

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved October 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
Louis Hardy
Loretta Reed
Linda Sutch

Absent

Travis Conway
Christopher McGee

Others Present

Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator

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 Linda Sutch, to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2022 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Linda Sutch, to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2022 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Linda Sutch, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Linda Sutch, to approve the minutes of the September 6, 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 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 **August 2022** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **August 31, 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.

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VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the August 17, 2022 through September 20, 2022 current expense bill list for check numbers 20391 to 20442 totaling \$329,502.01.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen shared that school picture day will be on Friday, October 7. BOE members are asked to stop by to have their picture taken for the yearbook. Mr. Cohen shared that the remote learning plan will be put into effect after 3 emergency days are used. Mr. Cohen reported that Covid cases have gone down among student and staff absences. Mr. Cohen also reported that we do not have enough Chromebooks for Kindergarten, as he is still waiting for shipments and repairs/replacements to arrive. Mr. Cohen also reported that there have been 2 HIB reports. After initial review both were closed as there was not enough evidence to support a full investigation. Notification letters were sent. The phone system will be updated the week of October 2. Mr. Cohen will be meeting with apps for reporting HIB anonymously.

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 Loretta Reed, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the first reading of the revised policy & regulation 7510 "Use of School Facilities".

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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well as a personal aide at an annual rate of \$32,206 for a total cost of \$65,394.

- 4.6** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Phillipsburg School District’s learning language disabilities program for the 2022-23 school year at an annual tuition rate of \$20,424 per student.
- 4.7** To approve a 2022-23 tuition contract with the Warren County Technical School District for 22 students at an annual tuition rate of \$4,827 per student, plus prior year adjustments in the amount of (\$46,345) for a total of \$59,849.
- 4.8** To approve the identified students to be home schooled for the 2022-23 school year.
- 4.9** To approve Kim Gilles to attend the “Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying” Training Program on 9/28/22 in Toms River, NJ. Cost is \$145 registration fee and mileage.
- 4.10** To approve Patricia Cote to attend the NJASL 2022 Conference on 12/5/22 & 12/6/22 in Atlantic City, NJ. Cost is \$250 registration, \$127 professional development sessions, lodging, M&IE and mileage.
- 4.11** To approve the District’s 2022-2023 Virtual/Remote Instruction Plan.
- 4.12** To approve the following fundraiser requests:
- Grades 5-8 band & choir to sell food between 9/23/22 – 10/7/22 to raise money for “Music in the Parks” trip.
- 4.13** To approve the following field trips:
- Grades 5-8 band 7 choir to Alpha, NJ on 12/2/22.
 - Grades 5-8 band & choir to Allentown, PA on 5/5/23.
 - Grades 5-8 band & choir to Phillipsburg, NJ on 3/10/23.
 - Grades 5-8 band & choir to Alpha, NJ on 5/21/23.
 - Kindergarten to Alpha, NJ on 10/13/22.
 - Kindergarten to Asbury, NJ on 10/20/22
- 4.14** To approve the following building use requests:
- i. PTO on 8/24/22 on the playground for a popsicle social after kindergarten orientation.
 - ii. PTO for second Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria for PTO meetings.
 - iii. APS music department on the week of 11/14/22 during periods 8 & 9 in the cafeteria for Ashley Farms fundraiser.
 - iv. APS music department on 12/8/22 during periods 7 through 9 for dress rehearsal and from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the gym for the K-4 Winter Concert.
 - v. APS music department on 12/21/22 during periods 7 through 9 for dress rehearsal and from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the gym for the grades 5-8 band and choir Winter Concert.
 - vi. APS music department on 3/23/23 during periods 7 through 9 for dress rehearsal in the gym and 3/24/23 in the gym for the K-4 Spring Concert.
 - vii. APS music department on 4/26/23 during periods 7 through 9 for dress rehearsal and from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the gym and in the gym for the grades 5-8 band and choir concert.

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- viii. AYAA on 10/17/22, 10/18/22 and 10/20/22 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym for basketball.
- ix. NJHS on 10/19/22 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the gym for the induction ceremony.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

Kevin Fenlon questioned substitute coverage in the building and asked what the requirements were to be a substitute. Mr. Cohen answered his questions. Mr. Fenlon also asked what the alternative activity will be for the students who opt-out of health. He also asked what the health curriculum covers. Mr. Cohen answered that an alternate activity has not been decided yet, the opt-out curriculum would not be covered until the end of 3rd or 4th marking period. Mr. Cohen will reach other to Mr. Fenlon with more information on the curriculum.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Linda Sutch, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:26 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.

XIII. RECONVENE

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Loretta Reed, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:52 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 7:53 p.m. on a motion by Loretta Reed, seconded by Linda Sutch.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Pettinelli
Board President