

**Oglethorpe Charter School
Governing Board Meeting
Agenda
September 25, 2023**

Open Session

5:00 p.m.

1. Welcome

Lisa Reavis

2. Approve Agenda

3. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

4. Financial Report

Matt Dowling

5. Presidents Report

Lisa Reavis

6. Administrators Report

Kevin Wall

7. Governance & Accountability Committee Report

Jonathan Brown

8. Education Committee Report

Regina Rahimi

**Oglethorpe Charter School
Governing Board Meeting
Agenda
August 28, 2023**

Whole group board training provided by Georgia Charter School Association.

OGLETHORPE CHARTER SCHOOL

Governing Board Meeting

July 31, 2023

Board Members Present: Lisa Reavis, Matt Dowling, Regina Rahimi, Jennifer Everett

Board Members Absent: Jonathan Brown, LaQuisha Milton, Edward Daniels

Principal Present: Kevin Wall

Open Session: Called to order at 5:00pm by Lisa Reavis

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda: Regina Rahimi

Motion to second: Jennifer Everett

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of May 22, 2023 meeting minutes:

Motion to approve: Matt Dowling

Motion to second: Jennifer Everett

Motion passed unanimously

Financial report through May, 2023 was presented by Matt Dowling

The preliminary operating budget for 23-24 was presented by Matt Dowling. Our funding allocated by the BOE is significantly less than last fiscal year. Last year at this time, we began the budget with funding of \$7,091,142. This year, we have been allocated \$6,182,010. Because of this it is requested of the board to approve \$946,869 to be allocated to the current budget from general operating funds for the purpose of balancing the budget.

Motion to approve allocated operating funds: Jennifer Everett

Motion to second: Regina Rahimi

Motion passed unanimously

President's Report: Ms. Reavis expressed concern with the decrease in funding.

Principal's Report: Included in the current budget is an amount of \$198,771. to implement Flying Classroom in all science classes school wide.

Motion to approve Flying Classroom expenditure: Matt Dowling

Motion to second: Jennifer Everett

Motion passed unanimously

Board went into closed session at 5:07pm. Board went into open session at 5:10pm.

Committee Reports

Governance and Accountability: Chair, Matt Dowling - none

Nomination Committee: Chair, Jonathan Brown

Report of closed session:

Motion to approve Cristina Rodriguez for Spanish Teacher: Matt Dowling

Motion to second: Regina Rahimi

Motion to approve Anne Revlett for Art Teacher: Regina Rahimi

Motion to second: Matt Dowling

Motion to approve Emily McAleer for Guidance Counselor: Jennifer Everett

Motion to second: Regina Rahimi

Motions passed unanimously.

Academic Committee: Chair, Regina Rahimi – none.

Other Business: None

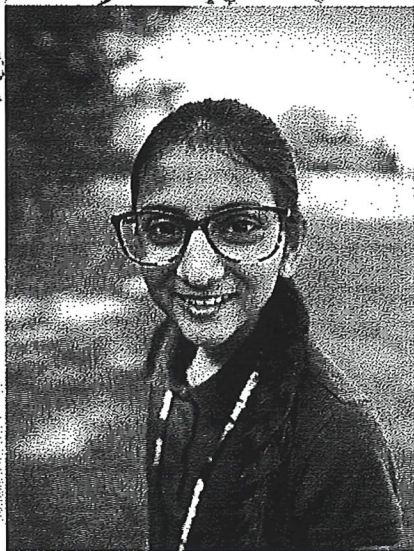
Parent, Guest, Teacher, and Staff Comments: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Vogel
Oglethorpe Charter School

To: OCS Governing Board
From: Kevin Wall
Date: September 25, 2023

Congratulations Rahi Patel: Rahi has been selected to represent Oglethorpe Charter School as the September Student of the Month. Rahi is a high-performing 8th grader that is taking advanced classes for high school credit (9th Math, 9th Comp Lit, and 9th Physical Science). Rahi is an officer serving as the secretary in both the BETA, Honor Society Club and the National Junior Honor Society Club. Rahi would like to attend Jenkins High School with a focus on engineering. Rahi has a broad interest in her career path choices. She is looking into the medical field to possibly be a pediatrician one day. She is also looking at a possible career path in engineering and information technology. During her free time, Rahi enjoys drawing. She is inspired by both of her parents because they both offer her a world of support. **Great kid!**



Congratulations!

Rahi Patel
is our September
Principal's
Student of the Month!

i-Ready: The first round of i-Ready diagnostic testing has been completed for all 3 grade levels. The i-Ready diagnostic evaluation prepares and equips teachers by delivering actionable data that addresses the first part of the learning process—knowing exactly where each student is. *i-Ready Diagnostic* provides teachers with a complete picture of student performance relating to their grade level *and* national norms. It also includes Lexile® and Quantile® information for insights into reading and mathematics performance.

**Oglethorpe Charter School
Family Contract
Reminder**

I/We, the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the above-named student, in consideration of the enrollment of my/our child in the Oglethorpe Charter School do hereby agree to the following:

1. I understand that this school is governed by a Governing Board, the majority of which are parents or guardians of students enrolled in Oglethorpe Charter School.
2. By my personal participation, I will assist the school in making learning a primary occupation for my child.
3. I will supervise my child's homework to ensure that all assignments are completed on schedule. I will not make excuses for late/missing assignments. I will establish a homework location in the home.
4. I will ensure that my child is dressed in uniform clothing in accordance with the dress code established by Oglethorpe Charter School. As stated in the student handbook, if my student comes to school out of uniform, I will bring my student the appropriate clothing as soon as I am contacted.
5. My child will be sent to school healthy, clean, rested and prepared to learn with proper supplies.
6. I will have two academic conferences by phone, e-mail or in person with my child's teacher(s) as requested. I will schedule conferences. Pop-in conferences are not appropriate.
7. I will volunteer my time according to the needs of the school, which are currently 10 hours per year for single-parent families and 20 hours per year for two-parent families, by agreeing to accept a fair share of the work to be done as directed by the Governing Board and/or Administration.
8. I understand that practicing civic responsibility is an important part of the learning experience at the school; therefore, I will provide or arrange for transportation for my child to school-organized volunteer community activities or I will provide reasonable notice to the school if I need assistance to find transportation for my child.
9. I understand that this contract is an agreement with all other parents in the school to support the faculty, staff and volunteers as they work to help me make my child a productive, cooperative member of the school and community.
10. I understand that after reasonable interventions with regard to discipline has been attempted without success, the Governing Board has the authority to expel or recommend that a child be withdrawn from Oglethorpe Charter School if the following circumstances occur:
 - a. Student's behavior violates the Conduct and Discipline Code which I have read and I understand; and/or
 - b. The parents or guardian fails to take responsibility for the conduct of the student or fails to cooperate with the school in efforts to correct the student's behavior.

- c. The student consistently fails to turn in homework, projects, or prepare for tests, preventing reaching maximum academic potential.

I understand that any student suspended or expelled from a charter school is entitled to enroll in a public school in the district in which the student resides so long as the student would not have been subject to suspension or expulsion under the disciplinary policy of the local school system for the conduct which gave rise to the suspension or expulsion.

11. I understand the policy of Oglethorpe Charter School is to promote students from grade to grade based solely on academic performance.
12. I will keep the school informed of a phone number and address where I can be reached during daytime hours, and be immediately available to come to the school if requested.
13. I will see that my student attends tutorials, if needed.

Annual PTO Cookie Dough Fundraiser: The cookie dough fundraiser officially kicked off Thursday, September 7th, and will run until Thursday, September 21st. All money must be turned in on Friday, September 22nd. This is a win-win fundraiser for all students and families. Parents will receive all required family contract volunteer hours by selling just one tub of cookie dough. Students will receive 5 free dress-down days for selling 1-4 tubs of cookie dough. Students who sell 5-9 tubs of cookie dough will receive 10 free dress-down days. Students who sell 10 or more tubs of cookie dough will receive 10 free dress-down days and a trip to the Oglethorpe food court during the school day for lunch.

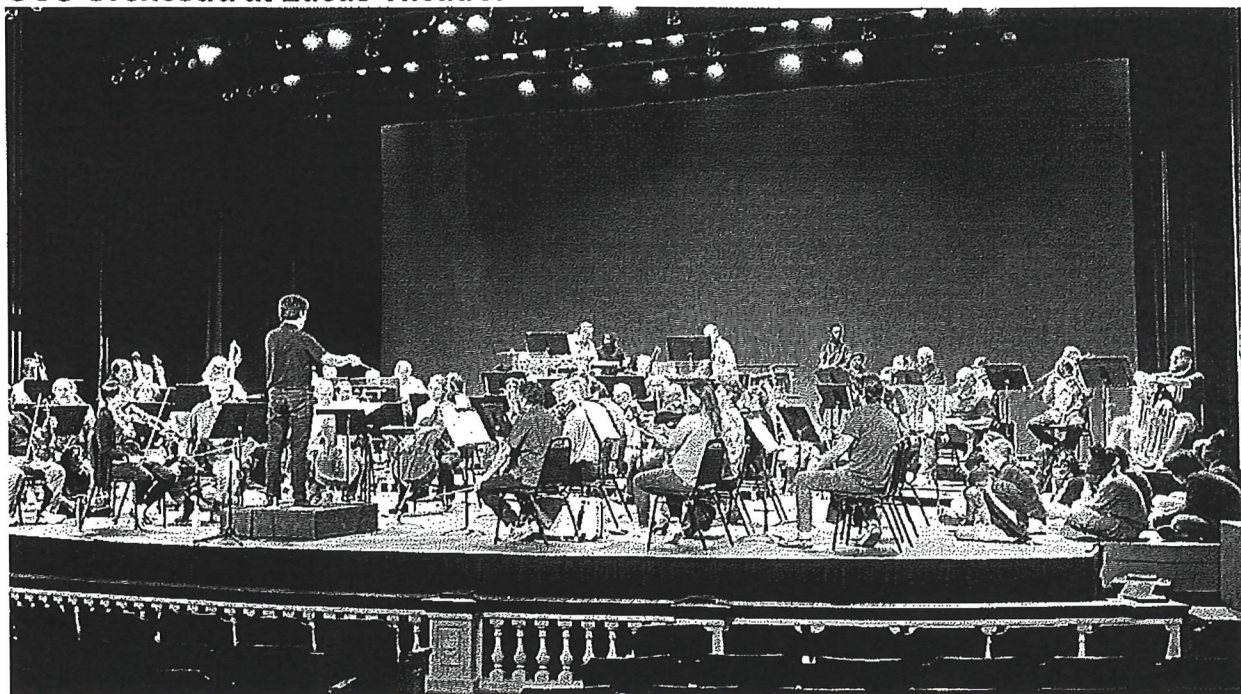
OCS FBLA and Business Education Class:



On Tuesday, August 29th, Ashley Dubois from Members 1st Credit Union came to Oglethorpe Charter School for the second year in a row to speak to our Business Education and FBLA members regarding personal finance, banking, and marketing. Mrs. Dubois and Members 1st Credit Union are amazing partners to SCCPSS and CTAE. She started a student-run branch at Woodville Tompkins High School, and she speaks to many schools throughout the district. OCS FBLA and Business Education are

extremely appreciative of Mrs. Dubois and Members 1st for taking the time to speak with our students and supporting our educational efforts.

OCS Orchestra at Lucas Theatre:



The OCS Orchestra spent the morning with the Savannah Philharmonic at the Lucas Theatre Thursday, September 14th.

Kevin Wall, OCS Principal
Kevin.Wall@sccpss.com

Governing Board Governance and Accountability Committee Meeting
Minutes
September 19, 2023 8:00

The Oglethorpe Charter School Governance and Accountability Committee met on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

Mr. Wall presented a brief overview of the Oglethorpe Charter School Strategic Plan, Bylaws, and Policy and Procedure Manual.

Bylaw Review: Based on the whole group training that was held with the Governing Board on July 31, 2023, Ayana Clark (Georgia Charter Schools Association) stated that the OCS Governing Board would need to amend the Bylaws for the number of people serving on the board. The language used in the current bylaws states: The Governing Board will have 11 members, four of which will be parents of children who attend Oglethorpe Charter School and are not employed by the Board of Education. At least three of these parent representatives will also represent employers for which they work. Four members will represent higher education partners: Savannah State University, Georgia Southern University, Savannah Technical College, and the Savannah College of Art and Design. Three members will be community members at large who represent a leading employer in one of Oglethorpe's areas of career focus (Biotechnology Research and Development, Computer Programing, Entrepreneurship, Engineering and Technology, Fine Arts, Forensics, and World Language). The Administrator will participate in Governing Board meetings as a non-voting participant. The term on the Administrator's function with the board will coincide with his/her contract of employment. Parent terms will be two years. Community representative terms will be for one year. The three officers of the corporation will be members of the Governing Board.

