ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved August 18, 2026

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER**:**

Vice-President, Jennifer Pettinelli 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:

Jennifer Pettinelli 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	Absent
Vice-President, Jennifer Pettinelli	President, Christopher McGee
Lindsey Culcasi	Loretta Reed
Craig Dunwell	
Danielle Lopazanski	
Brian Williams	

Others Present

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

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Meditation

Vice-President, Jennifer Pettinelli 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.

II. PRESENTATION

None

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2026 regular meeting

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Craig Dunwell abstaining.

Motion made by Brian Williams, seconded by Craig Dunwell, to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2026 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. All members voting in the affirmative with Craig Dunwell abstaining.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Jennifer Pettinelli said that building committee would be meeting on 7/24/26 with the architect and Mr. Merryman.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Motion made by Lindsey Culcasi, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of **June 2026** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c3, the Board of Education certifies that as of **June 30, 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 Brian Williams, seconded by Lindsey Culcasi, to approve the June 17, 2026 through June 30, 2026 current expense bill list for check numbers 22626 to 22662 totaling $144,196.91.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Brian Williams, seconded by Lindsey Culcasi, to approve the July 1, 2026 through July 21, 2026 current expense bill list for check numbers 22663 to 22686 totaling $230,226.45.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve budget transfers in the amount of $53,421.68 as presented for the period June 17, 2026 through June 30, 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 reviewed the policies and regulations in motions 1.3 & 1.4 with the Board.

Mr. Cohen said that the ESY program is going well.

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: BOARD AFFAIRS

Motion made by Lindsey Culcasi, seconded by Danielle Lopazanski, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.4.**

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the submission and acceptance of the application for "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (IDEA) fiscal year 2027 in the following amounts:

Basic:	$ 72,209
Preschool:	$ 1,934
Total Allocation:	$ 74,143

1.2 To approve the submission and acceptance of the application for "Elementary and Secondary Education Act" (ESEA) fiscal year 2027 in the following amounts:

Title I:	$ 57,856
Title IIA:	$ 8,788
Title III:	$ 357

Title IV:	$ 10,000
Total Allocation:	$ 77,001

1.3 To approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

P 8660	Transportation by Private Vehicles – To and From School-Related Activities
P 8662	Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles To and From School
R 6115.01	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs
P & R 5111.13	Elgibility of Resident/Nonresident Students – Choice School District
P 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator
P 2535	Library Material
P& R 1552	Sexual Harassment - Staff
R 5516	Student Use of Internet Enabled Devices
P 2313	Student Use of Internet Enabled Devices

1.4 To approve the removal of the following policies and regulations:

P & R 4532	Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure
P 3362	Sexual Harassment
P 2411	Guidance Counseling
R 2460.30	Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Lindsey Culcasi, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.2.**

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2.1 To approve a contract with Therapeutic Intervention, Inc. to provide occupational therapy services for the 2026-27 school year at the rates of $109 per hour for school based therapy, $125 per visit for home based therapy and $455 per evaluation.
2.2 To approve J&B Therapy to provide professional services for the 2026-27 school year on an as needed basis per the indicated rate schedule.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Brian Williams, seconded by Lindsey Culcasi, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.4.**

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3.1 To approve Sarah Payne to attend the 2026 Building Thinking Classrooms Conference on 6/29/26 & 6/30/26 in New Haven, CT. Cost is $585 registration, $358.75 lodging and mileage.
3.2 To approve Ed Sorge to attend the North Facilities Training on 7/22/26 in Rockaway, NJ. Cost is mileage.

3.3 To approve an unpaid leave of absence for Yetty Perez from 8/26/26 through 3/1/27.
3.4 To hire Savanah Luker as a Guidance Counselor for the 2026-27 school year at Step E, MA.

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4.1 To approve establishing a Learning/Language Disabilities class for the 2026-27 school year.
4.2 To approve the district's 2026-27 Virtual/Remote Instruction Plan.
4.3 To approve the 2026-2027 tuition contract with the Phillipsburg School District for 86 students at an annual tuition rate of $18,018 per student, plus prior year adjustments in the amount of $63,364, for a total of $1,612,912.
4.4 To approve the placement of the identified student in the Mansfield Township School District's LLD program for the 2026-27 school year at an annual tuition cost of $30,933.
4.5 To approve the 2026-27 Nursing Services Plan.
4.6 To approve the district's non-teaching Principal waiver for the 2026-27 school year.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Jennifer Pettinelli said that the 8/4/26 work session coincides with "National Night Out". As a result, the work session will be moved to 8/11/26.

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Brian Williams, seconded by Lindsey Culcasi, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:31 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 aticipated 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 Brian Williams, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:45 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. on a motion by Lindsey Culcasi, seconded by Brian Williams.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary