

# ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.  
Approved December 21, 2021

## I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

### CALL TO ORDER:

President, Jennifer Pettinelli called the meeting to order at 7:03 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  
Louis Hardy  
Loretta Reed

#### Absent

Christopher McGee

#### 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**

Mr. Cohen conducted the Honor Roll presentation

**III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2021 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2021 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Jennifer Pettinelli said that she received a letter from the County stating that Alpha, Bloomsbury and Pohatcong would regain its Phillipsburg Board of Education seat due to a percentage increase in enrollment.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

None

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

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, 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 **October 2021** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **October 31, 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 Loretta Reed, to approve the October 20, 2021 through November 16, 2021 current expense bill list for check numbers 19989 to 20037 totaling \$618,731.06.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$81,283.58 as presented for the period October 20, 2021 through November 16, 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 Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:17 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.

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**X. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Patrick Smith, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:49 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

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

Mr. Cohen told the Board that he attended the 5K race that the school’s “Girls on the Run” club participated in last Saturday and was proud of those that ran.

Mr. Cohen reviewed the upcoming PTO fundraisers.

Mr. Cohen said that approximately 20% of students were out of school for COVID, having COVID like symptoms or because of the need to quarantine. Administration will monitor the situation going forward and be prepared should the school need to return to a virtual learning session for any period of time.

**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** To approve the submission and acceptance of the application for the “ESSER American Rescue Plan” grant in the following amounts:

ESSER:	\$412,332
Accelerated Learning Coaching & Educator Support:	\$ 50,000
Evidence-Based Summer Learning & Enrichment Activities:	\$ 40,000
Evidence-Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day:	\$ 40,000
NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing:	\$ 45,000
Total Allocation:	\$587,332

**Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Travis Conway seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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**2.1** To enter into a joint transportation agreement with the Pohatcong Township School District for the 2021-22 school year at a total annual cost of \$71,968.89 with terms as presented.

**Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve Dawn Melise as the NJHS coordinator at a stipend amount of \$700  
**3.2** To approve Elyse Linfante to be a Jumpstart Instructor for the 2021-22 school year to be paid at the contractual hourly rate.

**Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.6**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Phillipsburg School District's learning language disability program for the 2021-22 school year, beginning 9/22/21, at an annual tuition rate of \$18,828 prorated for time in attendance.  
**4.2** To approve the identified students to be home schooled for the 2021-22 school year.  
**4.3** To approve completion of the bus evacuation drill on October 27, 2021.  
**4.4** To approve the following building use requests:
- i. APS on 11/22/21 through 11/24/21 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm in the cafeteria for the book fair.
  - ii. APS Dance Club on Monday's & Tuesday's beginning 10/7/21 through 3/1/22 from 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm in the gym for rehearsals as well as on 3/3/22 beginning at 7:00 pm in the gym for the show.
  - iii. APS Drama Club on Thursday's beginning 10/7/21 through 11/18/21 from 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm in the gym for rehearsals as well as on 11/30/21 beginning at 7:00 pm in the gym for the show.
  - iv. PTO on 10/21/21 at 7:00 pm in the library for a room parent meeting.
  - v. Girls on the Run on 11/3/21 in the gym to practice for a 5K.
- 4.5** To approve the following fundraiser requests:
- AEA Scholarship Committee to sell Wawa hoagie coupons to raise scholarship money.
  - Class of 2022 to host a Gertrude Hawk candy bar sale from 10/26/21 through 11/12/21 to raise money for graduation.

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**4.6** To approve the Superintendent's recommendation that HIB reports 2021-3 and 2021-4 were unfounded.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Cohen said with the winter performances upcoming, it has been determined that approximately 140 people could attend while maintaining the distance protocols. Seating would be done on a first come, first service basis.

Mr. Cohen asked the Board if they would be willing to accept a special education student on a tuition basis from another district. The Board agreed.

Mr. Cohen said that the County asked all school districts to be vaccination clinic sites for their communities. The clinic would be run outside of school hours by an outside vendor and district staff would not be involved in any way. The Board discussed.

**XIII. PUBLIC INPUT**

Ellen Moore asked if Alpha shared CST services with the Phillipsburg School District. Mr. Cohen said it did but that this would likely be the last year of the agreement. Ms. Moore asked if Alpha still had its own special education program to meet student needs. Mr. Cohen said it did.

Alexis Melick asked at what point would Alpha return to virtual learning. Mr. Cohen said that that the DOH ultimately makes that decision and considers factors such as student population percentage positive and transmission rate.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m. on a motion by Travis Conway, seconded by Loretta Reed.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz  
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary