

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved November 19, 2024

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-President, Christopher McGee called the meeting to order at 7:02 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
Travis Conway
Jennifer Pettinelli
Brian Williams

Absent

President, Patrick Smith
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

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

None

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III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2024 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2024 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen said that the cameras were installed today and the installation comes with additional cloud storage. He said that the district is awaiting the tractor repair as well as for pricing for the sound system.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, approve the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of **September 2024** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **September 30, 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.

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VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Travis Conway, to approve the September 18, 2024 through October 15, 2024 current expense bill list for check numbers 21600 to 21656 totaling \$872,971.90.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Cohen reviewed two founded HIB incidents and the corresponding discipline.

Mr. Cohen said that the “Halloween Fall Festival” letter will be going out shortly.

Mr. Cohen referenced the HIB self- assessment on the agenda for approval and explained the update to the nursing services plan.

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 Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1** through **1.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP).

1.2 To approve the Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1).

1.3 To accept the NJSCA Educator Mini-Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for the “Igniting Creativity: Exploring Pyrography for Artistic Environment”.

1.4 To approve the HIB Self-Assessment.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda item **3.1** through **3.6**.

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Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve Ava Battle to perform 20 hours of observation hours in district on 10/17, 10/18, 10/22, 10/26 and 10/27.
- 3.2** To approve Jen Truby, Mary Richardson, Bruce Lampman-Perlman, Ernie Kaminski, Kristine McGrath and Brianna McAleer as Jumpstart instructors for the 2024-25 school year to be paid at the contractual rate.
- 3.3** To approve Caroline Kirk as a substitute teacher for the 2024-25 school year.
- 3.4** To approve Keri Sinoy as a substitute teacher for the 2024-25 school year pending certification.
- 3.5** To approve Jen Truby as a homebound instructor for the 2024-25 school year, on an as needed basis, to be paid at the contractual rate.
- 3.6** To approve Celine Rodriguez as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2024-25 school year, beginning on October 15th, at a salary of \$16,000 prorated for time worked.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Travis Conway, 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 Phillipsburg Scholl District's ESY'24 program at a tuition cost and personal aide cost of \$11,615.52.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Clinton Glen Gardner School District's MD special education program for the 2024-25 school year at a tuition cost of \$45,050 and a personal aide cost of \$47,895 for a total amount of \$92,945.
- 4.3** To approve the following building use requests:
 - i. PTO on 9/27/24 from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the gym, cafeteria and lobby for a "Back To School Fun Night".
 - ii. PTO on 3/14/25 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm and 3/15/25 from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm in the gym, cafeteria and lobby for the craft fair.
 - iii. PTO on 10/25/24 from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the gym, cafeteria and lobby for the Halloween Dance.
 - iv. APS on 11/25/24 – 11/27/24 from 8:15 am to 12:30 pm and 11/25/24 & 11/26/24 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the cafeteria for the Book Fair.
 - v. AYAA on Saturdays from 12/7/24 to 2/8/25 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm in the gym for games.
 - vi. AYAA on Monday through Thursday from 1/2/25 to 3/1/25 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym for practices and games.
- 4.4** To approve the following fundraiser requests:
 - 8th grade to have a blanket sale until October 21st year to raise money for the 8th grade class.
- 4.5** To approve the field trips as presented.

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XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XII. PUBLIC INPUT

Lindsay Culcasi said that she appreciates the homework club offered to the students. She also inquired about the field trip busing issued experienced last year and how to prevent. Mr. Cohen said that he had spoken to the WCSSSD about ways to avoid a reoccurrence.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:23 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 20 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 Brian Williams, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:32 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 7:33 p.m. on a motion by Travis Conway, seconded by Brian Williams.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary