

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved September 19, 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
Vice-President, Christopher McGee
Travis Conway
Louis Hardy
Carl Johnson

Absent

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

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III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2023 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Louis Hardy, to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2023 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Louis Hardy, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2023 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2023 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Carl Johnson, 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 **July 2023** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **July 31, 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 Christopher McGee, to approve the July 19, 2023 through August 22, 2023 current expense bill list for check numbers 20911 to 20952 totaling \$188,454.71.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen reported that the asbestos abatement is expected to be done Friday allowing building access on the 28th. Should an extra day be warranted, the first teacher day would be remote. Once the abatement is completed, it will take a month for the new gym floor to be installed.

Mr. Cohen thanked the town council for allowing him and the secretaries to utilize municipal office space to conduct school business.

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.

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Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the second reading and adoption of the following policies and regulations:

P&R 1642.01	Sick Leave
P&R 2419	School Threat Assessment Teams

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2.1 To approve a contract with Hannon Floors to perform the gym abatement at a cost of \$76,554.50 per 18A:18A-7, the Emergency Provision of the Public School Contracts Law, to remediate the damage.

2.2 To approve a Shared Services Agreement with the Greenwich Township Board of Education for the purposes of sharing a Speech Therapist for the 2023-2024 school year whereas the Alpha Board of Education will reimburse the Greenwich Township Board of Education an amount not to exceed \$30,787 of the total cost of the overall pay and benefit package of the Speech Therapist provided.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.11**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3.1 To approve Sarah Payne to perform summer IT work, not to exceed 32 hours, to be paid at the contractual hourly rate.

3.2 To approve Carissa Roe's resignation effective immediately.

3.3 To approve Carissa Roe as a substitute teacher for the 2023-24 school year.

3.4 To approve Janice Fantuzzi to provide home instruction services for the 2023-24 school year, on an as needed basis, at an hourly rate of \$40.

3.5 To approve Devon Scheier's letter of resignation effective immediately.

3.6 To approve Kelley Welch's letter of resignation effective immediately.

3.7 To approve Melissa Pecchia's letter of resignation effective immediately.

3.8 To hire Rachel Greenwood as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year at an annual salary of \$15,338 pending criminal history check and approval of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6.

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- 3.9** To hire Paige Pursell as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year at an annual salary of \$15,338 pending criminal history check and approval of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6.
- 3.10** To hire Patricia Emanuele as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year at an annual salary of \$15,338 pending criminal history check and approval of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6.
- 3.11** To approve Kiersten Steidle to provide occupational therapy services for the 2023-24 school year at an hourly rate of \$85.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Louis Hardy, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.12**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Warren Glen Academy for the 2023-24 school year at an annual tuition of \$56,566.80 per student.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Hunterdon County Vocational School District's automotive technology program for the 2023-24 school year at an annual tuition cost of \$8,263.
- 4.3** To approve the district's non-teaching principal waiver for the 2023-24 school year.
- 4.4** To approve the revised 2023-24 school year calendar as presented.
- 4.5** To approve an unregistered student living in Alpha to be home schooled for the 2023-24 school year.
- 4.6** To approve the Nursing Services Plan.
- 4.7** To approve the 2023-2024 tuition contract with the Phillipsburg School District for 89 students at an annual tuition rate of \$15,750 per student, plus prior year adjustments in the amount of (\$73,488) for a total of \$1,328,262.
- 4.8** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Phillipsburg School District's multiple disabilities program for the 2023-24 school year at a total tuition of \$24,390 as well as a personal aide at an annual rate of 49,199 for a total cost of \$73,589.
- 4.9** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Phillipsburg School District's multiple disabilities program for the 2023-24 school year at an annual tuition of \$24,390 per student.
- 4.10** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Phillipsburg School District's learning language disabilities program for the 2023-24 school year at an annual tuition of \$21,034 per student.
- 4.11** To approve an ESS personal aide contract with the Phillipsburg School District for the 2023-24 school year at annual cost of \$34,020.
- 4.12** To approve the following building use requests:
 - i. AYAA on Mondays through Thursdays from 10/16/23 through 12/14/23 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym for practices and games.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

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XI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:18 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 Christopher McGee, seconded by Carl Johnson, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:29 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary