

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved February 15, 2022

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Jennifer Pettinelli called the meeting to order at 7:01 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
Christopher McGee
Linda Sutch

Absent

Loretta Reed arrived at 7 :29 pm

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

School Nurse Laura Griffiths presented a CDC & DOH COVID quarantine guideline update.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Linda Sutch, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Linda Sutch, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2022 reorganization meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2022 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

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

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reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of **December 2021** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **December 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.

VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the December 22, 2021 through January 18, 2022 current expense bill list for check numbers 20074 to 20105 totaling \$576,312.28.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$18,000 as presented for the period December 22, 2021 through January 18, 2022 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 provided background for motion 1.2 and reviewed the decision making process for delayed openings and snow days.

Mr. Cohen stated that the vaccination clinic would be held Thursday.

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 items **1.1** through **1.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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- 1.1** Be it resolved that the Alpha Board of Education approves the filing of a waiver to exempt the Alpha School District's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) due to the fact that the district projects an enrollment of less than 40 Medicaid eligible students.
- 1.2** To approve the NJ DOE School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

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 approve a joint transportation agreement with the Warren County Special Services School District for the 2022-2023 school year with an Administrative Fee of 4%.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To hire Melissa Pecchia as a full-time aide for the 2021-22 school year, beginning on 1/18/22, at an annual salary of \$24,500, 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** through **4.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve the following fundraiser requests:
 - Student Council to raise money for the playground.
- 4.2** To approve the following building use requests:
 - i. NJHS on 2/24/22 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm in the gym and cafeteria for the NJHS induction ceremony and reception.

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X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

Ellen Moore asked if any decisions have been made regarding the child study team for the 2022-23 school year. Mr. Cohen said administration is working on it.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Travis Conway, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:25 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 9:29 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 9:30 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