

Alpha Borough Public School Board of Education

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

March 17, 2026 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. OPENING STATEMENTS

A. Reading of the Notice of Public Meeting-

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.

B. Roll Call

Lindsey Culcasi	_____
Craig Dunwell	_____
Danielle Lopazanski	_____
Christopher McGee	_____
Jennifer Pettinelli	_____
Loretta Reed	_____
Brian Williams	_____

C. Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

D. Silent Meditation

E. 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.

III. PRESENTATION

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026 regular meeting.

VOICE VOTE

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Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026 work session.

VOICE VOTE

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026 executive session.

VOICE VOTE

V. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of **February 2026** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **February 28, 2026**, 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.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Culcasi	_____	Reed	_____	McGee	_____
Dunwell	_____	Williams	_____		
Lopazanski	_____	Pettinelli	_____		

VIII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the February 19, 2026 through March 17, 2026 current expense bill list for check numbers 22443 to 22476 totaling \$733,002.37.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Culcasi	_____	Reed	_____	McGee	_____
Dunwell	_____	Williams	_____		
Lopazanski	_____	Pettinelli	_____		

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Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$2,143.24 as presented for the period February 18, 2026 through March 17, 2026 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.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Culcasi	_____	Reed	_____	McGee	_____
Dunwell	_____	Williams	_____		
Lopazanski	_____	Pettinelli	_____		

IX. PUBLIC INPUT

Public participation shall be governed by BOE Bylaw 0167 Public Participation in Board Meetings. Public comments are invited on matters pertaining only to the agenda at this time. All participants shall be given three (3) minutes to speak and shall state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns, but please be aware that not all issues brought to a board meeting will be resolved this evening; rather, the Board will, in appropriate cases, delegate the authority to investigate the matter to the Superintendent or his designee.

Please let the record reflect that the BOE does not endorse your comments nor will the BOE be held liable for comments you make about a staff member, or other person, which the staff member, or other person, may consider defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL, NEGOTIATIONS, STUDENT ISSUES, AND/OR LEGAL MATTERS

In – Time: _____ Motion by _____, seconded by _____.

VOICE VOTE

Out – Time: _____ Motion by _____, seconded by _____.

VOICE VOTE

XI. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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.

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Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

1.1 To approve the refusal of Title III funds in the amount of \$323 as the allocation is under \$10,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Culcasi _____	Reed _____	McGee _____
Dunwell _____	Williams _____	
Lopazanski _____	Pettinelli _____	

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.2**.

2.1 To approve a memorandum of agreement with the Warren County Special Services School District to provide related services on as needed basis for the 2026-2027 school year.

2.2 To adopt the following resolution to approve the tentative 2026-27 school district budget;

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$7,887,974	\$4,414,540
Special Revenue Fund	125,281	
Total Base Budget	\$8,003,255	\$4,414,540

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held on April 28, 2026 at the Alpha School for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 School Year.

WHEREAS, the Alpha Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

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WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$15,000 for all staff and board members.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Culcasi	_____	Reed	_____	McGee	_____
Dunwell	_____	Williams	_____		
Lopazanski	_____	Pettinelli	_____		

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.5**.

- 3.1** To accept Schkira Pittman’s notice of resignation effective 3/13/26.
- 3.2** To approve Charles Seeley as a substitute teacher for the 2025-26 school year.
- 3.3** To approve Erin Lowry as a substitute for the 2025-26 school year.
- 3.4** To hire Erin Lowry as a part-time instructional aide for the 2025-26 school year, beginning on 4/13/26, at an annual salary of \$16,320, prorated for time worked.
- 3.5** To approve Brittany Zrinski to perform 35 hours of nursing observation beginning on 3/18/26 until the end of the year.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Culcasi	_____	Reed	_____	McGee	_____
Dunwell	_____	Williams	_____		
Lopazanski	_____	Pettinelli	_____		

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.6**.

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- 4.1 To approve the placement of the identified student in the Rutgers Day School for the 2025-26 school year, beginning on 3/9/26, at an annual cost of \$103,968 prorated for time in attendance.

- 4.2 To approve the placement of the identified student in the Mansfield Township School’s LLD program for the 2025-26 school year, beginning on 3/15/26, at an annual cost of \$24,713 prorated for time in attendance.
- 4.3 To approve the revised 2025-26 school year calendar.
- 4.4 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 2526-4 and 2526-5.
- 4.5 To approve the following fundraiser requests:
 - 8th grade to sell sponsorships to local business from 3/2/26 to 3/31/26 to raise money for the 8th grade activities.
 - 8th grade to have a spring flower sale from 3/2/26 to 3/20/26 to raise money for field trip picnic.

- 4.6 To approve the following building use requests:
 - i. 8th grade on 3/13/26 and 3/20/26 after school for flower sale pick up.
 - ii. Science Club on Mondays or Fridays from 2:50 pm - 3:30 pm in the science room.
 - iii. APS on 4/28/26 from 8:15 am to 2:30 pm and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, on 4/29/26 from 8:15 am to 2:30 pm and 4/30/26 from 8:15 am to 2:30 pm in room 109 for the book fair.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Culcasi _____	Reed _____	McGee _____
Dunwell _____	Williams _____	
Lopazanski _____	Pettinelli _____	

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

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XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to adjourn at _____ p.m.

VOICE VOTE