



Board of Education
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ONSLOW
COUNTY
SCHOOLS



Superintendent
Barry D. Collins, Ed.D.

August 29th, 2023

Greetings to the Onslow County community:

I welcome, value, and respect the citizens of Onslow County and their participation and comments at our Onslow County Board of Education meetings. Whether someone is relaying feedback, asking for help, sharing ideas or grievances, or bringing an issue to our attention, the public comments are very advantageous to me because they are an integral part of understanding one another, an opportunity for positive growth, and can bring needed resolution(s) to issues we may not have been aware of otherwise. I am not in agreement with the wording of the newly revised form titled Ban/ Restriction letters currently being used by OCS administration.

When I voted on policy 5020 in June, my understanding was that there would be a modification to the "Ban Letters" in which parents/community members would be directed to how they could file a grievance should they feel the ban was not warranted. On June 23rd I requested a copy of what I thought would be a new version of these "Ban Letters" only to find that the letters had no reference to this policy that grants parents/community members due process should they receive such a letter in the mail. At the August 8th board meeting, I attempted to have a simple clause added to these letters. My request for additional verbiage was simple and taken directly from OCS policy:

"Any student, parent, or guardian who wishes to appeal this decision may refer to Onslow County Board Policy 1740/4010 Student and Parent Grievance Procedure. A grievance shall be filed as soon as possible but in no event longer than thirty (30) days after disclosure of the facts giving rise to the grievance."

It is discouraging enough that the district needs to have such letters on hand ready to go should the need arise and I do know that there are extreme instances that they must be utilized. I, however, do want to ensure **ALL** parties are aware of the procedures in place so they will be appropriately heard when/if the need arises.

Furthermore, this action should not be seen as not supporting staff in extreme circumstances but more so as an opportunity to regain trust and mutual respect in the community with our public school system. At the end of the day, it takes parents, teachers, students, administrators, board members and the community to ensure the success of our youth in Onslow County. Transparency is not negotiable.

Humbly,

Angie Todd

Board of Education Member