

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 19, 2024

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Patrick Smith called the meeting to order at 7:11 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

Louis Hardy

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

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

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 19, 2024

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli, to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Cohen stated that he received confidential communication from a parent that would be discussed in executive session.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen said that reached out to a vendor regarding providing the capability for the district to record and store all video footage for 31 days with no response. If he does not receive a response, he will seek other vendors.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Travis Conway, 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 **January 2024** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-16.10(c)3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **January 31, 2024**, 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-(c)4 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 Christopher McGee, to approve the January 17, 2024 through February 20, 2024 current expense bill list for check numbers 21195 to 21263 totaling \$603,104.62.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 19, 2024

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$31,901.10 as presented for the period January 17, 2024 through February 20, 2024 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 reported that there was one unfounded HIB investigation.

Mr. Cohen was pleased to announce that Alpha students recently placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd along with multiple honorable mentions in a Veteran's essay contest.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the district was having a problem with the heat in the gym. Administration was in the process of securing quotes to repair the issue.

Mr. Cohen said that the teachers spoke to the parents of the students in their classrooms to gauge how many had adequate internet access should the district need to have remote learning days. Internet access was not as widespread as originally thought therefore remote days would only be used as a last case scenario.

X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None

ACTION ITEMS: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator

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 Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 Be it resolved that the Alpha Board of Education approves the filing of a waiver to exempt the Alpha School District's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) due to the fact that the district projects an enrollment of less than 40 Medicaid eligible students.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 19, 2024

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.5**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To accept Joan Cioffi's letter resignation effective January 22, 2024.
- 3.2** To approve Julie Cleary as a substitute teacher for the 2023-24 school year.
- 3.3** To accept Barbara D'Aprile's letter of retirement effective June 30, 2024.
- 3.4** To accept Rachel Greenwood's letter of resignation effective February 15, 2024.
- 3.5** To hire Yetty Perez as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year, beginning on 2/15/24, for 2.5 hours a day at an hourly rate of \$15.13.

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 **4.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve the following fundraiser requests:
 - PTO to conduct a candy sale fundraiser from 2/1/24 through 2/25/24 to raise money for the general fund.
 - PTO to conduct a Valentine's Day lollipop fundraiser from 2/1/24 through 2/13/24 to raise money for the general fund.

- 4.2** To approve the following building use requests:
 - i. PTO on 2/23/24 from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym and cafeteria for a "Someone Special" dance.
 - ii. PTO Playground Committee on 3/23/24 from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm in the gym and cafeteria for a craft & vendor fair.

- 4.3** To approve the following field trips:
 - 5th-8th grade choir to Alpha Memorial Park in Alpha, NJ on 12/1/23.
 - 6th grade band to the Warren County 6th Grade All Star Band in Hackettstown, NJ on 2/28/24.
 - 5th-8th grade band & chorus to the Alpha Memorial Park in Alpha, NJ on 5/19/24
 - 8th grade to New York City in New York, NY on 5/22/24.

- 4.4** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Phillipsburg School District's emotional regulatory impairment program for the 2023-24 school year, beginning on January 10th, at a prorated tuition of \$17,252.58.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 19, 2024

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen and Mr. Mantz reviewed the preliminary FY25 budget.

XII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:25 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 7:33 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. on a motion by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Travis Conway.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary