

**ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

**Work Session Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.  
Approved April 28, 2026**

**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  
Craig Dunwell  
Danielle Lopazanski  
Brian Williams

Absent

Loretta Reed

Others Present

Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

**II. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

None

**III. PRESENTATION**

None

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

Lindsey Culcasi inquired as to the status of allowing Board members to visit and tour the building. Mr. Cohen said he was working on it.

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**V. PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**VI. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Operations: Mr. Cohen said he was exploring the possibility of getting rid of recess for the middle school in order to gain more class time and afford them a longer lunch period.

Mr. Cohen said that with the extreme cold the building was open to students 20 minutes earlier than normal in place of delayed opening as the temperature wouldn't significantly improve during the two hour delay.

Policy: Mr. Cohen said that state guidance seemed to indicate that schools would be tasked to review their individual cell phone policies. As a result, the district's current policy would likely be sufficient.

Curriculum: Mr. Cohen said the goal of the cursive writing curriculum was for students to learn how to write and read historical documents.

Facilities: The Board discussed and began prioritizing the facilities review plan.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Craig Dunwell asked if the town could have helped with snow removal earlier in the day in order to ensure the school opening. He suggested a formalized agreement with the town for such services in the future. Mr. McGee said he would reach out to the Town Council in an attempt to set up a meeting with the head of the school board committee.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Danielle Lopazanski, seconded by Craig Dunwell, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 8:12 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.

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:

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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.

**X. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 8:22 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 8:23 p.m. on a motion by Lindsey Culcasi, seconded by Jennifer Pettinelli.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher McGee  
Board President