

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – December 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved January 18, 2022

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

Absent

Louis Hardy
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 November 16, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2021 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Jennifer Pettinelli reported that Louis Hardy submitted a letter of interest for the vacant Board seat open in January.

V. OLD BUSINESS

As Alpha will be no longer sharing CST services with the Phillipsburg School District, Mr. Cohen said that he was in conversations with Laura Newman to provide social work services for 2022-23. He was awaiting her proposal. WCS SSD would provide OT, PT & speech services while Pohatcong would do evaluations.

Mr. Cohan said the district will still working on an outstanding residency issue.

Mr. Cohen referred to the COVID clinic dates on the agenda for approval. He explained that they are tentative as the State has yet to confirm.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the State is discussing a “testing to stay” protocol for potential COVID cases. Additionally, new quarantine requirements from the State were issued late last week.

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 2021** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **November 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 November 17, 2021 through December 21, 2021 current expense bill list for check numbers 20038 to 20073 totaling \$705,692.31.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$13,333.57 as presented for the period November 17, 2021 through December 21, 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. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen said that the December concerts were outstanding. He commended the staff for going above and beyond on a day to day basis as well as with the concerts.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the PTO sponsored "Santa's Workshop" was a tremendous success and thanked everyone who was a part of it.

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 Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the English Language Learner Three-Year Plan 2021-2024.

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Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.5**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To accept Stephanie Flynn’s letter of retirement effective June 30, 2022.
- 3.2** To approve Kristine McGrath to be a Jumpstart Instructor for the 2021-22 school year to be paid at the contractual hourly rate.
- 3.3** To approve Ashley Melick and Anthony Mesere as substitute teachers for the 2012-22 school year pending successful completion of required paperwork.
- 3.4** To approve Lynn Olah’s letter of resignation effective on or about January 7, 2022.
- 3.5** To accept Susan Petras’ letter of retirement effective June 30, 2022.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.3**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To accept a Pohatcong Township School student placed in the Alpha School’s autistic program for the 2021-22 school year, beginning November 29, 2021, at an annual tuition rate of \$30,000, prorated for time in attendance, to be paid to the Alpha School.
- 4.2** To approve the following building use requests:
 - i. PTO on 12/14/21 & 12/15/21 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm in the basement for the “Santa Shop”.
 - ii. NJ Department of Health on 1/10/22 through 1/14/22 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the cafeteria for a COVID vaccination clinic.
- 4.3** To approve the following fundraiser requests:
 - 8th Grade Class to sell drawstring bags during December to raise money for the class.
 - PTO to sell RADA Cutlery running for two weeks in November and December to raise money for the district.
 - PTO to sell Fozzys socks running for two weeks in November and December to raise money for the district.
 - PTO to host a “Shop with Scrip” event beginning on November 21st to raise money for the district

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X. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mantz said that the Board's reorganization meeting would be held on January 4, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

Ellen Moore told the Board that she has an autistic grandson that has been placed in a program in the Greenwich School District. She claimed that her grandson's IEP specifies that he should have a personal aide and, currently, he does not. Mr. Cohen he would contact her tomorrow to discuss.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Patrick Smith, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:24 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 60 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 Christopher McGee, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 8:23 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

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XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 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