

**Alpha Borough Public School Board of Education**  
**SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING**

**September 5, 2023 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  
Carl Johnson  
Jennifer Pettinelli

Absent

Louis Hardy  
Loretta Reed

Others Present

Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

**II. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD – None**

**III. PRESENTATION – None**

**IV. OLD BUSINESS – Mr. Cohen discussed re-registration.**

**V. PUBLIC INPUT**

Gwen Kark stated that she was concerned that the grass on the school field was not cut.

Megan Dragotta commented she was concerned with the lack of fanfare on the first day of school.

Laura Schmidt asked why specific class splits were made.

Ernie Kaminski said that he felt that the comments made on Facebook regarding the fields, administration and the building & grounds staff were inappropriate.

## **VI. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS – Chief School Administrator, Seth Cohen**

- **OPERATIONS** – Mr. Cohen provided the status of the grass fields and reviewed the options for a SRO as part of the new Alpha Municipality Police contract. The Board discussed and would prefer a full time SRO.
- **PERSONNEL** – Mr. Cohen said that the school was experiencing an aide shortage. To date, four new aides have been hired and three are still needed.
- **POLICY** – Mr. Cohen provided a sick time policy update.
- **FACILITIES** – Mr. Cohen told the Board that the wood for the new gym floor would be delivered on 9/12 and the floor should be completed the first week in October.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS** – None

## **VIII. PUBLIC INPUT** – None

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:52 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.

**X. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Carl Johnson, seconded by Travis Conway, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 8:05 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Carl Johnson, to adjourn at 8:06 PM

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Smith  
Board President