

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: March 11, 2013

AGENDA ITEM No. 13-03-18

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: Safer Schools Committee

INFO. CONTACT: G. Patrick Rhodes, Superintendent PHONE: 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Safer Schools Committee Charge and Scope of Work.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this item is to discuss the Safer Schools Committee and develop a charge and scope of work for the group.

BACKGROUND: During the February 25, 2013 meeting, the board established a Safer Schools Committee. Board members assigned as representatives on the committee are Dr. Stephen Halkiotis, Brenda Stephens and Tony McKnight.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The financial impact of committee recommendations is unknown at this time.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education discuss the charge and scope of work for the Safer Schools Committee.

**Orange County Schools
Safer Schools Committee
Charge and Scope of Work**

One of the primary goals of the Orange County Schools is to "provide opportunities for involvement of the community in improving the health, safety and well-being of our students and their families." It is the responsibility of the Board of Education to make sure that our schools are secure, and that our children have the safest learning environments possible since schools are where most children spend much of their day.

The Board has created a Safer Schools Committee to recommend more permanent and sustainable solutions to enhance security in all schools within the District. Within the next 30 days, this Committee is charged with completing the following:

- Identify ways, including short- and long-range cost projections and timelines, to improve and possibly expand the use of School Resource Officers within all of our schools
- Review existing K-12 school safety plans, protocols and procedures and recommend improvements (including cost projections and timelines), as necessary, to create an even safer learning environment than currently exists in those areas
- In instances where there are policy implications, the Superintendent will pass those items on to the District's Policy Committee for review

Committee recommendations will be presented at the Board's April 8, 2013 meeting. The public will be able to review the Committee's recommendations prior to the April 8, 2013 meeting and members of the public will have an opportunity to make comments on the Committee's recommendations either during that meeting or via email. Following that presentation and public forum, the Board of Education will direct the Superintendent on next steps in proceeding with the Committee's recommendations.

This specific timeline for 2013 will dovetail with the Board's 2013-14 Annual Operating Budget process. Specific capital infrastructure improvements at individual schools will be covered in the Facility Safety and Security Assessment as proposed in the Board's Approved 2013-23 Capital Investment Plan.

Specific members of the Committee include: Dr. Stephen Halkiotis, Vice Chair (serving as Committee Chair), Brenda Stephens (OCS Board Member), Tony McKnight (OCS Board Member), Orange County Sheriff Lindy Pendergrass and his designees, Town of Hillsborough Chief of Police, Duane Hampton and his designees, Superintendent Patrick Rhodes and his designees.

The Safer Schools Committee will sunset no later than June 30, 2013. Each year, prior to the budget and capital investment plan development process, the Board's LEAR Committee will review School Resource Officer duties along with K-12 school safety plans, protocols and procedures and recommend improvements, as necessary, to create an even safer learning environment for our schools.

3/11/2013