

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved August 17, 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, Patrick Smith
Travis Conway
Christopher McGee
Loretta Reed

Absent

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

Mr. Cohen presented the 2021-22 School Year Preliminary Re-opening Plan.

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III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2021 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2021 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen gave an update regarding the fire alarm system installation.

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 **June 2021** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **June 30, 2021**, 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:23-2.11(b) 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 Travis Conway, to approve the June 16, 2021 through June 30, 2021 current expense bill list for check numbers 19810 to 19846 totaling \$147,186.32..

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the July 1, 2021 through July 20, 2021 current expense bill list for check numbers 19847 to 19873 totaling \$173,071.65.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$70,662.64 as presented for the period June 16, 2021 through June 30, 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

Dave Cavanaugh said his taxes increase 10% and questioned why the alarm system had to be replaced this year when it is inspected every year. He also asked why a school with 200 kids needed to administrators. Mr. Cohen responded.

Kevin Fenlon asked why the district did not replace the fire alarm system when initially warned by the Fire Marshall. Mr. Cohen responded.

Cecilia Plante asked that, if the fire alarm system was 50 years old, why did the district not save money over the years to address the system which would eventually fail. She also asked who was performing the required building fire watch. Mr. Cohen responded.

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen asked if any Board members had questions pertaining to the presentation regarding the preliminary re-opening plan.

Mr. Cohen reviewed with the Board what has been happening in the district since the end of the 2020-21 school 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.

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Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3.1 To approve Melissa Bickert, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Diane Laustsen, Elyse Linfante and Kelly Phillips to perform curriculum writing work on July 26th through July 28th, four hours a day for a total of 12 hours to be paid at the contractually hourly rate.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.5**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4.1 To approve the district's non-teaching principal waiver for the 2021-22 school year.

4.2 To approve the placement of the identified students in the Cambridge School for the 2021-22 school year at an annual tuition of \$55,200 per student.

4.3 To approve the placement of the identified student in the Cambridge School for the 2021 extended school year at a tuition of \$2,690.

4.4 To approve the placement of the identified student in the Warren Glen Academy for the 2021-22 school year at an annual tuition of \$57,762.60.

4.5 To approve an agreement with the Greater Valley YMCA, Easton/Phillipsburg Branch to provide a before and after school child care program at the Alpha School during the 2021-22 school year.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

Kevin Fenlon asked how bound the school is to adhering to the state mandated curriculum regarding specific topics and asked if there is any leeway as to what is being taught. Mr. Cohen responded.

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XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:56 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.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

XIII. RECONVENE

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 8:09 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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