**OCEAN CITY FAIRNESS IN TAXES**
**POST OFFICE BOX 565**
**OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY 08226**

Saturday, June 17, 2023

Mr. Chris Halliday, Board President
Ocean City Board of Education
501 Atlantic Avenue – Suite 1
Ocean City, New Jersey 08226

Subject: **Special BOE Meeting – Saturday, June 17, 2023**
**Ocean City Fairness in Taxes (FIT) Public Comments**

Dear Mr. Halliday:

Since the surprise resignation of our current superintendent on March 24, 2023, you have publicly committed to an accelerated search process that is transparent and open to all interested parties. In a district press release dated April 21, 2023, you stated that "the board of education is working on an accelerated timeline to receive applications and interview candidates to lead Ocean City schools."

Applications for the position of school superintendent were due on Friday, May 4, 2023. Forty four (44) days or over six (6) weeks later, the board is just NOW meeting to discuss the selection process. At this point in time, the hope would have been that the district was well into the interview process, if not into the final round of interviews, not discussing on how to proceed with the process. In light of this information, Ocean City Fairness in Taxes (FIT) has the following questions:

1. Has the board developed question and an associated evaluation criteria for candidates to be interviewed? It is important to ask the same question of every candidate to properly assess their ability, skill, education and experiences. It is equally as important for all board members to have meaningful input into this aspect of the process.

2. Has the board reviewed the forty five (45) applications submitted and narrowed down the field to a manageable group of candidates to be interviewed for the first round?

3. Have any interviews been scheduled to date ... for either the permanent or interim superintendent?

4. Have any interviews been conducted to date ... for either the permanent or interim superintendent?

5. Are any interviews being conducted today ... for either the permanent or interim superintendent?

6. Finally, is the executive session today focused exclusively on the selection process for the permanent superintendent or for the interim superintendent ... or both positions?

The reason for the last question is the public notice for this meeting is rather vague. Usually, a companion resolution authorizing an executive session is provided to the pubic prior to the vote to retire into executive session. This resolution describes the need for the closed session and cites which one of the nine (9) exemptions of the state Open Public Meetings Act or the sunshine law is being utilized to justify the closed session. Such a resolution could not be located or found for this meeting.

It is imperative that this selection process move forward with a sense of urgency but balanced with maintaining quality control in order to insure that the best possible candidate is selected for the district. Clearly, and unfortunately, that did not happen last time and as a result, staff and students are suffering.

Respectfully submitted,

David Breeden, President
Ocean City Fairness in Taxes

cc: Tim Kelley, Board Secretary/Business Administrator
Ocean City Board of Education Members
Ocean City Fairness in Taxes Board of Directors