

Orange Grove Charter School

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 27, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Steve Arato Jr, Mr. Justin Welch, Mr. Mark Ables, Mrs. Haley Webster, Mrs. Amanda Fehr, Mrs. Rebecca Jones, Mrs. Hattie Wallen, and Mr. John H. Clendaniel

ZOOM

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions, LLC

Absent: Mr. John Guerry, Mrs. Dianne Probst, and Mr. Marcus DeBiasi

VISITORS:

Mr. Steve Schonveld, Principal, middle campus

Dr. Heather Holmes, Assistant Principal, elementary campus

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Amanda Fehr called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

2.0 Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Reading of Mission Statement

Mrs. Rebecca Jones read the Mission Statement.

4.0 Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Justin Welch made the motion and Mr. Mark Ables seconded the motion to adopt the Agenda. Motion approved.

5.0 Adoption of Minutes

Mr. Justin Welch made the motion and Mr. Mark Ables seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion approved.

6.0 Citizen Participation

No one appeared or requested to participate.

7.0 Financial Report

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions, LLC presented the March Financial Report. Mr. Justin Welch made the motion and Mrs. Hattie Wallen seconded the motion to approve the March Financial Report as presented. Motion approved.

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson presented the First Reading of the FY24 Budget.

8.0 Chief Executive Officer Report – Mr. John H. Clendaniel

Elementary Update

As we wrap up the school year, each of our grade levels have been off campus for field trips, including the Boone Hall Strawberry Patch, Dock Street Theatre, Birds of Prey, Cypress Gardens, and the Ace Basin. Fifth grade took just over 100 students on a three-day, two-night stay at Barrier Island Science Camp on Seabrook Island right before Spring Break. The students were well behaved and learned a lot. The mud pit was the highlight of the trip for most students with only few who weren't interested in being covered head to toe in pluff mud. Thank you to those teachers and chaperones who took time to attend camp with our students.

Third quarter AR incentive parties didn't disappoint with students playing grade level BINGO, taking trips to both McDonalds and Kickin' Chicken, bowling at Ashley Lanes, putting their skills to work during skate and scoot, and enjoying a grade level picnic.

Second graders performed for the April PTO meeting. Second grade teachers did a wonderful job with students putting on a performance about Famous Americans.

Career Day on Wheels was amazing! Mrs. Kira Shipley planned an incredible experience for our K - second grade students. It took an hour to visit and learn about the ins and outs of career vehicles such as an ambulance, a UPS truck, a dump truck and an Excavator, a Kiawah Beach Patrol truck and jet ski, a DNR boat, the Charleston County Police Bomb Truck and a K-9 unit, a Palmetto Carriage, the City of Charleston Vac Truck, a Charleston County City Police Car, the Winthrop Tree Truck, and a Charleston County Sheriff's office Helicopter.

Mrs. Lisa Schaffer and her team hosted our Annual Book Fair. The students were super excited and many books were sold.

Right before Spring Break, most grade levels finished their iReady testing. SC State testing for grades 3-5 will be on May 9, 11, 16, 17, and 18. Different grade levels will test on different days and schedules will be posted on the school website. Orange Grove teachers work very hard preparing our students and they will do very well.

The elementary campus also hosted a blood drive for the Red Cross. Thank you to the parents who came out to donate.

The elementary school chorus is performing their *Rock Through the Ages* show at West Ashley High School at 6:30pm tonight. Thanks to Mrs. Laura Ferderigos, with the help of Mrs. Clary Mock and Mrs. Terri Neal, for a wonderful job this year. Mrs. Erin Foushee will post a highlight video on our Instagram page.

As we look into the next few weeks, we have our annual Pizza with the Principals at both campuses, our Volunteer Breakfast will be this Friday at the elementary school, and we will be celebrating our fabulous teachers next week for Teacher Appreciation Week. Elementary families will receive more information on this tomorrow from our PTO. We are looking forward to field day later in May.

Middle Update:

Teacher Appreciation Week is next week and things are happening every day revolving mostly around food. Thank you to Mrs. Danielle Mantek, who is heading up the middle school, and her team of volunteers who always do an amazing job spoiling our teachers and staff.

