

# ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.  
Approved November 28, 2023

## I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

### CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-President, Christopher McGee 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:

Christopher McGee 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

Vice-President, Christopher McGee  
Travis Conway  
Louis Hardy  
Carl Johnson  
Jennifer Pettinelli

#### Absent

President, Patrick Smith  
Loretta Reed

#### Others Present

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

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

Vice-President, Christopher McGee 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 Jennifer Pettinelli, to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli, to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

None

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Cohen said the gym floor will be completed and ready for use on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be a grand re-opening with the AYAA and PTO participating.

**VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli, 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 **September 2023** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **September 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 Jennifer Pettinelli, to approve the September 20, 2023 through October 17, 2023 current expense bill list for check numbers 20994 to 21041 totaling \$560,776.25.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**VIII. PUBLIC INPUT**

Kevin Fenlon had questions regarding to policy and regulations 2270 & 2419. Mr. Cohen said he would email the appropriate information to him.

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Robert Niemeyer asked about policy and regulations 2270 & 3324. Mr. Cohen said he would email the appropriate information to him.

**IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Cohen reported there was unfounded HIB for the year and that one 8<sup>th</sup> grade had been suspended for hate speech.

Mr. Cohen told the Board he participated in “Community Day” this previous Saturday.

**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 Carl Johnson, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**1.1** To approve the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP).

**1.2** To approve the Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1).

**1.3** To approve the QSAC DPR’s.

**1.4** To approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| P 1524        | School Leadership Councils (Abolished)                  |
| P & R 1642.01 | Sick Leave (New)  |
| P 2270        | Religion in the Schools (Revised)                       |
| P & R 2419    | School Threat Assessment Teams (M) (New)                |
| P 3161        | Examination for Cause (Revised)                         |
| P & R 3212    | Attendance (M) (Revised)                                |
| P 3324        | Right of Privacy (Revised)                              |
| P & R 3432    | Sick Leave (Abolished)                                  |
| P 4161        | Examination for Cause (Revised)                         |
| P & R 4212    | Attendance (M) (Revised)                                |
| P 4324        | Right of Privacy (Revised)                              |
| P & R 4432    | Sick Leave (Abolished)                                  |
| P & R 5111    | Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (Revised)  |
| P & R 5116    | Education of Homeless Children and Youths (Revised)     |
| P & R 5460.02 | Bridge Year Pilot Program (M) (Abolished)               |
| P 6361        | Relations With Vendors for Abbott Districts (Abolished) |
| P 8500        | Food Services (M) (Revised)                             |
| P 8540        | School Nutrition Programs (M) (Abolished)               |
| P 8550        | Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill (Abolished)  |

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**Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Carl Johnson, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.3**.

Motion carried by roll call vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Christopher McGee abstaining from motion 3.1

- 3.1** To approve a substitute teacher teacher/aide rate of \$150/day for the 2023-24 school year beginning on 10/18/23.
- 3.2** To approve hiring Joan Cioffi as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year, beginning on October 2, 2023, at an annual salary of \$15,388, prorated for time worked.
- 3.3** To approve a \$2,500 stipend for Melissa Yale as acting CST secretary for the 2022-23 school year.

**Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.6**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve the 2023-24 tuition contract with the Warren County Technical School District for 23 students at an annual tuition rate of \$5,315 per student, plus a prior year adjustment of (\$51,513), for a total of \$70,732.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the three identified students in the Phillipsburg School District's ESY'23 program at a cost of \$135.50/day per student and a personal aide cost of \$1,543.04 for a total cost of \$7,911.54.
- 4.3** To approve the attendance of staff members at the following conferences:
  - Lorraine Veal to attend the 2023 AENJ Fall Conference on 10/30/23 & 10/30/23 in New Brunswick, NJ. Cost is \$200 registration and mileage.
- 4.4** To approve the following building use requests:
  - i. Dance Club from 9/25/23 through 3/13/24 per the attached schedule in the library & gym for the Dance Show.
  - ii. Drama Club from 9/28/23 through 11/30/23 per the attached schedule in the library & gym for the Student Showcase.
  - iii. APS from 11/20/23 through 11/22/23 from 8:15 am to 12:30 pm and on 11/20/23 & 11/21/23 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in room 5 for the Scholastic Book Fair.
  - iv. Little Liners Cheerleading on 10/26/23, 11/1/23, 11/6/23 and 11/7/23 from 5:00 pm to 7:00pm in the cafeteria for cheer practice.
  - v. PTO on 9/21/23 from 12:35 pm to 1:15 pm outside the gym lobby doors for an ice cream social fundraiser.
  - vi. PTO on 10/11/23 beginning at 5:45 pm in the cafeteria for a room parent meeting.

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- vii. PTO on 10/11/23, 11/15/23, 12/6/23, 1/10/24, 2/7/24, 3/13/24, 4/10/24 and 5/8/24 in the art room for PTO meetings.
- viii. PTO on 10/27/23 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the gym and cafeteria for a Halloween Dance.
- ix. PTO on 12/8/23 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the gym and cafeteria for a “Parent’s Nite Out” playground fundraiser.

**4.5** To approve the following field trips:

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Planetarium at RVCC in Branchburg, NJ on 5/16/24.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade to the Sterling Hills Mining Museum in Ogdensburg, NJ on 5/24/24.

**4.6** To approve the following fundraiser requests:

- PTO to conduct a Fall Décor Bundle fundraiser from 10/2/23 through 10/13/23 to raise money for the PTO general fund.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to sell light up toys and toy ducks at Fall Festival on 10/14/23 to raise money for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Cohen said that he would be out of the building Wednesday through Monday and reviewed who would be covering the building.

**XI. PUBLIC INPUT**

Robert Niemeyer asked how the district was implementing policy 5756 regarding transgender students and identification and, if they were implanting the policy, that they rescind it. Mr. Cohen the district has not implanted the policy yet.

Mr. Niemeyer asked how the LGBTQ curriculum was being taught and asked that the students should have the ability to “opt in” to that curriculum as an elective rather than a mandate.

Kevin Fenlon said that he recalled a form being sent home with students previously allowing students to “opt out” of the LGBTQ curriculum. He continued that the curriculum for the students that opted out of the LGBTQ curriculum was never discussed and was left up the gym teacher to create. He asked for a copy of the opt out curriculum. He asked if the district would incur any penalties should the district refuse to implement the LGBTQ curriculum.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Travis Conway, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:39 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.

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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 Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Travis Conway, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 8:06 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 8:07 p.m. on a motion by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Carl Johnson.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz  
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary