



November 8, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS

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Chair

Brenda Stephens
Vice Chair

Will Atherton

Carrie Doyle

Bonnie Hauser

Dr. Jennifer Moore

Sarah Smylie

Superintendent
Dr. Monique Felder

Highlights from the November 8 Meeting



Congratulations to the Cedar Ridge High School volleyball team for their recent 3A Volleyball State Championship!



Congratulations to the Orange High School cross country team for their recent 3A Mid-East Regional Championship!



Special Recognitions

- **November is Native American Heritage Month** - OCS recognizes the value and contributions of our Indigenous community and continue to seek relationships with and guidance from the Occaneechi Tribal Council, educational leaders from the Sappony Tribe, and leaders of the other eight North Carolina tribes especially as we learn of their representation among the Orange County Schools community.
- **Veterans Day, November 11, is an OCS holiday** - We extend our sincere appreciation for our country's veterans. We are also grateful to have veterans who are current employees and appreciate their service and commitment to our country. All OCS schools and offices will be closed this Thursday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.
- **The OCS Operations Team** is in the spotlight this month for their continued hard work and extra efforts in what remain challenging times. The dedication of our employees in the Transportation, Maintenance, Child Nutrition, and Custodial departments is invaluable to our day-to-day work. The magic of learning could not happen without each of these departments. We cannot thank them enough for their tenacity, flexibility, and dependability.

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

BOARD

Matters

COVID-19 Health and Safety Updates - November 2021

- COVID-19 **vaccinations** are being offered at all of our elementary school sites for families with students in ages 5-11. The vaccine was recently approved for emergency use by the FDA, and authorized by the CDC as safe and effective for children ages 5-11. Note: These clinics are not for vaccinating adults or children 12 and older. All children receiving vaccinations must be accompanied by their parent/guardian. [LINK TO VACCINATION MESSAGE](#)
- A **mask/face covering** is required to be worn by all staff, visitors, volunteers, vendors, contractors, and students, PreK-12, **indoors** regardless of vaccination status. A **mask/face covering** is required to be worn by all individuals **outdoors on the elementary school and middle school campuses**. **Outdoor masking will become optional for students, staff and visitors on K-8 campuses when the Community Transmission Rate for Orange County is deemed to be Moderate or lower for at least 7-days.**
- **Masks/face coverings are optional for high school students and staff outdoors.** Masks/face coverings are recommended for individuals outdoors that are attending sporting, athletic or extracurricular events outdoors on the high school campus only. Student athletes are not required to wear face coverings on the sidelines on their school campus and must follow the requirements in place for the event hosting site per NCHSAA procedures when attending away events.
- **High school lunch periods** will be increased from 15 minutes to 30 minutes outdoors.
- District leaders will be able to decide when appropriate to make lunch periods longer for the middle and elementary grade students. *This will occur only with consultation from health partners, including the Orange County Health Department and the ABC Science Collaborative.
- **Student field trips** in grades K-8 will be allowed outside the county to areas **without** High Community Transmission for COVID-19 and also while following regular field trip procedures. Students will be required to wear masks **indoors and outdoors** while attending all out-of-county field trips at this time.
- Student field trips for **grades 9-12** are now authorized for in-state travel regardless of the community transmission rate for COVID-19. Students in grades 9-12 will be expected to follow the health and safety measures that are in place.
- A **Test to Stay in School** program will be an option for students (with parental consent) that has the potential to reduce the amount of instructional days missed due to exposures to COVID-19/being identified as a close contact, and requirement to quarantine. *More information is coming about this program, which could reduce burdens on parents and families as students remain in school versus spending time at home under quarantine.

Board Also Approved

- Request to convert the two ESSER funded Mental Health positions into two **School Counselor positions**. OCS will also contract with a vendor to provide the additional mental health support for students using GEER grant funds.
- **Title I Grant Applications:** Title I funds are federal monies used to help disadvantaged students meet our state's rigorous academic content and performance standards. Schools qualify for Title I funds based on economic need. Our Title I schools are: Central Elementary, Efland-Cheeks Global Elementary, Grady A. Brown Elementary and New Hope Elementary.

Reminder of Dates

- **Next School Board Regular Meeting** - December 13 - ***at the Whitted Building, 300 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough, NC 27278**
- **Veterans Day Holiday** - November 11 *(All schools and offices will be closed.)*
- **Teacher Workdays** - November 12 and 24 (**November 12** is a remote working day for ALL OCS staff; all schools and offices will be closed.) (November 24 is holiday for our year-round school, Hillsborough Elementary, staff.)
- **Thanksgiving Holiday** - November 25 and 26 *(All schools and offices will be closed.)*