

**Orange Grove Charter School**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**March 17, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. Jennifer Mieras, Mrs. Amanda Fehr, Mrs. Teyako Woods, Mr. John Guerry, Mr. Steve Arato, Mrs. Dianne Probst, Mr. Tad Fletcher, Mr. Jason White and Mr. John H. Clendaniel

**Absent:** Mrs. Hayley Webster, Mrs. Shelby Lalli

**Zoom:** Mrs. Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions

**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

**CALL TO ORDER**

1. Mrs. Jennifer Mieras called the Meeting to Order at 6:02pm.
2. Mrs. Amanda Fehr read the Mission Statement.
3. Motion made by Mr. John Guerry and seconded by Mrs. Amanda Fehr to adopt the Agenda. Motion approved and Agenda was adopted.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Amanda Fehr and seconded by Mr. John Guerry to approve the Minutes from February 17, 2022. Motion approved.
5. Citizen Participation – No one appeared or requested to participate.
6. Financial Report: – Mrs. Christy Nickolauson, Finance, Prestige Solutions LLC, presented the February 2022 Financial Report.
  - Motion made by Mr. John Guerry and seconded by Mr. Tad Fletcher to approve the February 2022 Financial Report as presented. Motion approved.

- Mrs. Christy Nickolauson reviewed the FY23 Draft Budget.

7. Chief Executive Officer Report: Mr. John H. Clendaniel noted:

**General Updates:**

- a. With dozens of choice options in CCSD, Orange Grove received over 1400 applications for 120 or more spots. Applications are in the process of being reviewed and approved by Dr. Laney White, Dr. Heather Holmes and Mrs. Dawn Doyle for the next school year. Parents will be notified on April 1<sup>st</sup> if they were invited to join OG next year.
- b. Board Candidates – With some Board members cycling off this year and some are eligible to run again here are the tentative dates for packets to be available: April 18<sup>th</sup> and due back April 29<sup>th</sup>. Elections will be on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. John H. Clendaniel will confirm with the Election Commission regarding availability of machines.
- c. Demolition of the OG property on Highway 61 was awarded to TSIAC International and the information will be posted on the website.
- d. Mr. John H. Clendaniel and Mr. Steven Schonveld attended a community meeting at CE Williams earlier in March regarding middle schools for West Ashley. CCSD is looking at various options, but looks to be leaning towards building a 900+ seat middle school for West Ashley at the Middleton campus that will serve sixth graders.
  - Two options for Orange Grove: Use the old Middleton campus if CCSD builds on St. Andrews property and share space at the St. Andrews campus if they build at Middleton. Parents will be emailed these proposals next week encouraging them to reach out to the feedback email provided.

<https://www.ccsdschools.com/cms/lib/SC50000504/Centricity/Domain/118/D10%20-%20Middle%20School%20Community%20Meeting.pdf>

**Budget Report:**

- a. The State is pushing for a \$4,000 teacher pay increase as well as a STEP increase and cost of living. In speaking with the district that will look like an 8.5% increase across the schedules. This increase is incorporated into this budget even without an increase in revenue the budget is strong. The 8.5% was applied to all salaries for budgeting purposes. This budget also will include a revamp of the salary schedule to continue to compensate teachers from years 25-28. 28 years is when most are eligible for retirement, but CCSD has always stopped the steps at year 25.

- b. OGCS will be doing a market correction to classified position pay. Assistants and classified staff will be getting a larger than average increase to bring them up to a fair and competitive wage. The salary schedule for the district is long overdue for a correction and OG has the ability to go it alone and will be working on creating it.

**Elementary:**

- a. Fun day at the elementary as the children celebrated St. Patrick's Day searching for leprechauns. The excitement and joy around the children looking for the leprechauns is magical and the stories and scenes the teachers created are comical. Admin feed into it by checking cameras and reporting back.
- b. With COVID requirements easing a bit, parents had a chance to come in the building for the annual Book Fair. Mr. John H. Clendaniel praised Mrs. Lisa Schaffer, Media Specialist, on her work.
- c. Steel Drums had their first concert in two years with parents in attendance. Mr. Brandon Broughton is the music teacher and he brought the steel drum program to OG.
- d. Pi-Day was celebrated with fifth graders on March 14<sup>th</sup> and Mrs. Erin Foushee posted some of the activities on OG's Instagram page. Also, second grade Famous American Report drive thru took place at the end of February.

**Middle School:**

- a. Robotics team – finished first in “Innovation” at the state level and will go to Joint Base Charleston on April 8<sup>th</sup> to demonstrate the robot for military families and personnel.
- b. Spring sports – softball is over, soccer and baseball are finishing their season. Tennis will continue through April.
- c. Plans for the eighth grade semi-formal is coming together and the students are excited.

**COVID 19 Update:**

- a. Zero cases – testing kits given out per DHEC guidelines in the near future.

8. Action Items/New Business

- A. Mr. John Guerry updated the Board on OG Communications Committee Report

- a. Reviewed committee goals
- b. Overview of findings / recommendations
  - Establish website lead and co-lead with one person from each school.
  - Social Media Platforms should continue to be used as a positive, newsworthy showcase of events at ES and MS campuses.
  - Post Social Media content to the website as central hosting area (when that makes sense) with social media pointing to key announcements.
  - Evaluate viability of posting Tiger Roar newsletter to website and social media sites (e.g. link to the newsletter).
  - Leverage a parent survey, evaluate results, and incorporate findings into new recommendations. Evaluate ways to receive continual feedback from faculty, staff, parents, etc.
  - Board Communications:
    1. Board action item to evaluate how to manage.
    2. Establish board communications plan.
    3. Evaluate establishing or incorporating a communication officer activity into a role or a part of a current role (e.g. secretary).
    4. Evaluate communication options and content (e.g. email of board members or establishing board email) - Website, email, etc.
    5. Establish method to respond to board communications.
    6. Board statements, auto-responses, response time, drafting appropriate responses, receiving parent/community feedback.
    7. Use recent feedback as examples to evaluate appropriate response for incorporation of Board communication practices including who responds and awareness of responses give to the Board.
    8. Evaluate and communicate the plan yearly at the first Board meeting of a newly elected Board.
    9. Consider sending more periodic updates from the Board: meeting results, positive feedback about school success, etc.

- c. Motion made by Mrs. Jennifer Mieras to establish a three-member Board communication committee to have Mr. Tad Fletcher, Mr. John Guerry and Mrs. Amanda Fehr. Motion approved.

**B. BY-LAWS UPDATE:**

- a. Change election date to May.
- b. Change terms to a two-year term.
- c. Change the date on the election and having a two-year term limit will be voted on in May.

Mr. John Guerry made the motion and Mrs. Amanda Fehr seconded the motion to change the organizational structure of the Board and change the vote date from April to May. Motion approved.

**10. GOOD OF THE ORDER: Happy birthday Mrs. Jennifer Mieras.**

- Mrs. Amanda Fehr – proud of the OG Middle Robotics team that went up against high schoolers.
- Mrs. Dianne Probst – proud to be a part of the Board putting the students first.
- Mr. Ted Fletcher – taking the family to France for a vacation.
- Mr. John H. Clendaniel – started a YOGA group for teachers for mental and physical health. Monday and Wednesday 3:15 at the elementary and Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 at the middle. YOGA teachers trains with RiverDogs and Sting Rays.
- Mrs. Jennifer Mieras will Zoom in from Hawaii at the April meeting.

**11. Adjournment:**

Mr. Tad Fletcher made the motion and Mrs. Amanda Fehr seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:20pm.