

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved May 5, 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
Louis Hardy
Christopher McGee
Linda Sutch

Absent

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.

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II. PRESENTATION

None

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Linda Sutch, to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 executive session.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the Pohatcong Township School would not be able to provide CST services for the 2022-2023 school year. He will reach out to surrounding districts as well as WCSSSD to fill those rolls.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, 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 **February 2022** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **February 28, 2022**, 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 Snith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the February 16, 2022 through March 22, 2022 current expense bill list for check numbers 20156 to 20196 totaling \$843,558.91.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$235,923.52 as presented for the period February 16, 2022 through March 22, 2022 noting that Commissioner approval was not required as the year

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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 Christopher McGee, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:08 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.

X. RECONVENE

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 8:06 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

XI. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen reviewed said that there was one unfounded HIB report for the month

Mr. Cohen told the Board that he has received positive feedback regarding the Grandparent Day format.

Mr. Cohen stated that he would be hosting a LGBTQ curriculum review Thursday evening.

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Mr. Cohen told the Board that the district plans to run an in-house PreK program for 2022-23.

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 Christopher McGee, seconded by Linda Sutch, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

- P 2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing or Treatment
- P 2431.4 Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries
- P 2451 Adult High School
- P 2622 Student Assessment
- P 3233 Political Activities
- P 5460 High School Graduation
- P 5541 Anti-Hazing
- P 7540 Joint Use of Facilities
- P 8465 Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts
- P 9560 Administration of School Surveys

1.2 To approving submitting the School Security Grant application in the amount of \$20,000.

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2.1 To adopt the following resolution to approve the tentative 2022-23 school district budget:

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2022-2023 School Year using the 2022-2023 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

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	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$6,352,613	\$3,963,708
Special Revenue Fund	112,490	
Total Base Budget	\$6,465,103	\$3,963,708

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held on April 26, 2022 at the Alpha School for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2022-2023 School Year.

WHEREAS, the Alpha Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$15,000 for all staff and board members.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3.1 To approve Heather King as a substitute nurse for the 2021-22 school year.

3.2 To approve Laura Newman to provide School Psychologist/Supervisor of Special Education services from 6/15/22 through 6/15/23 at a total cost of \$23,500.

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Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Linda Sutch, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4.1 To approve a tuition contract for the identified student to attend the Franklin Township School District's preschool disabled class for the 2021-22 school year, beginning on 1/19/22, at a total tuition and extraordinary service cost of \$6,727.92.

4.2 To approve the following building use requests:

- i. Alpha School on 4/8/22 through 4/13/22 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on 4/12/22 in the gym for the Scholastic Book Fair.
- ii. APS Spring Musical on Mondays & Thursdays from 3/17/22 through 4/11/22 from 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm in the gym, on 4/25/22 and 4/26/22 from 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm, on 4/27/22 from 2:45 pm to 4:30 pm and on 4/28/22 at 7:00 pm in the gym for the Spring Musial rehearsals and show.

4.3 To approve the following fundraiser requests:

- PTO to sell Getrude Hawk products.

4.4 To approve allowing students with identification numbers 238766 & 348601 to finish the 2021-22 school year in lieu of their families moving out of the district.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Now that Board meetings are being held in-person, Jennifer Pettinelli asked the Board's opinion regarding no longer zooming the meetings. The Board agreed that it was no longer necessary.

As a result, the following motion was offered:

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve ending the zoom option for in-person Board meetings effective 3/23/22.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Travis Conway asked why there have been last minute changes to the lunch menu. Mr. Cohen said that supply chain issues have, at times, predicated that the original lunch option be changed.

Christopher McGee commented that the school pictures this year were of poor quality and overpriced.

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XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Shannon Slack stated that she was a 6th grade parent and was concerned with the safety and academic disruptions in the class. She said that she didn't believe that the issues are being properly addressed and wanted to know if additional safety measures will be implemented.

Lisa Rockafellow asked if the public would be able to attend the LGBTQ curriculum review on Thursday. Mr. Cohen said that the public was welcome.

Ellen Moore asked if the PreK program Alpha plans to run in 2022-23 would include special education students. Mr. Cohen said that it would.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT-

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 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