

Ocean Academy Charter School Board of Education

Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, March 14, 2023

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
Marshall White
Thomas A. D’Ambola
Aase Marie Hare
Sharon Hollander
Roxanne Martin
Stephen Nichol - Absent

Valarie Smith (Board Secretary), Lorna Hassel (Head of School), Dawn Cobb-Fossnes (Middle School Principal), David Block (School Business Administrator), Thomas McMahon (Facilities Consultant), and David Hespe (Board Attorney).

Meeting to be Called to Order –

Salute to the Flag by Board President Anita Lepelstat

Action Agenda

Old Business - Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023 Presented by Valarie Smith

Motion to Approve the Minutes of February 15th, 2023 made by Anita Lepelstat

Second: Jim Muzikowski

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Update on Whole School Reform Presented by Nancy Guzman and Dawn Cobb-Fossnes

The Board was updated on the following key measures in our Whole School Reform Project:

1. Reconfiguration of Kindergarten and First Grade
2. New Teacher Evaluation Methodology and Forms
3. After School Tutoring Program

No Action Required

Change in Testing Companies – Presented by Dawn Cobb-Fossnes and Nancy Guzman

<https://www.linkit.com/> Administration has found a better testing company for our in-house quarterly testing. The company has better alignment with the NJ State Standards than the company we are now using.

Linkit is a New Jersey based company founded by school administrators that custom aligned the quarterly testing to the State Standards. About 50% of NJ School Districts have now subscribed to Linkit for their academic monitoring.

The Administration believes Ocean Academy in conjunction with our Whole School Reform efforts will be better served by the entire Linkit Program. The program includes areas of data management that will serve the school well in academic advancement.

Motion to Approve Linkit for our in-house Testing & Data Management Anita Lepelstat

Second: Marshall White

Vote: Unanimously Approved

New Business - Principal's Attendance Report Presented by Lorna Hassel, Head of School

Teacher Resignation (Ann Vreeland, ELA, Middle School)

Motion to Accept Resignation by Sharon Hollander

Second: Roxanne Martin

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Update on High School Building & Lease - Presented by Tom McMahon

Tom McMahon presented on a new lease agreement with our builder/investor regarding the eventual high school.

Motion to Approve New Lease Agreement with Builder Pending High School made by Marshall White

Second: Roxanne Martin

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Report on Lakewood Public Schools Effort on Re-Registration – Valarie Smith

Lakewood Public Schools is now requiring all OACS families to re-register every year in order to prove legal residency. They have taken a very aggressive efforts by sending their School Resource Officers to our families' homes and asking for them to prove that they are legally domiciled at that address. They have also set up a phone bank to call all of our parents.

Ocean Academy recognizes that Lakewood Public Schools has the legal authority to do so but we take issue with some of the threatening language being used.

It has been reported to us by several families that the Lakewood Public School callers have given families an ultimatum to show proof of residency by a particular date and if the family does not abide by that

date, they have threatened that the children would not be able to attend school. We have documented these statements and have addressed the issue with the Lakewood Public Schools Superintendent by way of email (for documentation purposes).

Ocean Academy is taking very aggressive and pro-active measures in helping our parents re-register in Lakewood Public Schools. Any Parent/Guardian needing help will be personally added by our staff.

Ocean Academy is also wondering if these same rules (proof of residency – re-registration) are for all students and not just targeted to Charter School students. We want to take a further look at this issue.

Discussion to Follow – Vote Not Needed

[Raises for Teachers for the 2023-24 School Year](#) – By Valarie Smith

Motion to Approve Raise (4%) for Teachers made by Anita Lepelstat

Second: Marshall White

Vote: 6-1

Vote Re-Addressed by Board Member Tom D’Ambola

Tom D’Ambola motioned that the Board “hold” this vote. He motioned that the Board needs to take a better look at the 2023-24 Budget before deciding on the annual salary increase for Teachers.

Second: Aase Hare

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

[Financials](#) – Presented by David Block

Discussion & Approval of MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Jim Muzikowski Seconded by Sharon Hollander BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE OCEAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, to approve the following –

Bill’s List and Board’s Secretary Report

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

[Board Comments](#) -

Marshall White updated the Board on P.T.O. activities. She advised the Board that the P.T.O. would be holding a fundraising event on Saturday, May 6th. Arrangements are being made for a Flea Market Event that will take place at the parking lot at Lakewood High School.

Marshall also advised that the P.T.O. is also hosting another “Book Fair” which will start right after Easter vacation, April 17th.

In addition, the P.T.O. has elected a new President and Vice President. President is Jennifer Perez-Agilar and the Vice President is Gerardo Torres.

Announcements – Next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Tuesday, April 18th, 2023
(Third Tuesday of the month due to Spring Vacation)

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Anita Lepelstat at 7:35 pm
Second: Tom D’Ambola
Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

This minutes approved at the April 18th, 2023 Board Meeting