

Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, October 12, 2021

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.

Marshall White – President
Anita Raynes Lepelstat – Vice President
Thomas A. D’Ambola - Absent
Aase Marie Hare
Sharon Hollander
Roxanne Martin
Reverend Juan Angel Monge-Santiago
Jim Muzikowski

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

Meeting to be Called to Order by the Board Secretary at 6:30 pm

Salute to the Flag

Action Agenda

Open Public Forum: Agenda Items Only – None in attendance.

Old Business:

First Item: Update on Facilities (parking lot / play area) & general information on school purchase presented by Tom McMahon

Second Item: Marshall White, Board President, asked that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the Board’s Self-Assessment Results.

Motion to go into Executive Session made by Sharon Hollander, Second by Father Juan, vote unanimously in favor.

Motion to go back into Public Session made by Anita Lepelstat Second by Roxanne Martin, vote unanimously in favor.

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Marshall White publicly announced the findings/summary of the Board's Assessment Report. The Board is in agreement about the vision and planning for the school's development and expansion. The Board will monitor the growth of the students throughout the year in a visual way (i.e. graphs, percentages, etc). The Board is proud of its educational leadership presenting and evaluating goals for instruction. Their recommendations reflect excellence in planning and providing outstanding education for our students. Covid 19 effects all aspect of education; however, we successfully had in person school for the entire 2020-21 School Year. For the majority of our parents, English is not their first language. The majority of our parents speak only Spanish. This year our goal is to see a program that will help our parents learn English to enrich their lives.

Motion to Accept the Findings/Summary of the 2021 Board's Self-Assessment made by Sharon Hollander, Second by Father Juan, Vote: Unanimously in Favor.

Principal's Report Schoolwide – Month of September presented by Lorna Hassel:

HIB Report – 0 reported, 0 investigated, 0 confirmed

Staff Attendance Report – 59 Total Full Days off & 5 Half Days (not related to Covid or quarantine)

14-Day Quarantine for 5th & 6th Grades – Staff & Students (September 10th – 24th)

Student Attendance Report – 194 (non-covid related)

Student Discipline Report - 0

Enrollment – 379 students

Personnel – Changes & Additions

New Teachers and paraprofessionals presented by Lorna Hassel

NEW STAFF FOR BOARD OCTOBER 2021

NAME	POSITION	SALARY	START DATE
Abril Chico	Para 2 nd grade	\$23,000	October 7
Lisa Pagano	Para 1 st grade	\$ 25,000	October 12
Jodi Kwityn	Para Kindergarten	\$24,000	October 18

Motion to approve the new staff as submitted by Lorna Hassel made by Father Juan
Second by Roxanne Martin Unanimously Approved by the Board

Approval of Minutes of the August 31, 2021 Board of Trustee Meeting

Be it hereby resolved by the Board of Trustees of Ocean Academy Charter School to accept and approve the minutes of the August 31st, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion to Approve the August 31, 2021 Minutes made by Anita Lepelstat
Second by Aase Hare Unanimously Approved by the Board

Approval of a comprehensive Student Dress & Grooming Uniform Policy

Presented by Valarie Smith

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING UNIFORM POLICY

FILE CODE: 5132

School uniforms promote school performance and group unity. Students are not distracted by how they look, and therefore, spend more time learning at school. The peer pressures of stylish dress are alleviated and students can focus more upon their schoolwork, rather than social appearances. The socioeconomic differences that arise among students are equalized with the use of school uniforms, thereby, minimizing the pressure to “fit in” with the right clothing choices.

School uniforms also reduce the prevalence of violence and increase safety. Outsiders who do not belong on campus are easily identified, and thus, pose a lesser threat to students. Uniforms also reduce the “cliques” on school campuses and prevent gang affiliation symbols, colors and clothing.

All students attending Ocean Academy Charter School are required to wear school uniforms at all times during the school day, unless otherwise approved by the chief executive officer. Parents/guardians will be provided with school uniform requirements upon their child’s enrollment at Ocean Academy Charter School.

Students, parents and guardians shall be informed about the requirements of the uniform dressing policy at the beginning of each school year and when this policy is revised.

No student shall be denied attendance at school or penalized for failing to wear a uniform by reason of demonstrated financial hardship. The Ocean Academy Charter School shall assist those families showing evidence of financial hardship and provide appropriate support when necessary. Families in need of financial assistance for the purchase of school uniforms will be encouraged to contact the school. The principal will determine the form and type of assistance and/or waiver that is appropriate. The school shall include a provision to assist economically disadvantaged students to acquire said uniforms.

Provisions shall be made for exceptions to the uniform dressing requirement on the basis of a student’s sincerely held religious beliefs. The principal or designee shall assess and approve any exceptions to the uniform policy when parents/guardians petition the school to have their children exempted for a sincerely held religious belief. Such students shall not be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against or denied attendance to the school.

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Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their child wears his/her uniform to school daily. Disciplinary action will be taken if a student comes to school without the proper uniform for reasons other than financial hardship, up to and including suspension.

This policy does not prevent students, who participate in nationally recognized youth organizations approved by the board from wearing organization uniforms (e.g. cub scouts, girl scouts, brownies, etc.), on days that the organization has scheduled a meeting. The principal shall maintain a list of approved organizations.

Motion to Accept Uniform Policy made by Father Juan

Second by Anita Lepelstat Unanimously Approved by the Board

Expanding Health Coverage – Presented by David Block & Valarie Smith

Allowing for Family and Parent/Child Options

State Health Plans

Motion to expand Health Care Coverage for Staff made by Anita Lepelstat

Second by Sharon Hollander Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Vaccine Policy – As Per Governor’s Executive Orders – Presented by Valarie Smith and David Hespe

OCEAN ACADEMY

STAFF COVID-19 VACCINATION AND TESTING POLICY

Ocean Academy Charter School is obligated to comply with New Jersey Executive Order 253, which mandates that all school staff provide proof, on or before October 18, 2021, that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing. In accordance with Executive Order 253, Ocean Academy will adopt the protocols set forth below:

PROOF OF VACCINATION:

All staff who are or plan to become fully vaccinated must submit a copy of their site-issued COVID-19 vaccination card to the Executive Director, on or before October 18, 2021. An individual is considered “fully vaccinated” two weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine. Any staff member who is not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 as of October 18, 2021, regardless of the reason, will be required to undergo weekly testing.

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Copies of vaccine cards may be submitted by hard copy in an envelope bearing the staff member's first and last name, marked "Confidential." Or by e-mail to the School Nurse, who will confirm receipt. Once receipt is confirmed, the staff member may delete the image of the vaccine card from his or her sent e-mail or deleted e-mails. Copies of vaccine cards will be kept in a confidential file separate from the staff member's personnel file.

A fully vaccinated employee who has misplaced his or her vaccination card should contact the Executive Director to discuss acceptable alternatives for demonstrating proof of vaccination.

WEEKLY TESTING:

Staff members who do not submit proof that they are fully vaccinated on or before October 18, 2021, must undergo COVID-testing each Friday and must provide a negative COVID-19 test result to the Executive Director and School Nurse before 7:30 a.m. on Monday morning.

Testing requirements: Staff members who are subject to the testing requirements of this Policy must undergo FDA-approved molecular or antigen tests administered by a regulated facility. Over-the-counter tests are not acceptable for purposes of this policy. Any staff member who is absent from the School for more than two consecutive days (including holidays, but not including weekends) will be required to undergo an additional COVID-19 test in accordance with this Policy, no more than 48 hours before returning to the School.

Administration of Tests: Free or reduced-cost testing may be available through community health resources. Interested Staff Members should consult with the Executive Director for additional information.

Storage of Test Results: COVID-19 test results will be stored in a confidential file separate from the staff member's personnel file. Weekly test results will be tracked in a password-protected spreadsheet. Notwithstanding, Ocean Academy will comply with all obligations to disclose test results or related information to the state or local health department.

ENFORCEMENT OF POLICY

Staff members who fail to comply with this Policy will be denied access to the premises and may be subject to discipline. This Policy does not modify any other COVID-19 protocols, including but not limited to requirements for masking and social distancing.

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ANTI-RETALIATION

Staff members who become aware of any conduct that they believe may violate this Policy are expected to report immediately to the Executive Director. Ocean Academy expressly prohibits retaliation or reprisals of any kind for reporting violations of this Policy.

Motion to Accept & Approve the Staff Covid-19 Vaccination & Testing Policy by Roxanne Martin
Second by Anita Lepelstat Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Additional Reports & Discussions

Charter School Expansion Grant – Presented by Valarie Smith, David Block, and David Hesse.

Recommendation of the School Business Administrator

Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

Motion to Accept the Monthly Financial Reports as recommended by the School Business Administrator made by Father Juan
Second by Roxanne Martin Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Public Comment - None

Board Comments - None

Announcements – Next Board Meeting to be Tuesday, November 9th, 2021

Adjourn – Motion to Adjourn made by Anita Lepelstat @ 8:20 PM
Second by Sharon Hollander Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board