

Ocean Academy Charter School Board of Education

Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, November 18, 2025

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
Sharon Hollander
David Corso
Raul Orellana - Absent
Gregory Brandis
Aase Hare
Roxanne Martin

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), Didi Yencer (Whole School Reform), and Board Attorney, Dave Hespe.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:15 PM by Anita Lepelstat

Salute to the Flag

Action Agenda

Public Session:

Old Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 30th, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes by Anita Lepelstat

Second by Gregory Brandis

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Update on Reauthorization – Presented by Valarie Smith

-  Results of NJ DOE Visit on Friday, November 7th
-  Virtual Visit on December 17th
-  Final Decisions will be on or before February 1, 2025

Principal's Report – Presented by Lorna Hassel

Month of September 2025 - Staff & Student Attendance

Total Staff - **133**

Full Days Taken Off - **131**

Half Days Taken Off - **43**

Total # of Students – **597** Student Absences - **258**

Month of October 2025 - Staff & Student Attendance

Total Staff: **135**

Full Days Taken Off: **169**

Half Days Taken Off: **51**

Total # of Students: **597** Student Absences: **328**

New Business

Update on NJRevolution Activities – Presented by Dawn Cobb-Fossnes

Field Trips planned for the celebration of the 250th Birthday of the United States
All Recommended by RevolutionNJ which is a partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the New Jersey Department of State, and the nonprofit Crossroads of the American Revolution Association to plan the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in New Jersey.

Approval of our Mentoring Plan Presented by Lorna Hassel

Discussion

Motion to Approve Mentoring Plan by Aase Hare

Second by Roxanne Martin

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Approval of our Professional Development Plan - Presented by Lorna Hassel

Discussion

Motion to Approve the Professional Development Plan by Jim Muzikowski

Second by Dave Corso

Vote: Unanimously Approved

HIB Grades Presented by Lorna Hassel

Discussion Only

Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program Plan Presented by Lorna Hassel

Overview of this state-mandated program – Discussion

Motion to Approve the Emergency or Remote Instruction Program by Gregory Brandis

Second: Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved

School Security Team Update Presented by Oscar Orellana

Discussion Only

Update on NJSLA (comparisons) Presented by Valarie Smith

District Wide	ELA	MATH
Ocean Academy	49	43
Lakewood	41	49

LPS Elementary Schools	ELA	MATH
Ella Clarke Elementary	45	50
Clifton Avenue Elementary	53	44
Oak Street Elementary	41.5	51

	ELA	MATH
All Schools Statewide Average	55	61
All Charter Schools Statewide Average	55	62

	ELA	MATH
Statewide Scores	55	61
Ocean Academy Scores	49	43

Legislative Update – Presented by Valarie Smith

Board Opening Position Inquiry – Presented by Valarie Smith

Discussion Only

Potential Change of School Hours – Presented by Valarie Smith

Discussion Only

By-Law Changes in the Works – Presented by Dave Hesse, Esq

Discussion Only

Monthly Financials: Presented by David Block

Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

-  October Bills List
-  November Bills List
-  Board Secretary Report
-  Annual Charter Fiscal Questionnaire

Motion to Approve the financials as presented by David Block by Dave Corso

Second by Gregory Brandis

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Board Comments: None

Announcements: Next Board Meeting is January 13, 2026

Motion to Adjourn made by Aase Hare

Second: Sharon Hollander

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Minutes Approved by the Board on January 13, 2026