

ORANGE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

Report of the Board Meeting

December 14, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Justin Welch, Mr. Mac McSwain, Mrs. Brenda Bianchi, Mrs. Rebecca Jones, Mrs. Sharon Dillon, Mrs. Erin Wilson, Mr. Alex Matos, and Mr. John H. Clendaniel

ZOOM:

N/A

ABSENT:

Mrs. Hattie Wallen, Mr. Mark Ables, and Mr. Marcus DeBiasi

VISITORS:

Mr. Steve Schonveld, Principal, middle campus

Dr. Heather Holmes, Assistant Principal, elementary campus

Mrs. Sarah Selvidge, Executive Assistant

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions, LLC (via Zoom)

Mr. Michael Loiacono, Prestige School Solutions, LLC (via Zoom)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Justin Welch called the Meeting to Order at 6:01pm.

2.0 Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Reading of the Mission Statement

Mr. John H. Clendaniel read the Mission Statement.

4.0 Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Mac McSwain made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to adopt the December 14th agenda. Motion approved.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Mac McSwain made the motion and Mrs. Sharon Dillon seconded the motion to approve the November 15th Minutes. 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 November Financial Report. Mr. Mac McSwain made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to approve the November Financial Report as presented. Motion approved.

8.0 CEO Report – Mr. John H. Clendaniel

Organization

Last week, Sarah, Steve and I went to visit the Voyager build. Their contractor is the same as who we have been working with for our gymnasium project. I am continuing to follow up with CCSD about existing school building options, as well.

I want to thank Amy Plott for organizing the two Holiday Shops that we had at the elementary and middle school. This is a very large undertaking, but she did a great job managing that entire project. Nothing but positive feedback from teachers.

At the last meeting, you all authorized me to spend up to 250K for staff bonuses. I want to thank you for that. We are looking forward to tomorrow and being able to bless staff with those. Please join us if you can. The total spent on this was \$245,452.77.

Congratulations to 1st grade teacher, Candyce Lyon, and 8th grade teacher, Jamie Gladu, for being nominated and voted in from a group of finalists for Teacher of the Year.

Middle School

It's been a busy few weeks at the middle school as well. Our school-wide spelling bee took place at the beginning of December with 7th grader Charlie winning 1st place. He will represent our school at the district-wide bee in January. Our 8th grade Beta Club spent Tuesday morning at Royal Baptist Missionary Baptist Church helping HALOS sort, organize, and count gifts that will be distributed to children in Charleston. There was a giant ballroom full of gifts and the 30+ students did a wonderful job. The organizers were very impressed and appreciative of their efforts.

All four of our basketball teams have started the season. Games will continue through January before playoffs start in February. Schedules are on our website.

The Holiday Shop at the middle school was a big success. Thank you to our PTO and volunteers for ordering, organizing, setting up, and running that shop. Very much appreciated.

On January 17th, the South Carolina Attorney General's Office (Internet Crimes Against Children's Division) will come to the school to give their internet safety presentation to the students. Each grade level will have a different presentation based on appropriateness for that age group.

Elementary

We have had several super busy weeks at the elementary school. The Monday after Thanksgiving break our 5th graders went to Barrier Island Science camp out on Seabrook Island. This is such a unique opportunity for our kids. It's a first for some, whether that is going to camp or just spending the night away from home in general. Our 5th grade team did a phenomenal job planning this trip for a little over 100 students. This wouldn't be possible without the 32 chaperones who were willing to bear the cold temps and the mud pit!

Admin has been working with grade levels to wrap the last of their Boosterthon incentives. We have had a few more kickball games, lunch with a grade level, and a holiday relay race with another. All good times!

This week has been a blast with our school-wide holiday dress up days! We had a favorite holiday character day, tinsel Tuesday, hat day, PJ day today, and tomorrow is the classic holiday sweater day! Tomorrow will be filled with the holiday spirit and lots of class parties. Yesterday, we were able to bring all of the students to the multipurpose room for a quick preview of the winter chorus concert and a sample of songs from both our beginner and advanced steel drums groups, as well.

The elementary Chorus concert was last night at West Ashley High School. Thank you, Laura Ferderigos, for working with those students to prepare for this event. It was a wonderful performance as you can imagine. Tonight, some of those same chorus students are performing the National Anthem at the CofC/Citadel men's basketball game.

This is always such a wonderful time at The Grove!

9.0 Action Items/New Business

- a. Portfolio review and proposal (Mr. Justin Welch recused himself from discussion and voting)

- i. Mr. Michael Loiacono with Prestige School Solutions presented a five-minute overview of a few different investment vehicles available to Orange Grove.
- ii. Mr. Mac McSwain made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to authorize Mr. Clendaniel to continue discussions with First Citizens and Ameriprise in order to obtain the most favorable fee structure and interest rates for OGCS's Income Portfolio. At a future date, Mr. Clendaniel will present both options to the Board for consideration.

10. Good of the Order

- The Board is excited to pass out bonus checks to staff during the Holiday Sing-a-long.
- Mr. Walter Campbell is retiring from CCSD Nutrition Services. He responded to an email from Mr. Clendaniel, praising Orange Grove for the positive culture. Mr. Clendaniel is proud to lead this organization.
- Mrs. Wilson shared that several staff members attended an anger management graduation for two students that have been at Orange Grove since they were five. Mrs. Wilson recognized Mr. Bowman's hard work with our students.
- Mrs. Wilson thanked the Board for the bonus checks so the staff can take care of their families or give back to their students or charities.
- Mr. McSwain is appreciative of good coaches and teachers mentoring our students.
- Mrs. Dillon gave a shout out to the robotics team and Mrs. Comen for the wonderful things they are accomplishing.
- Mr. Welch is appreciative of the long-lasting bonds our students form at Orange Grove.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Justin Welch made the motion and Mr. Mac McSwain seconded the motion to adjourn at 6:52pm. Motion approved.