



September 27, 2021

Highlights from the September 27 Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS

Hillary MacKenzie
Chair

Brenda Stephens
Vice Chair

Will Atherton

Carrie Doyle

Bonnie Hauser

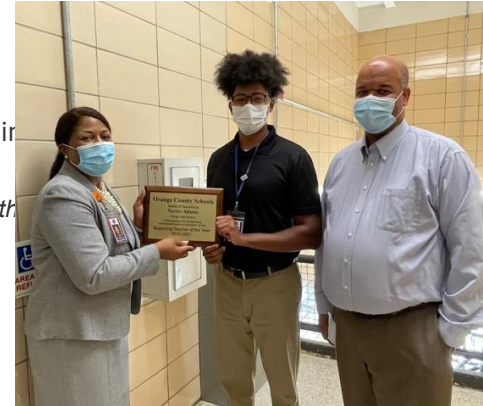
Dr. Jennifer Moore

Sarah Smylie

Superintendent
Dr. Monique Felder

Special Recognitions

- A special video, [Thank you!](#), was shared to highlight the ongoing efforts of all OCS staff.
- Congratulations to Xavier Adams (OHS) for being named the Beginning Teacher of the Year!
PHOTO: Dr. Monique Felder presents Xavier Adams with plaque along with OHS Principal Jason Johnson (left to right)
- Many thanks to the TLC-Triangle Luncheon Civitan service group for providing school supplies to our students in need.



Additional Teacher Workday on October 26: The OCS Board approved an additional teacher workday on Tuesday, October 26. This is in addition to the teacher workday already scheduled for Monday, October 25 for all schools **except** Hillsborough Elementary School (HES). HES is a year-round school and follows a different calendar. HES will now have a teacher workday on Monday, October 25. This additional day will provide school staff with more opportunity to complete data analysis to inform instruction, engage in professional development, and connect with families. Given all the additional duties associated with COVID mitigation strategies, our teachers and staff have not had as many opportunities to plan and prepare as they typically do.

The Board Also Approved:

- **\$1,200 one-time bonus** for all OCS staff to be paid to all staff (permanent, full-time and part-time) on November 30, 2021 if they are employed on November 1, 2021. *More details were shared directly with staff.*
- **Additional requirements** for all **visitors and contractors and/or vendors** who work with students face-to-face must present proof of vaccination and wear a mask at all times while on any OCS worksite.
- Requiring employees **who use** the **Contagious Disease (CD) Leave** to obtain a COVID-19 test so that they can return to work immediately if the test is negative. *This will ensure that employees are not out of work unnecessarily due to quarantine, thus ensuring schools remain open and the workforce is not impacted by employee absences.*
- A resolution to support the **Comprehensive Remedial Plan**, which could be implemented by the General Assembly. The [Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan](#) proposes several changes to North Carolina's school finance system that will *substantially* increase each district's state funding.

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

Received the Following Updates

- **2020-2021 Accountability Results:** The impact of student instruction on students separated from their teachers is obvious in the 2020-2021 state accountability results reported by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and State Board of Education on September 1, 2021. The impact of COVID-19 on all groups of students was significant. The results shared by Dr. Meghan Doyle, Chief of Schools and Achievement, provided information to OCS families, staff, and stakeholders in addition to identifying challenges and opportunities for improvement. [SLIDES 10-36](#)
- **Plans for Improvement:** As a follow-up to the data shared, members of the OCS Curriculum and Instruction Department provided an overview of the resources and supports in place to increase instructional capacity and student achievement. These include: focusing on the instructional core; providing tiered interventions based on students' needs as determined by data analysis through MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Supports); continuing to teach students the skills, attitudes, and behaviors that can affect their success in school and life; and providing resources and strategies based on students' needs. [SLIDES 37-39](#)
- **OCS 2021-2026 Strategic Plan:** After months of seeking community input and providing all staff and families the opportunity to assist in the development of the district's four main goals, the Board received the final plan. [SLIDES 41-57](#)
- **Capital and Facility Renovations Plan for 2021-2022:** Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Patrick Abele, presented the ten-year **Capital Investment Plan**. [SLIDE 59](#)
- **COVID-19 Update by Orange County Health Department:** New guidance for schools and school settings (classroom, meals, physical education, bus, and afterschool - it **does not** apply to extracurricular activities and athletics) states that quarantine and exclusion from school/work can be avoided for close contacts under the following circumstances:
 - Staff, teachers, and students who are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms.
 - Students who were exposed by another student, IF no symptoms and masks were used appropriately.
 - Staff, teachers, and students who have been COVID-positive in the past 90 days and who do not have symptoms.
 - People who do not meet the above exceptions must quarantine and/or be excluded from school/work in accordance with current CDC recommendations and NC law, governing control measures.

Athletics and Extracurriculars

OCS is appreciative of our students, staff, and families adherence to health and safety guidelines at athletic events. Therefore, revised health and safety measures that will allow for increased fan participation at events while maintaining mask and physical distancing requirements are effective immediately. These measures apply to all OCS athletic and extracurricular events. [MORE DETAILS](#)

Reminder of Dates

- **COVID Vaccine Clinic** - October 2 at Orange High from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- **Next School Board Work Session** - October 11 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Teacher Workdays - October 25** (all schools) & **October 26** (all schools except Hillsborough Elementary)