



December 14, 2021

Highlights from the December 13 Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS

Carrie Doyle
Chair

Brenda Stephens
Vice Chair

Will Atherton

Bonnie Hauser

Hillary MacKenzie

Dr. Jennifer Moore

Sarah Smylie

Superintendent
Dr. Monique Felder

Special Recognitions

- The theater group from **Orange High School**, under the direction of Blake Wilson, attended the North Carolina Theater Conference Festival on November 5th. They came away with several group and individual acting awards!



- Joy Alvis, our 2021 EC Teacher of Excellence** was recognized by her peers from across the state at the 70th Conference on Exceptional Children in Greensboro. She is an EC teacher at Pathways Elementary School. Ms. Alvis is an exceptional educator who prioritizes student learning while creating a safe and nurturing environment to learn. [Read More](#)



- Orange County Schools **Afterschool Office** was awarded more than \$2 million to support our elementary 5-star licensed after school programs! Funding will run through 2023! [Read More](#)
- Three OCS bands showcased their talents recently at the Hillsborough holiday parade. Also, the recent PRISM concert featured all 5 band programs and is a long-standing tradition in OCS. [OMS Parade Performance](#)

Reminder of Dates

- Optional Teacher Workday - December 20
- All OCS schools and buildings will be closed to the public for Winter Break from December 20 - December 31, 2021.
- Traditional schools **return** January 3, 2022
- January 3-6 is intersession for Hillsborough Elementary; **return** January 10
- Next School Board Meeting** - January 10, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

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

Board Approves New Positions

- **Student Support Coach at New Hope:** 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.
- **Educational Diagnosticians (4) and Support Staff (2)** will provide support to the Exceptional Children Department to assist with the completion of assessments that have not been completed due to three unfilled school psychologist positions in the district.

Report Student Transfers/School Choice Options & Transportation Services

The school board approved the school capacity designations and recommendations as described on [slides 20-34](#). The board is in support of looking into **expanding transportation services** to choice programs to the extent possible. Additional buses and drivers may not be used immediately, but transportation to choice schools is a recognized barrier that needs to be eliminated as we advance equity in OCS. The board also requested that staff review and investigate additional priority points for the weighted lottery. These will be discussed at the next board meeting. As a reminder, all transfer applications are submitted electronically. Students currently on an approved transfer **do not** need to reapply to remain in the same school next year.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Updates

The Board approved the following recommendations to provide the maximum ability to implement consistent guidelines for various areas and activities in schools as detailed on [slides 10-13](#).

1. Outdoor masking remains optional. Masks are required indoors and on school buses.
2. No physical distancing required for students outdoors except when students are eating. Recommend 3 ft to the extent possible.
3. Fans, visitors and individuals on a campus for events or activities, no physical distancing outdoors. Indoors individuals that are non-household members shall maintain at least 3 ft of physical distancing. Recommended 6 ft for individuals that are not fully vaccinated.
4. Students on a stage for band, concerts, plays or performances, no physical distancing required. Recommend 3ft as feasible.
5. Students in band, chorus and physical education classrooms utilize the same indoor physical distancing requirements of 3 ft due to the nature of physical exertion, singing, performing, etc.
6. Physical distancing requirements for students may be more restrictive or less restrictive by campus indoors based on student vaccination rates and/or cases of secondary in-school transmission of COVID-19.

The Board Received the Following Reports:

- **School Safety Updates** - more details on [slides 14-19](#)
- **Updated OCS Logo and Branding** - more details on [slides 39-54](#)