



BOARD MEMBERS

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Highlights from the February 21 Meeting

Katie Belle Sikes won 2022 3A State Women's Swimming Champion in the 50 yard freestyle. Sikes is the first female swimming state champion in Orange High School history.



Xavier Adams was named the **2022 Prudential NC Beginning Teacher of the Year**. Adams believes investing in relationships with students is the most significant part of his job. His most important piece of advice to beginning teachers – “you are enough.” As the winner, Xavier will receive a \$5,000 cash prize; participation in a trip in 2023 to Australia; instructional supply funds for OHS; and a piece of fine jewelry from Diamonds Direct.

Beck Tiani, a student artist at Orange High School, was the winner of an art contest and as a result was commissioned to design art for a picnic table that will remind students, staff, and the community that every person, regardless of who they are, are welcome! All people matter, and all people belong in OCS and at OHS!



Black History Month: Students at New Hope Elementary School created bulletin boards to honor Black History and celebrate the very things that the students wanted to celebrate about being Black.

Please Note: These are not the official minutes of the school board work session. The official minutes and all board policies are located [here](#).

More Spelling Bee Champions: Congratulations to Owen Isaacs - Pathways Elementary champion, Aaron Torres - Efland-Cheeks Global Elementary, and Maxwell Stern, the middle grades representative from the OCS Online Academy.

BOARD Matters



COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY BOARD APPROVED UPDATES

MASKING:

- Indoor masking in Orange County Schools will be required when designated by NC Governor Executive Orders, Legislative, or local Orange County Government mandates.
- Optional masking for all students will be implemented 72 hours after the local mask mandate expires for Orange County, NC.
- Masking indoors would be required for all students when Community Transmission for COVID-19 is High or when the secondary in-school transmission cases exceed 2% of the student population for the school. Masking would remain required for a minimum of five days.
- Masks will be required indoors and outdoors for those returning under special rules from the Health Department that mandate masks to be worn at all times for additional days.

MASKING INDOORS WOULD BE OPTIONAL FOR ALL STAFF WHEN:

- The indoor mask mandate is lifted for Orange County, NC.
- Orange County is not designated as being in High Community Transmission for COVID-19 and staff vaccination rates are above 90%.

ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR TESTING: Beginning Tuesday, February 22, weekly testing of unvaccinated student-athletes and non-graded/non-curricular extracurricular programs will be **optional**. [Link to more information.](#)

MEALS: Effective March 1, 2022 - No pandemic or COVID-19 restrictions will be in place in schools. (removal of guidelines on student meal times, locations, talking, etc.). Lunch and meal procedures will be normalized to pre-pandemic procedures.

VOLUNTEERS: Follow all standards and requirements in place for employees (fully vaccinated or test for COVID-19), including masking.

NEW COVID-19 NOTIFICATION DASHBOARD: With the removal of contact tracing, per Strong Schools Toolkit, schools will no longer send letters home each day for positive reports, they will instead be reflected on a district web-based dashboard.

The Board also received: Orange County Schools Equity Report, which included the results from the recent Equity Audit here. [\(slides 60-73\)](#)

The Board Also Approved: Capital Investment Plan (CIP) for FY'23 [\(slides 74-86\)](#) and moving forward with the survey for the land easement at River Park Elementary.

Reminder of Dates

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic for Children ages 12+** - Thursday, February 24 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Orange High School
- **Teacher Workday** - February 25 (*all traditional schools, not Hillsborough Elementary*)
- **Next School Board Meeting** - March 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.