

# ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.  
Approved May 19, 2026

## I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

### CALL TO ORDER:

President, Christopher McGee called the meeting to order at 6:04 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  
Craig Dunwell  
Brian Williams

#### Absent

Lindsey Culcasi arrived at 6 :35 pm  
Danielle Lopazanski arrived at 6 :06 pm  
Loretta Reed arrived at 6 :09

#### Others Present

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

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 presented the student data progress report and FY27 budget.

Mr. Cohen and Lori Walker recognized the honor roll recipients.

**III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

None

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Craig Dunwell and Jennifer Pettinelli said that the committee met to discuss the architect proposal for building repairs focusing specifically on the HVAC portion of the proposal.

**VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

Motion made by Loretta Reed, 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 2026** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **March 31, 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.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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**VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS**

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the March 18, 2026 through April 28, 2026 current expense bill list for check numbers 22477 to 22532 totaling \$786,266.40.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Loretta Reed, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$6,440 as presented for the period March 18, 2026 through April 28, 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.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**VIII. PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Cohen said that the "Bike Bus" event was great a received a huge response from the students.

Mr. Cohen provided background on the HIB case on the agenda.

**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: BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1, 2.2 & 2.4.**

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

*\*Motion 2.2 was tabled for the May meeting.*

**2.1** To adopt the following resolution to approve the 2026-27 school district budget:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the 2026-27 school district budget as follows:

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	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$7,877,974	\$4,414,540
Special Revenue Fund	125,281	
Total Base Budget	\$8,003,255	\$4,414,540

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

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 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.

- 2.2 To approve a Bond Counsel Services Agreement with Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. per the fee schedule as presented.*
- 2.3** To approve SennSysCo LLC to provide IT services for the 2026-27 school year at an hourly rate of \$70.
- 2.4** To approve Hillmar, LLC to provide educational specialist services for the 2026-27 school year, on an as needed basis, per the specified rates.

**Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.8**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To offer employment to the listed tenured certified staff, for the 2026-2027 school year:  
Melissa Bickert

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Patricia Cote  
Samantha Davis  
Stuart Davis  
Laura Griffiths  
Kristi Horan  
Ernest Kaminski  
Jessica Kelliher  
Joan Kern  
Diane Laustsen  
Pamela Lerner Cutarelli  
Megan Mason  
Kristine McGrath  
Brittany Nailos  
Sarah Payne  
Kelly Phillips  
Renee Smith  
Jennifer Truby  
Lorraine Veal (.5 FTE)

**3.2** To offer employment to the listed non-tenured certified staff, for the 2026-2027 school year:

Hale Amplo  
Claire Haney  
Yuney Lio-Gonzalez  
Brianna McAleer  
Bryce Parenti  
Nicholas Scaturro

**3.3** To offer employment to the listed Support Staff for the 2026-2027 school year:

<u>Clerical</u>	<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Months</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Yale, Melissa	Executive Secretary	12	TBD
Ascolese, Bethany	School Secretary	12	TBD
<u>Treasurer</u>			
England, Lorraine	Treasurer		TBD
<u>Operations</u>			
Sorge, Reinhard	Head Custodian	12	TBD
Hoernlein, Charles	Custodian	12	TBD
Rissmiller, Charles	Part-Time Custodian	10	TBD

**3.4** To approve hiring Stuart Davis as a Summer Custodian, beginning on or after June 12, 2026 through on or before September 4, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$15.92.

**3.5** To approve hiring Joseph Schocko as a Summer Custodian, beginning on or after June 12, 2026 through on or before September 4, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$15.92.

**3.6** To approve hiring Nick Rogalski as a Summer Custodian, beginning on or after June 12, 2026 through on or before September 4, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$15.92.

**3.7** To approve hiring Robert Griffiths as a Summer Custodian, beginning on or after June 12, 2026 through on or before September 4, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$15.92.

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**3.8** To approve Claire Haney, Kristi Horan and Jennifer Truby as ESY'26 teachers from 7/6/26 through 7/24/26 to be paid at the contractually hourly rate.

**Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.6**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Before voting on the school affairs slate, the following motion was offered:

Motion made by Christopher McGee, seconded by Craig Dunwell, to amend the 2026-27 calendar to reflect that September 4, 2026 will be a full school day and the tentative last day of school would now be June 9, 2027.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**4.1** To approve the bus evacuation drill conducted on April 23, 2026.

**4.2** To approve the 2026-27 school year calendar.

**4.3** 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 2526-6.

**4.4** To approve the following fundraiser requests:

- PTO grade to sell Smile Grams with stickers from 4/20/26 to 5/1/26 to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to host a "Rita's Teacher Scoop Night" on 6/3/26 to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to sell Rita's discount cards from 4/10/26 through the end of school to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to sell yard sell permits from now until 5/29/26 to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to sell popcorn from 4/1/26 through 4/15/26 to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to have a Frank's Trattoria fund raiser on 5/14/26 to raise money for the PTO general fund.

**4.5** To approve the following building use requests:

- i. PTO on 4/27/26 from 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm in the cafeteria to sort and handout popcorn sales.

**4.6** To approve the following field trips:

- 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade to the Phillipsburg Middle School in Phillipsburg, NJ on 5/27/26.
- PreK to PHS Barnyard Days in Phillipsburg, NJ on 5/7/26.

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**X. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**XI. PUBLIC INPUT**

John Lopazanski asked if there was assigned seating during the lunch periods. He said that lunch and recess is only 40 minutes and is the only time students have a chance to socialize with their friends therefore he would oppose assigned seating. Mr. Cohen said he would discuss with him after the meeting.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Craig Dunwell, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 6:46 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.

**XIII. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Loretta Reed, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 6:55 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

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**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m. on a motion by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz  
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary