

Ocean Academy Charter School Board of Education

Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, August 20, 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
Marshall White
Aase Marie Hare
Sharon Hollander
Roxanne Martin
David Corso

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), and Board Attorney, Dave Hespe.

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

Salute to the Flag by Board President Anita Lepelstat

Action Agenda

Public Session: None

Old Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 11th, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes of June 11th, 2024 made by Roxanne Martin

Seconded by Dave Corso

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Principal's Report Presented by Lorna Hassel

Month of May 2024

Staff 90

full days off 131

half days 44

Student Enrollment - 485

Student incidents of absence – 303

HIB - None

Month of June 2024

Staff 90

full days off 92

half days 20

Student Enrollment - 485

Student incidents of absence – 204

HIB – None

Lorna reported that we had 250 students that registered for summer school. The program concentrated on ELA and Math. All went well.

Lakewood Public Schools – Complaint NJ Department of Education – Presented by Dave Hespe, Esq & Valarie Smith

Discussion – Questions & Answers

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

Tom reported that we should see site work commence in a week or two and it is estimated that construction should take 12 -18 months.

High School Update –

Update on temporary facilities, Curriculum, & General Planning - Presented by Stephen Nicols

Update on Sports – Presented by Oscar Orellana

Update on Trailer by Valarie Smith & Lorna Hassel

The trailer is finally ready for use. It is basically divided into two rooms. One room will be used to house our primary school library. The other room will be used for small group instructions and basic skills.

New Business

Re-Election, Election, & Resignation of Board Members – Presented by Valarie Smith

Jim Muzikowski & Sharon Hollander are up for re-election for a three-year term ending August 31st, 2027.

Motion to reappoint Jim Muzikowski to a 3-year position on the Board made by Roxanne Martin

Second Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Motion to reappoint Sharon Hollander to a 3-year position on the Board made by Roxanne Martin

Second by David Corso

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Swearing-In for re-elected Board Members by Board Attorney – Dave Hesse

Candidate for Board Position, Raul Orellana, for an unexpired term ending August 2026

Discussion, Questions & Answers

Motion to Appoint Raul Orellana to the Board for the unexpired term ending August 2026 made by Anita Lepelstat

Second by Jim Muzikowski

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Swearing-In for New Board Member by Board Attorney – Dave Hesse

Resignation of Wendy Osorio – Effective June 1, 2024

Motion to accept the resignation of Wendy Osorio made by Sharon Hollander

Second by Jim Muzikowski

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

High School – New Facility – Second Lease Amendment – Presented by Tom McMahon

Motion to approve the second lease amendment made by Jim Muzikowski

Second by Roxanne Martin

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

New High School Positions Created – Presented by Stephen Nichol

The following High School Positions are needed: Spanish Teacher, Visual Arts Teacher, and Part-Time School Nurse.

Motion to Accept the Above Listed Positions for High School Anita Lepelstat

Second David Corso

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Update on Special Education – Presented by Valarie Smith

Addressing Special Education needs – general information: We have hired a School Psychologist, and we are working to build up our own Child Study Team. Our OT specialist is working out great – we share her with the Deal School District in Monmouth County. We have made the necessary arrangements to cover for our Speech Pathologist who is out on maternity leave. We are also going to look for para's who have experience with special education students to help our Special Ed team with-pull outs and push-ins.

Discussion – Questions & Answers

New Hires for the 2024-25 School Year

Questions & Discussion (Stephen Nichol & Lorna Hassel)

Jennifer Bauer	HS Math Teacher
Clara Guisse	HS Spanish Teacher SPED
Michael Stuppiello	HS History Teacher SPED
Caroline Ware	HS Visual Arts Teacher
Kimberly Ortega	HS Paraprofessional
Courtney Krauchick	HS Part-Time LPN
Amanda Tar	Kindergarten
Amy O'Donnell	Kindergarten
Phatima Marotta	Para - Rehire
Morgan Capezzer	School Psychologist
Kimberly Oretaga	HS Para
Maria Marin	Elementary Para
Alexandra Maseda	Third Grade Teacher

Motion to approve the New Hires for the 2024-25 School Year as presented by Stephen Nichol and Lorna Hassel made by Jim Muzikowski

Second by Aase Hare

Vote Unanimously Approved by the Board

Resignation of Jennifer deBeus, Guidance Counselor

Motion to accept the resignation of Jennifer deBeus by Anita Lepelstat

Second by Sharon Hollander

Vote: Unanimously approved by the Board

Resignation of Kaitlyn Feliciano, Teacher – 3rd Grade

Motion to accept the resignation of Kaitlyn Feliciano made by Raul Orellana

Second by Jim Muzikowski

Vote: Unanimously approved by the Board

August 26-30, 2024 - Staff Orientation & Professional Development – Presented by Lorna Hassel

Update on our Staff Orientation & Professional Development Agenda for the start-up of the 2024-25 School Year.

