

# Ocean Academy Charter School Board of Education

## Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, April 21st, 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 - Absent  
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 Hesper.

Meeting Called to Order

Salute to the Flag

### **Action Agenda**

#### **Public Session:**

#### **Old Business**

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2026**

Motion to Approve Minutes of March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 by Jim Muzikowski

Second: Roxanne Martin

Vote: Unanimously

#### **New Business**

#### **Principal's Report** – Presented by Lorna Hassel

Month of March

Total Staff: **135**

Full Days Taken Off: **165**

Half Days Taken Off: **49**

Total # of Students: **592**

Student Absences #: **313**

### [Report on Parent Teacher Conferences](#) – Lorna Hassel

Overall, very good parental turn-out.

Discussion

### [Results from Latest Parent Survey](#) – Lorna Hassel

We had 59 responses from our Parent Survey Questionnaire which was very disappointing. We believe that the reason was that we “upgraded” the form to a QR code! We will be going back to regular paper surveys.

Discussion

### [Snow Day Make-Up](#) – Lorna Hassel

We have one snow day to make up

Discussion

Motion to approve the make-up day for the snow day on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> made by Aase Hare.

Seconded by Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

### [Calendar for 2026-27 School Year](#) – Lorna Hassel

Discussion: After discussion, the Board decided that some revisions were needed. Lorna will be working on revising for the next Board Meeting.

### [New HIB Incident](#) – Presented by Lorna Hassel

### [HIB Report Findings for the 24-25 School Year](#) – Lorna Hassel

Discussion

## **RESOLUTION OF Ocean Academy Charter School BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCEPTING THE ANNUAL HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, OR BULLYING (HIB) SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Legislature enacted the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, P.L.2010, c.122, amending N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13 et seq., to strengthen standards and procedures for preventing, reporting, investigating, and responding to incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (HIB) in public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Ocean Academy’s Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to providing a safe and civil educational environment for all students, free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the requirements of the Anti-Bullying Act of 2002 and guidance issued by the New Jersey Department of Education, each school district must annually complete a School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has completed the required School Self-Assessment for each school within the District for the 2024-2025 school year and has submitted the results to the New Jersey Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the results of the School Self-Assessment were presented at a public hearing held on [Date], in accordance with statutory requirements;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the [School District Name] hereby accepts the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the 2024-25 school year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby affirms its continued commitment to implement and support policies, programs, and practices designed to prevent and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the District; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent is hereby directed to ensure that the School Self-Assessment results are posted on the District’s website and that all reporting requirements to the New Jersey Department of Education are satisfied; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution shall be maintained in the official records of the Board of Education.

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**CERTIFICATION**

I, Valarie Smith, Board Secretary of Ocean Academy Charter School, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Education at a meeting held on April 21, 2026.

Motion to Accept the 2024-25 Roll Call Vote Made by  
Second

Roll Call Vote:

- Anita Raynes Lepelstat – President - Yes
- Jim Muzikowski – Vice President - Yes
- Sharon Hollander - Yes
- David Corso - Yes
- Raul Orellana - Absent
- Gregory Brandis - Yes

Aase Hare - Yes  
Roxanne Martin - Yes  
Cori Scotti - Yes

### Preparing to Purchase the High School – Advanced Planning – Presented by Tom McMahon

Discussion

### Increase for the 26-27 School Year – Presented by Valarie Smith

Increase of 3.5% Overall (both certificated & noncertificated staff) with Exceptions as noted below.

Motion to Approve: Anita Lepelstat

Second: Dave Corso

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

Exceptions:

- ✚ 5% for School Psychologist due to increase in responsibilities
- ✚ 5% for Director of Whole School Reform due to increased responsibilities / Elementary Assistant Principal & Academic Supervisor
- ✚ Assistant Principal & Secondary Academic Supervisor 12.5% increase additional responsibilities \$90K
- ✚ Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction / Principal Middle School – Increased Responsibilities of two positions \$160,000

Motion to Approve Exceptions: Dave Corso

Second: Gregory Brandis

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

### New Employee – Presented by Amy LaBarca

Lead Interventionist, Stephanie Walker (25 years Experience)

Motion to Approve Stephanie Walker as Lead Interventionist made by Roxanne Martin

Second by Sharon Hollander

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

### Professional Contracts – Presented by Valarie Smith

Thomas McMahon – Facilities Consultant

Kathy Connel – Special Education Consultant

Nancy Guzman – Whole School Reform Consultant

Speech – contracted from 5 days a week to 3 days a week – Reducing Days

Michelle Meaney - OT Services – Part time, 3 days a week – stays the same

Motion to approve professional contracts as Presented made by Jim Muzikowski

Second: Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

**Fire Marshal Issue – Appeal with Legal Help** – Valarie Smith

Discussion

**Approval of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Overnight Trip to DC** - Amy LaBarca

Motion to Approve of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to DC made by Anita Lepelstat

Second by Jim Muzikowski

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

**FINANCIALS** – Presented by David Block

***RESOLUTION TO JOIN PURCHASING***

**RESOLUTION OF THE [SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME] BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN A PURCHASING COOPERATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, the Ocean Academy Charter School Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to the efficient and cost-effective use of public funds in the procurement of goods and services; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey law, including but not limited to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 et seq., authorizes school districts to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements with other contracting units to secure cost savings and administrative efficiencies; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in a recognized purchasing cooperative (“Cooperative”) allows the District to benefit from competitively bid contracts, volume pricing, and shared administrative resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cooperative has publicly advertised and awarded contracts in compliance with applicable public procurement laws and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that joining the Cooperative is in the best interest of the District and will promote efficiency, economy, and effectiveness in purchasing practices;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of Ocean Academy Charter School hereby authorizes the District to become an affiliate member of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Pricing System, subject to the terms and conditions of the Cooperative agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the District’s participation in the Cooperative; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District is authorized to procure goods and services through the Cooperative in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and Board policies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all purchases made through the Cooperative shall be subject to the availability of funds and approval in accordance with the District’s standard purchasing procedures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Valarie Smith, Board Secretary of Ocean Academy Charter School, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Education at a meeting held on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Motion to Join Purchasing Cooperative made by Aase Hare

Second: Gregory Brandis

Roll Call Vote:

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

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Motion by David Corso

Seconded by Cory Scotti

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE OCEAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**, to approve the following –

- Bill’s List for FY26
- Board Secretary’s Report – January 31, 2026

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

**Announcements:** Next Meeting dates: – May 12th, and June 9<sup>th</sup> No Meeting Scheduled for July

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Made by Anita Lepelstat

Second: Gregory Brandis

Vote: All in Favor