

**OCBE Watch - June 18, 2024**  
**Agenda Analysis and Discussion**

The meeting begins at 5 pm.

**The BIG event: Appointment of a new OC County Supt. of Schools**

Six candidates applied to serve as the OC Superintendent of Schools. Some are well-qualified to serve in the role. Others brought their friends and supporters to make public comments supporting the heir apparent and posted the job announcement for his previous position well before the appointment.

**Likely appointee Stefan Bean, EdD.**

- Former candidate for Superintendent
- Crony of the OC Board members (Barke, Williams, Sparks, Shaw) who endorsed his campaign.
- Charter school advocate.
- No public school experience.
- Does not trust voting centers.
- Supports censorship and book banning.
- Against teaching authentic history.
- Against comprehensive sexual education curriculum.

We will be very surprised if it is not Stefan Bean, and very worried when it is...

[\(https://voiceofoc.org/2024/05/meet-the-candidates-for-superintendent-of-oc-department-of-education/\)](https://voiceofoc.org/2024/05/meet-the-candidates-for-superintendent-of-oc-department-of-education/)

**Waste of Taxpayers Money: Legal Fees**

**\$70,421 in legal fees** on the current invoice - not itemized. We have no idea what is getting billed unless there is a public record request for receipts.

**Budget Review**

The Orange County Board of Education has budget authority to provide:

1. **Review and Approval:** The board reviews and approves the annual budgets submitted by school districts, ensuring they are fiscally sound and comply with state regulations.
2. **Oversight and Monitoring:** The board monitors budget implementation, ensuring funds are allocated appropriately, and financial practices meet required standards.
3. **Support and Guidance:** The board provides support and guidance to school districts to help them develop effective financial strategies and maintain fiscal health.

## Charter Schools

### OCCA Revision Petition:

**This publicly funded charter school provides direct financial benefit to OC Board of Education trustee Mari Barke.**

- **Scope and Term:** The petition seeks approval for a countywide benefit charter for a term from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2028.
- **Classical Education Model:** The Academy will implement a classical education model based on the **Hillsdale College** (Barney Charter School Initiative) curriculum, emphasizing liberal arts, sciences, and virtues.
- **Latin and History Focus:** Introduction of Latin from grades 4-5 and history through primary sources for analytical skills.
- **Multiple Sites:** The Academy plans to **expand to 10 sites**, addressing perceived demand across Orange County.

The Orange County Classical Academy (OCCA) has an ideological curriculum based on a “classical model” from **Hillsdale College** that heavily emphasizes Western civilization and what is touted as traditional values. OCCA’s focus on classical education **excludes modern educational methods and diverse cultural perspectives**, potentially marginalizing students who do not fit into this narrow educational framework. OCCA’s curricular choices and governance structure might be seen as resistant to inclusivity and diversity, both in terms of student demographics and educational content. The focus on certain historical narratives and excluding others is an attempt to **manipulate historical understanding and promote a specific worldview.**

### Update on Legal Activity (This is costing us \$70,000 a month????)

**Legal Counsel Activity re: Case Id: 30-2019-01112665-CU-WM-NJC**

<https://www.casemine.com/judgement/us/65a8a9ae63696d4bb3a002a3>

Both Mijares and OCBE ended up submitting budgets to Thurmond, but they were not the same. The one submitted by OCBE was the budget it previously approved and it was signed by the OCBE clerk. The budget submitted by Mijares was signed by him, not approved by OCBE, and included the \$170,000 OCBE had stricken. Thurmond rejected OCBE's submitted budget allegedly because it was not signed or submitted by the county superintendent, Mijares.

**This is a case about budget adoption... one of the big topics on the June 18 agenda.**

Case Title: ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION VS. AL MIJARES

Case Type: WRIT OF MANDATE

Filing Date: 11/18/2019

Category: CIVIL - UNLIMITED

**CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 09/09/2024 09:00 C13 Judge FISH**

**Registrar of Actions on this case (2024)**

3 5 4	NOTICE OF CHANGE OF FIRM NAME FILED BY MIJARES, AL ON 05/01/2024	05/01/2024
3 5 3	E-FILING TRANSACTION 41647172 RECEIVED ON 05/01/2024 11:04:27 AM.	05/20/2024
3 5 2	MINUTES FINALIZED FOR STATUS CONFERENCE 04/29/2024 09:00:00 AM.	05/02/2024
3 5 1	THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR 09/09/2024 AT 09:00 AM IN DEPARTMENT C13.	04/29/2024
3 5 0	STATUS CONFERENCE STATEMENT FILED BY ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ON 04/26/2024	04/26/2024
3 4 9	E-FILING TRANSACTION 41645544 RECEIVED ON 04/26/2024 06:12:51 PM.	04/26/2024
3 4 8	CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/ELECTRONIC SERVICE	04/05/2024
3 4 7	MINUTES FINALIZED FOR CHAMBERS WORK 04/05/2024 11:00:00 AM.	04/05/2024
3 4 6	THE STATUS CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR 04/29/2024 AT 09:00 AM IN DEPARTMENT C13.	04/05/2024
3 4 5	CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/ELECTRONIC SERVICE	03/18/2024
3 4 4	MINUTES FINALIZED FOR CHAMBERS WORK 03/18/2024 03:35:00 PM.	03/18/2024

3 THIS CASE IS REASSIGNED TO THE HONORABLE JONATHAN FISH 03/18/2024  
4 FOR ALL PURPOSES.  
3

3 REMITTITUR (G061716) FILED BY THE SUPERIOR COURT OF 03/18/2024  
4 ORANGE ON 03/18/2024  
2

3 OPINION G061716 01/16/2024  
4  
1