

ORANGE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

Report of the Board Meeting

November 15, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Justin Welch, Mr. Mac McSwain, Mrs. Rebecca Jones, Mr. Mark Ables, Mrs. Hattie Wallen, Mrs. Erin Wilson, Mr. Alex Matos, Mr. John H. Clendaniel, and Mr. Marcus DeBiasi

ZOOM:

Mrs. Sharon Dillon

ABSENT:

Mrs. Brenda Bianchi

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. David Smith, Martin-Smith & Company (via Zoom)
Mrs. Katherine Colston, Administrative Intern (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

Mrs. Rebecca Jones 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 November 15th agenda. Motion approved.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Mac McSwain made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to approve the October 19th Minutes. Motion approved with minor edit to move Mrs. Sharon Dillon's attendance from Zoom to Absent.

6.0 Citizen Participation:

No one appeared or requested to participate.

7.0 Financial Report

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions, LLC presented the October Financial Report. Mr. Mac McSwain made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to approve the October Financial Report as presented. Motion approved.

8.0 CEO Report – Mr. John H. Clendaniel

Organization

Last week, our teachers enjoyed a well-deserved workday. Some conducted parent conferences to review first-quarter progress, while others utilized the time to catch up on paperwork and plan for the upcoming quarter. Our teachers put in tremendous effort to ensure top-quality lessons, especially as we enter the holiday season, where they go the extra mile to make lessons captivating and keep students engaged. We are truly blessed with a team of hardworking and committed teachers at The Grove, and we have so much to be thankful for, especially their dedication!

I'm happy to report that we received yet another glowing audit. Our Auditing firm, Martin Smith, will be reporting on this tonight.

Yesterday, Steve and I zoomed with our builder for the gymnasium build. Elevations, zoning meetings, stormwater plans, parking exemptions, etc., are part of the pending hurdles, but the meeting went well, and there is hope of breaking ground by late summer 2024.

We honored our veterans on Thursday and Friday of last week. At the middle school, Mrs. Gladu, 8th-grade SS teacher, does an incredible job planning this Veterans Day Ceremony with her students. JICHHS presented the colors and the national anthem. We had many veterans speak during the event and watching how proud the students were makes it all worth it. At the elementary school, Mrs. Schaffer had dozens of veterans come in as guest readers, and she and Ms. Williams lined the entire car loop with yard signs that had the names and pictures of our veterans and their affiliation with Orange Grove. Check out Instagram if you haven't already for pictures from both of those events.

Finally, I want to congratulate Candyce Lyon, who was selected by popular vote for the Tanger Home Town Hero: Outstanding Educator Award. Candyce is well deserving of this award and was recognized over the weekend alongside a Fire Chief, Veteran, and an Emergency Room Doctor.

Middle School

Thank you to our PTO and plethora of parent volunteers for organizing, decorating, and executing the Halloween dances during the school day. It's always one of the best days of the year for the kids, and we couldn't pull it off without the volunteers.

The first marking period ended last week, and report cards were sent home. We will have two awards ceremonies—one after the first semester and one at the end of the year. Our basketball seasons have started, but we'd like to formally recognize our volleyball teams that won the championship. Both 6th and 7th grade teams took home the hardware this year, and we're extremely proud of all the student athletes and coaches.

Gifted and Talented testing took place on Monday and Tuesday at the middle school. Students were identified by CCSD, and we're hopeful this will result in more of our students being identified. Congratulations to Michelle Comen for securing a sizable Robotics grant. It costs a lot of money to have multiple robotics teams, and this grant goes a long way to help offset some of those expenses.

We had our annual duty-free Thanksgiving feast this afternoon. Thank you to the PTO for putting this together. The teachers love to eat lunch with their colleagues in a peaceful environment. They were extremely thankful for that.

Elementary

It's hard to believe it's already November! Our Boosterthon Fundraiser has come to a close, and we are thrilled to announce that we raised well over \$100,000. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our students, parents, and grandparents for making this endeavor such a remarkable success. Not only did we exceed our fundraising goals, but we also had a blast in the process. Yes, even the administrative team joined in on the fun, getting silly-stringed, dressing up as pirates, and even taking a few pies to the face!

The funds raised from this successful event will be directed towards supporting student activities and incentives, with a portion allocated for the eventual replacement of the front playground. Some may wonder what we mean by student activities and incentives; it includes rewarding achievements such as taking our 4th-grade students to Top Golf for meeting their AR goals and hosting a carnival with snow cones and popcorn for our second graders who achieved their goals.

Halloween was an absolute blast! For those who couldn't make it to the elementary school parade, fret not – a video is available on our Instagram page, courtesy of the talented Erin Foushee. She does an excellent job capturing the magical moments on campus, something truly unique to Orange Grove that sets us apart from other schools.

As we head into the holiday season, Orange Grove remains a community that values and supports one another. Here's to continued success and joy in the months ahead!

9.0 Executive Session

Mr. Justin Welch made the motion and Mr. Mac McSwain seconded the motion to go into Executive Session at 6:24 pm to discuss a staff contractual matter. Motion approved. All visitors, Mrs. Erin Wilson, Mr. Alex Matos, and Mr. Marcus DeBiasi departed the meeting, and the Zoom session was terminated.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:32 pm. All visitors, Mrs. Erin Wilson, Mr. Alex Matos, and Mr. Marcus DeBiasi returned to the meeting, and the Zoom session resumed.

10.0 Action Items/New Business

- a. Mr. Mac McSwain made a motion to authorize Mr. Clendaniel to spend up to \$250,000 from the discretionary fund for a staff holiday bonus. Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- b. Audit review with Mr. Ken Martin / Mr. David Smith, Martin-Smith Company. Orange Grove received another clean audit with no findings.

10. Good of the Order

- Mrs. Rebecca Jones shared that her child wanted to be an Orange Grove staff member for Halloween because of the impact she has had on her child.
- Mr. Justin Welch shared that Mrs. Erin Wilson went to an OG family's house when they lost a family member and bought the children gift bags. He was so appreciative and wanted to recognize Erin for what she did for her former students.
- Mr. Clendaniel thanked the board for moving the meeting date and for their ongoing support.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Justin Welch made the motion and Mr. Mark Ables seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:07pm. Motion approved.