



Board of Education
Bob Williams, Chairman • Jeffrey Hudson, Vice Chairman
Bill Lanier • Melissa Oakley • Ken Reddic • Joseph Speranza • Eric Whitfield

ONSLOW
COUNTY
SCHOOLS



Superintendent
Barry Collins, Ed. D.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Brent Anderson, Chief Communications Officer
910-455-2211 Ext. 20228
brent.anderson@onslow.k12.nc.us

FORMER OCS TEACHER ARRESTED FOR SECRETLY VIDEO RECORDING STUDENTS

Onslow County Schools, April 29, 2022 – The safety and security of students in the Onslow County School system is our highest concern. The thoughts and prayers of everyone with OCS goes out to all who have been impacted by the events which have resulted in the arrest of former teacher Stephen Bera. The Onslow County School system maintains high standards for all our employees and Mr. Bera's actions stand in stark contrast to our expectations.

Mr. Bera's arrest came following an investigation into information shared with school administrators earlier in the evening that he was secretly video recording students in his classroom. A report was immediately made to the Jacksonville Police Department and school and district staff assisted law enforcement in their investigation.

News of Mr. Bera's arrest was shared with NBMS staff this morning prior to the start of school. A call notifying parents was sent from the principal at 9:30 a.m. and a school-wide announcement was made informing students of the situation and letting them know extra support would be available for students and staff.

Additional district staff and members of the OCS Student Services team are on site at the school today and will be there as needed to provide support during this difficult time.

Mr. Bera has resigned his teaching position, surrendered his teaching license, and is no longer employed with the Onslow County School system. He began his employment with OCS in 2007 as a Language Arts teacher at Hunters Creek Middle School. He also worked at Northwood Park Middle School, Onslow Virtual School and, most recently, New Bridge Middle School. District staff have contacted administrators at these schools to make them aware of his past employment history and will be cooperating with the investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact JPD Criminal Investigations Division Detective B. Stitz at (910) 938-5039 or Crime Stoppers at (910) 938-3273. Families of any students identified as being involved will be contacted specifically by investigators.

OCS Superintendent Dr. Barry Collins praised the quick action by school and district administrators and our partnership with the Jacksonville Police Department and others who have been involved in the investigation. NBMS and OCS staff will be working closely with the Jacksonville Police Department and other officials as they continue their investigation.

###