The three tennis and golf teams are wrapping up their seasons next week. Thank you to those coaches who dedicate their time to working with our first - fifth grade students. All spring athletes will be recognized at the athletics ceremony at Coastal Community Church on May 15 at 6:00pm.

The eighth grade semi-formal dance is next Saturday, May 6 at the elementary campus multipurpose room. Again, thank you to Mrs. Danielle Mantek, Mrs. Jodi Cummings, Mrs. Kim Kemp, and their team of dedicated moms who will be transforming the space into "A Night Under the Stars."

On the evening of May 11, the eighth graders will be performing the musical *Moana* at 6:00pm in the middle school cafeteria. Mrs. Haley Webster, Mrs. Liz Miller, and Mrs. Shawna Clendaniel have worked hard putting the show together. Second graders will take a field trip to come watch the in-school performance on May 12.

May 16, 17, 18, and 22 are standardized testing dates at the middle school. On May 23, the 8th graders will go to Washington, D.C. in two charter buses and return late Friday night.

Field day is May 31, the sixth and seventh grade academic award ceremonies are June 2, and the eighth grade graduation ceremony is on June 5 at 9:30am at Coastal Community Church.

Organization

School Choice update – The auto decline date is TONIGHT at 11:59 pm. Starting tomorrow, we will begin moving students from our waiting list to the accepted list. When we do this we always reach out with a phone call to welcome them to The Grove! Typically, those conversations go over very well, and we hope by the end of next week to have all 140 spots spoken for. We will then reach out to new families and invite them into the school the evening of May 23 for a meeting with the admin and a few representatives of the kindergarten team to talk about all things Kindergarten. PTO will again plan the popsicles in the park event for our incoming students this August. This PTO sponsored event started a few years ago where all new students are invited to Mary Utsey to meet other students before the first day of school.

Interviews and job opportunities have been offered and contracts are signed for the 2023-2024 school term.

Robotics team had a great week in Houston, Texas. A huge thank you to Mrs. Michelle Comen, Mrs. Amanda and Mr. Carl Fehr, and Mrs. Andrea Daniels for coaching and chaperoning. It was an amazing experience for the students and they did quite well considering the magnitude of the event and that this was their first competition at this level. Donations – Charleston County Council, College of Charleston, First SC, numerous business and individual sponsors, and Style Days.

The Orange Grove Calendar for 2023-2024 is complete and will go out to parents next week. The only major differences between our calendar and CCSD's are 2 additional days for LEAP conferences in August, all early release and half days follow the same dismissal schedule, and the hour delay after Halloween on November 1.

There will be a Volunteer Breakfast tomorrow morning to honor and thank the many volunteers Orange Grove has this year.

9.0 Executive session

Mr. Justin Welch made the motion and Mrs. Hattie Wallen seconded the motion to go into Executive Session at 6:29pm to discuss contractual matters. Motion approved.

10.0 Return to Open Session and Action Items/New Business

Mrs. Rebecca Jones made the motion and Mr. Mark Ables seconded the motion to Return to Open Session at 6:37pm.

Mrs. Rebecca Jones made the motion and Mr. Mark Ables seconded the motion to ratify the extension of Mr. John H. Clendaniel's contract. Motion approved.

11.0 Good of the Order:

Mrs. Rebecca Jones is on a 25-text message thread with OG parents who shared how awesome Career Day was and how cool it was that Mr. Clendaniel got a helicopter ride.

Mr. John H. Clendaniel mentioned it was the 2nd time a helicopter has landed at Orange Grove. The builder flew in during construction.

Mr. Justin Welch enjoyed watching the Orange Grove Middle students during the National History Day state competition. Rory Dunagan and Mary Grace Childress placed 1st for their group exhibit on Maria Tallchief, and Cooper Welch and Copeland Nixon received a special interest award for their documentary on Jackie Robinson. Congratulations to Mrs. Jamie Gladu and all the students for their hard work.

Mrs. Amanda Fehr shared students and chaperones had a great time in Houston, TX, and Worlds was very well organized. Students had a great learning experience being with college and international companies and students. Orange Grove finished ranked 2.1% in the world. Dr. Heather Holmes shared that her husband is in Dallas with the WAHS Robotics team.

12.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Hattie Wallen made the motion and Mr. Justin Welch seconded the motion to adjourn at 6:54pm. Motion approved.