

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Organization Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved January 18, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Secretary, Tim Mantz 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.

II. OPENING STATEMENTS

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

Tim Mantz 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.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Mr. Mantz administered the oath of office to the newly elected and appointed school board members and distributed the Code of Ethics.

ROLL CALL

Present

Travis Conway

Louis Hardy

Christopher McGee

Jennifer Pettinelli

Loretta Reed

Patrick Smith

Linda Sutch

Absent

Others Present

Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator

Tim Mantz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Robert Merryman, Board Attorney

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF ELECTION – November 2, 2021

The Board Secretary announced the results of the annual school election.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Organization Meeting Minutes-January 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
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Election for Membership to the Board of Education:

Three-year Terms 2022-2024

Travis Conway
Jennifer Pettinelli

One-year unexpired term (2022)

Linda Sutch

One-year appointment for three-year seat (2024)

Louis Hardy

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to accept the official Election Results as presented.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Mantz invited nominations from the floor for the office of School Board President.

Patrick Smith nominated Jennifer Pettinelli to serve as Board President.

In the absence of further nominations, Mr. Mantz declared the nominations closed.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Patrick Smith, to elect Jennifer Pettinelli President of the Alpha Board President

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Mantz invited nominations from the floor for the office of School Board Vice-President.

Christopher McGee nominated Patrick Smith to serve as Board Vice-President.

In the absence of further nominations, Mr. Mantz declared the nominations closed.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to elect Patrick Smith Vice-President of the Alpha Board President

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
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ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, that the regular meetings of the Alpha Board of Education, will be held on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00pm, in the Alpha Public School as follows:

January 18, 2022	May 17, 2022	September 20, 2022
February 15, 2022	June 21, 2022	October 18, 2022
March 15, 2022	July 19, 2022	November 15, 2022
April 19, 2022	August 16, 2022	December 20, 2022

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, that the public work session meetings of the Alpha Board of Education, will be held on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00pm, in the Alpha Public School as follows:

February 1, 2022	June 7, 2022	October 4, 2022
March 1, 2022	July 5, 2022	November 1, 2022
April 5, 2022	August 2, 2022	December 6, 2022
May 3, 2022	September 6, 2022	

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To hire Bethany Ascolese as a school secretary for the 2021-22 school year, beginning on 1/10/22, at an annual salary of \$35,000, prorated for time worked.
- 3.2** To hire Alaine Apgar as a full-time aide for the 2021-22 school year, beginning on 1/20/22, at an annual salary of \$24,500, prorated for time worked.
- 3.3** To hire Mike O'Krepka as a part-time aide for the 2021-22 school year, beginning on 1/5/22, at an annual salary of \$14,790, prorated for time worked.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Organization Meeting Minutes-January 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
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3.4 To hire Donna Gyorfi as a part-time aide for the 2021-22 school year, beginning on 1/6/22, at an annual salary of \$14,790, prorated for time worked.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4.1 To approve the following building use requests:

- Pohatcong Wrestling on 1/27/22, 2/3/2022 & 2/10/22 after school in the gym for meets.
- DocGo on 1/20/22 & 2/10/22 to conduct a COVID clinic.

IV. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Cohen provided an update regarding the in-district COVID status. While the administration and staff have done their best to cover classes and be flexible schedule wise, the numbers of those affected have gotten too significant. As a result, Mr. Cohen suggested the school switch to a virtual learning platform for Thursday, Friday and Monday. This proposal was submitted to and approved by the County. The Board discussed and agreed.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the County would like to initiate a pilot “test to stay” program within school districts interested. He didn’t believe that this would currently be in Alpha’s best interest and provided his rationale. The Board agreed.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, 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:

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Organization Meeting Minutes-January 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
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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.

VII. RECONVENE

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 8:14 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. on a motion by Christopher McGee, seconded by Loretta Reed.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary