

**OCEAN GATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

October 17, 2023

**MINUTES**

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Ocean Gate Board of Education will take place in the Ocean Gate School Multipurpose Room and via live stream video using Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

**1. Call to Order**

6:30 pm

**2. Roll Call Attendance**

Present

Absent

Richard J. Casey

X

Michael T. Passeri

X Arrived at 6:45PM

Daniel Fleming

X

Aaron Gottesman

X

Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

X Left at 8:30 PM

In attendance are Melanie Patterson, Superintendent/Principal, and John Failla, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**3. Flag Salute**

**4. Adequate Notice of Meeting**

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting of the Ocean Gate Board of Education was provided in the following manner: Asbury Park Press and District Website.

**5. Public Comments**

During the Board meeting the Ocean Gate School District Board of Education offers members of the public an opportunity to address issues regarding the operation of the Ocean Gate School District. The Board reminds those individuals who take this opportunity to identify themselves by name and Ocean Gate address and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda and/or items directly related to the operation of the School district. Questions raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered, and a response will be forthcoming when appropriate. The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of the individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. There will be a two-minute limit for public participation.

None

6. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting                      September 12, 2023  
Closed Session                      September 12, 2023

MOTION: Aaron Gottesman

SECOND: Daniel Fleming

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:** Richard Casey, Daniel Fleming, Aaron Gottesman, Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

7. Correspondence

Thank you for Field of Dreams Trip letter from Dodie Parlman

8. Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:

*Presentation of 2022-23 NJSLA Report/Academic Achievement  
Review of 2022-23 HIB Self-Assessment - 71 out of 78  
McKinney-Vento overview*

*SCIP (School Improvement Panel):*

*Recap of training for Savvas ELA (K-5)*

*Upcoming I-Ready & Seesaw professional development*

*Year 2 of 2<sup>nd</sup> round mandatory parent conferences*

*School Climate & Safety Team:*

*Recap of Respect Week*

*Upcoming Halloween parade 1:30pm*

*Lifelines – suicide prevention, intervention, & postvention training*

*Green Team:*

*Emergency Planning Team/Threat Assessment Team*

*Threat Assessment Team training completed*

*Early Childhood Advisory Council:*

*First Meeting October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:15pm*

*PTO & SEPAG:*

*Virtual meeting dates for SEPAG are released - follow FB page*

*PTO Dance October 20<sup>th</sup> - need volunteers*

*Ocean Gate Municipal Alliance:*

*Thank you for the Field of Dreams trip*

Ocean Gate Shared Services Committee Report:

Student Council Liaison Report:

- a. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the following HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying) report for September 13, 2023 – October 17, 2023.

# of reports/ investigations	# of investigations resulting in HIB founded	Nature of the alleged or founded HIB & Location	Investigator	Type/Nature of Discipline Imposed	Other Measures Imposed
3	2	1 – hallway 2 – cell phone chat off campus 3 – in classroom	1 – Mrs. Patterson/Mrs. Hickey-Esler 2-Mrs. Patterson/Mrs. Hickey-Esler 3 – Mrs. Patterson	1-Detentions 2-Detentions 3-ISS (result of code of conduct violation)	1 – Parent conference 2 – Parent conference 3 – Parent conference

# of reports/ investigations YTD	# of investigations where HIB was founded YTD	Training Conducted (this time period)	Programs Implemented (this time period)
3	2	Continued classroom lessons on anti-bullying Unique You - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade (Ocean County Health Department)	Whole school PBIS Respect Week: Walk & Bike to School Day Field of Dreams Trip Empathy Activiy

- b. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the following drill report for September 13, 2023 – October 17, 2023:

Date	Drill Type	Participants
September 18	Fire Drill	Whole School
September 29	Shelter in Place	Whole School

- c. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the following enrollment report for October 17, 2023: 134

PK3	PK4	Kinder-garten	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	Out of District	Total
11	13	18	15	15	14	14	18	15	1	134

- d. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the 2023 NJSLA Spring Administration District Score Report.**

**MOTION:** Aaron Gottesman

**SECOND:** Daniel Fleming

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:** Richard Casey, Michael Passeri, Daniel Fleming, Aaron Gottesman, Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**9. Business Administrator's Report**

**a. Projects**

HVAC – Buildings 1 & 2 are operational. Manufacturer's Inspection scheduled for 10/18  
East building boilers are scheduled for start up and inspection on 10/25

**b. Audit**

Preparing for auditors' field work visit for 2022-2023 SY, it's scheduled for end of November

Working on Grants as well, including ESSER Grant final due tomorrow.

**10. Personnel**

- a. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the following Maternity Leave of Absence of employee #19158:**

**Sick Days (paid) January 4-18, 2024 (11 days)**

**Date of Return (anticipated): September 1, 2024**

- b. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the hiring of John Febus as a Paraprofessional at the rate of \$22.00 an hour for up to 28.5 hours per week pending sexual misconduct and criminal history background checks.**

**11. Membership in The Southern Regional Institute and Educational Technology Training Center at Stockton University**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve district membership in The Southern Regional Institute and Educational Technology Training Center at Stockton University for professional development for the 2023-24 school year at the cost of \$430.50.**

**12. Professional Development**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the following professional development opportunity:**

- a. **Therese Hagan**

**MakerSpace (K-12)**  
**SRI&ETTC (Stockton University)**  
**October 16, 2023**  
**9:00-3:00pm**  
**Cost of credits covered under district consortium fee.**  
**Mileage/tolls: \$79.95**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:**  
**Nays:**  
**Abstain:**

- b. Melanie Patterson**  
**Ocean County Women in Leadership Conference**  
**Ocean County College**  
**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**  
**8:30am-3:30pm**  
**No cost to the district**

**AMDENDED: Motion c. and D. amended to approve attendance of the conference.**  
**Tabled the approval Mileage and tolls.**

- c. Stephanie Barger**  
**USDA Foods Conference**  
**NJ Convention Center, Edison NJ**  
**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**  
**9:00am – 3:30pm**  
**No Registration fee**  
**Mileage/tolls: \$54.24**  
**Total: \$54.24**

- d. Jason Megill**  
**USDA Foods Conference**  
**NJ Convention Center, Edison NJ**  
**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**  
**9:00am – 3:30pm**  
**No Registration fee**  
**Mileage/tolls: \$72.90**  
**Total: \$72.90**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:**  
**Nays:**  
**Abstain:**

**13. Field Trips**

- a. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip to the Silvertown Farm in Toms River on November 3, 2023, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. There is no cost for admission and the cost for transportation is paid for by the NJ Friendly School Yards and the OCC Environmental Program.
- b. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade field trip to Stop & Shop of Toms River on November 14, 2023, from 9:00am to 11:00am. The cost of transportation is to be determined by Central Regional High School Transportation (up to \$300.00).
- c. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip to the Grunin Center at Ocean County College for the Kattam & His TamTams – Multicultural Performance on November 16, 2023 from 9:15am to 12:30pm. There is no cost for admission and the cost for transportation is to be determined from Central Regional Transportation (up to \$300.00).

**14. NJ Child Assault Prevention (NJCAP) Lessons for Students and Parent Workshop**

**RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve NJ Child Assault Prevention presentations for PK4-Grade 6 classes and a parent workshop with the schedule as follows:

- October 19: 6:00pm Virtual Parent Workshop
- October 24 & 25: Kindergarten and Preschool
- October 26: Grades 1 and 2
- October 30: Grades 3 and 4
- October 31: Grades 5 and 6

**15. Anti-Bullying Assembly with Tom DeBlass of Buddies Over Bullies**

**RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the presentation of an anti-bullying assembly with Tom DeBlass of Buddies Over Bullies on November 15, 2023, for students in grades 3-6.

**16. Visit from Ocean County Library - Children's Librarian**

**RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the visitation of Ms. Joanne O'Halloran, Librarian, to read to Library classes and provide information on the Ocean County Library for all grades (PK-6) on November 29, 2023.

**17. Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials 2019 for the 2023-24 school year. (see attached)**

**18. Fit to Return to School Assessment (FTR) Contract with Preferred Behavioral Health Group**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Fit to Return to School (FTR) Contract with Preferred Behavioral Health Group for the 2023-24 school year at the cost of \$300.00 per report.**

**19. District HIB Self-Assessment**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Ocean Gate School District HIB Self-Assessment for the 2022-23 school year.**

**20. Policy**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the first review of district policy 5145.7 – Gender Identity and Expression.**

**Tabled**

**Motion:** Michael Passeri

**Second:** Daniel Flemming

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:** Richard Casey, Michael Passeri, Daniel Fleming, Aaron Gottesman, Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**21. Transportation Jointure with Central Regional School District**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Transportation Jointure with Central Regional School District (host) for the 2023-24 school year as follows:**

**One student to the Manchester Regional Day School at a cost of \$14,688.00.**

**22. IDEA**

- a. RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the IDEA Carryover from 2022-23 to IDEA FY2024:**

**Basic: \$28,956**

**Preschool: \$3,832**

- b. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the amendment of IDEA FY2024 to include preceding carryover funds.**

**23. Financial**

- a. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the October 2023 Bills List.**
- b. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the September 2023 Payroll:**

September 15	\$99,934.01
September 30	\$114,080.97

- c. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the month of June 2023.**
- d. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s Reports for June 2023.**

**Abstain:**

- e. **Board Secretary’s Report**

**Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11© 3, I, John Failla, Board Secretary, certify that as of June 30, 2023, no budgetary line-item account has obligations and payments (contracted orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11©4. Further, through the adoption of this resolution, we the Ocean Gate Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b) certify that as of June 30, 2023, after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the Business Administrator and other appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23.2.11(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.**

**Motions 10 through 23 (Motion 20 TABLED)**

Discussion:

Mrs. Patterson commented on 10.b. that John Febus works for Y-Kids program and is a familiar face to the students.

