

**OCEAN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARETOWN, NEW JERSEY
REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 8, 2026**

Open Session 6:15 p.m.

Call to Order:

Pledge to the Flag

Open Public Meetings Act:

This is to advise the general public that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Ocean Township Board of Education caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 64 Railroad Avenue, Waretown, NJ and emailed on January 9, 2025 to the Asbury Park Press, and to the Office of the Municipal Clerk of Ocean Township, a meeting notice setting forth the time, date and location of this meeting.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Fuchs _____ Mrs. Leaming _____ Mr. Tart _____ Mrs. Zuzic _____

Open Public Forum: Agenda Items Only

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____, to open public forum.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Fuchs _____ Mrs. Leaming _____ Mr. Tart _____ Mrs. Zuzic _____

Limit five (5) minutes (Board Policy #0167)

Close Public Forum:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to close public forum.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Fuchs _____ Mrs. Leaming _____ Mr. Tart _____ Mrs. Zuzic _____

Official Results of the Annual School Election:

3 Year Term (1 seat): Marie Leaming – 2,489

Oath of Office - Mrs. Leaming

B1. Board Secretary conducts election of President - opens the floor for nominations for President.

Nominations: _____

Motion by _____ second by _____ to appoint _____ as the Board President.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Fuchs _____ Mrs. Leaming _____ Mr. Tart _____ Mrs. Zuzic _____

Board President assumes control of the meeting.

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B2. Board President conducts election of Vice President - opens the floor for nominations for Vice President.

Nominations: _____

Motion by _____ second by _____ to appoint _____ as the Board Vice President.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Fuchs _____ Mrs. Leaming _____ Mr. Tart _____ Mrs. Zuzic _____

Code of Ethics - Read & Adopt

B3. Motion by _____ second by _____ to Adopt the Code of Ethics for School Board Members (N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1) and training on Ethics for School Board Members:

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

- a) I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.*
- b) I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.*
- c) I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.*
- d) I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.*
- e) I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.*
- f) I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.*
- g) I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.*
- h) I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.*
- i) I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.*
- j) I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.*

Roll Call:

Mrs. Fuchs _____ Mrs. Leaming _____ Mr. Tart _____ Mrs. Zuzic _____

Actions for Reorganization:

- a. Appoint Official Newspaper of the District - The Asbury Park Press as the Official Newspaper of the School District
- Appoint Official Digital Newspaper of the District - Jersey Shore Online

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- b. Adopt Meeting Schedule and Times:
Regular Monthly Meeting Convenes at 6:15 PM with an Executive Session at 5:15 PM when necessary:
- February 12, 2026
 - March 12, 2026
 - April 16, 2026
 - April 30, 2026 (*Public Hearing on Budget*)
 - June 11, 2026
 - July 23, 2026 (*Fourth Thursday*)
 - August 20, 2026 (*Third Thursday*)
 - September 10, 2026
 - October 8, 2026
 - November 12, 2026
 - December 10, 2026
 - January 07, 2027 (*Reorganization Meeting at 6:15 pm (action will be taken) and Regular Monthly Meeting*)
- c. Appointments by the President:
Committees:
- Finance & Budget
 - Personnel & Curriculum
 - Security & Facilities
 - Negotiations
 - Policy
- d. Appointment of the Representative to Southern Regional Board of Education.
- e. Appointment of the Delegate & Alternate to New Jersey School Boards Association.
- f. Appointment of the Delegate & Alternate to Ocean County School Boards Association.
- g. Appointment of Kevin Byrnes & Carol Harper as Board Secretary through reorganization in January 2027.
- h. Readoption of all existing Bylaws, Policies, Regulations, Curricula, Textbooks and all Teacher, Principal and Staff Evaluation Instruments.
- i. Appointment of Kevin Byrnes as the Purchasing Agent for the Ocean Township School District/Board of Education with a district bid limit of \$53,000 and a quotation limit of \$7,950. The purchasing agent is authorized to award bids up to the bid threshold.
- j. Approve the payment of bills between Board meetings with retroactive approval provided at the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting.
- k. Approve, as provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 amended, that the Superintendent, or designee, be designated to approve such line item budget transfers as necessary between Board of Education meetings, and that such transfers shall be reported to the Board of Education, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting.
- l. Approve the Procurement of Goods and Services through State Agencies (State Contracts) and through Federal Agencies via GSA Contracts. Additionally, approve the procurement of Goods and Services through the following cooperatives: Educational Data Services, Education Services Consortium of NJ, Hunterdon County Educational Services Consortium and Ocean County Purchasing Cooperative.

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- m. Authorize the Business Administrator to invest monies in federally approved and State Government Unit Deposit Protection Act authorized banks with the award to be given to the bank quoting the highest return.
- n. Approve the Integrated Pest Management Plan, Comprehensive Equity Plan, Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, AHERA Management Plan, Hazard Communication Plan, Indoor Air Quality Plan, Internal Controls and Standard Operating Procedures, District Position Control Roster, Affirmative Action Plan, OPRA Form, Long Range Facilities Plan, Purchasing Manual, and School District Emergency Management Plan.
- o. Approve Ocean First Bank as the official depository of the school district. Additionally, approve the following warrant signatures be approved:
Payroll – President/Board Secretary
Payroll-Agency – Board Secretary /President
Unemployment – Board Secretary/President
General Checking – President/Vice President, Board Secretary (any two signatures)
Capital Project-Board Secretary/President/Vice President(any two signatures)
Cafeteria Account- President/Vice President, Board Secretary (Any two signatures)
Student Activities – Board Secretary & Superintendent (Two signatures)
- p. Approve the following Tax Shelter Annuity Funds for employee contribution:
AXA Equitable, Lincoln Investments and Vanguard
- q. Approve Black Rock (College Advantage Saving Plan) for employee contributions.
- r. Approve First Financial Federal Credit Union for employee contributions for Saving Accounts, Checking Accounts, Holiday Savings, Loans, etc.
- s. Approve the following 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for employee contribution:
AXA Equitable
- t. Approve Threshold for “Regular District Travel”: It is recommended that the Board approve \$1,000 per staff member for school business travel where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given year. This shall be effective for the 2026-27 school year. Travel expenses for the 2026-27 school year will not exceed \$45,000.
- u. Establish the following petty cash accounts for the ensuing year:
\$100 each:
Tina Casella – Secretary to the Business Administrator
Samuel Pepe- Facilities Manager
Elaine Chiarella – Principal’s Secretary FAP
Carol Widmer – Principal’s Secretary WES

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v. Approve the following appointments through the reorganization meeting in January 2027:

Affirmative Action Officer	Kevin Byrnes
Liaison to Child Welfare Authorities	Daggi Ball
Public Agency Compliance Officer	Kevin Byrnes
Americans w/Disabilities Coordinator	Sarah Reinhold
Section 504 Officer	Sarah Reinhold
Contracting Officer	Kevin Byrnes

Representative for the purpose of:

Applying for State & Federal Funds	Kevin Byrnes
AHERA Officer	Samuel Pepe
Safety and Health Designee	Samuel Pepe
IPM Coordinator	Samuel Pepe
Indoor Air Quality Designee	Samuel Pepe
HCS/Right to Know Officer	Samuel Pepe
Custodian of Public Records	Kevin Byrnes
Homeless Liaison	Lauren Eberenz
Anti-Bullying Coordinator	Lauren Eberenz

w. Approve the following appointed officials through the reorganization meeting in January 2027:

Legal Counsel Board of Education	Scarinci Hollenbeck
Board Negotiator	Scarinci Hollenbeck
Medical Inspector	Dr. James Suddeth
Attendance Officer	Sharon Ciccone
Liability & Workers' Comp Broker	Gallagher Risk Mgmt., LLC
Architect of Record	Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc.
Policy Service Provider	Strauss Esmay, LLP

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

Board discussion.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Fuchs _____ Mrs. Leaming _____ Mr. Tart _____ Mrs. Zuzic _____

Adjourn reorganization meeting portion

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to adjourn at _____ pm.

Ayes _____ Nays _____