

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved October 17, 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
Jennifer Pettinelli

Absent

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 Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen said that there was one family left to complete reregistration. If it is found that any students no longer reside in the district, the Board is unable to remove the student without a hearing.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Carl Johnson, 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 **August 2023** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **August 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.

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VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the August 23, 2023 through September 19, 2023 current expense bill list for check numbers 20953 to 20993 totaling \$483,025.94

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$184,024.75 as presented for the period August 23, 2023 through September 19, 2023 noting that Commissioner approval was required and requested as the year to date transfers on a cumulative basis do 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 reported that the gym floor was in the process of being installed and should be completed the first week in October.

Mr. Cohen said he was working on a High Impact Tutoring Grant being offered by the state and gave the background as to how the money would be used should Alpha receive funding.

Mr. Cohen said that he would be meeting with JCP&L on 10/17 to review the energy audit and assessment.

Mr. Cohen also told the Board the Back To School Night would be Thursday was scheduled for Thursday, Debbie Diller would be in district on Friday to work with the teaching staff and there was an invasive species of bush along the fence line that the district is looking for an outside vendor to remove.

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: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

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

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Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 2.1** To approve a contract with Hannon Floors to perform the gym floor replacement at a cost of \$136,880 per 18A:18A-7, the Emergency Provision of the Public School Contracts Law, to remediate the damage.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.8**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve Kate Von Uchtrup’s letter of resignation effective 8/24/23.
3.2 To approve GRK & Associates to provide BCBA consultation services for the 2023-24 school year at an hourly rate of \$105 and LBS services at an hourly rate of \$80.
3.3 To hire Sharon Sweazey as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year, beginning on September 5, 2023, at an annual salary of \$15,338 pending criminal history check and approval of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6.
3.4 To approve Holly Thomas as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year, beginning Septebmer 18, 2023, at an annual salary of \$15,388, prorated for time worked, pending criminal history check and approval of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6.
3.5 To approve supplementing approximately 84% of the 2023-24 base salaries of Bernard Brotzman, Camie Colucci, Jodie Frankle, Susan Lawson and Paige Pursell with ESEA Title I funds.
3.6 To approve Samantha Davis, Ernie Kaminski and Jennifer Truby as Jump Start advisors for the 2023-24 school year to be paid at the contractual hourly rate.

- 3.7** To approve the following stipend positions to be paid at the contractual amount:

8 th Grade Advisor (split)	Diane Laustsen Megan Mason
Drama Club (split)	Diane Laustsen Patricia Cote
Dance Club	Diane Laustsen
Safety Patrol	Diane Laustsen
Spring Musical (split)	Diane Laustsen Patricia Cote
Set Designers (split)	Diane Laustsen Patricia Cote
ESL Coordinator	Pamela Cutarelli
Yearbooks (split)	Kristine McGrath Sarah Payne
NJHS Advisor	Jennifer Truby
Student Council	Sarah Payne
Detention Coordinator	Samantha Davis

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3.8 To approve Megan Mason as mentor to Bryce Parenti.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, 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 identified students with the SID ID's 9188767820 & 2705449031 to be home schooled for the 2023-24 school year.

4.2 To approve the attendance of staff members at the following conferences:

- Elizabeth Farnsworth to attend the IXL Live seminar on 10/5/23 in Bridgewater, NJ. Cost is \$95 registration and mileage.

4.3 To approve the following building use requests:

- i. APS Music Department on 12/7/23 for periods 7-9 and from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the gym for the K-4 Winter Concert.
- ii. APS Music Department on 12/20/23 for periods 7-8 and then beginning at 7:00 pm in the gym for the 5-8 Band & Choir Winter Concert.
- iii. APS Music Department on 4/11/24 for periods 7-9 in the gym for the K-4 Spring Concert.
- iv. APS Music Department on 5/2/24 for periods 7-9 and then beginning at 7:00 pm in the gym for the 5-8 Band & Choir Spring Concert.

4.4 To approve the following field trips:

- Grades 5-8 Band & Choir to Dorney Park in Allentown, PA on 5/17/24.
- 2nd grade to the Planetarium at RVCC in Somerville, NJ on 5/10/24.
- 3rd grade to the DaVinci Science Center in Allentown, PA on 3/22/24

X. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen discussed the gym floor design layout with the Board and asked for their input.

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Christopher McGee, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:21 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.

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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 7:39 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 7:40 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