

Orange Charter School

Introduction to our Governance and Structure

Orange Charter School will nurture a community of academic and artistic distinction, as it enriches each student's cultural literacy.

Our School

- Founded in 1997, and OCS is one of the original one hundred charter schools allowed in North Carolina.
- The charter school idea in the United States was originated by Ray Budde, a professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Albert Shanker, President of the American Federation of Teachers, embraced the concept in 1988, when he called for the reform of the public schools by establishing "charter schools" or "schools of choice."
- OCS was originally controlled by a separate entity (the FREE Board/founding members), but later was restructured to internal operation and control of the Charter.
- This conversion brought into being the current structure of the school's governance.

Organizational Structure

A Public School of Choice dba Orange Charter School is a corporation and the legal entity that operates our school. All corporations are governed by a Board of Directors, who bear responsibility for all operations conducted by the corporation and compliance with government regulations. This independent corporate structure differentiates OCS from district run public schools which are government entities.

A Public School of Choice is a tax exempt, not for profit corporation organized under IRS code 501(c)3. In addition to meeting all of the charter school regulations as administered by NC DPI, our school and board must operate in accordance with IRS nonprofit business operational regulations and meet their reporting requirements.

Board of Directors

Orange Charter School is ***governed*** by a Board of Directors made up of six elected parent[1] volunteers and one non-parent community member volunteer.

The Directors are elected by the members of the corporation[2]. Two non-voting teacher representatives are appointed by the Board. Board elections take place each spring.

“Governance” refers to policy making, and strategic and financial planning. The BoD must ensure that the school conducts itself within the bounds of North Carolina law and our Charter, which was granted based on our original application in 1997.

Directors serve a three year term, with a maximum of three, three-year terms.

All teachers, staff and parents are encouraged to be involved with the work of the Board and Board Committees.

[1] “Parent” includes legal guardians of students enrolled at OCS.

[2] All “Parents” of students at OCS are members of the corporation.

Administrator

The school is *run* by the Administrator (the Principal), who is hired by the BoD.

Day to day operations, including implementing policies, procedures and plans, hiring and supervising staff, interacting with parents, etc., are under the purview of the Administrator. The BoD relies on the Administrator's expertise as an experienced educator and principal, working closely together when setting policies and developing strategic plans.

Per our by-laws, the mission of the Board of Directors is to provide Orange Charter School with oversight rather than day-to-day management of operations.

Teachers

In keeping with Charter School legislation in North Carolina, our teachers are encouraged to take a greater role in decision making at OCS, especially in the area of classroom instruction. We are fortunate to have creative and energetic teachers who strive to meet the individual needs of each class and student.

Our Board has also encouraged teachers to be involved in BoD Committees, so that plans and policies are shaped with their input as well as that of parents.

Teachers and Staff are entitled to vote in BoD elections if parent voting reaches a 40% involvement threshold.

Committees

OCS committees operate under the direction of the BoD. These committees play an important role by gathering information, making recommendations and completing tasks with direction and guidance from the BoD and as defined by each committee description.

Current Committees Include:

- Community Grievance, limited
- Community Outreach and Fundraising, scheduled
- Education Committee, scheduled
- Employee Grievance, limited
- Personnel, limited
- PATH, scheduled
- Policy and Strategic Planning, scheduled
- Technology, scheduled
- Transportation, ad hoc, scheduled

Members of limited committees are appointed by the Board of Directors.
All OCS teachers, staff and parents may attend scheduled committee meetings.

Your Volunteer Board 13/14

Dr. Richard Peterson, scientist and researcher	Chair of the Board of Directors
Kristi Anspach, environmental consultant	Vice-Chair; Personnel and Employee Grievance
Denise Duffy, small business owner/non-profit manager	Treasurer: Finance Committee and Community Outreach
Kim Hill, quality control	Secretary; PATH and Rubric Committee
Donna Kuhl, certified substitute teacher	Director; Community/Employee Grievance, Transportation
Ben Balderas, social worker	Director; Policy and Strategic Planning
Vicky Wilson, Triangle Sportsplex	Community Member-at-large; Employee Grievance
Brenda Hunt, 5th grade/AIG teacher	LS teacher representative; Education
Scott Jewitt, MS social studies teacher	MS teacher representative; Technology

Monthly Meetings

Your monthly Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, on campus, and begin at 6:30 pm.

These meetings are open to the OCS Community as well as the public. We are bound by the North Carolina Open Meetings law.

