



October 25, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS

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Brenda Stephens
Vice Chair

Will Atherton

Carrie Doyle

Bonnie Hauser

Dr. Jennifer Moore

Sarah Smylie

Superintendent
Dr. Monique Felder

Highlights from the October 25 Meeting

Special Recognitions

- October is  **Fire Safety Month**. Students at Pathways Elementary School were recently visited by the Orange Rural Fire Department and Office of the Fire Marshal to learn more about fire safety and prevention.
- Mariah Morris** is the OCS K-5 Literacy facilitator. She had the opportunity to represent North Carolina educators in Washington D.C. this past week as State Teacher of the Year with the Council of Chief State School Officials.
-  **Lights On Afterschool** is a nationwide event that celebrates the many contributions afterschool programs, including those at OCS, provide to our students, families, and schools. If you are interested in learning more about our afterschool programs, please contact Tammorah Mathis, Director of Afterschool Programs, at tammorah.mathis@orange.k12.nc.us.
- Congratulations to our **Finance Department** for a clean audit and receiving the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. [Click HERE for more details about this award.](#) 



CONGRATULATIONS!

Principal **Tony Widder** of River Park Elementary School is the 2021 OCS Principal of the Year!

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

Reminder of Dates

- Next School Board Work Session** - November 8 at 5:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING ONLY
- Veterans Day Holiday** - November 11 *All schools and offices will be closed.*
- Teacher Workdays** - November 12 and 24
- Thanksgiving Holidays** - November 25 and 26 *All schools and offices will be closed.*

BOARD

Matters

Board Approves 2021-2022 School Improvement Plans

These annual plans are the guiding documents, specific to each school's needs and populations, which will be implemented and measured throughout the year. School Improvement Plans (SIPs) are approved at the local level and submitted to the state each year to help monitor progress and identify areas of improvement for each school. Goals in the 21-22 SIPs are aligned with the newly established Strategic Plan for OCS. For more information: [Introduction to School Improvement in OCS](#)

Policy Revisions Approved as Presented

- **Policy 7335 Employee Use of Social Media** - The Board added precise wording to describe examples of social media use that are unacceptable for OCS employees.
- **Policy 4120 Admission to the Orange County Schools** - Policy updates include language specifically regarding students participating in foreign student exchange programs.
- **Policy 6322 Student Assignment to Buses** - Revisions were made regarding transfer students and students whose parents work for OCS but live outside the county lines.

New Dean of Students Position Approved for Efland-Cheeks Global Elementary

This is not an administrative position; instead it is a student-facing position that will intentionally target students' needs, social and emotional learning, and family engagement and support.

Mask Updates for High School Students & Staff When Outdoors

The OCS Board of Education approved a district recommendation to 'relax' some COVID-19 mask restrictions for high school students and staff when outdoors. As a result of all of decreased COVID transmission rates and increased vaccination rates, along with the Orange County Health Department and ABC Science Collaborative's support, the following guidelines for high school students and staff will go in effect on Wednesday, October 27:

- Optional masking **outdoors** for high school students and staff.
- No physical distancing required **outdoors**. *Recommended 3 ft.*
- Students are allowed to talk while eating or when unmasked and in close proximity to other students, only if **outdoors**.
- The new outdoor mask updates for high schools do not apply to student athletes on the sidelines or students who are participating in close proximity to other students during outdoor extracurricular activities at this time.

Revised Guidelines for Fans at Outdoor Middle & High School Athletic Events & Extracurricular Performances

With the Orange County transmission rates shifting from high to substantial, the following updates are effective October 27 for fans at any **outdoor** OCS athletic event and extracurricular performance:

- Optional masking **outdoors**. *Masks are recommended.*
- Optional physical distancing **outdoors** for non-household members. *Recommended 3 ft.*
- Capacity limits are removed for **outdoor** venues.
- Selling concessions are approved for **outdoor** athletic events.