

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – July 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved August 22, 2023

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Patrick Smith 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:

Patrick Smith 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, Patrick Smith
Travis Conway
Louis Hardy
Carl Johnson

Absent

Vice-President, Christopher McGee
Jennifer Pettinelli
Loretta Reed

Others Present

Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator
Tim Mantz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

President, Patrick Smith 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

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

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Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Louis Hardy, to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Louis Hardy, to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 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 Louis Hardy, 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 **June 2023** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **June 30, 2023**, 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 Travis Conway, seconded by Louis Hardy, to approve the June 21, 2023 through June 30, 2023 current expense bill list for check numbers 20857 to 20876 totaling \$46,884.66.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the July 1, 2023 through July 18, 2023 current expense bill list for check numbers 20877 to 20910 totaling \$204,731.25.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$29,894.71 as presented for the period June 21, 2023 through June 30, 2023 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 the gym had a little water damage from the weekend storms.

Mr. Cohen reviewed the new State law regarding the allowable uses of sick time and the potential issues it could bring.

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 Travis Conway, seconded by Carl Johnson, 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 submission and acceptance of the application for "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (IDEA) fiscal year 2024 in the following amounts:

Basic:	\$ 66,449
Preschool:	\$ 1,863
Total Allocation:	\$ 68,312

1.2 To approve the following motion:

WHEREAS, the **Alpha Board of Education**, hereafter referred to as "**Educational Facility**" is a member of the School Alliance Insurance Fund, hereinafter referred to as "**Fund**"; and

WHEREAS, said renewal membership terminates as of July 1, 2023 at 12:01 a.m. standard time, unless earlier renewed by agreement between the **Educational Facility** and the **Fund**; and

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WHEREAS, the **Educational Facility** is afforded the following types of coverages:

- Workers' Compensation
- Supplemental Indemnity - Workers' Compensation
- Package - Property, Boiler & Machinery, General and Auto Liability, Environmental Impairment Liability, Cyber Liability, Crime
- Excess Liability (AL/GL)
- School Leaders Professional Liability
- Excess Liability (SLPL)

WHEREAS, the **Educational Facility** desires to renew said membership; **NOW**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The **Educational Facility** agrees to renew its membership in the **Fund** for a period of three years beginning July 1, 2023, and ending July 1, 2026 at 12:01 a.m. eastern standard time, and to be subject to the coverages, operating procedures, bylaws, and other organizational and operational documents of the **Fund** presently existing or as from time to time amended by the **Fund** and/or the Department of Banking and Insurance.
2. The Educational Facility's Business Official, Tim Mantz, is hereby appointed as the Educational Facility's Fund Commissioner and is authorized to execute the renewal Indemnity and Trust Agreement thereby evidencing annexed hereto and made a part hereof and to deliver same to the Fund the Educational Facility's renewal of its membership

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 2.1** To approve a contract with the St. Luke's Warren Physician Group, P.C. to provide school physician services for the 2023-24 school year at an annual cost of \$2,500.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.6**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve Emily Eick to provide speech-language pathologist services for the 2023-24 school year at an hourly rate of \$75 and \$400 per evaluation.
- 3.2** To approve Kiersten Steidle to provide occupation therapy services for the 2023-24 school year at an hourly rate of \$85.

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- 3.3** To approve Avalon Therapy, LLC to provide physical therapy services for the 2023-24 school year at an hourly rate of \$95.
- 3.4** To approve Susan Pensack to provide child study team services for the 2023-24 school year at an hourly rate of \$70 and \$475 per completed evaluation and report.
- 3.5** To hire Bryce Parenti as a gym teacher for the 2023-24 school year at step E, BA+15.
- 3.6** To approve Laura Newman to provide School Psychologist/Supervisor of Special Education services for eight hours a week for the 2023-24 school year at a total cost of \$24,500 with additional approved hours billed at \$75/hour.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Cambridge School for the 2023-24 school year at an annual tuition of \$56,490 per student.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Cambridge School for the 2023-24 school year at an annual tuition of \$59,740 per student.
- 4.3** To approve student ID 5721755299 and an additional identified student to be home schooled for the 2023-24 school year.
- 4.4** To approve the District's 2023-24 Virtual/Remote Instruction Plan.

The Board conducted a public hearing on the revision of the Superintendent's contract. Once concluded, the following motion was offered:

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Alpha Board of Education and the Chief School Administrator Seth Cohen are parties to an employment agreement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of that agreement the Board of Education pays toward the cost of a program for the CSA to earn a Doctorate in Education; and

WHEREAS, the parties seek to amend the employment agreement to match the costs for that program given the length of time anticipated for completion of the program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- 1. The Alpha Board of Education approves the Addendum to the Chief School Administrator employment agreement with respect to Section 8 Professional Growth subject to approval by the Executive County Superintendent.
- 2. The Board President is hereby authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf on the Board of Education.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

Dave Mancinelli asked if there were any policy changes regarding requesting the use of school facilities. Mr. Cohen said that there was not.

Dave Santowasso asked if the Board would be reimbursing him up to \$300 for the basketball rim replacement. The Board confirmed that was correct. He said it seemed odd to him that the Board would use his tax dollars to reimburse him for something he already paid for once.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Travis Conway, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:23 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 20 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 Travis Conway, seconded by Carl Johnson, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:43 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 7:44 p.m. on a motion by Travis Conway, seconded by Louis Hardy.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary