

**ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

**Work Session Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 17, 2026**

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Christopher McGee called the meeting to order at 7:00 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
Craig Dunwell
Loretta Reed
Brian Williams

Absent

Danielle Lopazanski

Others Present

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

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

II. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

III. PRESENTATION

Caitlyn Adams and Bill Bannister from Parette Somjen Architects reviewed the referendum process.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Work Session Meeting Minutes-March 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 17, 2026

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Christopher McGee said that he had reached out to the Pohatcong Board of Education President Patricia Babcock to gain Pohatcong's interest in exploring a study for a potential merger. Pohatcong said they would not currently be interested in participating in a feasibility study.

The Board discussed options for a referendum and the timelines. They also entertained ways to gauge town wide interest in a possible merger with Pohatcong.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VI. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS

Operations: Mr. Cohen reviewed the plans for Parent/Grandparent Day.

Budget: Mr. Cohen and Mr. Mantz reviewed the tentative FY27 budget.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Craig Dunwell said he attended an in-person NJSBA training and found it be a great program and highly recommends it.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Lindsey Culcasi, seconded by Brian Williams, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 8:12 p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 10 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.

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Work Session Meeting Minutes-March 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved March 17, 2026

X. RECONVENE

Motion made by Brian Williams, seconded by Loretta Reed, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 8:17 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. on a motion by Brian Williams, seconded by Loretta Reed.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary