Ocean Academy Charter School
Board of Education

Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, May 12, 2026

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
Gregory Brandis
Aase Hare
Roxanne Martin
Cori Scotti

Valarie Smith (Board Secretary), Lorna Hassel (Head of School), Amy LaBarca (Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction), Stephen Nichol (High School Principal), David Block (School Business Administrator), Didi Yencer (Whole School Reform), and Board Attorney, Dave Hespe.

Meeting Called to Order 6:15 PM
Salute to the Flag

Action Agenda

Public Session:

Old Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026

Motion to Approve Minutes of April 21, 2026 by Aase Hare
Second: Jim Muzikowski
Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

New Business

Principal's Report – Presented by Lorna Hassel

Attendance Month of April

Total Staff: **135**
Full Days Taken Off: **109**
Half Days Taken Off: **37**

Total # of Students: **592**
Student Absences #: **263**

Calendar for 2026-27 School Year – Lorna Hassel

Discussion

Motion to Accept the 2026-27 School Calendar by David Corso
Second: Roxanne Martin
Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Update on Fire Marshal Issue – Appeal with Legal Help – Presented by Valarie Smith

Discussion Only

Additional High School Field Trips for the 2025-26 School Year Presented by Stephen Nichol

Student Government: To Great Adventure, Monday, June 1st. 25 Students & 3 Chaperones. Cost is $71 per person – that includes entry & meals. It's a working morning with all Student Government from around the state, then students get to enjoy themselves in the park. We attended last year.

Torch Run: Torch Run June 5th at 1700 Madison Avenue for 7:45 am - 8:00 am till about 10:00 am to 10:30 am. 45 students, approximately 5 chaperones. We attended last year. The mission of the New Jersey Law Enforcement Torch Run is to raise funds for and to highlight awareness of the Special Olympics New Jersey Movement.

Motion to Approve HS Field Trips made by Sharon Hollander
Second by Jim Muzikowski
Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Approval of the Summer School Program – Presented by Amy LaBarca and Stephen Nichol

Month of July – July 6th thru July 30th
4 days a week – No Fridays
Hours: 9 AM to 1 PM

Motion to Approve Summer School Program made by Anita Lepelstat
Second by Roxanne Martin
Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Resolution for Approving Teacher & School Leader Evaluation System & Mentoring Plan Presented by Amy LaBarca

BOARD RESOLUTION - Approval of Teacher and School Leader Evaluation Systems, Board Self-Assessment, and District Mentoring Plan

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees of Ocean Academy Charter School recognizes its responsibility to ensure compliance with all applicable New Jersey statutes and administrative code provisions regarding educator evaluation, Leadership evaluation, Board of Trustees Self-Assessment, professional development, and mentoring; and

WHEREAS: N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.4 requires implementation of teacher professional development and all evaluation systems, and Board Self Assessments aligned with State requirements; and

WHEREAS: N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.3 requires each school district and charter school to develop and implement a District Mentoring Plan for novice provisional teachers as part of the school's professional development plan; and

WHEREAS: The School Leader Evaluation System, Board Self-Assessment, and Teacher Evaluation System utilized by the Charter School are aligned with New Jersey educator effectiveness regulations under N.J.A.C. 6A:10 and related provisions governing educator evaluation and professional development; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
The Board of Trustees hereby approves and adopts the following for the 2026-27 school year:

1. The Charter School's Teacher Evaluation System;
2. The Charter School's School Leader Evaluation System;
3. The Board Self-Assessment; &
4. The Charter School's District Mentoring Plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.3.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Chief School Administrator is authorized to implement these systems and plans in accordance with all applicable New Jersey statutes, regulations, and Department of Education guidance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The District Mentoring Plan shall be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to ensure continued compliance with State regulations and the professional support needs of novice educators.

Motion to Approve **Approval of Teacher and School Leader Evaluation Systems, Board Self-Assessment, and District Mentoring Plan** by Anita Lepelstat

Second: Cori Scotti

Roll Call Vote:

Anita Raynes Lepelstat – President, Yes
Jim Muzikowski – Vice President, Yes
Sharon Hollander, Yes
David Corso, Yes
Raul Orellana, Yes
Gregory Brandis, Yes
Aase Hare, Yes
Roxanne Martin, Yes
Cori Scotti, Yes

I, Valarie M. Smith, Board Secretary of Ocean Academy Charter School, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting held on May 12, 2026.

Upcoming School Events: Presented by Lorna Hassel

8th Grade Dance – May 29th, 6:00 – 8:00
High School Sports Banquet – June 3rd at 3:00 pm
Middle School Sports Banquet – June 4th at 3:30 pm
8th Grade Breakfast – June 12th - 8:30 AM
Kindergarten Graduation – June 16th, 3:00 PM
8th Grade Graduation – June 17th, 5:00 PM

New Employee – Presented by Amy LaBarca

Alexandria Brow – Grade 1 Teacher & 3rd Grade Maternity Leave Replacement

Motion to Approve Alexandria Brow made by David Corso
Second by Jim Muzikowski
Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

NJSLA Update – Presented by Didi Yencer

Discussion Only

Parent Academy – Presented by Amy LaBarca

Discussion Only

FINANCIALS – Presented by David Block

CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH Jump, Perry & Company, External Auditor, of Toms River for the 2026-27 School Year

Motion by David Corso
Seconded by Gregory Brandis

Vote: Unanimously approved by the Board

CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH PORZIO, BROMBERG, & NEWMAN, Legal Advisors for the 2026-27 School Year

Motion to Approve by Anita Lepelstat
Second by Roxanne Martin
Vote: Unanimously approved by the Board

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **Bill List for the Month of May**
- **Board Secretary's Report on the General Funds**

Motion to Approve the Bill List for the Month of May and the Board Secretary's Report on the General Funds made by David Corso
Second by Roxanne Martin
Vote: Unanimously approved by the Board

Announcements: Next Meeting date: June 16th, 2026

Please log on to the Evaluation System Set Up for the Board Self-Assessment & the Executive Director's Evaluation – needs to be finished ASAP to be addressed at our June 16th Board Meeting

Motion to Adjourn:

Made by Anita Lepelstat at 6:55 PM
Second: Cori Scotti
Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Minutes Approved by the Board at the June 16th, 2026 Meeting