

Ocean Academy Charter School Board of Education

Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, October 8, 2024

In Accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act: Public Notice of this Meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given by the Board Secretary in the Asbury Park Press – Paper of Record. Ocean Academy Charter School, 1650 Massachusetts Avenue, Lakewood, NJ. Attendance by virtual or in person.

Anita Raynes Lepelstat – President
Jim Muzikowski – Vice President - Absent
Marshall White
Aase Marie Hare
Sharon Hollander
Roxanne Martin
David Corso
Raul Orellana

Valarie Smith (Board Secretary), Lorna Hassel (Head of School), Dawn Cobb-Fossnes (Middle School Principal), Stephen Nichol (High School Principal), David Block (School Business Administrator), Thomas McMahon (Facilities Consultant), Didi Yencer (Whole School Reform), and Board Attorney, Dave Hespe.

Meeting Called to Order by Anita Lepelstat at 6:17 pm

Salute to the Flag by Board President Anita Lepelstat

Action Agenda

Public Session: A few former members of the now dissolved PTO expressed concern over the monies that were left over in the financial account. Speakers about this issue were: Alejandra Morales, Itziqueri Sihaunca Morales, and Rocio Aviles Paz. The attorney advised the speakers that this was not a Board matter since the PTO was its own non-profit entity.

Old Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 20th, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes of August 20th, 2024 made by Faul Orellana

Seconded by Roxanne Martin

Vote: unanimously approved by the Board

Principal's Report Presented by Lorna Hassel

September 2024 – Staff & Student Attendance

Staff (all staff - number of employees) = 114

full days off (all days off taken by staff) = 84

half days (all half days taken by staff) = 26

Student Enrollment - total student enrollment) = 551

Student incidents of absence – (total days of student absences) = 224

David Corso questioned the high absentee rate of both students and staff. Brief discussion followed. Absenteeism by both students and staff is a concern.

Back to School Night – Lorna Hassel

Lorna reported on Back To School Night. We needed to divide “Back to School Night” into three evening sessions due to parking concerns. Overall, the attendance by parents was excellent and Back to School Night was a success.

HIB Assembly - Lorna Hassel

We had the Harlem Magic Masters Basketball program addressing HIB issues. It was a success with the students.

It was recommended that those Board Members who are going to the School Boards Convention take as many HIB seminars as possible. Sharon Hollander asked to take on-line classes.

Possible Evening Classes for Parents – Learning English – Presented by Lorna Hassel

Lorna is looking into creating an evening English as a Second Language program for Ocean Academy parents.

New Business

Discussion of Potential New Board Member – Presented by Valarie Smith

Discussion, No Action Taken

Resolution - Change in Charter – Number of Board Members Valarie Smith & Dave Hespe

Motion: A resolution to amend the Ocean Academy’s Board of Trustees, reducing its membership from the original eleven to nine members. This adjustment aims to enhance practicality and efficiency within the board's operations made by Dave Corso

Second by Raul Orellana

Vote: Roll Call Vote Taken in the Affirmative

Anita Raynes Lepelstat – President, Yes: Jim Muzikowski – Vice President – Absent: Marshall White, Yes: Aase Marie Hare, Yes: Sharon Hollander, Yes: Roxanne Martin, Yes: Dave Corso, Yes: Raul Orellana, Yes.

Update on New High School Building, Construction, etc – Presented by Tom McMahon

We should see construction starting shortly: Discussion – Questions & Answers

New Hire – High School (Stephen Nichol)

The position for a High School Spanish Teacher was approved by this Board at the August 20th meeting.

New Hire: Kelly Smith, Spanish Teacher

Motion to approve Kelly Smith as the High School Spanish Teacher made by Sharon Hollander

Second by Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved

High School Curriculum – Course of Study – Presented by Stephen Nichol

To Review & Approve the High School Course of Study / Curriculum – Copy of the Course of Study has been made available to all Board Members

Discussion, Questions, & Answers

Motion to Approve the High School Course of Study / Curriculum made by Raul Orellana

Second: Marshall White

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Update on High School: Academics & Sports – Presented by Stephen Nichol

- ✚ 9th Grade Orientation of Parents and Students went well at the High School Facility
- ✚ Good Attendance at Back to School Night
- ✚ Girls Volleyball up and running
- ✚ Stepping it up with Soccer
- ✚ Student Government Starting Up
- ✚ First Field trip to Ocean County Library
- ✚ Looking to advance in Fine Arts and thinking about a Mariachi Band

Discussion – Questions & Answers

Financials – Presented by David Block

Motion to approve The Bills Lists for the Months of September and October as presented by David Block by David Corso

Seconded by Sharon Hollander

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Board Comments:

Valarie Smith reported that the AfterSchool Program now has a tutoring component.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 12th. There is no meeting scheduled for the Month of December.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn made by Raul Orellana

Second: Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Adjourned at 7:26 PM

Minutes approved by the Board November 12, 2024