as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$6,279,932	\$3,885,988
Special Revenue Fund	122,419	
Total Base Budget	\$6,402,351	\$3,885,988

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alpha Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for the use of banked cap in the amount of \$200,000. The additional funds are included in the base budget and will be used for required building maintenance. The said need will be completed by the end of the 2021-22 budget year and will not be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

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 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

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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.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3.1 To approve Pamela Getz, Tammy Mornick and Jackie Ostir as fire watch workers on an as needed basis at an hourly rate of \$25.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4.1 To approve an agreement with LearnWell to provide instruction to the identified student, while placed in a medical facility, for ten hours a week at an hourly rate of \$56 beginning on April 26, 2021.

4.2 To approve the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill conducted on 4/28/21.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen finished his online assessment and asked that the Board do their portion of the evaluation. Jennifer Pettinelli reiterated this point and provided a timeframe for completion.

Mr. Cohen said he would notify the community of the daily schedule moving forward.

As it was Teacher Appreciation Week, Jennifer Pettinelli thanked and recognized the staff's dedication to the students of the school.

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

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XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 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