

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved September 17, 2024

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Patrick Smith 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:

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
Loretta Reed
Brian Williams

Absent

Travis Conway
Louis Hardy
Jennifer Pettinelli

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

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III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024 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 Christopher McGee, seconded by Loretta Reed, approve the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of **July 2024** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **July 31, 2024**, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials no major account has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c4 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 Christopher McGee, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the July 17, 2024 through August 20, 2024 current expense bill list for check numbers 21499 to 21551 totaling \$193,546.19.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Lindsey Culcasi asked if proposed changes to policies/regulations are made available to the public before they are voted on. Mr. Cohen said he would get her the changes.

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IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Cohen provided a security camera project update telling the Board he was working on securing additional quotes for the work. He also has received a second quote for the necessary equipment needed to record BOE meetings that he will be reviewing with the vendor.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the fob system to enter the building failed today for which a service call has been scheduled for tomorrow.

Mr. Cohen reviewed staffing and said that the district needs to hire one additional aide.

Mr. Cohen referred to the motion approving curricula and said that a PD plan would be forthcoming.

Mr. Cohen provided surrounding district’s aide salaries for the Board’s reference.

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the second reading and adoption of the following policies and regulations:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| P 0141 | Board Member Number and Term |
| P 0141.1 | Board Member Number and Term-Sending District |
| P 1140 | Educational Equity Policies |
| P 1523 | Comprehensive Equity Plan |
| P 1530 | Equal Employment Opportunities |
| P 1550 | Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices |
| P 2200 | Curriculum Content |
| P 2260 | Equity in School and Classroom Practices |
| P 2411 | Guidance Counseling |
| P 2423 | Bilingual Education |
| R 2431.4 | Prevention & Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions & Head Injuries |
| P&R 3160 | Physical Examination |
| P 3211 | Code of Ethics |

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P&R 4160	Physical Examination
P&R 5200	Attendance
P 5337	Service Animals
P 5350	Student Suicide Prevention
P 5570	Sportsmanship
P 5750	Equitable Educational Opportunity
P 5841	Secret Societies
P 5842	Equal Access of Student Organizations
P 7610	Vandalism
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations
P 8467	Firearms & Weapons
P 9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches & Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assts
P 9323	Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 2.1** To approve Avalon Therapy, LLC to provide physical therapy services for the 2024-25 school year at an hourly rate of \$98.
- 2.2** To approve a professional services contract with Parette Somjen Architects to prepare a Capital Improvement Plan and LRFP Updates for a cost of \$12,500.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda item **3.1** through **3.5**.

Motion carried by roll call vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Christopher McGee abstaining from 3.3.

- 3.1** To approve Kimberly Waardal as a substitute teacher for the 2024-25 school year.
- 3.2** To hire Briana McAleer as a special education teacher for the 2024-25 school year at step E, BA.
- 3.3** To approve the job description for a part-time permanent substitute teacher position.
- 3.4** To approve a guide move for Laura Griffiths from Step E, BA+30 to Step E, MA+15 as she has completed the necessary coursework to prompt the horizontal move on the salary guide.
- 3.5** To offer employment to the listed Support Staff for the 2023-2024 school year:

<u>Aides</u>			
Brotzman, Bernard	PT Aide	10	\$16,000
Collucci, Camie	FT Aide	10	\$25,500

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Frankle, Jodi	FT Aide	10	\$25,500
Lawson, Susan	PT Aide	10	\$16,000
Perez, Yetty	PT Aide	10	\$15.74/hour
Pursell, Paige	PT Aide	10	\$16,000

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Loretta Reed, 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 2024-25 curricula.
- 4.2** To approve the 2024-25 tuition contract with the Warren County Technical School District for 22 students at an annual tuition rate of \$3,000 per student, plus a prior year adjustment of (\$17,157), for a total of \$48,843.
- 4.3** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Hunterdon County Vocational School District’s automotive technology program for the 2024-25 school year at an annual tuition cost of \$8,062.
- 4.4** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Greenwich Township School District’s special education program for the 2024-25 school year at an annual tuition rate of \$40,000 and a personal aide cost of \$35,000.
- 4.5** To approve the following building use requests:
 - i. AYAA on Mondays through Thursdays from 10/21/24 through 12/20/24 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym for practices and games.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XII. PUBLIC INPUT

Lindsay Culcasi asked what service Debbie Diller & Associates provided. Mr. Cohen clarified. She also inquired about the tuition contract with the Hunterdon County Vocational School and asked if the student would be attending that school rather than Phillipsburg. Mr. Cohen confirmed that was the case. She informed the board of suspicious activity occurring at a warehouse in town and asked if the students should be informed to ensure safety. Mr. Cohen said he will discuss with the school’s SRO regarding the best way to proceed.

Adrienne Broomes asked if they additional security cameras would be internal or external. Mr. Cohen said the cameras would be for both areas. She also asked about the sound system in the all-purpose room in which Mr. Cohen said that upgrades were on-going.

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XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Loretta Reed, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:35 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.

XIV. RECONVENE

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Loretta Reed, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:59 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 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Christopher McGee, seconded by Loretta Reed.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary