

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Approved July 21, 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
Lindsey Culcasi
Danielle Lopazanski
Loretta Reed
Brian Williams

Absent

Craig Dunwell
Vice-President, Jennifer Pettinelli

Others Present

Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator
Tim Mantz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Robert Merryman, Board Attorney arrived at 7:00 pm

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

None

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2026 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2026 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2026 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2026 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026 regular meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2026 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2026 work session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. McGee read the letter from Ernest Kaminski on behalf of the AEA.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

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 **May 2026** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **May 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.

VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the May 20, 2026 through June 16, 2026 current expense bill list for check numbers 22571 to 22625 totaling \$836,655.25.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$14,906.13 as presented for the period May 20, 2026 through June 16, 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

Laura Schmidt asked where she could find Alpha's alma mater. Mr. Cohen said he would try to locate it for her.

Ms. Schmidt asked why the last report cards issued did not include each student's teacher for next year. Mr. Cohen said that information hasn't been solidified yet and the students/parents would be notified as soon as it is. She further asked how one could request teachers. Mr. Cohen said the district does not take requests.

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IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:10 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.

X. RECONVENE

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Brian Williams, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:16 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

XI. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen told the Board that the promotion and awards assembly went well, ESY would start in three weeks and the building will be closed on Juneteenth.

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** through **2.12**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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- 2.1** To approve the Interlocal Services Agreement with the Pohatcong Township Board of Education for contracted School Business Administration Services for the 2026-27 school year at a fee of \$70,000.
- 2.2** To approve a breakfast price of \$2.00 for the 2026-27 school year.
- 2.3** To approve a lunch price of \$3.50 for the 2026-27 school year.
- 2.4** To approve Best Choice Home Care, LLC to provide nursing services for the 2026-27 school year, on an as needed basis, at cost of \$73.50 per hour.
- 2.5** To approve Avalon Therapy, LLC to provide physical therapy services for the 2026-27 school year at a cost of \$101 per hour.
- 2.6** To approve Susan Pensack to provide CST services for the 2026-27 school year at a cost of \$475 for evaluations, \$70 per hour for services, and a meeting cost of \$60 for a 60 minute meeting and \$30 for a 30 minute meeting.
- 2.7** To approve Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy, P.C. to the Board attorney for the 2026-27 school year at a cost of \$170 per hour.
- 2.8** To approve Newman Associates to provide School Psychologist services for the 2026 extended school year at a cost of \$350 per evaluation with additional hours billed at \$75 per hour.
- 2.9** To approve Newman Associates to provide School Psychologist services for the 2026-27 school year at an annual cost of \$27,000.
- 2.10** To approve the Chief School Administrator and the Business Administrator to issue checks and make budget transfers necessary to close out the 2025-26 school year.
- 2.11** To authorize the Business Administrator to close the petty cash account as of June 30, 2026 and reopen the 2026-27 petty cash account in the amount of \$200 as of July 1, 2026.
- 2.12** To approve an agreement with Maschio's Food Service, Inc. to provide operation and management of the district's food service program for the 2026-27 school year, at a total cost of contract of \$88,244.06, for a management fee of \$10,161.79 with no guarantee.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Danielle Lopazanski, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.9**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** 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	\$59,990
Ascolese, Bethany	School Secretary	12	\$39,211
<u>Treasurer</u>			
England, Lorraine	Treasurer		\$5,567
<u>Operations</u>			
Sorge, Reinhard	Head Custodian	12	\$66,413
Hoernlein, Charles	Custodian	12	\$40,980

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Rissmiller, Charles Part-Time Custodian 10

\$17.69/hour

- 3.2** To hire Lori Walker as the Assistant Principal/Supervisor of Instruction for the 2026-27 school year at a salary of \$95,112.
- 3.3** To approve summer hours for Lori Walker from on or about 8/3/26 through 8/14/26 to be paid at an hourly rate of \$59.45.
- 3.4** To approve a horizontal guide move for Jennifer Truby from step F, MA to step F, MA+15 for the 2026-27 school year.
- 3.5** To approve the Superintendent evaluation.
- 3.6** To approve Charles Seeley as a bus aide from 6/3/26 through 8/21/26 at a rate of \$100 per day.
- 3.7** To approve Hale Amplo for summer IEP meeting as needed to be paid at the contractually hourly rate.
- 3.8** To approve Jodie Frankle as an ESY aide to be paid at an hourly rate of \$15.92.
- 3.9** To approve summer IT hours for Sarah Payne, not to exceed 30 hours, to be paid at the contractually hourly rate.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Loretta Reed, seconded by Lindsey Culcasi, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.2**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve establishing an autistic program for the 2026-27 school year.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Cambridge School for the 2026-27 school year an estimated extended school year cost of \$5,940 and an annual tuition of \$63,850.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. on a motion by Jennifer Pettinelli, seconded by Loretta Reed.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz

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Business Administrator/ Board Secretary