Field Trips _ Potential – Presented by Valarie Smith

NJDOE code requires that boards approve possible field trip destinations for legal and insurance purposes. Below is a chart of possible places we may schedule for field trips:

Place	Location
Urban Air	Toms River, NJ
The Bug Museum – Insectropolis	Toms River, NJ
Castle Play Park	Toms River, NJ
Aquarium & Point Pleasant Boardwalk	Point Pleasant, NJ
Pirate Adventure	Brick, NJ
StoryBook Land	Egg Harbor, NJ
AJ Meerwald	Bayshore Center at Bivalve, NJ
Camden Aquarium	Camden, NJ
The Franklin Institute	Philadelphia
Constitution Hall	Philadelphia
State House & War Barracks	Trenton, NJ
George Washington’s House & Headquarters	Morristown, NJ
Thomas Edison – Historic Park & Electric Factory	West Orange, NJ
Broadway Play – Back to the Future	New York, New York
The Lion King – Broadway Play	New York, New York
Statue of Liberty	Jersey City, NJ
Museum of Natural History	New York
Johnson’s Farm	Medford, NJ
World Trade Center Museum & Freedom Tower	New York, New York
Rocketts, Radio City Music Hall	New York, New York
Field Day – Oak Tree Lodge	Monmouth, NJ
Harriet Tubman House	Cape May Court House, NJ
Math Museum	Manhattan
Island State Beach State Park	New Jersey
Breakwater Beach Water Park	Seaside Heights, NJ
Marine Academy of Science & Technology	Highlands, NJ
Island Water Park – Showboat	Atlantic City
DiggerLand	West Berlin, NJ

Philadelphia – Museums & Historical Monuments	Philadelphia, PA
Seaside Boardwalk / Breakwater Beach	Seaside NJ
Possible Overnight in Washington, DC Monuments & Museums	Washington, DC
World Trade Center & Museum	Manhattan
Algonquin Arts Theatre	Manasquan, NJ
Tree to Tree	Cape May Court House
Cape May Zoo	Cape May Court House

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Board of Trustees approves class field trips to the above charted destinations for the 2024-25 School Year.

Motioned by Anita Lepelstat

Seconded by Roxanne Martin

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Financials – Presented by David Block

Bill lists for June, July, & August:

Motion to Approve Financials as presented by SBA David Block: June’s Bill List, Bill List for July and August.

Discussion Questions & Answers

Motion by David Corso

Seconded by Sharon Hollander

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Food Service Contract!

2024.2025 SCHOOL YEAR - BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Ocean Academy Charter School, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that the Food Service Management contract is awarded to Maschio’s Food Service Inc. from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 with a Management Fee of \$21,992.24, no guarantee, and a total cost of \$362,045.67.

Motion to Accept Food Service Contract made by Raul Orellana

Second by Jim Muzikowski

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

APPROVAL OF FY25 IDEA BASIC AND PREK GRANTS

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Ocean Academy Charter School (hereinafter “Board”) has reviewed the Grant Application for IDEA FY 25 in the following amounts:

Basic Grant Award - \$123,630

Pre-K Grant Award - \$6,408

Total Award - \$130,038

WHEREAS, the Board certifies that the grant shall be used for the purposes described in the grant application in compliance with the structure of the grant,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Ocean Academy Charter School, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that Ocean Academy Charter School agrees to accept and apply for the IDEA - B allocation.

Motion to Approve the FY25 IDEA Basic & PREK Grants made by Dave Corso

Second by Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

APPROVAL OF FY25 ESEA TITLE I, TITLE IIA, & TITLE III GRANTS

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Ocean Academy Charter School (hereinafter “Board”) has reviewed the Grant Application for ESEA FY 25 in the following amounts:

Title I-A Award - \$467,045

Title IIA Award - \$35,168

Title III Award - \$48,295

Total Award - \$550,508

WHEREAS, the Board certifies that the grant shall be used for the purposes described in the grant application in compliance with the structure of the grant,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Ocean Academy Charter School, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that Ocean Academy Charter School agrees to accept and apply for the FY25 ESEA Grant Awards for Title I, Title IIA, & Title III.

Motion to Approve the FY25 ESEA Title 1, Title 11A, and Title 3 made by Roxanne Martin
Second by Sharon Hollander
Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Board Comments:

Anita Lepelstat welcomes Raul Orellana to the Board

Announcements:

Oscar Orellana reported on the planning of sports in the high school, team building, and support systems. Girls Volley Ball and Boys Soccer. Partnership with Georgian Court for gym facilities.

Motion to Adjourn:

Made by Anita Lepelstat
Seconded by Jim Muzikowski
Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Adjourned at 7:45 pm

Approved by the Board October 8, 2024