

ORANGE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL
Report of the Board Meeting
January 18, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Justin Welch, Mr. Mac McSwain, Mrs. Brenda Bianchi, Mrs. Rebecca Jones, Mrs. Sharon Dillon, Mrs. Erin Wilson, Mrs. Hattie Wallen, Mr. Mark Ables, and Mr. John H. Clendaniel

ZOOM:

n/a

ABSENT:

Mr. Alex Matos
Mr. Marcus DeBiasi

VISITORS:

Mr. Steve Schonveld, Principal, middle campus
Dr. Laney White, Principal, elementary campus
Dr. Heather Holmes, Assistant Principal, elementary campus
Mrs. Sarah Selvidge, Executive Assistant
Mrs. Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions, LLC (via Zoom)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

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

2.0 Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Reading of the Mission Statement

Mrs. Hattie Wallen read the Mission Statement.

4.0 Adoption of the Agenda

Mrs. Sharon Dillon made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to adopt the January 18th agenda. Motion approved.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Sharon Dillon made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to approve the December 14th 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 December Financial Report.

Mr. Mac McSwain made the motion and Mr. Mark Ables seconded the motion to approve the December Financial Report as presented. Motion approved.

8.0 CEO Report – Mr. John H. Clendaniel

Organization

On Monday, we will have Senator Tim Scott and State Superintendent Ellen Weaver visiting the elementary school. They reached out to me requesting the visit to celebrate School Choice Week. This is quite an honor for us and provides us with a great opportunity to have face to face time with both the senator and state superintendent.

We've advertised and now closed our two openings for next year due to retiring staff. The HR Generalist and Middle School Nurse positions. We've had a great response to those advertisements, and we'll begin reviewing resumes and setting up interviews in the next couple of weeks.

The CCSD school choice fair is coming up next weekend. We will participate in this Saturday event once again. The district came out this week and shot some new footage at both campuses for our School Choice school video. The initial video was filmed during the pandemic, so we are eager to have an updated video to share with our prospective families. Additionally, we sent mailers to every household in our attendance zone with the upcoming school choice dates.

As you heard in the budget report, funding has dropped, which impacted our per pupil by about \$375 per student or \$600,000 annually. We will receive \$550,000 in a new State Aid category that we did not budget for. We received the first \$275,000 of this two part payment this week.

The 2nd quarter ends on January 24th. We're looking forward to recognizing hundreds of students for their academic achievements and behavioral success at a first semester

awards ceremony in early February. In addition, we will recognize a record 24 students for perfect scores on standardized tests in spring of 2023. Those events at both campuses will be live streamed.

Middle School

Ms. Stephanie Hite, a representative from the Attorney General's department of Internet Crimes Against Children, visited the middle school yesterday and did separate presentations to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. She did a great job and the feedback from the teachers was overwhelmingly positive.

Last Thursday evening, our 8th grade VPA performed Lion King for parents and visitors. They did a wonderful job. The following morning, all of our 2nd graders came over to enjoy the show. Big shout out to Mrs. Haley Webster, Mrs. Shawna Clendaniel, and Mrs. Liz Miller on another impressive performance. It's a ton of work to get a bunch of 13/14 year olds to put on a 45 minute performance.

The 7th and 8th graders will have the opportunity to job shadow a professional on Friday, February 2nd. This is always a fun day for the kids and we look forward to hearing about all the unique experiences.

On Wednesday, February 7th, Mr. Ryan Cumback, WAHS Principal, will be coming to the middle school at 6:00 pm to talk to interested families about what they have to offer. All 7th and 8th grade families are invited. It's an informal presentation and a great way to get all your questions answered about WAHS. We also have all of our middle school awards ceremonies that day, which will be live streamed.

February 22nd, all of the National History Day projects will be on display in the library. All of you in this room are welcome to stop by anytime during the hours of 9-3 that day to check them out and be a judge. CCSD Superintendent Anita Huggins will be coming and hopefully Mayor Cogswell as well.

Bingo Night at the middle school is February 14th from 5-7. This is a drop-off event for parents. Happy Valentine's Day!

Elementary

It's been a quick few weeks back! This week we also had Ms. Stephanie Hite, with the Attorney General's office, come and speak to all of the students (Kindergarten through 5th grade) on ways to stay safe online. Although a dry presentation, I think that the content covered was good for the students to hear.

This Tuesday, we also had Mr. Brandon Broughton host our January PTO meeting with a performance from all three of our steel drum groups. We had our beginner elementary, advanced elementary, and middle school groups perform. We had a fantastic turnout at this show and look forward to another packed house in May for their Spring concert.

Yesterday, Ms. Lori Berry, our STEAM teacher had all of our 5th graders present their Mobile Museum research projects on the rainforest, ocean, desert, tundra, and grassland biomes. Parents were invited to come and see their projects, and I can say they were very impressive. Students created clay animals, digital presentations, board games, and posters that included all of their facts that they had learned about their biome. We had some of our other grade levels walk their students through the projects. It was really cool to hear the kids present their content to other students. We are extremely thankful for the work of Ms. Berry and the hard work of our 5th graders.

A few other things going on around campus: our elementary boys and girls basketball teams start their games this weekend. Thank you to those parents who have committed their time to work with those teams to prepare them for the season. The Nothing Bundt Cake PTO fundraiser is underway. If you're interested in purchasing some mini cakes, an Orange Grove student can help you out. We have our annual BINGO night tomorrow night. Our 1st grade team hosts this event and it's always a blast. We sold around 350 tickets in less than 20 minutes or so.

9.0 Executive Session

- a. Mr. Mac McSwain made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to go into Executive Session at 6:30 pm to discuss formation of contracts with third parties. Motion approved.
- b. The Board returned to Open Session at 7:08 pm.

10.0 Action Items/New Business

- a. Review and discussion of options for OGCS's Income Portfolio. Mr. Justin Welch recused himself from discussion and voting.
 - i. Mr. Mac McSwain made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to move OGCS capital investment funds from First Citizen to Ameriprise. Motion approved.

10. Good of the Order

- Staff wrote thank you notes for the bonuses they received. Mr. Justin Welch said he appreciates the notes and enjoys reading them.

- Mrs. Sharon Dillon said she received the “You’re in the Zone” mailer that went out to let in zone families know they should apply to Orange Grove during the School Choice window, January 23rd through February 23rd.
- Happy Birthday, Dr. Laney White!
- Mrs. Erin Wilson will take her CDL test on January 30th.
- Orange Grove is now an official CDL training school for its staff. Thank you to Dr. Heather Holmes and Mrs. Sarah Selvidge for their hard work with getting this approved.
- Mr. John Clendaniel thanked the Board for approving the bonuses staff received during the Holiday Sing-a-long.
- Mr. Mac McSwain shared that his daughter enjoyed shadowing Mrs. Liz Wilhoit, our speech language pathologist.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Justin Welch made the motion and Mr. Mac McSwain seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:18 pm. Motion approved.