

**Ocean Academy Charter School  
Board of Education**

**Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, February 11, 2025**

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  
David Corso  
Raul Orellana

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), Didi Yencer (Whole School Reform), and Board Attorney, Dave Hespe.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:16 pm by Board President Anita Lepelstat

Salute to the Flag

**Action Agenda**

**Public Session:**

**Old Business**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2025**

Motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025 – Roxanne Martin

Second by Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

**New Business**

**Elementary Principal’s Report** Presented by Lorna Hassel

Month of January – Staff & Student Attendance

Total Staff - 118

Full Days Taken Off - 140

Half Days Taken Off - 50

Total # of Students -542

Student Absences – 373

[Report on 504's](#) Presented by Lorna Hassel

[Report on LinkIt Testing Accommodations for 504's & I.E.P.'s](#) Presented by Didi Yencer

[New Employees](#) – Presented by Lorna Hassel

Ryan Morton High School Paraprofessional  
Edgar Gallegos Paraprofessional Special Education  
Kyle Shelly Gym Teacher

Motion to Approve New Employees / New Positions made by Sharon Hollander

Second: Dave Corso

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

[High School Principal's Report](#) – Presented by Stephen Nichol

- ✚ MOY (mid-year) LinkIt testing has concluded at the high school for both English I and Algebra I. Science will conclude this week.

We saw great gains in both English I and Algebra I. 73% of students showed growth in English and 84% showed growth in Algebra I. The benchmark assessments are both rigorous and challenging. (44% of students are identified as ESL.)

Some noteworthy accomplishments are:

- ✚ 25% of students are meeting or exceeding grade level expectations in **English I. That is an increase in 12.5%.**
- ✚ 16% of students scored within the "bubble" range in English I. This is a 7% increase. These students are predicted to meet or exceed grade level expectations on the EOY LinkIt benchmark and NJSLA. (So, 51% are on track to meet/exceed the EOY and NJSLA.)
- ✚ 17% of students are meeting or exceeding expectations in Algebra I. This is a 17% increase.
- ✚ 14% of students scored within the "bubble" range in Algebra I. Again, these students are expected to meet or exceed grade level expectations on the EOY benchmark and NJSLA. (So, 38% are on track to meet/exceed the EOY and NJSLA.)
- ✚ There was a 40% decrease in the amount of students who are partially meeting grade level expectations in English I.
- ✚ There was a 24% decrease in the amount of students who are partially meeting grade level expectations in Algebra I.

✚ The average score for English I is in the "bubble" performance indicator.

✚ The average for Algebra I is in the "approaching" performance indicator.

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#### Other Accomplishments:

✚ Honor Roll

High Honors 4 students

A/B Honors 9 students

✚ 14 Students with perfect attendance (43.75%)

✚ Student government will be selling candy grams to staff and students

✚ Community Hours

- Ocean County Book Review
- Polar Bear Plunge (volunteering time not plunging)
- Popcorn Park Zoo collection drive

✚ Winter Sports Banquet – Wednesday Afternoon, February 19<sup>th</sup> at the High School Cafeteria

#### **Stipends for High School Principal & Academic Supervisor for K-12 Teacher Evaluations**

Presented by Valarie Smith & Didi Yencer

In implementation of whole School Reform & In accordance with NJAC 17:3-4.1 - Creditable compensation that has been identified as extra compensation include, but are not limited to Pay for extra work, duty or service beyond the normal work day, work year for the position, or normal duty assignment.  
@ \$5,000 each

Stephen Nicole & Amy LaBarca

Motion Approve Stipends for Additional Duties in Formal Evaluations: Roxanne Martin

Second: Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

#### **Salary Increases for Additional Duties in New Areas of Responsibilities**

It is requested that an increase be given @ \$2,500 each to two employees who have taken on extra responsibilities.

✚ Oscar Orellana (High School Guidance Counselor) – We have unified our Physical Education Unit. Previously, there were two separate structures: one for elementary school and another for high

school. We believe that integrating the physical education component will better serve the entire school community.

- ✚ Sandra Altomare (High School Administrative Assistant) – Sandy has been and needs to continue to “fix” our student management system as there are many errors in input with wrong addresses, misspelled names, wrong social security numbers etc. In addition, there are many modules that we didn’t know that can be used. All of this is crucial to our data management system which is yearly uploaded into the State’s system of NJ Smart.

Motion to Approve Salary Increases of \$2,500 for Oscar Orellana and Sandra Altomare by Raul Orellana

Second: Aase Hare

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

**2025-2026 School Calendar** – Presented by Lorna Hassel

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

**Immigration Day** – Presented by Valarie Smith

Voz Latina is partnering with Ocean Academy Charter School in hosting Immigration Day on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Alejandra Morales, of Voz Latina, will be hosting the Law Offices of Joseph M. Rollo & Associates to give information on immigration services.

**Introduction & Interview with Board Candidate Gregory J. Brandis Jr.**

Presented by Valarie Smith

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Motion to approve Board Candidate made by Anita Lepelstat

Second: Roxanne Martin

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

**Financials** – Presented by David Block

Motion to Approve the Bill’s List for FY25 (January & February) & the Board Secretary’s Report dated December 31, 2024 made by David Corso

Second: Roxanne Martin

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

APPROVAL OF THE OCEAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL 2023-2024 ANNUAL FISCAL AUDIT

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has been presented the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 prepared by Jump, Perry and Company, L.L.P. for Ocean Academy Charter School; and

WHEREAS, a corrective action plan addressing the recommendations of the audit is developed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Ocean Academy Charter School, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that the FY 24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Corrective Action Plan is approved.

Motion to accept & Approve the 2023-23 Annual Fiscal Audit by Raul Orellana

Second: Anita Lepelstat

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

APPROVAL OF REVISED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Ocean Academy Charter School (hereinafter “Board”) has been presented with the revised FY 25 budget; and

WHEREAS, the budget reflects current enrollment data, federal grant allocations and expenditure figures; and

WHEREAS, the budget reflects allocation of expenses in accordance with Department of Education recommendations, code, statute and approved charter as best as possible under current funding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Ocean Academy Charter School, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that the revised FY 25 budget is approved.

Motion to Accept & Approve the Revised Fiscal Year 2025 Budget made by Jim Muzikowski

Second: Roxanne Martin

Vote: Unanimously Approved by the Board

**Board Comments:** None

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, March 11, 2025

**Motion to Adjourn:** @ 7:31 pm by David Corso

Second: Sharon Hollander

Vote: Unanimously Approved