

ORANGE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

Report of the Board Meeting

May 18, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Justin Welch, Mr. Mark Ables, Mrs. Amanda Fehr, Mrs. Rebecca Jones, Mrs. Hattie Wallen, Mr. John H. Clendaniel, Mrs. Dianne Probst, Mr. John Guerry, and Mr. Marcus DeBiasi

ZOOM:

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions, LLC

ABSENT:

Mr. Steve Arato, Jr.
Mrs. Haley Webster

VISITORS:

Mr. Steven Schonveld, Principal, middle campus
Dr. Laney White, Principal, elementary campus
Dr. Heather Holmes, Assistant Principal, elementary campus
Mrs. Sarah Selvidge, Executive Assistant
Mrs. Katherine Colston

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

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

2.0 Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Reading of Mission Statement

Mr. Marcus DeBiasi 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. John Guerry made the motion and Mrs. Dianne Probst 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 April Financial Report. Mr. Justin Welch made the motion and Mr. John Guerry seconded the motion to approve the April Financial Report as presented. Motion approved.

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

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

Elementary Update

Since our last meeting, we hosted our Annual Volunteer Breakfast. This is an event where teachers invite all of the parents who come in and help out in the classroom, help chaperone field trips, lead class parties, etc. A big thank you to Terri Neal and all of the other behind the scene helpers who work with her to put on this event.

PTO hosted Teacher Appreciation Week earlier this month. They absolutely spoiled the teachers and staff with a huge salad bar by Sapphire Bar and Grille, Moe's burrito bar, Tropical Smoothies, John Wesley Men's Breakfast (always a fan favorite), and The Good Cooker with an Italian pasta bar finale. Teachers were spoiled all week with their favorite things, sweet treats, flowers and gifts. We are super appreciative of all the things, thank you PTO and Orange Grove families!

Admin hosted our Annual Pizza with the Principal, as well. This is something that I started in 2013 and we have continued this on both campuses. Teachers are asked to send the name of their overall, best student - a student who represents what we strive for at OG: outstanding character, good behavior, and a strong work ethic. As we finish the event, we take pictures with each kid, get those developed and give those to them in a frame with a Pizza with the Principal certificate. Such a great thing that we love and will certainly continue.

Other fun and exciting things: we still have lots of field trips going on and that will only continue as the end of the year celebrations start. This week we had our steel drums and chorus perform at 2 school assemblies to showcase their work. There is a lot of time and hard work put in by both the students and their instructors. Brandon Broughton, who leads the steel drums, and Laura Ferderigos, who leads our chorus, put these concerts together and do an excellent job!

Testing is underway and will wrap up next week. Students have been working hard on these and are ready for them to be over, as you can imagine. It's a busy time, but a fun time to celebrate the hard work of the students and staff!

Middle Update

Testing has gone very smoothly at the middle school, and the kids have been taking pride in doing well. The teachers have prepared them well and supplied them with a lot of incentives for taking their time. We know it will pay off with excellent scores like usual.

Today was the last day that the whole school will be testing. Monday is the last official day, but only 6th graders and those who are in Algebra will be testing.

8th graders leave for DC on Tuesday morning at 6:30 am. The itinerary while we are there is full. All the memorials, guided tour of the US Capitol, Ford's Theatre, Mount Vernon, National Museum of African American History, Holocaust Museum, Nationals baseball game on Thursday, Arlington National Cemetery to see the Changing of the Guard, and more. We just got word a couple days ago that we were selected and approved to get a guided tour of the White House on Wednesday, which is very exciting. We are scheduled to be back at Orange Grove Middle School on Friday at 10:00 pm.

All current 5th grade students will be bused to the middle school next Thursday to see the campus, meet the teachers, learn the expectations, see a sample schedule of their day, and hopefully calm some nerves about next year. On Tuesday, May 30th, there is a parent information night for rising 6th grade families at the middle school beginning at 5:00 pm.

Field day is the 31st, 6th and 7th grade awards ceremonies are Friday, June 2nd, 8th grade graduation ceremony is Monday, June 5th, and the last day of school is Tuesday, June 6th.

Organization

You may have seen us on Live 5 recently. They were here to cover the bus conversion and also did a live feed before school started. Personally, I thought our Instagram coverage of the bus was so much better. If you haven't had a chance to check that out, please do. Erin Foushee did a great job with that piece. Speaking of communication, I am very happy to announce that Orange Grove, along with 11 schools, combined to win a district-record 32 awards in the 2023 Rewards for Excellence program, sponsored by the South Carolina Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (SCNSPRA). Along with the overall number of 32, 11 schools receiving honors is a new CCSD record. Orange Grove Charter School set another district record with seven awards by itself. SCNSPRA recognized 201 programs and projects from across the state during a ceremony on Friday, May 12, 2023, in Columbia and our very own Hattie Wallen was able to join Sarah Selvidge (who won two awards herself) at the ceremony.

Charleston County Council did a resolution honoring the accomplishments of our Robotics Team. I've passed that around for you to look at as well as a picture of Sarah with all of our awards. Speaking of robotics, I submitted a reimbursement request through a CCSD scholarship that we should be eligible for. It's for nearly \$18,000. Historically they've funded 60-70% of requested expenses so that could mean as much as \$12,000 for student expenses.

Budget updates, CCSD will likely make a substantial increase to the teacher pay schedule. We currently have 8.5% in our budget.

Guidance opening for next year at the middle school, but other than that, all open positions have been filled.

Board elections will be on May 23rd. We will have 4 candidates for two parent member spots and just 1 candidate for the 1 community spot. We will certainly miss having Amanda, Dianne, and John on the board next school year. Our staff will be electing teacher representatives for the board to serve a two-year term next week.

Summer projects - Kindergarten playground (back) will be demoed and replaced starting next month. The new bus we purchased is built and will be delivered early next month. Parking lots will be painted and we are replacing all of the original formica countertops at the elementary. That's every downstairs classroom, workrooms, restrooms, and reception area.

OG graduating high school seniors will be returning to the elementary school next Friday to walk the halls and be congratulated by our students and serenaded by our kindergarteners.

Yearbooks go home Monday! We honored Cindy Peppler yesterday who was this year's yearbook dedication recipient.

9.0 Action Items/New Business

There were no action items or new business.

10.0 Good of the Order

1. Steve Schonveld is going to be 40.
2. Wanda Colston is going to be 70.
3. Mr. Justin Welch shared that someone asked how many days of OG he had left before his son graduates 8th grade, and including today, he has 8 days. He has been driving them to school for 11 years. He shared that the teachers and leadership staff have made this experience amazing. So appreciative of the staff and teachers at OG.
4. Mrs. Amanda Fehr shared that she hasn't counted how many days she has left as an OG parent but now will have to. She is so thankful for The Grove. When you have a teacher stop by a non-school event to watch your kids participate, that's something that doesn't happen everywhere.

11.0 Adjournment

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

Next Board Meeting – June 15, 2023