

ORANGE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL
Report of the Board Meeting
October 19, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Mac McSwain, Mrs. Brenda Bianchi, Mrs. Rebecca Jones, Mr. Mark Ables, and Mr. John H. Clendaniel

ZOOM:

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions, LLC
Mr. Justin Welch

ABSENT:

Mr. Marcus DeBiasi, Mrs. Erin Wilson, Mr. Alex Matos, Mrs. Sharon Dillon, and Mrs. Hattie Wallen

VISITORS:

Dr. Laney White, Principal, elementary campus
Dr. Heather Holmes, Assistant Principal, elementary campus
Mrs. Sarah Selvidge, Executive Assistant
Mrs. Katherine Colston, Administrative Intern (via Zoom)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Mac McSwain called the Meeting to Order at 6:01pm.

2.0 Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Reading of the Mission Statement

Mr. Mark Ables read the Mission Statement.

4.0 Adoption of the Agenda

Mrs. Rebecca Jones made the motion and Mr. Mark Ables seconded the motion to adopt the October 19th agenda. Motion approved.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Mark Ables made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to approve the September 21st 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 September Financial Report. Mr. Mark Ables made the motion and Mrs. Rebecca Jones seconded the motion to approve the September Financial Report as presented. Motion approved.

8.0 CEO Report – Mr. John H. Clendaniel

Organization

- **Audit next month** - Next month our auditors are planning on attending our meeting to go over our annual audit. This is our first audit with this new firm.
- **First Citizens investment** - I'm happy to report that thanks to your approval last month, 4 million in funds were invested in treasuries for 6 months at 5.51%.
- **Meeting follow up with District** - As I mentioned at our last meeting, I was planning to meet with the CCSD superintendent and cabinet regarding future facility needs for OGCS Middle. This meeting was scheduled for the same week that the CCSD Board met which resulted in the superintendent getting placed on administrative leave amongst other headline grabbing decisions. Regardless, we were still able to meet (without the superintendent) and discuss future plans and options.
- **Halloween** - As you are probably already aware, Halloween is a big deal at The Grove. So much so that November 1 is a one-hour delay for staff and students.
- **CCSD Recognition for School Report Card** - On Monday I will be heading downtown to the CCSD board meeting to represent the school when recognized for our excellent school report card ratings.
- **Booster** has kicked off. This is our biggest PTO fundraiser.
- **ESSER III Amendment** - Merely informational, but I've adjusted our spending plan to include the \$5,000 bonus for teachers on the teacher salary schedule that CCSD is giving. This would be a \$410K budget impact for us if not using ESSER, but I am able to include it by delaying some technology purchases that are honestly not necessary to complete before the spending deadline. These purchases will include the delay of new display boards at the front of classrooms (our current models are fine) as well as portions of the original furniture buy list.
- **Maternity and Paternity leave** - The state is giving state employees (including teachers) 6 weeks of paid maternity leave and 2 weeks of paid paternity leave

before “charging” sick days. While we are state employees, we technically, as a charter school, do not have to follow suit. However, my intention as an employer is to follow suit at least as long as we are in a financial position to do so. In conversing with other local charters, they are following the same path, mainly to stay competitive with district and state perks.

Middle School

- **Volleyball Playoffs** - Both 6th and 7th grade are playing for the championship tonight.
- **Robotics build** - Mrs. Comen and teams hosted a build day last Saturday for multiple schools. They were in the cafeteria from 9 - 4 and it was a successful event for all.
- **Veterans Day** - Mrs. Gladu and the 8th grade students are hosting our annual Veteran’s Day Ceremony on Thursday, November 10th at 8:00 am in the cafeteria. This event has a catered breakfast for all veterans and their guests. The students will have prepared speeches and 5-10 veterans will speak to the entire 8th grade class. The James Island Charter High School color guard will present the colors beforehand. This is one of our best events, in my opinion, and one that Mrs. Gladu organizes extremely well.
- **Dance** - Each grade level will have a Halloween dance in the cafeteria on October 31st after our parade, which begins at 9:30 am. Booster will DJ and our wonderful crew of volunteers will transform the cafeteria to make this a memorable event for the kids. It’s a full day of fun and celebration. Thank you to our PTO and all of the volunteers who help with these events.
- **Booster** - The kids are enjoying Jammin’ J and all the fun daily Booster activities. The extreme recess will be on Thursday, October 26th outside on our playground. Booster will get all the inflatables, games, etc. Each grade level will get an hour outside to do whatever they want to do.
- **Dia de los Muertos** - Mrs. Spann organizes a full day of rotations for the 8th graders for this event. It will be on November 1st and she has activities planned for each class period in the morning. It’s a wonderful way for kids to learn about other cultures, eat the food, etc.
- **Basketball** - Tryouts for our middle school basketball teams are next week. Information has been emailed to all parents and is announced daily on the news show.
- **Picture Day** - November 3rd
- **Tiger Tee Off** - November 4th

Elementary

- **Field trips** - 2nd and 4th grade have both taken their first field trips of the year. I want to recognize our 2nd grade teachers and students for an amazing trip to Boone Hall Pumpkin Patch. It was a complete downpour yet there was nothing but smiles and positive attitudes by all including the teachers, students, and even parents! See below for the letter that Dr. White received from Mrs. Benson, the Education Guide at Boone Hall.

Dr. White,

I wanted to let you and the administration at Orange Grove Charter School know how impressed I was with the group of second graders and their teachers that came on a field trip to Boone Hall yesterday. They arrived in a downpour and we had to present the bee and pumpkin program under a tent to the entire group. Normally we have them split into smaller groups, but we were unable to do this due to the weather.

Mr. Rich, the beekeeper, and I had the full attention of these children and enjoyed their enthusiastic participation in the program. The teachers and chaperones helped with all of this. The children walked in the rain to the petting zoo and even rode the wagon ride through the haunted trail in the rain. I did not hear one complaint the entire time.

What a wonderful reflection of the standards set at your school. As a former charter school administrator and special education teacher, I always appreciated hearing when my students represented the schools in a positive way, so I wanted to reach out to you.

As an aside, I love Orange Grove Charter because my two granddaughters attend your school and I'm very impressed with everything they are experiencing there. Haley is in first grade and Ellie is in fourth grade and they love it there.

Thank you for sending us such a wonderful group of students and teachers yesterday.

Melinda Benson
Education Guide
Boone Hall Plantation

- **Furniture:** Over the past few months, we have been working with a few companies to get bids on new furniture for the elementary campus. We outfitted

the middle last year, and while we have ESSER funds that still can be used for things like furniture, we are taking full advantage of this opportunity at the elementary. After meeting with the suppliers a few times, we gathered feedback from grade levels who agreed on a standard grade level classroom layout. Admin met with the company yesterday to give them detailed feedback. We are looking forward to getting back more detailed CAD renderings with the goal of moving forward with a summer install of furniture.

- **Booster is BACK!** Booster is our largest PTO sponsored fundraiser for the year. This is a character education, fitness focused challenge. Students are asked to raise money from family and friends to sponsor them in running 'laps'. We have partnered with Booster for many years now and are looking forward to another successful event. This year our goal is to raise \$85,000.00 to go towards a new kindergarten playground in the front of the school and funding student activities and incentives.

9.0 Action Items/New Business

- a. None

10. Good of the Order

- The 6th grade volleyball team won the championship!

11. Adjournment

Mrs. Rebecca Jones made the motion and Mr. Mark Ables seconded the motion to adjourn at 6:44pm. Motion approved.