

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved May 7, 2024

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Patrick Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 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

Absent

Jennifer Pettinelli
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-April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved May 7, 2024

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2024 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Louis Hardy, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2024 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Cohen said he received a letter regarding a confidential matter which will be discussed in executive session.

Patrick Smith said that the Board received a letter of interest from Brian Williams to fill the vacant Board seat.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen said he spoke with Cooper Alarm Systems regarding enhancing the district's recording capacity and reviewed the options that were provided.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Travis Conway, 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 **March 2024** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23-16.10(c)3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **March 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.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved May 7, 2024

VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the March 20, 2024 through April 16, 2024 current expense bill list for check numbers 21304 to 21342 totaling \$583,180.03.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$183,856 as presented for the period March 20, 2024 through April 16, 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

Lindsey Culcasi asked if the 6th grade field trip had been approved. Mr. Cohen said that he believes it had and the trip will take place.

Lindsey Culcasi asked when the public hearing on the budget was scheduled for. Mr. Cohen said it would be May 7th.

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen said that Parent/Grandparent Day went well and reviewed the day's events. He commented that the Spring Play would be tomorrow.

Mr. Cohen reported that a 3rd grader was given a half day out of school suspension for violent behavior in class.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that there will be numerous upcoming curricula revisions, special education teachers will be devising measurable standards and IEP's and a social emotional learning plan would all need to be done over the summer. As a result multiple teachers will be on future agendas to be approved for this work to be paid out of grant money.

X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved May 7, 2024

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: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2.1 To approve the Interlocal Services Agreement with the Pohatcong Township Board of Education for contracted School Business Administration Services for the 2024-25 school year at a fee of \$70,000.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Louis Hardy, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve Brittany Zrinski as a substitute nurse for the 2023-24 school year.
- 3.2** To approve Jessica Regazzini as a substitute teacher for the 2023-24 school year.
- 3.3** To approve Candy Enste as a substitute teacher for the 2023-24 school year.
- 3.4** To approve Ann Kaspereen as substitute teacher for the 2023-24 school year.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.5**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Warren Glen Academy for the 2024-25 school year at an annual tuition of \$67,987.50 per student.
- 4.2** To approve the bus evacuation drill conducted on April 10, 2024.
- 4.3** To approve the following fundraiser requests:
 - PTO to sell refreshments on Parent/Grandparents Day on 4/12/24 to raise money for the general fund.
 - PTO to sell popcorn from 4/2/24 through 4/16/24 to raise money for the general fund.
 - PTO to sell Rita's Discount Cards beginning on 4/12/24 to raise money for the general fund.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
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4.4 To approve the following building use requests:

- i. PTO on 4/12/24 beginning at 12:35 pm in the cafeteria for the Parent/Grandparent Social.
- ii. PTO on 3/22/24 from 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm in the cafeteria for an Eagle Escapades team meeting.
- iii. PTO on 4/4/24 and 4/11/24 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the gym and cafeteria for Eagle Escapades practice.

4.5 To approve the following field trips:

- 6th-8th grade safety patrol to Hershey Park in Hershey, PA on 5/29/24.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XII. PUBLIC INPUT

Lindsey Culcasi spoke to resources that could be useful for the district regarding professional development for the staff.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Louis Hardy, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:24 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.

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.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved May 7, 2024

XIV. RECONVENE

Motion made by Travis Conway, seconded by Louis Hardy, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:51 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 7:52 p.m. on a motion by Travis Conway, seconded by Christopher McGee.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary