

**OCEAN GATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**December 20, 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 Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call Attendance**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Richard J. Casey</b>	<u>X</u>	
<b>Michael T. Passeri</b>	<u>X</u>	
<b>Daniel Fleming</b>	<u>X</u>	
<b>Aaron Gottesman</b>		<u>X With Notice</u>
<b>Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell</b>		<u>X With Notice</u>

In attendance are Melanie Patterson, Superintendent 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, District Website, and District Facebook Page.

Mr. Casey allowed Mr. Fleming to make a comment. Mr. Fleming, on behalf of the BOE recognized those individuals and groups in the school community who led the effort and contributed to supporting staff member Mrs. Murphy in her fight against breast cancer.

**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	November 14, 2023
Closed Session	November 14, 2023

**MOTION: Daniel Fleming**

**SECOND: Michael Passeri**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

## 7. Correspondence

Mrs. Patterson received BOE Resolution from Central Regional School District opposing adoption of the resolution for feasibility study for Seaside Heights to leave the Central Regional School District.

Correspondence from Mrs. Murphy to BOE, thank you for trip to Silverton Farms Stop and Shop.

**MOTION: Michael Passeri**

**SECOND: Daniel Fleming**

## 8. Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:

**\*Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Murphy; Education Service Professional of the Year, Mrs. Lalley; Staff Member of the Year, Mrs. Barger**

**\*Recognition of Mr. Brown and our students/staff on the Holiday Concert**

**\*Bookworms and Ballers Spelling Bee Participants honored by Ocean Gate Board of Education**

**District Goal #1: Building a formalized, rigorous, and equitable Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS – “Gator Gains”) to meet the personalized needs of each diverse learner. Seeking more academic enrichment, academic intervention, and innovative learning opportunities to serve individual and collective needs of 21st century, global learners, thinkers, and leaders. #GatorGains #GatorEarlyLearners #GatorInnovators #GatorGenius**

***\*State of the Gator Union - mid-year stakeholder survey to go out right after winter break***

**District Goal #2: Enhance the Ocean Gate School District’s Safety and Security plan and threat assessment practices for student and staff safety. Continue to develop and emphasize**

character education and Positive Behavioral Supports in Schools (PBSIS) for student and staff wellness. #GatorGoals #GatorWellness

*\*Continue to wish Mrs. Murphy the best & Congrats to the Legendres!*

*\* Review process for revised 2023 Uniform Memorandum of Agreement with Law Enforcement*

*\*Continued Positive Behavior Interventions & Support with a whole school model of practices: Gator Bucks, Gator Goal Setting, Monthly Morning Meetings, Gator Store, Tier 1 & Tier 2 Interventions for small group or 1-1 needs*

*\*Teacher, ESP, and Staff Members of the Year honored during whole school meeting*

**District Goal #3:** Work collaboratively with the Ocean Gate School parents & families, as well as the Ocean Gate residents, Central Regional School District, Ocean Gate municipal government, Municipal Alliance, Social Club, and Garden Club to form stronger partnerships for community education, shared services, and the extension of learning and community service in the region, Ocean Gate, and Ocean County. Work collaboratively with Central Regional School District, Ocean County College, OCEAN Inc., Barnegat Bay Partnership, and the Jersey-Friendly Yards Program to enhance educational opportunities for our students, build a greener school environment to enhance outdoor learning spaces, and take steps toward being a certified Jersey-Friendly school district. #GatorsServe #GatorGreenTeam #CommunityPartnerships

*\*Beach Tree donated by Ocean Gate Garden Club and Tree near grades 3-4 donated by OCC – thank you*

*\*Ocean County Librarian visited on November 29<sup>th</sup> – thank you*

*\*Central Regional Band performed at OGS on December 7<sup>th</sup> - thank you*

*\*OGS Chorus sang for the Social Club on December 15<sup>th</sup> – thank you*

*\*Contact with Ocean Gate Garden Club to support our student programming*

*\*Update on partnership with O.C.E.A.N., Inc. HeadStart*

#### **Early Childhood Advisory Council**

*December activities: movie & cookie swap and gingerbread house building were well-attended by families*

*Look for a separate preschool survey for ECAC and registration information for 2024-25*

#### **PTO & SEPAG**

#### **Ocean Gate Municipal Alliance**

#### **Ocean Gate Shared Services Committee Report**

*See New Business*

#### **Student Council Liaison Report**

- a. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the following HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying) report for November 14, 2023 – December 19, 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
0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# of reports/ investigations YTD	# of investigations where HIB was founded YTD	Training Conducted (this time period)	Programs Implemented (this time period)
3	2	N/A	Whole school PBIS #gatorgoals

b. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the following drill report for November 15, 2023-December 20, 2023:

Date	Drill Type	Participants
11/28/2023	Lockdown	Whole School
11/30/2023	Fire Drill	Whole School

c. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the following enrollment report for December 20, 2023: 136

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	14	18	15	15	14	15	18	15	1	136

**MOTION 8. a,b,c**  
**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Daniel Fleming, Michael Passeri, Richard Casey**  
**Nays:**  
**Abstain:**

**9. Business Administrator’s Report**

**Audit filed work is completed and draft of AUD AUM was certified by Auditor. Financial Statements should be available in January.**  
**Projects: Substantially completed, minor items to complete are waiting on parts.**  
**One Treasure’s report for October is outstanding.**

**10. Ocean Gate School Election**

**RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education shall enter into the recorded minutes the results of the 2023 Official School Election, held on November 7, 2023 in the Ocean Gate Borough Hall, West Cape May Avenue, Ocean Gate, New Jersey.

**Member of the Board for a (3) year term: (Official Results)**

<b>Richard J. Casey</b>	<b>285 Votes</b>	<b>42.66%</b>
<b>Kerrie McDonnell</b>	<b>236 Votes</b>	<b>35.33%</b>
<b>Write-In</b>	<b>147 Votes</b>	<b>22.01%</b>

**11. Personnel**

- a. RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the increase in time for part-time Physical Education and Health Teacher, Staci McGowan, to 80% with a revised salary of Step 1, 80%, \$45,144.00, prorated for the 2023-24 school year, with no medical benefits, effective January 2-June 30, 2023, temporarily, to cover the maternity leave replacement position for Physical Education and Health.
- b. RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve Brittany Watkins as a Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$150.00 per day, effective December 21, 2023, pending criminal history background check and fingerprints.

**12. Social Skills Club**

**RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the creation of a Social Skills Club for Grades K-6 from 7:45am-8:30am on Mondays and Wednesdays starting January 8, 2024, for 10 weeks with Joanne Hickey-Esler, School Social Worker, and Chelsey Flakker, School Behavioral Support Specialist. Each facilitator will receive a \$1,000.00 stipend, charged back to the ARP ESSER grant.

**13. Girls Who Code Club**

**RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the creation of a Girls Who Code Club for Grades 3-5 from 11:30am-12:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting January 9, 2024, for 10 weeks, with Donna Cogan, Teacher. As facilitator, Mrs. Cogan will receive a stipend of \$1,000.00, charged back to the ARP ESSER grant.

**Tabled until after Executive Session**

**14. Field Trips**

- a. RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve, retroactively, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade field trip to Central Regional High School to meet with the CRHS Student Council from 10:00am to 1:30pm. There is no cost for transportation from Central Regional Transportation for this trip.
- b. RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip to the Grunin Center at Ocean County College for the Nai-Ni Chen Dance

Company Multicultural Production/ Performance on January 10, 2024 from 9:00am 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).

**15. Facilities Usage**

**RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the use of the Multipurpose Room by the Berkeley Soccer Association on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, from 5:00pm-6:15pm from January 9-March 28, 2023.

**16. Approval of Health Insurance Waiver**

- a. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the biannual Health Insurance Waiver payment to Melanie Patterson, for \$2,500.00 as per the Superintendent's Contract of Employment.
- b. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the biannual Health Insurance Waiver payment to Lucretia Risk, for \$1,120.18 as per the Teacher's Contract of Employment.
- c. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the biannual Health Insurance Waiver payment to Jason Megill, for \$1,390.59 as per the Head Custodian's Contract of Employment.

**MOTIONS 10 through 16, exception 13 tabled.**

**MOTION: Michael Passeri**

**SECOND: Daniel Fleming**

**Discussion:**

**Richard Casey, Motion 10 congratulated Kerri.**

**Motion 13, Mrs. Patterson explained the proposed club. Mr. Passeri made a motion to table until after executive session. Mr. Casey Seconded.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**17. Policy**

**RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education remove/abolish Policy 5141.11 Vaccination & Testing.

**MOTION: Michael Passeri**

**SECOND: Daniel Fleming**

**Discussion:**

Mr. Casey advised COVID vaccination/testing policy is obsolete.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**18. Financial**

**a. RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the December 2023 Bills List**

**b. RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the November 2023 Payroll:**

November 15	\$118,740.71
November 30	\$106,353.31

**c. RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Reports for July, August, and September 2023.**

**d. RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Transfer Reports for July, August, September, and October 2023.**

**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 July 31, 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 July 31, 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.

**f. Board Secretary's Report**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11© 3, I, John Failla, Board Secretary, certify that as of August 31, 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 August 31, 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.

**g. Board Secretary's Report**

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**h. Board Secretary's Report**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11© 3, I, John Failla, Board Secretary, certify that as of October 31, 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 October 31, 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.

**19. Budget Procedures Calendar**

**RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Ocean Gate School District 2023-2024 Budget Procedures Calendar for the 2024-2025 School Budget. (see attached)

**MOTIONS 18 AND 19**

**MOTION: Michael Passeri**

**SECOND: Daniel Flemming**

**Discussion**

**Richard Casey** stated appreciation that the financial reports are caught up but there are still deficiencies due to late delivery of the reports. He believes insufficient time to review. Requested the BOE vote no on the motion to approve the reports. **Mr. Passeri** would like to table to next month. **Mrs. Patterson** advised we could not move forward with the bills list if not approved. **Mr. Failla** and **Mrs. Patterson** both advised that they met with BOE



**Treasurer, and he has assured them there are no issues with the reports. Mr. Fleming stated the Board did not request that Mr. Failla give them the reports in advance to review. Mr. Failla did catch up on all the reports as the Board requested.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:** Daniel Fleming, Michael Passeri

**Nays:** Richard Casey

**Abstain:**

**20. Board of Education Meeting Calendar**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the following meeting dates from January 2024-December 2024:**

**\*Indicates Regular Meeting Dates**

January 2, 2024 (**Annual Reorganization Meeting**)

\*January 16, 2024

February 6, 2024 (**Workshop Meeting**)

\*February 13, 2024

March 12, 2024 (**Workshop Meeting**)

\*March 19, 2024

April 30, 2024 (**Public Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting**)

\*May 14, 2024

\*June 18, 2024

\*July 9, 2024

\*August 13, 2024

\*September 17, 2024

\*October 15, 2024

\*November 14, 2024

\*December 17, 2024 – changed to December 18<sup>th</sup>

**MOTION: Michael Passeri**

**SECOND: Daniel Flemming**

Discussion: Mr. Fleming asked that Mr. Failla request an emergency meeting of the BOE if needed. Mr. Casey stated that the BOE is flexible and available for additional meetings as issues arise. Mrs. Patterson requested date change for December 2024 to the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**21. Old Business/Discussion**

**Development of a stakeholder group/committee**

**Mrs. Patterson discussed representation needed for possible feasibility studies.**

**Also, resurgence Coffee and Conversations with the Superintendent.**

**22. New Business/Discussion**

**Bylaws Policy 9323-9324**

**Mr. Casey advised that the policy states the BOE Meeting Agenda should be available upon request. Discussion about sufficient time to review agenda and financial statements prior to meeting. At next meeting the policy will be updated to read that the BOE should receive the agenda and reports three days before meeting.**

**Mr. Casey stated the language “upon request” should also be changed. Addendums can be added after the agenda is posted to the website 24 hours prior to meeting.**

**Bylaws Policy 9326**

**Mr. Casey read the policy on Board Minutes. He recommended update to the policy be adopted at the next meeting. Change to include language to post the minutes of the meeting on the website within two weeks following the approval of the minutes.**

**23. 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.**

**None**

**24. Executive Session**

**MOTION:** Michael Passeri

**SECOND:** Daniel Fleming

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

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

**RESOLVED, that the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, 2023 at 8:01 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.**

**25. Open Session**

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education re-enter into open session for at 9:19 PM for the purpose of continuing the meeting.**

**MOTION:** Michael Passeri  
**SECOND:** Daniel Fleming

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**  
**Ayes:** Richard Casey, Michael Passeri, Daniel Fleming

**26. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Michael Passeri  
**SECOND:** Daniel Fleming

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**  
**Ayes:** Richard Casey, Michael Passeri, Daniel Fleming

**RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education adjourn their regular meeting at 9:20 PM.**

**The Re-Organization Meeting of the Ocean Gate Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM.**