

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved January 2, 2024

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-President, Christopher McGee called the meeting to order at 7:08 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
Louis Hardy
Carl Johnson
Jennifer Pettinelli

Absent

President, Patrick Smith
Travis Conway
Loretta Reed

Others Present

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

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

Seth Cohen handed out the Honor Roll awards.

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III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Louis Hardy, to approve the minutes of the October 17, 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 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 **October 2023** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **October 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 Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the October 18, 2023 through November 28, 2023 current expense bill list for check numbers 21042 to 21105 totaling \$910,469.83.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Louis Hardy, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$74,433 as presented for the period October 18, 2023 through November 28, 2023 noting that Commissioner approval was not required 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 said that there will still be Board vacancies come January and encouraged those interested in being on the Board to file petitions in future years.

Mr. Cohen reviewed an incident in which a student shoved a teacher. The student has been suspended and a behavior plan put in place.

Mr. Cohen stated that Scholastic Scope recognized two Alpha students and published their work.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the Book Fair made \$1,800 in sales.

Mr. Cohen said that the district was still short aides. He would like to make one of the current part time aides full time until candidates could be found.

X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Aaron Curry gave his report.

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 Jennifer Pettinelli, 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 second reading and adoption 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) |

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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)

1.2 To approve revoking policy 5756 “Transgender Students”.

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Carl Johnson, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.3**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 2.1** To enter into a joint transportation agreement with the Pohatcong Township School District for the 2023-24 school year at a total annual cost of \$126,970.30.
- 2.2** To accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Auditor’s Management Report on Administrative Findings for the Year Ending June 30, 2023 and order that a copy be filed in the business office and with the New Jersey Department of Education.
- 2.3** To acknowledge that there were no audit recommendations under the following headings and to approve the corrective action plan.

Audit for Year Ending June 30, 2023

Schedule of findings of Non-Compliance None

Summary of Recommendations

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures	None
2. Financial Accounting and Reporting	None
3. School Purchasing Programs	None
4. School Food Service	None
5. Student Body Activities	None
6. Applications for State School Aid	None
7. Pupil Transportation	None
8. Facilities and Capital Assets	None

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| 9. Miscellaneous | None |
| 10. Follow-up on prior year findings | None |

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Carl Johnson, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve a revised contract with Melissa Yale as the Confidential and CST Secretary for the 2023-24 school year at an annual salary of \$55,710.
- 3.2** To accept Patricia Emanuele's letter of resignation effective 10/27/23.
- 3.3** To approve Therapeutic Intervention, Inc. to provide occupational therapy services for the 2023-24 school year at a rate of \$100/hr for school based therapy, \$115/hr for home based therapy and \$415 per evaluation.
- 3.4** To approve Pamela Cutarelli as a Jumpstart Instructor for the 2023-24 school year to be paid at the contractual hourly rate.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Louis Hardy, 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 placement of the the identified student in the Greenwich Township School District's special education program for the 2023-24 school year, beginning on November 13, 2023, at an annual tuition of \$31,000 prorated for time in attendance.
- 4.2** To approve a contract with the Greenwich Township School District to provide a personal aide for the identified student beginning November 13, 2023 through December 31, 2023 at a cost of \$500 per week.
- 4.3** To approve the school bus emergency evacuation drill conducted on 10/25/23.
- 4.4** To approve all of the existing curriculu for the 2023-24 school year.
- 4.5** To approve the following fundraiser requests:
 - PTO to conduct an Ornament DIY fundraiser from 11/6/23 through 11/13/23 to raise money for the PTO general fund.
 - Alpha PTO to conduct a winter catalog, wrapping paper, kitchen items, candy, etc fundraiser from 11/1/23 through 11/15/23 to raise money for the programs and playground fund.
 - 8th grade class to sell glow sticks, glasses and headbands on 10/27/23 to raise money for the 8th grade class.
- 4.6** To approve the following building use requests:
 - i. AYAA on Mondays through Thursdays from 12/18/23 through 2/15/24 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym for practices and games.

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- ii. AYAA on Saturdays from 12/2/23 through 2/3/24 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm schedule in the gym for games.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen asked the Board to consider hiring permanent substitute teachers in 2024-25. The position would pay a per diem rate and require that a person be available three to four days a week for the entire school year. If the Board ultimately agrees to this, the part time aide position salary might need to be adjusted going forward.

XII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Carl Johnson, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:30 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 45 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.

XIV. RECONVENE

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Louis Hardy, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 8:16 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

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XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. on a motion by Louis Hardy, seconded by Carl Johnson.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary