

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Approved May 6, 2025

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Christopher McGee called the meeting to order at 5:30 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

Patrick Smith

Brian Williams

Absent

Loretta Reed

Others Present

Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator

Tim Mantz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Robert Merryman, Board Attorney arrived at 5:53 p.m.

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.

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II. PRESENTATION

Mr. Cohen and Christopher McGee presented the honor roll awards.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2025 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2025 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen was happy to announce that the district received a \$90,000 grant for a new playground. These funds along with a \$10,000 donation from the PTO will fund the project.

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 **March 2025** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **March 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.

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VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the March 19, 2025 through April 15, 2025 current expense bill list for check numbers 21912 to 21955 totaling \$683,336.46.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$3,988.28 as presented for the period March 19, 2025 through April 15, 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.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen said there will be revisions to the policies and regulations listed on the agenda for approval.

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 item **1.1**.

Motion passed with policy 2365, 5516 and 5710 not being passed.

1.1 To approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

R 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices
R 5533	Student Smoking
R 7441	Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds
R 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies
P 2365	Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)
P 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students
P 5460	High School Graduation
P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, of Bullying
P 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices
P 5533	Student Smoking

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P 5701	Academic Integrity
P 5710	Student Grievance
P 7441	Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds
P 8500	Food Services
P 9163	Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events
P 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies

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 **2.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 2.1** To approve a joint transportation agreement with the Somerset County Educational Services Commission for the 2024-2025 school year with an Administrative Fee of 5.5%.
- 2.2** To approve a joint transportation agreement with the Somerset County Educational Services Commission for the 2025-2026 school year with an Administrative Fee of 5.5%.
- 2.3** To approve a contract with Avalon Therapy LLC to provide physical therapy services for the 2025 extended school year at a rate of \$101 per hour.
- 2.4** To approve a contract with Avalon Therapy LLC to provide physical therapy services for the 2025-26 school year at a rate of \$101 per hour.

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 **3.5**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To accept Bruce Lampman-Perlman's letter of resignation effective April 4, 2025.
- 3.2** To approve Shelby Axelrod's letter of resignation effective 7/1/25.
- 3.3** To approve an unpaid leave of absence for Candy Enste for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year beginning on March 7, 2025.
- 3.4** To approve an unpaid leave of absence for Yetty Perez from April 14, 2025 through April 25, 2025.
- 3.5** To approve Robert Griffiths as a full time aide for the 2024-25 school year, beginning on April 7th, at an annual salary of \$25,500, prorated for time worked.

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 **4.10**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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- 4.1** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Warren Glen Academy for the 2025-26 school year at an annual tuition rate of \$68,040.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Warren Glen Academy for the 2025-26 school year at an annual tuition rate of \$68,040 and an extraordinary service cost of \$53,550.
- 4.3** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Hunterdon County Vocational School District for the 2025-26 school year at an annual tuition rate of \$8,255.
- 4.4** To approve Ed Sorge to attend the 2025 ESCNJ Vendor Expo in Edison, NJ on 5/21/25. Cost is mileage reimbursement.
- 4.5** To revise the 2024-25 school year calendar to reflect 8th grade graduation on June 6, 2025, the last day of school being June 9, 2025 with the last five days of school being early dismissal days.
- 4.6** To accept an anonymous donation of \$193.60 to be used towards student costs for the 8th grade class trip.
- 4.7** To approve the bus evacuation drill conducted on April 14, 2025.
- 4.8** To approve the Chief School Administrator's decision to not move forward with an investigation for HIB number 2425-11.
- 4.9** To approve the following building use requests:
- i. Student Council on 3/25/25 from 2:50 pm to 4:00 pm in the cafeteria to host Bingo games.
 - ii. PTO on 5/16/25 in the gym, cafeteria and lobby for a Spring Dance.
 - iii. APS on 4/30/25 from 8:15 am to 2:30 pm and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, 5/1/25 from 8:15 am to 2:30 pm and 5/2/25 from 8:15 am to 2:30 pm in the art room for the Book Fair.
 - iv. APS music department on 4/30/25 during periods one, two and three for rehearsal and from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the gym for the Spring Concert.
- 4.10** To approve the following field trips:
- 6th-8th grade Safety Patrol to Hershey Park in Hershey, PA on 5/22/25.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Patrick Smith, seconded by Brian Williams, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 6:07 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 15 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.

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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.

XIII. RECONVENE

Motion made by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Brian Williams, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 6:15 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 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