



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Special Meeting**

**Minutes  
July 11, 2024**

A meeting/retreat of the Ocean County College Board of Trustees was called to order at 12:04 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2024, by Mr. Jerry Dasti, Chair, in Room 102 of the Conference Center on the College campus and via Webex.

Call to Order

The announcement of public meeting was made by Ms. Connie Bello in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975. Notice of this meeting was publicized through a resolution adopted at the November 2023 reorganization meeting and distributed as required by law. In addition, a notice was distributed on July 3, 2024, indicating that this meeting would be held via Webex, as provided for by New Jersey Public Law 2020, Chapter 11, approved on March 20, 2020, for public bodies to conduct meetings by electronic means.

Public Meeting  
Announcement

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those in attendance were Mr. Dasti, Mrs. Linda Novak, Mr. Stephan Leone, Mr. Robert Fall, Ms. DiAnne Gove, Mrs. Joanne Pehlivanian, Mr. Joseph Teichman, Mr. Steven Zabarsky, Ms. Cheyenne Severin, Mr. Jack Sahradnik, Commissioner Virginia Haines, Ms. Sara Winchester, Dr. Pamela Monaco, and Ms. Connie Bello.

Attendance

The following items were discussed:

Discussion Items

- Dr. Monaco officially shared with the trustees that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education took action on June 27, 2024, “to reaffirm accreditation because the institution is now in compliance with Standard VII (Governance, Leadership, and Administration).” Many people throughout the College worked very hard during the past year on the Monitoring Report submitted to the Commission. Dr. Monaco expressed deep appreciation to all who worked on the report and particularly thanked Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, OCC’s Accreditation Liaison Officer, and the members of the Core Team for their excellent work.
- Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Executive Director of Institutional Planning, Effectiveness, and Compliance, provided a brief history of the Board’s self-assessment process since it was initiated in 2016. All nine current trustees participated in this year’s assessment.

The New Hampshire Center for Non-Profits recommends that all items with a 65 percent or higher rating from the trustees of “strongly agree” or “agree” be identified as strengths. All but two of the 60 statements received 65 percent or more. Dr. Beshara-Blauth reviewed the statements that received 75 percent of “agree” or “strongly agree” responses from the trustees.

The New Hampshire Center defines questions receiving 30 percent or more responses in the “disagree” and “strongly disagree” categories as areas for potential development. One statement relating to leadership preparation was lower than last year.

Because of the high level of satisfaction by Board members in the “agree” or “strongly agree” categories, statements receiving two or more “disagree” or “strongly disagree” responses, as well as those receiving responses of “don’t know,” were discussed by the Board. Dr. Beshara-Blauth recommended that the trustees have follow-up discussions related to these “outlier” statements and responses.

As Dr. Beshara-Blauth presented the results of the assessment, trustees discussed some of the reasons they responded as they did. It was requested that several of the statements be reviewed before next year’s assessment to eliminate any misunderstanding about them. The trustees expressed their commitment to this evaluation process.

Mr. Dasti requested comments or inquiries from members of the public before moving to a closed session, and none were received.

Public Comments

At 12:25 p.m., a resolution was introduced and unanimously adopted by the trustees to move into a closed session to discuss personnel issues. It was estimated that the closed session would be no longer than ninety minutes, after which the public meeting would resume and adjourn.

Resolution Adopted for Closed Meeting

At 2:42 p.m., the public meeting resumed. The next meeting of the Board was announced to be Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in the Conference Center, Building 10, and via Webex.

Public Meeting Resumed

With no further comments from the Board members or the public, the public meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Stephan R. Leone  
Secretary

Connie Bello  
Assistant to the President and  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees