

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved February 18, 2025

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Christopher McGee called the meeting to order at 7:01 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

President, Christopher McGee

Vice-President, Jennifer Pettinelli

Lindsey Culcasi

Brian Williams

Absent

Loretta Reed

Patrick Smith

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, 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 November 5, 2024 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2025 reorganizational meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

The Board was in receipt of a letter from Mr. Leeper. The Board discussed his request.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen will bring in Zoom Room representatives to conduct a demonstration.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

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

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Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the December 18, 2024 through January 21, 2025 current expense bill list for check numbers 21759 to 21808 totaling \$655,191.93.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen told the Board that there would be a county-wide delayed opening tomorrow.

Mr. Cohen said that there were two unfounded HIB investigations.

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: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, 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 an agreement with General Healthcare Resources, LLC to provide therapy services on an as needed basis for the 2024-25 school year.

2.2 To approve a contract with Best Choice Home Care to provide nursing services, on an as needed basis, for the 2024-25 school year, beginning on January 17th, at an hourly rate of \$71.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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- 3.1** To approve an intermittent leave of absence for Laura Griffiths from 1/21/25 through 1/31/25, with additional days used as needed, according to Article VI of the “Teacher’s Contract Between the Board of Education of Alpha, New Jersey and the Alpha Education Association”.
- 3.2** To hire Michael Danza as a special education teacher for the 2024-25 school year, beginning on 1/27/25, at Step E, BA.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.8**.

Motion carried by roll call vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Jennifer Pettinelli abstaining from 4.7.

- 4.1** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Phillipsburg School District’s emotional regulatory impairment program for the 2024-25 school year, from 9/1/24 to 12/31/24, at a tuition cost of \$11,830.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf state facility for the 2024-25 school year at a tuition cost of \$99,393.
- 4.3** To approve Sarah Payne to attend the NJSLA Testing Training on 1/15/25 in Princeton, NJ. Cost is mileage.
- 4.4** To approve Brittany Nailos to attend the NJMEA State Conference on 2/20/25 to 2/22/25 in Atlantic City, NJ. Cost is registration, lodging and mileage.
- 4.5** To approve the following building use requests:
- i. PTO on 12/20/24 in the gym for the Winter Assembly.
 - ii. APS Spring Musical per the presented schedule.
 - iii. PTO on 1/24/25 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the gym & cafeteria for a dance.
 - iv. PTO on 2/12/25 from 2:45 pm to 3:15 pm, 3/19/25 from 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm, 3/26/25 from 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm and 3/28/25 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym & cafeteria for Eagle Escapades meeting, practices and event.
 - v. Dance Club on 3/13/25 in the gym for the performance.
 - vi. PTO on 2/28/25 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym & cafeteria for a “Special Someone” dance.
- 4.6** To approve the following field trips:
- 4th & 5th grade to the Tileworks Museum in Doylestown, PA on 3/28/25.
- 4.7** To affirm, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. (18A:37-15)(b)(e), the Chief School Administrator’s report of alleged HIB incidents and investigations with the following HIB numbers 2425-9 & 2425-10.
- 4.8** To approve the application to obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$100,000 to be used to build a new playground for PreK-8th grade students including students with disabilities.

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XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:24 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 7:40 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 7:41 p.m. on a motion by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary