

Orange County Association of School Administrators

September 20, 2007

Ms. Karen Ardaman (Chair) and Members of the Orange County School Board
Orange County Public Schools
445 West Amelia Street
Orlando, Florida 32802-0271

Dear Ms. Ardaman and Members of the Orange County School Board

A Florida Legislative Bill was passed in 2006 proposing a change in local school board governance that applied only to the School Board of Orange County. The change focused on a countywide election for the school board chair. This governance structure does not currently exist anywhere in the State of Florida. The Orange County School Board held a public meeting to discuss this proposed change and heard the pros and cons.

Occasionally the legislature passes a law without conducting the necessary research to determine the impact of their action. The impact of local school board governance is a local issue and should be considered only after careful study and a review of the best practices utilized by other school boards in Florida and across the country.

Orange County Public Schools has experienced massive growth for decades and it is possible that some changes in governance may be appropriate. Any recommendation for change should be supported by sound research based solutions addressing all aspects of the governance issue. The study should involve local community stakeholders who will review the findings and make informed recommendations to determine the advantages and disadvantages of proposed changes.

The Orange County Association of School Administrators have faith in the capability of our school board and the Superintendent to make the appropriate decision following a comprehensive review of the data and input from our stakeholders.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Clark
Executive Director
Orange County Association of School Administrators

Cc. Superintendent Ronald Blocker