



News You Can Use

Orange County Public Schools

School Board Meeting Highlights

Mar. 12, 2024 - The School Board of Orange County held its regularly-scheduled board meeting at 5 p.m. at the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center. These are the highlights of the meeting:

School Board holds first public hearing on the adoption of K-12 Science Textbooks

The committees for K-12 Science have made the selections to recommend the adoption of the [titles listed under Primary Committee Selection](#). An alternate committee selection is also listed if the primary selection is not on the state's final list. In addition, a committee was convened to select instructional materials for the new high school required Financial Literacy and Money Management course for one year. Another adoption will occur in 2024-2025 to choose a 3-year option in alignment with the revised FLDOE instructional materials adoption timeline. The next public meeting **April 2, 2024** the public may provide comments prior to the School Board's approval of the instructional materials plan identifying the instructional materials that will be purchased.

School Board recognitions [All recognition photos can be viewed here.](#)

District 7 Spotlight:

Tonight, District 7 School Board Member Melissa Byrd recognized Apopka Elementary School's Media Specialist Marley McElroy and Wolf Lake Middle School's Media Specialist Sheila Jackson. Both media specialists were an instrumental part of the Read Around the City Challenge. The competition was a collaboration between OCPS, Re-Imagine Communities and the Apopka, Winter Garden and Ocoee communities. The goal was to achieve one million minutes of reading by the end of January. District 7 schools and the community exceeded its goal by reading more than 2 million minutes during the contest, thanks to media specialists who found creative and fun ways to make reading exciting for our students.

2024 Florida Junior Thespian State Festival winners:

Students from Glenridge, Gotha, Horizon West, Howard, Innovation, SunRidge and Timber Springs middle schools won awards during the 2024 Florida Junior Thespian State Festival.

Glenridge Middle: There are 84 students from Glenridge Middle who received three awards for Outstanding Ensemble and Lighting Design and One Act Judges' Choice Awards, in addition, Eighth grader Olivia Rios – "Peter Pan Jr." – Publicity Direction – Judges' Choice Award, Sixth graders Quinn Cohen and Kiran Irick – "10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse" – All-Star Awards, Sixth grader William McMillen – "10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse" – Outstanding Lead Performance in a Male Role Award; **Gotha Middle:** Eighth grader Ava Petroski – "Cheating" – Scene Writing – Judges' Choice Award; **Howard Middle:** Eighth grader Jonah Bloom – "AM Sunday" – Monologue – Judges' Choice Award; **Horizon West Middle:** Eighth grader Jordan Riley – "A Misremembered Mystery" – Judges' Choice Award;

Innovation Middle: Eighth grader Makena Langston – “Once Upon a Mattress” – Costume Design and Construction Award; **SunRidge Middle:** Eighth graders Asher Huntington and Elena Doepke – “The Bigger Picture” – Scene Writing Award; **Timber Springs Middle:** Eighth graders Noah Browning and Tyler Soldano – Improv – Judges’ Choice Award, Eighth grader Myra Rashid and seventh grader Aubrey Belcher – “Winnie the Pooh Kids” – All-Star Awards, Seventh grader Lianne Hernandez – “Winnie the Pooh Kids” – Outstanding Lead Performance in a Female Role Award “Winnie the Pooh Kids” – Outstanding Set Design Award:Seventh grader Aubrey Belcher, Seventh grader Delhimar Rivas, Seventh grader Enmarie Mackey, Seventh grader Dani Reder, Eighth grader Milani Brown.

Superintendent Student Advisory Council members from Oak Ridge High School spoke about the positive and innovative things happening on campus and highlighted its 34-member chorus with a performance.

Reminder All board meetings are live streamed on the School Board’s YouTube page and will be accessible from web browsers on computers or mobile devices. To find the live stream, visit www.boardmeetings.ocps.net.