



October 11, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS

Hillary MacKenzie
Chair

Brenda Stephens
Vice Chair

Will Atherton

Carrie Doyle

Bonnie Hauser

Dr. Jennifer Moore

Sarah Smylie

Superintendent
Dr. Monique Felder

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

Highlights from the October 11 Work Session

Special Recognitions

- Health & Safety Highlight:** In addition to recognizing our custodians on National Custodian Day on October 2, we want to thank our custodians for keeping our schools and facilities in tip-top shape as we continue to navigate the COVID pandemic.
 
- National School Lunch Week October 11-15:** We are grateful for our 57 child nutrition staff who prepare more than 14,500 school lunches every week for our students. We know how important a healthy, nutritious school lunch is in and outside of our classrooms.
- National School Bus Safety Week October 18-22:** We appreciate our 68 transportation employees and encourage parents, students, teachers, motorists, and bus drivers to address the importance of school bus safety.
- Red Ribbon Week October 23-31:** Our elementary school counselors are planning activities to promote the many benefits of being drug free for our students.
- Indigenous Peoples' Day:** OCS honors the cultures and histories of Native American people including a [Resolution Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)
- Principal Appreciation Month:** We couldn't be more grateful for our principals' leadership and commitment to our students, staff, and families. We look forward to continuing to celebrate and appreciate them.
 

BOARD

Matters

Received the Following Updates

- **COVID-19 Health & Safety:** The NC Department of Health and Human Services [Strong Schools Toolkit](#) was revised on October 5. The most significant update is that individuals who are **not** fully vaccinated after a close contact in a classroom or school setting, **if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently**, do not need to quarantine. This **does not** apply to exposures during extracurricular activities, including athletics.
- **OCS Equity Plan:** District leadership presented the OCS Equity Plan and 6 goals specific to: increasing student subgroup academic achievement; increasing sense of belonging among all students; building equity leadership capacity among OCS staff; increasing staff diversity; leveraging resources to eliminate gaps; and increasing family engagement among underserved families.

The Board Approved:

- **Resolution Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day:** The OCS Board of Education unanimously approved a [Resolution Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day](#) and stands in solidarity with Indigenous students, staff, and community members as the district continues to promote school communities that foster an affirming sense of personal identity for all students.
The Board would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation for their willingness to guide Orange County Schools in becoming a better place for Indigenous students to learn and grow and for their continued partnership with district leadership.
- **RFP for Supplemental Nursing Services (NC Department of Health and Human Services Funded):** The Board approved a contract with Medasource to provide school nursing support, contact tracing and case analysis services. This is funded from NC DHHS grant funding
- **Contract for Central Elementary School Mechanical System & Fire Alarm Upgrade:** The contract cost will be appropriated from approved 2016 Bond funding.
- **Resolution to Address Harm Caused to Students by Incidents of Hostile and Racist Behavior:** The OCS Board of Education unanimously passed a [Resolution to Address Harm Caused to Students by Incidents of Hostile and Racist Behavior](#). The resolution acknowledges a hostile and racist environment within the community. District leadership are united in our commitment to end all forms of discrimination in our school community and challenging behavior that puts the safety, well-being, or learning of our community at risk.

Reminder of Dates

- **Next School Board Meeting** - October 25 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Teacher Workdays - October 25** (all schools) & **October 26** (all schools except Hillsborough Elementary)