Motion 12, we had left over EETC credits used for the PD

Michael Passeri requested explanation of Motion 21; Mrs. Patterson explained the legal necessity for transportation of Special Education student.

Richard Casey questioned different cost on Motion 12. c. and d. Mr. Failla said he will have to review the amount he did not approve it prior to being on the agenda.



Mr. Casey requested a motion to table Motion 12. C. and d.

Mr. Failla requested that attendance at the conference be approved, and the mileage will be tabled for the next meeting.

This amendment was approved and so noted on the agenda.

Mr. Casey inquired, on Motion 23.c., what amount of money on a budget transfer requires BOE approval? Mr. Failla advised on 10% rule and requirements above that threshold.

Motion 23. d. Treasurer's Report, what is causing the delay? Mr. Failla responded with staff turnover and a state audit. Mrs. Patterson was asked is this typical and she responded no.

Mr. Casey asked will this affect the audit? Mr. Failla advised no audit is 22-23 SY.

Mr. Failla and Mrs. Patterson commended Ms. Barger and Mrs. Bentley on the training and job they've done.

**MOTION:** Aaron Gottesman

**SECOND:** Daniel Fleming

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:** Richard Casey, Michael Passeri, Daniel Fleming, Aaron Gottesman, Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

Mr. Casey requested a motion to bring agenda item 20 back to the table for discussion.

**MOTION:** Aaron Gottesman

**SECOND:** Danile Flemming

Discussion:

Gender identity expression policy overview by Mrs. Patterson at Mr. Casey's request. The current policy is the School Board's version versus the Strauss Esmay policy. Explained adoption, amending and abolishing policies and mandates. Our policy does not preclude us from speaking to parents.

BOE members commented on and discussed the policy.

The board agreed to table item 20 until the next meeting.

Mr. Casey requested a five-minute recess at 8:42 PM

Mr. Casey called the meeting back to order at 8:48 PM

**24. Old Business/Discussion**

Mr. Failla shared with the Board the inspection report of the K Building which showed all tests were negative for asbestos.

**Ocean Gate Board of Education Board Goals**

**BOE Self Evaluation** Process was discussed, and results shared by Mr. Casey

Suggestions for Goals:

1. Board certification:
  - Training – minimum of 6 PD activities by NJASBO
  - attend the NJASBOA and OCASBO meetings.
  - Add monthly BOE Workshop meetings.
2. Strategic Plan (Written)
3. Enhance Governance of Board (Agenda Review)

**25. New Business/Discussion**

**Budget/Calendar**

Mr. Failla provided draft of budget calendar based on information from NJDOE. preliminary timeline. Noted 2/6/24 and 3/12/24 are tentative date for budget workshop. Discussion regarding loss of state aide, regional shared services and Preschool program. Mr. Passeri commented on issues with K building and consideration on money spent on maintaining that building.

**26. Public Comment**

**During the Board meeting the Ocean Gate School District Board of Education offers members of the public an opportunity to address issues regarding the operation of the Ocean Gate School District. The Board reminds those individuals who take this opportunity to identify themselves by name and Ocean Gate address and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda and/or items directly related to the operation of the School district. Questions raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered, and a response will be forthcoming when appropriate. The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of the individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. There will be a two-minute limit for public participation.**

Susan Kempton – Feasibility study will give us information on whether regionalization would benefit our students.

Mr. Casey advised we are doing our due diligence by contacting individuals about feasibility, they are not responding.

Mr. Failla advised enrollment has increased since the start of Preschool.

Test scores were also discussed as indicators of school performance.

**26. Executive Session**

**MOTION:** Aaron Gottesman

**SECOND:** Michael Passeri

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:** Richard Casey, Michael Passeri, Daniel Fleming, Aaron Gottesman,

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 at 10:14 PM the Ocean Gate Board of Education will move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters excluded from public discussion/deliberation, including but not limited to confidential student information, personnel matters, contracts and litigation.**

**27. Open Session**

**MOTION:** Daniel Fleming

**SECOND:** Michael Passeri

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

October 17, 2023

**Ayes:** Richard Casey, Michael Passeri, Daniel Fleming, Aaron Gottesman

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education re-enter into open session for at 11:10 PM for the purpose of continuing the meeting.**

**28. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Daniel Fleming

**SECOND:** Michael Passeri

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:** Richard Casey, Michael Passeri, Daniel Fleming, Aaron Gottesman

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education adjourned their regular meeting at 11:11 PM.**

**The Regular Meeting of the Ocean Gate Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 6:30 PM.**

- 1. Workshop Meeting**
- 2. Action Meeting (Regular)**