The Board may choose to go into closed sessions to address issues that meet the criteria of the North Carolina law, especially to protect privacy of students, teachers and staff.

Policies and Procedures

The Comprehensive Manual, originally adopted in June 2013, is a compilation of our policies, procedures, plans and legal documents.

Hardcopies are kept in the office, and pdfs of the manual and all addenda are available for download on the OCS website, or upon request via email.

Addenda include (but are not limited to) our original application from 1997, our current Charter renewal (2007 to 2017) and our by-laws.

The manual and addenda were compiled in this manner to provide all teachers, staff, and parents of OCS easy and complete access to information.

Funding

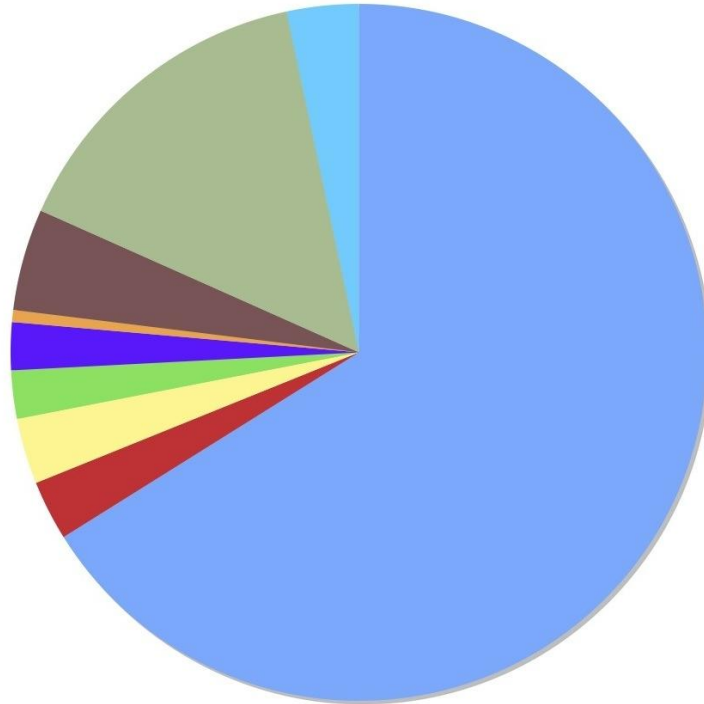
Charter schools in North Carolina receive per-pupil money at the state and local (LEA) level, as well as limited federal funds.

Unlike traditional public schools, we receive no additional state or local money for our building and grounds, student transportation, supplies, text books, lunches, utilities, technology or other needs.

Although DPI requires 75% of elementary school teachers and 50% of middle school teachers employed by charter schools to be certified, no additional funding is provided to enhance the salaries of teachers with advanced degrees or further certifications.

All expenses must be paid from this single pot of per-pupil money or raised independently by OCS.

OCS Spending Allocation 2013/14



Salaries & Benefits

Books & Supplies

Technology

Equipment & Reproduction

Student Services/Fieldtrips

Professional Development

Administrative Services & Insurance

Facilities/Debt/Utilities

Transportation & Travel

Expenses for
FY13/14 projected
to total
\$1,958,917

How can you get involved?

Volunteering time during school –assisting with lunch or playground supervision is always needed! See Ms. Ezzel in the school office for more information.

Assisting with or coordinating a PATH event- There are many ways to get involved in these fun community building events. Attend PATH meetings and read the Orange Peel for more information.

Class parent – for those who like to get to know other parents and help them get involved, and who enjoy assisting their child's teacher in various ways. See your child's teacher for more information.

Committee Member– for those who like to discuss ideas, gather information relevant to decision making, and/or take part in fundraising, marketing, long term planning, drafting policy, and other issues related to the work of the Board of Directors.

Committee Chair or Board Member – for those willing to take a leadership role in committee work and/or final decision making about strategic planning, finance and policy for the school.

Volunteering time after-school – information on afterschool clubs and sports is available in your weekly Orange Peel!

Special Events- see the Peel, teacher handouts and the website for special volunteer opportunities, like helping out with the Enrichment Class and AIG presentations!

All for one and one for all!

The OCS Board would like to promote a sense of community and togetherness where all teachers, parents, volunteers, staff, and committees work towards the same goal: **continued success for our students!**

With our great new Administrator, hardworking Board, fantastic, dedicated Teachers and Staff, and giving, involved parent Volunteers, we can all continue to make OCS thrive and succeed by working together!