

ALPHA BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Approved September 15, 2026

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

Lindsey Culcasi 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:

Lindsey Culcasi 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

Lindsey Culcasi
Craig Dunwell
Loretta Reed
Brian Williams

Absent

President, Christopher McGee
Vice-President, Jennifer Pettinelli
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

Lindsey Culcasi 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

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III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026 regular meeting

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026 executive session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen discussed the limited recess time in lieu of an extended gym period.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS OF BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

None

VII. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS/LIST OF BILLS

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the July 22, 2026 through August 18, 2026 current expense bill list for check numbers 22687 to 22727 totaling \$206,293.98.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

None

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen said the Kindergarten round up was tomorrow and the middle school students would be coming in to get their lockers.

Mr. Cohen told the Board that there was one additional aide spot to fill.

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.

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Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the second reading and adoption 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 | Eligibility 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 |

Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2.1 To approve a education consulting and service agreement with ZimZum Consulting LLC for the 2026-27 school year per the rate schedule indicated.

Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.6**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve the resignation of Charles Seeley as a bus aide effective 7/20/26.
- 3.2** To accept Bethany Ascolese's letter of resignation effective September 4, 2026.
- 3.3** To hire Jodie Frankle as the School Secretary for the 2026-27 school year, beginning 8/19/26, at an annual salary of \$36,000 prorated for time worked.
- 3.4** To hire Tammy McGee as a part-time permanent substitute for the 2026-27 school year at a daily rate of \$160 for three days a week.
- 3.5** To hire Amy Jo Trimmer as a part-time permanent substitute for the 2026-27 school year at a daily rate of \$160 for three days a week.

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3.6 to offer employment to the listed Support Staff for the 2026-2027 school year:

<u>Aides</u>			
Brotzman, Bernard	PT Aide	10	\$16,891
Cerami, Sherry	PT Aide	10	\$16,891
Collucci, Camie	FT Aide	10	\$26,920
Flores, Jennifer	PT Aide	10	\$16,891
Johnson, Sarah	PT Aide	10	\$16,891
Lawson, Susan	PT Aide	10	\$16,891
Mcheileh, Nehmat	PT Aide	10	\$16,891
Oleszek, Mindy	PT Aide	10	\$16,891
Seeley, Charlie	PT Aide	10	\$16,891
Schocko, Jaylyn	Bus Aide	10	\$100/day

Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.9**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Greenwich Township School's special education program for the 2026-27 school year at an annual tuition of \$40,000 and personal aide cost of \$35,000 per student.
- 4.2** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Hunterdon County Vocational School for the 2026-27 school year at a tuition cost of \$8,714.
- 4.3** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Clinton Glen Gardner School's MD program for the 2026-27 school year at an annual tuition cost of \$46,873 and personal aide cost of \$51,306.
- 4.4** To approve the placement of the identified students in the Phillipsburg School District's ESY'26 program at a total cost of \$14,541.28.
- 4.5** To approve the placement of the identified student in the Northern Hills Academy for the 2026-27 school year at an annual tuition cost of \$67,611.
- 4.6** To approve the NJDOE Waiver application to increase the kindergarten class size to over 25 students.
- 4.7** To approve all existing curriculum for 2026-27.
- 4.8** To approve the following building use requests:
 - i. AYAA on Monday through Thursday from 10/19/26 to 12/18/26 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Friday's from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the gym for basketball practices and games.
- 4.9** To approve the following fundraiser requests:
 - PTO to conduct a Fall Town Wide Yard Sale from 9/26/26 to 9/27/26 to raise money for the general fund.
 - PTO to host a Back To School Night Parent Store on 9/17/26 to raise money for the general fund.
 - PTO to conduct a Maddalena's Cheesecake sale from 9/18/26 to 10/16/26 to raise money for the general fund.

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- PTO to host a Back to School Dance on 9/18/26 to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to run the School Store on 9/25/26, 11/20/26, 1/29/27, 3/19/27 & 5/28/27 to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to run a PTO Membership to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to sell school calendar magnets to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to have a Fall Fest Bake Sale on 10/10/26 to raise money for the general fund.
- PTO to sell Birthday Grams from 8/19/26 through 6/10/27 to raise money for the general fund.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. PUBLIC INPUT

Mo Ferretti expressed her concern with 30 student kindergarten class size.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. on a motion by Craig Dunwell, seconded by Brian Williams.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary