

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved February 20, 2024

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Patrick Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 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
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.

Louis Hardy submitted a letter of interest to fill one of the vacant Board of Education seats. After speaking the Mr. Hardy, the following motion was introduced:

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Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli, to appoint Louis Hardy to one of the vacant Board of Education seats.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Mantz swore in Louis Hardy.

Christopher McGee left the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

II. PRESENTATION

None.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024 reorganization and regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2022 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Carl Johnson submitted a letter of interest for the second open Board of Education seat. Mr. Johnson could not attend the meeting and will be interviewed at the February meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

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 **December 2023** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of **December 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 Jennifer Pettinelli, to approve the January 2, 2024 through January 16, 2024 current expense bill list for check numbers 21162 to 21194 totaling \$536,770.35.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen told the Board that a 7th grade student was suspended for three days due to a hate speech incident.

Mr. Cohen reviewed the initial QSAC visit from the County.

Mr. Cohen said that the district would operate on a delayed opening the next day.

X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None

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 Travis Conway, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli, to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1**.

2.1 To approve a joint transportation agreement with the Warren County Special Services School District for the 2024-2025 school year with an Administrative Fee of 4.5%.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.2**.

4.1 To approve the following fundraiser requests:

- 8th grade to conduct a Valentine's Day fundraiser from 2/1/24 through 2/12/24 to raise money for the class.

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4.2 To approve the following field trips:

- 5th – 8th grade choir to Songfest Phillipsburg, NJ on 3/8/24.
- 6th grade to the Statue of Liberty in Jersey City, NJ on 5/16/24.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Travis Conway, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:13 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 15 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 Travis Conway, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:23 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 7:24 p.m. on a motion by Travis Conway, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary