



Highlights from the February 7 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

RECOGNITIONS

Black History Month: OCS will highlight district and school events supporting Black History Month throughout February on our website, Facebook, and Twitter outlets. Join us in celebrating by following and sharing these highlights.

Bus Driver Appreciation Week 🚌❤️

February 14-18: We appreciate our bus drivers and each and every member of our transportation department which is almost 100 employees. We look forward to celebrating them officially next week and want to thank them for safely transporting our students to and from school, athletic events, and for field trips.



Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month: Did you know that 5,311 OCS students participated in an OCS CTE program in 2021-2022? Career and technical education prepares our students to succeed in academics and careers in both established and emerging industries and empowers all students to be successful citizens, workers, and leaders in our global economy.

School Counseling Week 2022 - February 7-11: National School Counseling Week focuses on the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve academic and personal success and plan for career.

OCS Spelling Bee Champs 🏆 Students in grades 3-8 participate in a classroom spelling bee. One winner from each classroom advanced to a school-level spelling bee where they competed to represent their school at the upcoming Regional Duke Spelling Bee. Congratulations to this year's winners – A.L. Stanback Middle School, Zion Green; River Park Elementary School, Ian Aguirre; New Hope Elementary School, Kaitlin Gibbons; Hillsborough Elementary School, Peyton Shaw; OCS Online Academy, Felix Travers; Orange Middle School, Gabriel R.; Central Elementary School, Seongjun Bang; Grady A. Brown Elementary School, Jake Elkins; and Gravelly Hill Middle School, Andrew.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day:

Female student athletes from OHS and CRHS engaged in a celebration of this year's Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Our athletes were treated to lunch and a panel discussion among some of the area's most accomplished women with careers in sports!



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



COVID-19 Health and Safety Updates effective February 8, 2022 [\(slides 21-29\)](#)

- **Masks:** Optional outdoors, required indoors. *Exception:* Masks required indoors and outdoors for those students or staff returning under special rules from the Health Department that mandate masks to be worn at all times for additional days.
- **Meals:** Outdoors when temperatures are 40 degrees and above with talking allowed, no time limits. Indoors, limited to 15 minutes without mask and can talk during the 15 minutes while the masks are off.
- **Recess:** No time limitations. Masks optional outdoors; required indoors. *Exception:* Masks required indoors and outdoors for those returning under special rules from the Health Department that mandate masks to be worn at all times for additional days.
- **Physical Distancing:** 3 ft to the extent possible indoors in classrooms or other group settings in buildings. No physical distancing requirements outdoors.
- **Sports-Visitors and Guests:** No fan limitations, concessions allowed indoors and outdoors, masks required indoors and optional outdoors.
- **Events/Performances-Visitors and Guests:** No spectator/guest limitations except as seating capacity allows, concessions allowed indoors and outdoors, masks required indoors and optional outdoors.

The district will focus additional efforts on protecting in-person learning by the following:

- Student and staff vaccinations, including booster clinics
- Higher filtration masks for students and staff
- Opt-in COVID-19 testing on each campus for surveillance monitoring and diagnostic testing
- Test to Stay program

The Board also received a **Classified Salary Study Update** including the HIL Group recommendation, alternate scenarios, budget implications, and next steps. [\(slides 30-43\)](#)

The Board Also Approved:

- **New Career & Technical Education Course Pathways**
- **2022-2023 Academic Calendars:** [Year Round](#) | [Traditional](#)
- **Closing OCS Online Academy:** Multiple factors were reviewed and considered to lead to this recommendation, including low performance of a significant number of students; lack of alignment of curriculum with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study; and a disproportionate resources required to operate a small school. OCS will investigate options to provide additional virtual curricular options for Orange County Schools' **high school students**, which will become effective next school year. Recommendations will be presented to the Board of Education later this semester.

Reminder of Dates

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics for Children ages 5-11** - Wednesday, February 9 and March 2 from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at New Hope Elementary School **NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED**
- **Next School Board Meeting** - February 21 at 6:30 p.m.