



Board of Education
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ONSLOW
COUNTY
SCHOOLS



Superintendent
Barry D. Collins, Ed.D.

August 29, 2023

Onslow County Residents,

In our last board meeting, the board voted not to update the verbiage in the district's ban letters. I and another colleague voted to have the ban letter updated to site an area in our district policy that allows a person being banned, to request an appeal for the board to hear the matter. Our efforts to have the letter modified failed in a 5/2 vote, not in favor. In the past few weeks, I received a few calls from individuals in the community who didn't quite understand what happened during this vote.

This letter is meant to inform community members of what took place at the last meeting. We desired to inform any community member that, should they believe the district wrongly banned them, they can request a discretionary hearing from the board. While the modification we presented failed to pass, the right to request the hearing is still available as it is in our district policy. However, now, it will not be noted in the ban letter. I encourage community members to watch the debate over this matter on the district's YouTube page, as I believe no relevant case was made to justify having any type of limit on district transparency.

I encourage healthy diversity and debate amongst the board, and in no way take personal, my colleagues vote on this matter. Furthermore, this letter should not be seen as a slight against the district. Having regular community attendance at our meetings has been a challenge, and transparency should remain one of our highest priorities. Every parent that sends their child to an Onslow County school has entrusted us with their child to some degree. In return for the trust given, it should be returned by being as transparent as possible. This is a tricky balancing act, but one that can be done. It continues to be an honor to serve on the board and I hope to see more attendance at the next meeting which is currently scheduled for next Tuesday (Sep. 5. 2023 @ 6pm).

Respectfully,

Louis Rogers LCSW-A Board Member