Note: The bulk of the language in Article 4 Section 1 of Personnel Terms was revised when Oglethorpe Charter School was trying to add a career academy high school during the previous charter renewal process.

Strategic Plan Review: It was brought up by James Shehane (Oglethorpe AP) during the Governing Board Academic Committee meeting that was held September 12, 2023, that Oglethorpe Charter School once had a schoolwide policy for all teachers to get gifted certification. Mr. Shehane stated that we could gain an additional \$40,000 to \$50,000 in FTE funding if we required our non-gifted certified teacher to get gifted certified. Mr. Brown and Mr. Wall also discussed the need to look at our one-to-one technology initiative to make sure we keep current with our technology needs.

Policy and Procedure Manual Review: The only thing Mr. Brown and Mr. Wall discussed related to the policy and procedure manual was possibly making the OCS requirement for gifted certification a Governing Board Policy rather than a School Policy.

Mr. Wall ended the meeting by informing Mr. Brown that jump drives will be issued to all Governing Board Members which will include the major Governance and Accountability documents (Strategic plan, Charter Contract, Bylaws, and Policy and Procedure manual). In prior years, new members were given a huge three-ring binder to house those documents.

Governing Board Academic Committee Meeting Minutes September 12, 2023

The Oglethorpe Charter School Governing Board Academic Committee met on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

Mr. Wall presented a brief overview of the administrative restructuring for the school year stating that every teaching team at Oglethorpe Charter School now has an Assistant Principal assigned to each respective team. Dr. Jennifer Kolman is over the 6th grade teaching team. Paul Vogel is over the 7th grade traditional teaching team. James Shehane is over the 7th grade looping teaching team. Jennifer Darke is over the 8th-grade teaching team. The APs are over both academics and behavior for their teams including all TKES evaluations. In conjunction with the grade level team responsibilities, James Shehane is over the schoolwide initiative for MTSS. Paul Vogel is over the school-wide PBIS initiative. Jennifer Darke is over Title 1. Dr. Kolman is over the school safety plan.

Mr. Shehane presented a brief overview of changes that we have made in math and reading to account for the learning loss that many of our students experienced as a result of the pandemic. In the past, we have approached the double block of math as 2 separate classes where one math teacher would teach the algebra components of the curriculum while the other math teacher would teach the geometry and statistics portion of the curriculum. Beginning this year, one of the math teachers on each team will be responsible for the delivery of the math standards while the other teacher will be responsible for reinforcing those standards through enrichment and remediation. We are using a more streamlined approach with our double block of literacy too. Rather than the students working on totally separate content, the writing teachers for example will be using more time to be devoted to writing on the content being studied in the reading class. Mr. Shehane also brought up the need for all OCS teachers to be gifted certified for funding purposes.

Mr. Vogel presented a brief overview of our PBIS initiative. Mr. Vogel is Oglethorpe's district-level representative for PBIS, and Kyle Siddens (chorus teacher) is our new PBIS Coach. Mr. Vogel stated that the PBIS meeting scheduled today is to specifically target some dates for student incentives and reward those students who have met our expectations related to behavior. Mr. Vogel will focus more on the data portion of PBIS this year identifying those behaviors that action plans need to be developed to curtail those negative behaviors from continuing.

Mrs. Darke presented a brief overview of the school improvement plan as it relates to Title 1. Mrs. Darke presented the following goals as stated on the school improvement plan: Goal 1: To improve student achievement and raise GMAS scores at developing and higher in the areas of Reading and ELA by 5%. Reading from 48% to 53% and in ELA from 50% to 55%. Goal 2: To increase students earning developing or higher on

the Math EOG (GMAS) by 5% from 54.7% to 59.7% overall. Goal 3: To decrease ISS days served by 5%. From 328 to 311.

Dr. Kolman Presented a brief overview of the School Safety Plan. Dr. Kolman relies heavily upon the related arts teaching team for safety. A tabletop exercise was held with the emergency response team on Monday, September 11th. A functional exercise will take place for the entire school on Thursday, September 14th. Dr. Kolman uses real-life possible scenarios for the functional exercises to ensure we have a full-functioning response for all Oglethorpe stakeholders. Dr. Kolman also provides the faculty and staff with weekly safety reports.