

**OCEAN GATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

January 16, 2024

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, January 16, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call Attendance

Present

Absent

Richard J. Casey	<u>X</u>	_____
Daniel Fleming	X Late with Notice	_____
Michael T. Passeri	<u>X</u>	_____
Aaron Gottesman	<u>X</u>	_____
Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell	<u>X</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 and District Website.

5. Administration of Oath

At this time Richard Casey, President, will administer the Oath of Office to the following newly elected member of the Ocean Gate Board of Education.

Board Member: Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell (Elected to a 3 year term)

6. 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

Message from Ocean Gate Mayor unable to attend but is supportive of the BOE.

7. Ocean Gate School Board of Education Recognition of January 2024 as School Board Recognition Month in Accordance With NJSBA

Ocean Gate Board of Education

- WHEREAS,** The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2024 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and
- WHEREAS,** The Ocean Gate Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and
- WHEREAS,** The Ocean Gate Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and
- WHEREAS,** New Jersey’s local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and
- WHEREAS,** New Jersey’s 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and
- WHEREAS,** School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and
- WHEREAS,** Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public’s expectations for the schools; and
- WHEREAS,** New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation’s best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Ocean Gate Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2024 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Ocean Gate Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children’s education.

MOTION: Aaron Gottesman
SECOND: Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

8. Approval of Minutes

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

Regular Meeting	December 20, 2023
Closed Session	December 20, 2023
Re-organization Meeting	January 2, 2024

MOTION: Aaron Gottesman
SECOND: Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

9. Correspondence

Thank you from Mrs. Murphy and update.

10. Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:

***Thank you to Ocean Gate Police Department, Ocean Gate Fire Department, and Borough Hall Staff for their support and protection during our emergency situation on 1/12/24.**

***Thank you to the George Chernego and the disbanded Ocean Gate First Aid squad for donating \$3,200 to the Ocean Gate PTO**

***MOU with Law Enforcement – meeting with Chief Kutcha rescheduled**

***State of the Gator Union (mid-year presentation) - Superintendent/Principal's Address rescheduled.**

Early Childhood Advisory Council
ECAC Survey, next meeting: 1/19 2:15pm

PTO & SEPAG
Valentine's Dance 2/9/24

Ocean Gate Municipal Alliance
Next meeting: 1/24 6:00pm

Ocean Gate Shared Services Committee Report
Feasibility Study topic

Student Council Liaison Report

- a. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the following HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying) report for December 21, 2023 – January 16, 2024:

# 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 Social Skills group Daily Wellness Check-ins

- b. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the following drill report for December 21, 2023 – January 16, 2024:

Date	Drill Type	Participants
January 12, 2024	Evacuation (real)	Whole school

- c. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education accept the following enrollment report for January 16, 2024: 137

PK3	PK4	Kinder-garten	1 st grade	2 nd grade	3 rd grade	4 th grade	5 th grade	6 th grade	Out of District	Total
11	14	19	15	15	14	15	18	15	1	137

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

11. Resolution for Feasibility Study

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the following resolution for the commencement of a feasibility study:

WHEREAS, the Ocean Gate School District and Central Regional School District are two neighboring school districts in Ocean County, New Jersey, that serve students in seventh through twelfth grade and pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean Gate School District and Central Regional School District share a common sending-receiving relationship, as the Ocean Gate School District sends its students to the Central Regional School District for secondary education; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean Gate School District and Central Regional School District are interested in exploring the potential benefits and challenges of unifying their school districts into a single pre-K-12 regional school district; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Division of Local Government Services has established a grant program, known as the School Regionalization Efficiency Program, that provides reimbursement of costs associated with feasibility studies that look at school district regionalization or consolidation; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean Gate School District and Central Regional School District wish to apply for this grant funding to conduct a feasibility study that will examine the educational, financial, and operational implications of creating a unified school district; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study will be conducted by an independent consultant with expertise in school district regionalization, who will solicit input from various stakeholders, including school administrators, staff, parents, students, and community members; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study will result in a comprehensive report that will outline the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed unification, as well as the steps and requirements for implementing such a change; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study will not commit the Ocean Gate School District and Central Regional School District to any course of action, but will provide them with valuable information and guidance for making an informed decision; and

WHEREAS, the final decision to pursue regionalization will be subject to voter approval in each of the affected school districts, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ocean Gate School District, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The Board of Education hereby authorizes the commencement of a feasibility study for a possible unification of the Ocean Gate School District and Central Regional School District into a single pre-K-12 regional school district. The Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission of a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Division of Local Government Services for reimbursement of the costs associated with the feasibility study, in accordance with the School Regionalization Efficiency Program.

The Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to take all necessary and appropriate actions to implement this resolution, including, but not limited to, selecting and contracting with a qualified consultant to conduct the feasibility study, collaborating and communicating with the Central Regional School District, and providing periodic updates to the Board of Education and the public on the progress and outcomes of the feasibility study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Central Regional School District, the Ocean County Superintendent of Schools, the New Jersey Department of Education, and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Division of Local Government Services. This resolution was adopted by the Board of Education of the Ocean Gate School District at a regular meeting held on January 16, 2024.

MOTION: Aaron Gottesman

SECOND: Michael Passeri

Discussion: Mrs. Patterson shared highlights from shared services meetings. Feasibility studies in regional school districts and grants were discussed with experts and other area superintendents, BOES and representatives in meetings. Central Regional is interested in working with us. This resolution will allow us to move forward, and we will have three representatives on the Steering Committee for Regionalization Feasibility Study. This study’s effect on the 2024-2025 budget and aide cuts were also discussed.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

12. Personnel

a. Paraprofessional Hourly Pay Rate Guide

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the following revised Paraprofessional Hourly Pay Rate Guide, effective March 1, 2024-June 30, 2024:

Paraprofessional Hourly Rate

Non-Degree/ParaPro Assessment/Entry Level	College Degree + Other Ed. Related Certifications or Experience	Education Degree/Teaching Cert.	Education Degree/Cert. +/- Other Ed. Related Certifications or Experience (ABA, ABLES, etc.)
\$18-19.00/hour	\$20-21.00/hour	\$22-23.00/hour	\$24-25.00/hour

***Hourly rate commensurate with experience and qualifications.**

b. Custodian Hourly Pay Rate Guide

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the following 2023-24 revised Custodian Hourly Pay Rate Guide, effective March 1, 2024-June 30, 2024:

2023-24 PT Custodian Hourly Rate

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
\$17.00/hour	\$18.00/hour	\$19.00/hour	\$20.00/hour

***Hourly rate/Level commensurate with experience and qualifications.**

Discussion: Mrs. Patterson discussed aligning qualifications/experience with pay scale. Retention of quality staff requires equal or better pay and PD opportunities. Pay scale needs to reflect the increase in minimum wage and the rates offered in other districts. Mrs. Patterson would like changes to be in effect as of March pay period.

Mr. Failla stated he does not know the impact of these increases on the budget.

Mr. Casey does not have enough information to move forward from a budgetary perspective.

Mrs. Patterson stated the change in the guide will help make budget decisions.

Mr. Casey asked that this be tabled so that the change in guide and the increases can be reviewed for the next meeting.

MOTION TO TABLE

MOTION: Michael Passeri

SECOND: Daniel Fleming

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

Abstain

13. Professional Development

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the following Professional Development opportunities:

- a. Wes Brown, Music Teacher
NJMEA 2024 State Conference
February 22-23, 2024**

Registration: \$195

Mileage: \$45.12

Total: \$240.12

- b. Melanie Patterson, Superintendent/Principal
NJASA Women in Leadership Conference
March 18-19, 2024**

The Palace in Somerset, NJ

Registration: \$419

Total: \$419

14. Play-Based Support and Limit-Setting Workshop

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve a Play-Based Support and Limit-Setting Workshop for Ocean Gate School Staff, presented by Christian Bellissimo, play therapist and consultant, on February 16, 2024 from 9:00am-1:00pm with a cost up to \$1500.00, charged to the ARP grant.

15. Before or After School Tutoring Program

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the facilitation of a before or after school tutoring program for students in grades K-6. Teachers will be paid a rate of \$45.00 per session. Tutoring sessions will be scheduled for 8:00-8:30am or 3:15-3:45pm. Each tutoring session will last 30 minutes plus 10 additional minutes are allocated for student arrival or dismissal time, for up to 4 sessions per week for 8 weeks, starting the week of February 5, 2024 and ending the week of March 25, 2024. Up to \$10,080.00 total cost, charged to ARP ESSER and the NJ High Impact Tutoring Grant.

16. After School Board Games/Strategy Games Club

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve an after school Board Games/Strategy Games club for grades 3-6, to be facilitated by Melanie Patterson, Superintendent/Principal, on Wednesdays from 3:05-3:50pm in the Multi-Purpose Room or Library, starting Wednesday, January 24th. End date to be determined. There is no cost associated.

17. “My Face” Wonder Assembly

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the “My Face” Wonder Assembly for grades 4-6 on January 19, 2024 from 12:45-1:45pm. There is no cost for the district.

18. Field Trips

- a. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the 5th and 6th Grade field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo, Philadelphia, PA, on March 14, 2024 from 8:30am to 3:30pm. The cost of admission is free for students and \$75 for adults. The cost for transportation is to be determined from Central Regional Transportation or other transportation company.
- b. **RESOLVED**, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade field trip to the Grunin Center at Ocean County College for a STEM interactive mystery show on January 25, 2024 from 9:15am to 12:00pm. The cost of admission is free for students and adults, and the cost for transportation is \$471, determined by Central Regional Transportation.

19. Central Regional High School Student Council Visit

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the visit of the Central Regional High School Student Council from 9-11:15am for the purpose of working with our Gator Groups on a kindness activity. There is no cost for the district.

20. Facilities Usage

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the following facilities usage requests:

- a. RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Ocean Gate Parks & Recreation to use the Multi-Purpose Room and adjacent bathrooms for their Basketball program for Ocean Gate students (grades 1-6), from 6:00-8:00pm on Fridays, from January 26-March 15, 2024.**

- b. RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Ocean Gate PTO to use the Multi-Purpose Room and adjacent bathrooms for their Valentine’s Dance on February 9, 2024, from 5-9pm.**

21. Projected Preschool Enrollment

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the submission of the 2024-25 Projected Preschool Enrollment Form.

22. High-Impact Tutoring Grant Submission

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the submission of the High-Impact Tutoring Grant by January 31, 2024.

MOTION 13 through 22

Discussion:

Mrs. McGinley-McDoonnell asked if the cost of item #13 could be split with the other shared district. Mrs. Patterson advised it can not as the PD Day falls on a date the staff member is in district.

Mrs. Patterson stated looking forward to My Face Wonder assembly on Friday but it will be virtual because of impending weather. This is at no cost.

Item #18 Mrs. Patterson advised of difficulty with arranging transportation with Central Regional and other vendors. Mr. Passeri suggested reaching out to Berkeley.

MOTION: Aaron Gottesman

SECOND: Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

23. Business Administrator’s Report

Secretary’s report for November is complete and no exceptions to report.

HVAC update: project is almost complete and supplemental checks and monitoring are ongoing.

24. 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 and December 2022 Payrolls:**

December 15	\$110,860.23
December 30	\$119,729.70

c. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s Reports for October 2023.**

d. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Transfer Report for November 2023.**

e. **RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education approve the Board Secretary’s Report for November 2023.**

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

Mr. Casey asked for November 2023 Treasurer’s report. Mr. Failla stated the Treasurer requested some additional information today. It will be ready for the next meeting.

Mr. Casey stated that since we approved the feasibility study and it’s budget time, will it be necessary to move meetings to be prepared for the next meetings.

Mr. Failla is not requesting any change in dates at this time.

MOTION: Aaron Gottesman

SECOND: Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays:
Abstain:

25. Old Business/Discussion

Mr. Casey stated that at the last meeting the Board discussed changes in the language to bylaws and is requesting that the Board Secretary have updated bylaws as discussed on the next agenda.

26. New Business/Discussion

None

27. 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.

Mrs. Patterson stated that Central Regional production of FROZEN was great including GATOR Alumni.

28. Executive Session

**MOTION: Aaron Gottesman
SECOND: Daniel Flemming**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

RESOLVED, that on the 16th of January, 2024 at 7:40 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.

29. Open Session

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education re-enter into open session for at 8:25 PM for the purpose of continuing the meeting.

MOTION: Michael Passeri
SECOND: Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

30. Adjournment

MOTION: Aaron Gottesman
SECOND: Kerrie McGinley-McDonnell

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

RESOLVED, that the Ocean Gate Board of Education adjourn their regular meeting at 8:26 PM.

The next Regular Meeting of the Ocean Gate Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM.