

Ocean Academy Charter School Board of Education

Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, November 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 (absent)
Aase Marie Hare
Sharon Hollander
Roxanne Martin (absent)
Wendy Osorio
David Corso (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 Called to Order by Anita Lepelstat at 6:15 PM

Salute to the Flag by Board President Anita Lepelstat

Action Agenda

Public Session:

Old Business

Facilities Update – Trailer – Tom McMahon

Things are progressing and we are hoping to have the trailer in use soon.

Decking and cement work need to be done.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2023 was made by Anita Lepelstat

Second made by Jim Muzikowski

Vote: Unanimously approved by the Board

Principal's Report: Presented by Lorna Hassel

Student Absences for the Month of October = 234 days

Staff Absences/Days Out: 87 Full Days & 25 Half Days

HIB incidents - 0

Total Student Enrollment: 499

[Annual Self-Assessment HIB \(Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying\) Report:](#) Presented by Lorna Hassel

Motion: Resolution by the Board of Trustees to Accept and Approve of the Annual Self-Assessment HIB Report as reported by Lorna Hassel, Head of School made by Sharon Hollander.

Second made by Jim Muzikowski

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

[New Business](#)

[Update on High School Application](#) – Valarie Smith

High School Application is still in the works and is due on December 1, 2023.

[Attendance Incentive](#) – Presented by Valarie Smith

At our June 14, 2022 Board meeting, the Board passed the following resolution to reward perfect attendance:

"A suggestion was moved to discuss the possibility of having a "reward" stipend for perfect attendance during the 2022-23 school year. Discussion followed and it was agreed that a \$500 "reward" stipend would be given in the 2022-23 school year for perfect attendance. \$250 would be awarded after first semester and \$250 would be awarded for the second semester. This is one award for a total of \$500."

No one earned this incentive for the 2022-23 school year.

Discussion followed. Aase Marie Hare brought up the idea that we table this issue and form a fact-finding committee made up of staff to come up with ideas and/or incentives to address excessive absenteeism.

[Field Trips](#)

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
The Sky Zone	Lakewood, 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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Board of Trustees approves class field trips to the above charted destinations for the 2023-24 School Year.

Motioned by Wendy Ororio

Seconded by Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

[Chief School Administrator's Contract](#) – presented by David Hesse, Esq.

Motion to Accept the Chief School Administrator's Contract was made by Anita Lepelstat
Second by Sharon Hollander

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

[Financials](#) – Presented by David Block

Motion to Approve Financials as presented by Jim Muzikowski
Seconded by Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

[Board Comments:](#) None

[Announcements:](#) None

[Motion to Adjourn:](#)

Motion to adjourn made by Wendy Orosio
Seconded by Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board 7:05 pm