

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Christopher McGee 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:

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
Lindsey Culcasi
Patrick Smith
Brian Williams

Absent

Vice-President, Jennifer Pettinelli
Loretta Reed

Others Present

Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator
Tim Mantz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 18, 2025

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Brian Williams, seconded by Lindsey Culcasi, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Brian Williams, seconded by Lindsey Culcasi, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025 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 Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of **January 2025** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **January 31, 2025**, 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 Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the January 22, 2025 through February 18, 2025 current expense bill list for check numbers 21809 to 21862 totaling \$813,213.62.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$111,222.25 as presented for the period January 22, 2025 through February 18, 2025 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.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 18, 2025

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Cohen congratulated Ian Brown, Zade Dennis and Sam Gamboa for being selected to participate in the All-Star Band.

Mr. Cohen recognized Regina Brown for being named Alpha’s “Unsung Hero” for the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Cohen provided a brief budget update and background on two grants that he recently applied for.

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 Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.2**.

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.

1.2 To approve removing Patrick Smith and adding Christopher McGee as an authorized signer for Alpha Board of Education account ending in 7365.

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, 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 a joint transportation agreement with the Warren County Special Services School District for the 2025-2026 school year with an Administrative Fee of 4.5%.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 18, 2025

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3.1 To approve Melissa Bickert as mentor to Brianna McAleer.

3.2 To approve Jen Truby as a mentor to Michael Danza.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.3**.

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

4.1 To approve the following building use requests:

- i. AYAA from 1/3/25 to 3/7/25 on Fridays from 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm in the gym for basketball clinics.
- ii. AYAA from 3/3/25 to 3/21/25 on Mondays through Thursdays from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the gym for practices and games.
- iii. Alpha PTO on 2/19/25 from 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm in the cafeteria for an Eagle Escapades Team Meeting.

4.2 To approve the following fundraiser requests:

- 8th grade to conduct a raffle from February to June to raise money for the 8th grade graduation.
- PTO to conduct a school spirit wear fundraiser from 2/19/25 to 3/5/25 to raise money for the general account.

4.3 To approve the following field trips:

- 3rd grade to the Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm in Stroudsburg, PA on 4/30/25.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:26 p.m. This executive session is expected

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 18, 2025

to last about 5 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 Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:29 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 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary