

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Ocean City Board of Education was called to order by President Clark on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 7:04 p.m. in the Ocean City High School Library, 501 Atlantic Avenue, Ocean City, NJ.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ANNOUNCEMENT

President Clark announced that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975. Notice of the time, place and agenda were filed with the city clerk, posted in the lobby of City Hall, and delivered to the Ocean City Sentinel and the Press of Atlantic City.

President Clark led everyone present in a salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

On roll call, members present were H. James Bauer, Cecilia Gallelli-Keyes, William Holmes, Patrick Kane, Jacqueline McAlister, Fran Newman, Charles Roche, William Sooy, Gregory Whelan, and Joseph S. Clark, Jr. Also present were Thomas Baruffi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent, Timothy E. Kelley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Michael Stanton, Esquire, Carl Tripician from Longport, Daniel Tumolo from Sea Isle City, and Student Representatives Quinn O'Brien and Olivia Vanesko. Member absent was Michael James. There were 43 members of the public present.

PRESENTATIONS

Geoff Haines, Athletic Director, presented fall sports recognitions.

Dr. Baruffi recognized student achievements.

President Clark recognized long-time board member James Bauer for his years of service on the Board of Education.

Curt Nath, Director of Academic Services, presented new program proposals for the 2022-2023 school year as well as the High School Program of Studies for the 2022-2023 school year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Dr. Cathleen Smith, Primary School Principal, addressed the Board regarding the retirement of Mikenzie Helphenstine.

Dale Braun, Ocean City, addressed the Board regarding the High School Program of Studies and also thanked James Bauer for his years of service to the Board of Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Baruffi gave an overview of the Agenda.

Based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions are presented for formal approval by the Board of Education.

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. Newman, and carried by roll call vote, except as noted below, the Board of Education approved the following Interim Superintendent's recommendations.

1. Buildings & Grounds

A. Use of Facilities

The Board approves the following requests for the use of the High School:

	Requested By	Activity	Dates/Times Requested	Rooms Needed	Fee Charged
1	Upper Township Soccer Association	Soccer Training	January 10, 24, 31, 2022 February 7, 14, 28, 2022 (Mondays) 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Auxiliary Gym	No charge
2	Father Judge High School	Football Game	September 3, 2022 (Sat) 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Locker Rooms & Exterior Restrooms	\$380.00

Informational Items

School	Date	Drill(s)
High School	November 18, 2021 November 14, 2021	Fire Security
Intermediate School	November 18, 2021 November 19, 2021	Fire Security
Primary School	November 16, 2021 November 17, 2021	Fire Security

- Buildings and Grounds Committee Report – Mr. Bauer, Chairperson
No report.

2. Curriculum and Student Affairs

A. Out-of-District Placement

The Board approves the following out-of-district student placement for the 2021-22 school year:

Placement	District	Tuition
Legacy Treatment Services – Mary Dobbins School	Upper	\$66,007

B. 2021-2024 English Language Learner Three-Year Plan (Attachment #2.B)

The Board approves the attached 2021-2024 English Language Learner Three-Year Plan and authorizes submission to the New Jersey Department of Education.

C. Program of Studies – High School (Attachment #2.C)

The Board adopts the attached High School Program of Studies for the 2022-23 school year.

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister and a vote to abstain from Mr. Holmes.

D. Athletic Competition – Home-Schooled Child

The Board approves the request for a home-schooled child to participate in the Ocean City High School Athletic Program in accordance with Board Policy #2431, Athletic Competition.

E. High School Field Trips (Attachment #2.E)

The Board approves the attached High School Field Trip list.

Informational Items (Attachment)

Out-of-School Suspension Report for November 2021

- Curriculum and Student Affairs Committee Report – Mrs. McAlister, Chairperson
Mrs. McAlister gave a report of the Committee meeting.

3. Finance

A. Bill List (Attachment #3.A)

The Board approves the payment of bills for December 2021 in the amount of \$3,876,112.07.

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Ms. Gallelli-Keyes.

B. Secretary and Monthly Cash Reconciliation Reports (Attachment #3.B)

The Board approves the Board Secretary's Monthly Financial Report and the Monthly Cash Reconciliation Report for November 2021.

C. Line Item Transfers (Attachment #3.C)

The Board approves the revenue and appropriation transfers for November 2021. The Board also acknowledges receipt of the State of NJ mandated transfer reconciliation form for November 2021.

D. Travel & Expense Reimbursement (Attachment #3.D)

The Board approves the December 2021 list of Board of Education Members and School District Staff travel and related expense reimbursements.

E. Food Service Report (Attachment #3.E)

The Board accepts the Food Service Monthly Finance Report for November 2021.

F. Bringing the Wetlands to Life in Ocean City: Partnership Program Proposal

The Board approves the submission of the Bringing the Wetlands to Life in Ocean City Partnership Program Proposal Grant to the Ocean City Free Public Library for review and award. This annual program, in partnership with the Ocean City Board of Education, the Ocean City Free Public Library, and the Wetlands Institute, provides interactive science experiences for our Primary, Intermediate, and High School students. The anticipated award is for \$24,960.00.

G. Donation

The Board accepts the following donation for the 2021-22 school year:

Donor	School	Amount	Use
Family of Robert Fletcher Garrett III	High School	\$2,500.00	Scoring equipment for swim team

4. Personnel (all motions are upon Interim Superintendent's recommendation)

A. Collective Negotiation Agreement (Attachment #4.A)

The Board accepts the attached Ocean City Educational Supportive Staff Association Collective Negotiation Agreement from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2026, and authorizes the signatures on behalf of the Board of Education by roll call vote.

Motion carried with votes to abstain from Ms. Gallelli-Keyes and Mrs. McAlister.

B. Termination of Employment (*Attachment #4.B*)

The Board moves to terminate the employment of employee #1494 effective January 6, 2022, by roll call vote.

Motion carried with a vote to abstain from Mrs. McAlister.

C. Retirements

The Board accepts with deep regret the following retirements by roll call vote:

	Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1	Paul Baruffi	HS	Teacher	4/1/22
2	Donna Mecouch	HS	Assistant Principal's Secretary	7/1/22

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

D. Resignation – Leave Replacement

The Board approves the following resignation of High School certificated leave replacement staff by roll call vote:

	Name	School/ Location	Current Position	Effective Date
1	Phyllis Coletta	HS	Long-Term Leave Replacement English Teacher	12/20/21

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

E. Resignations – Non-Certificated Staff

The Board approves the following resignations of District non-certificated staff by roll call vote:

	Name	School/ Location	Current Position	Effective Date
1	Lisa Barber	District	PT Food Service Worker	12/16/21
2	Kathryn Zammit	District	Special Education Aide	1/10/22

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

F. New Employment Appointments – Non-Certificated Staff

The Board approves the following appointments of District non-certificated staff by roll call vote:

	Name	School/ Location	Position	Effective Date	Compensation
1	Teresa Hughes	District	PT Food Service Worker	On/after 12/16/21- 6/30/22	\$11,321.00, Step 1 (prorated)
2	Lisa Barber	District	Special Education Aide	12/16/21-6/30/22	\$22,629.00, Step 1(prorated)
3	Nicole Ferzetti	District	PT Food Service Worker	On/after 12/16/21- 6/30/22	\$11,321.00, Step 1 (prorated)

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

G. Co-Curricular Appointments

The Board approves the following High School co-curricular appointments by roll call vote:

	Name	Description	Tier	Compensation
1	Joshua Handshaw	Fall Play Set Construction	N/A	\$1,000.00
2	Carly Benson	Band Front	2	\$2,105.00

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

H. New Substitute Appointments

The Board approves the following appointments of substitute staff by roll call vote:

	Name	Location	Position	Effective Dates
1	Kevin Hansbury	District	Substitute Teacher	12/16/21-6/30/22
2	Emily Loeb	District	Substitute Teacher	12/16/21-6/30/22
3	Mary Nelson	District	Substitute Teacher	12/16/21-6/30/22
4	Rachel Wright	District	Substitute Teacher	12/16/21-6/30/22

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

I. Leaves of Absence (Attachment #4.I)

The Board accepts the following leaves of absence by roll call vote:

	Employee #	School/ Location	Paid Days	Unpaid Days	Type of Leave	Effective Dates
1	1591	District	0	Up to 39	Intermittent Unpaid FMLA/NJFLA	12/1/21-6/30/22
1	3394	HS	11.5	15.5	Paid/Unpaid/FMLA	11/15/21-12/23/21
2	3812	HS	31	0	Paid/FMLA	11/1/21-12/23/21

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

J. Sporting Event Worker

The Board approves the following sporting event worker for the 2021-22 school year by roll call vote:

	Name
1	Edward Ritti

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

K. Resignations-Coaches

The Board accepts the following District coaching resignations by roll call vote:

	Name	Season	Sport	Position	Effective Date
1	Bryan Chojnacki	Spring	Golf	Co-Coach	12/15/21
2	Catherine Kline	Winter	Freshman Girls' Basketball	Coach	12/15/21

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

L. Coaches

The Board approves the following revised High School coaches for the 2021-22 school year by roll call vote:

	Name	Season	Sport	Position	Stipend
1	Edward Ritti	Spring	Golf	Coach	\$6,807.00
2	Christian Clark	Spring	Boys' Lacrosse	Freshman Coach	\$4,892.00

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

Personnel Addendum

A. New Employment – Non-Certificated Staff

The Board approves the following non-certificated staff by roll call vote:

	Name	School/ Location	Position	Effective Dates	Compensation	Notes
1	Lauren Richards	High School	Principal's Secretary	On or before 2/1/22 – 6/30/22	\$46,389.00, Step 1 (prorated)	Filling a vacancy

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

- Negotiations Committee Report – Mr. Whelan, Chairperson
No report.

5. Policy

A. Policies – 1st Reading (*Attachment #5.A*)

The Board approves the following replacements, additions and/or deletions to the Board Policy and/or Regulation manuals:

	Policy Number	Policy Name	Mandated	New	Revised
1	P 1648.11	The Road Forward COVID-19 – Health and Safety	x	x	
2	P 1648.14	Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings	x	x	
3	P 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	x	x	
4	P 5751	Sexual Harassment of Students	x		x

Motion carried with a vote to abstain from Mr. Holmes.

B. Regulation – 1st Reading (*Attachment #5.B*)

The Board approves the following replacements, additions and/or deletions to the Board Policy and/or Regulation manuals:

	Regulation Number	Regulation Name	Mandated	New	Revised
1	P 5751	Sexual Harassment of Students	x		x

Informational Item (Attachment)

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(I)

- Policy Committee Report – Mrs. Newman, Chairperson
Mrs. Newman gave a report of the Committee meeting.

6. District Communications/Liaison

- District Communications Committee Report - Ms. Gallelli-Keyes, Chairperson
No report.

Motion by Dr. Kane, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and carried by roll call vote, except as noted below, the Board of Education (Ocean City Representatives) approved the following Interim Superintendent’s recommendations.

3. Finance

H. Donation (Ocean City Representatives Only)

The Board accepts the following donation for the 2021-22 school year:

Donor	School	Amount	Use
Ocean City PTA	Intermediate School	\$640.00 (proceeds from Halloween Dance)	Student Council

4. Personnel (all motions are upon Interim Superintendent’s recommendation)

M. Resignation-Coach (Ocean City Representatives Only)

The Board accepts the following Intermediate School coaching resignation by roll call vote:

	Name	Season	Sport	Position	Effective Date
1	Patricia Pepe	Winter	Boys’ Basketball	Co-Coach	12/15/21

N. Coach (Ocean City Representatives Only)

The Board approves the following Intermediate School coach for the 2021-22 school year by roll call vote:

	Name	Season	Sport	Position	Stipend
1	Brian Burke	Winter	Boys’ Basketball	Co-Coach	\$2,446.00

O. Leaves of Absence (Ocean City Representatives Only) (Attachment #4.O)

The Board accepts the following leaves of absence by roll call vote:

	Employee #	School/ Location	Paid Days	Unpaid Days	Type of Leave	Effective Dates
1	2327	PS	19	0	Paid/FMLA	11/29/21-12/23/21
2	3554	IS	30	0	Paid/FMLA	11/9/21-12/23/21
3	3572	IS	0	Up to 60	Unpaid/FMLA/NJFLA	1/3/22- 3/29/22
4	4690	PS	32.5	48.5	Paid/FMLA/NJFLA/ Unpaid	2/11/22-6/30/22

P. Leave Replacements (Ocean City Representatives Only)

The Board approves the following Primary School Intermediate School leave replacements by roll call vote:

	Name	Location	Position	Effective Dates	Compensation
1	Kathleen Brown	IS	Short-Term Leave Replacement 5th Grade Teacher	11/9/21-12/23/21	\$175.00/day

Q. Retirements (Ocean City Representatives Only)

The Board accepts with deep regret the following retirements by roll call vote:

	Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1	Mikenzie Helphenstine	PS	Teacher	1/1/22
2	Todd Lauer	IS	Head Custodian	5/1/22
3	Mark Miedema	IS	Teacher	7/1/22

Personnel Addendum

B. New Employment – Certificated Staff (Ocean City Representatives Only)

The Board approves the following certificated staff by roll call vote:

	Name	School/ Location	Position	Effective Dates	Compensation	Notes
1	Dana Giorgio Gelegonya	Intermediate School	Special Education Teacher	On or after 1/3/22 – 6/30/22	\$73,670.00, MA Step 6 (prorated)	Filling a vacancy

Motion carried with a vote of nay by Mrs. McAlister.

C. Intermediate School Extra-Curricular Assignment/Stipend Position (Ocean City Representatives Only)

The Board approves the following Intermediate School extra-curricular assignment/stipend position for the 2021-22 school year by roll call vote:

	Name	Description	Max Daily Hours	Stipend
1	Bruce Hunt	Detention Supervisor	2 hours	\$32.00/hr

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Kane, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the October 13, 2021, Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. Newman, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the November 17, 2021, Regular Meeting and Executive Session as presented.

Motion carried by roll call vote, with a vote of nay by Ms. Gallelli-Keyes and a vote to abstain on Executive Session from Mrs. McAlister.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Victor Staniec, Ocean City, addressed the Board regarding James Bauer’s years of service to the Board of Education.

Robin Shaffer, Ocean City, addressed the Board regarding school security, specifically threats from firearms, building access and security. Mr. Shaffer also commented on his view of district administration’s response to security incidents. President Clark notified Mr. Shaffer that he had exceeded his allotted time.

Paul Matusz, OCEA President, addressed the Board regarding school climate and district leadership.

Kathy Sykes, OCESSA President, addressed the Board regarding the school climate, district leadership, and the current superintendent search.

Mikenzie Helphenstine, Ocean City, addressed the Board, thanked James Bauer for his years of service to the Board of Education, and thanked Dr. Baruffi for communicating with parents. Ms. Helphenstine further commented on school and district climate.

Liz Nicoletti, Ocean City, addressed the Board regarding the Governor’s executive order requiring masks in schools, the current price of gasoline, a high school student assembly regarding mask wearing, and the school district providing masks to students.

Jane Custer, Ocean City, addressed the Board regarding “no” votes to agenda items.

David Breeden, Ocean City, addressed the Board regarding a security incident this past week at Ocean City High School and the school/district administration’s response to the event. Mr. Breeden also stated his support for the current administration. Mr. Breeden also inquired regarding “no” or “abstention” votes by board members.

Erin Sykes, Absecon, addressed the Board regarding a security incident/evacuation that occurred at the high school this week and questioned how the event was handled.

BOARD COMMENTS

Student representatives updated the Board regarding an upcoming Model UN trip, National Honor Society induction, and upcoming athletic seasons.

Board of Education comments included wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season, thanks to James Bauer for his years of service to the Board of Education, thanks for the staff who came to support Mikenzie Helphenstine, and thanks to the public for their continued participation at board meetings.

BOARD PRESIDENT COMMENTS

President Clark thanked the retirees for their service, thanked James Bauer for his years of service to the Board of Education, and thanked the staff and administration for their work at the high school security incident this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Kane, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy E. Kelley
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

/lp