



BOARD OF TRUSTEES Special Retreat/Meeting

Minutes July 23, 2026

A meeting/retreat of the Ocean County College Board of Trustees was called to order at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2026, by Mr. Lynn Canfield, Vice Chair, in the absence of Mr. Steven Zabarsky, 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 Mrs. Connie Bello in compliance with the amended New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act by posting a notice on the OCC Public Notices webpage and sharing the link with the Secretary of State on July 17, 2026. The notice, which included information to join by Webex, was also distributed and posted on campus.

Public Meeting
Announcement

Those in attendance were Mr. Canfield, Mr. Frank Dupignac, Ms. DiAnne Gove, Mr. Carmen Memoli, Ms. Susan Naples, Mr. Jack Sahradnik, Dr. Pamela Monaco, and Mrs. Connie Bello. Also in attendance was Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Assistant Vice President of Strategic Initiatives.

Attendance

In accordance with Policy #1252.2, the trustees engage annually in a self-assessment of the Board, facilitated by Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Executive Director of Institutional Planning, Effectiveness, and Compliance. This year, the assessment opened on May 28 and closed on June 22, 2026. Seven of the nine trustees participated in the assessment.

Review of Annual
Board of Trustees
Self-Assessment

Dr. Beshara-Blauth highlighted the following:

- 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 of the 52 statement questions received “strongly agree” or “agree” this year, an increase over last year. These statements, all of which are considered strengths, pertained to Board and Staff Roles, Policy Making Practices, Planning, Fiscal Management, Board Meetings, Board/Executive Relationship, and External Practices.

Recommendations were included from the trustees to increase the effectiveness of the Board:

- Member suggestions should be taken more seriously.
- The agenda and committee reports should be available to trustees in sufficient time for review.
- The Board is interacting in a positive direction with new officers and trustees.

Dr. Beshara-Blauth reviewed some of the statements/questions that received outlier and “Don’t Know” responses that pertained to:

- Board member roles
- Policy review on pre-determined cycles
- Effective marketing and public relations strategies

Dr. Beshara-Blauth recommended that the trustees consider specific areas that might require more attention and develop two to four goals to work on during the current fiscal year, such as encouraging increased participation by all trustees at College-related activities on campus beyond monthly meetings. Dr. Beshara-Blauth is available to assist the trustees in the creation of goals.

Mr. Canfield offered time for comments from the public, but none were forthcoming.

Public Comments

At 12:35 p.m., the trustees unanimously adopted a resolution to move into a closed session to discuss personnel matters, collective bargaining, and pending and anticipated litigation, the results of which will be released to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The length of the closed session was estimated to be no longer than sixty minutes.

Adoption of
Closed Session
Resolution

The trustees moved into closed session. At 1:20 p.m., the closed session ended, and the trustees resumed the public retreat/meeting and adjourned.

Adjournment

Respectfully

DiAnne C. Gove
Secretary

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