



March 8, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS

Carrie Doyle
Chair

Brenda Stephens
Vice Chair

Will Atherton

Bonnie Hauser

Hillary MacKenzie

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 March 7 Meeting

Throughout **Women's History Month**, we celebrate the contributions of women and remember the sacrifices made by women to help make the world, and our country, a more inclusive place.

National School Social Work Week (March 6-12) is an opportunity for schools, communities, and partners to recognize the impactful work school social workers do to support students, families, and their communities.



This March, music educators and students are celebrating music education in their school communities demonstrating how music resonates with them as part of **Music in Our Schools Month**.



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH®

Summer Careers Academy is a new, registered eight-week youth apprenticeship program. The training program will take place this summer and connect students and young adults (ages 16-24) in Orange County with new skills and paid work experiences in compelling career pathways with a focus on the skilled trades and will expand to other industries (e.g., health care and IT) and other counties throughout the Triangle Region in subsequent years.

National School Breakfast Week (March 7-11) encourages families to take advantage of the healthy choices available with school breakfast. School breakfasts and lunches are free for all students! It's a great time for families to give school breakfast a try.



BOARD Matters



COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY BOARD APPROVED UPDATES

Effective March 8, 2022

- All students and staff are welcome to continue wearing a mask whenever they choose to do so, but **wearing a mask will be optional in Orange County Schools indoors and on school buses.** Staff will create an environment where all students'/families' and staff's choices about masking are respected.
- Removal of restrictions on bell covers and amount of time performing or playing instruments in band, music, and/or chorus classes.
- The Board authorizes the Superintendent to implement additional health and safety measures at individual schools in consultation with the Orange County Health Director as necessary to keep schools open for in-person learning.

The following instances where masks will be required are for:

- Students with health conditions that require masking (i.e., students with ADA/504/Medical Plans);
- Students in preschool programs when state or federal guidelines require masking;
- Students and staff who return to school after testing positive for COVID or are presumptive positive for COVID. In these cases, the individual would be required to stay home for 5 days and then return to school with a mask (both indoors & outdoors per NCDHHS and OCHD) for 5 additional days; and
- Students who have to go to the "care room" at school due to potential COVID symptoms.

PLEASE NOTE: When there is more than 2% (or 3 total students at Partnership Academy) ([slide 32](#)) of in-school secondary transmission cases in a school's student population, individual schools will move back into "required in-door masking" for a minimum of five days in an effort to avoid clusters and/or the need to close classrooms or schools. When masking is required indoors, students will also be required to wear masks on school buses and on school provided transportation. Bell covers would also be required and time limits playing musical instruments and in chorus will be reinstated. **The district will review in-school cases each week and will notify families and staff on Sundays prior to 6:00 p.m. if there is a need to require masks at individual schools for the upcoming week.** We will continue to make updates as required and/or recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Orange County Health Department.

The Board approved:

- proceeding with securing site renovation proposals for Partnership Academy ([slides 37-42](#)); and
- the Superintendent's Recommended Budget Proposal ([slides 68-82](#)).

The Board received an update on OCS Strategic Plan Goal 1 - TEACHING TOMORROW'S LEADERS:

Through a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), all learners will excel by having access to and benefiting from rigorous curriculum and instruction that is research/evidence based to prepare them for college, career, and civic engagement. ([Slides 43-66](#))

Reminder of Dates

- **Next School Board Meeting** - Tuesday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. at The Whitted Building
- **Teacher Workdays at Hillsborough Elementary School ONLY** - March 14 & 15
- **Intercession at Hillsborough Elementary School ONLY** - March 16-25
- **Spring Break for ALL Schools** - March 28 - April 1