



OCS Board Bytes

Dear OCS Community,

Hope this finds you well as we get our school year underway. As we enter this new school year and work through the challenges of an all virtual opening, we are all working together to find ways to connect with and support each other. We continue to monitor the Covid numbers and develop plans to bring students back to school. We look forward to the day when our campus will be vibrant with laughter and a bustling carline! The Board, the OCS community, teachers, and the administration are working on several fronts to serve our students and families with the resources we have and to continue with the search process for selecting a Head of School.

As always, please feel free to reach out to us with your concerns and perspectives.

Elias and the Board

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SCHOOL REOPENING

*Board Leads Eva Jannelli,
Maryann Yarram, Ken
Przywara*

The School Reopening working groups have continued to meet to review the reopening options. A Frequently Asked Questions section has been added to the Odyssey website: <http://odysseycharter-schooldel.com/ocs-school-reopening-faqs/>

IMMERSION EXPANSION COMMITTEE

Anamaria Anagnostou/ Valerie Caras

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 6 at 2pm.
Bi-weekly meetings Tuesdays at 2pm.

Met on August 10 and 17. Participants included Board members, administration, teachers and parents. Focus continued on reopening needs.

Discussion about showing all teachers programs used by Greek immersion teachers for early learners to help them in both languages.

English and Greek instructors will engage in Dept of Education professional development seminar on Immersion programs.

Special attention will be provided for kindergarten class and parents to provide welcome environment of virtual learning of a foreign language.

A team of teachers and parents will create a community of immersion students to build and support families and answer questions.

Create a Greek Immersion newsletter.

Discussed criteria for moving FLES students to Immersion program. Rely on recommendations from teachers. Working on formal process for transparent and equal opportunities for students.

Need to determine criteria for Horizontal expansion of kindergarten class in 2021.

Need to have series of Open Houses so parents can ask questions and learn about FLES and Immersion Programs.

Learn what languages are spoken in the household facilitate learning and translation for multilingual families.

Create environment in school for Greek greetings and signage - building names.

Possibly offer Greek language classes for parents and community members.

Engage all teachers to disseminate Greek language by making connections between English and Greek in daily activities.

Next meetings will focus on strategy and path for expansion.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION INTEREST GROUP

Board Leads Helen Anderson / Eva Jannelli

- The DE&I Committee met on August 18. The 5 staff members who were selected to participate in the EPP training through 4th dimension are:
- LS Chasity Steele
- IS Paula Lowe
- MS Abby Robinson & Juliette Gunn
- HS Kyriakoula Michal
- The first few training sessions, of the 6 month long training, have already taken place. The feedback from the OCS participants is that it is an eye-opening program that is helping them develop the self-awareness and skills to help our OCS community move forward in a more equity-minded, inclusive way.
- On 9/3, during staff in-service, the Staff Development subcommittee gave a very insightful (virtual) presentation regarding DE&I. Abby Robinson facilitate the event. Hopeful, Inspired, and Optimistic were the common feelings that OCS staff members shared during the group discussions.
- We will have our next meeting in October (TBA soon).

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Board Leads Elias Rigas/ Erin Ellard, Anamaria Anagnostou

Earlier this year, the Board established a Search Committee consisting of Board Members, administration, OCSEA union representation, parents, and community members. The Search Committee meets bi-weekly to discuss and advance the Head of School search. K12, the search firm we retained, is supporting OCS's nationwide search for a permanent Head of School. Below is where we are with the process.

- The announcement for the permanent Head of School Search being supported by K12 closed at the end of August.
- During the application period, over 270 potential HOS prospects were contacted with over 40 resumes submitted for consideration.
- After reviews and vetting by both K12 and the OCS Search Committee, the candidate pool was narrowed to 8 prospective candidates in early September.
- A subgroup of the search committee conducted initial interviews with the 8 candidates.
- The candidate's interviews were shared with and also reviewed and assessed by the entire Search Committee.
- On 25 September, the Search Committee met and agreed to advance 4 candidates to the next stages of the vetting process.
- Early-mid October: The slate of 4 candidates will complete a performance task (90-day plan) and debrief their submission during an interview with the full Search Committee
- Late October: 1-2 finalists advance to be interviewed by the full Board, Search Committee, and other stakeholder groups
- Early November: determination by the Board of Directors on approval of final candidate

New HOS is announced, ideally by early November if approved by the Board.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Board Lead Alisa Moen

We received \$2000 to get chrome books from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation from a grant that was written in May by Maryann Yarram.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Maryann Yarram, John Nicholson, Erin Allard

We are looking for more writers interested in writing press releases and communication on behalf of the school. If interested, please email Maryann at maryann.yarram@odyssey.k12.de.us

There is a lot going on at OCS and we could use some help getting information out to the larger community.

Please post your questions concerning the School Reopening plans here: <http://odysseycharterschooldel.com/ocs-school-reopening-faqs/>

SIGNAGE WORKING GROUP

Eva Jannelli, Riccardo Stoekicht

The first signs have arrived and once the posts arrive, the signs will be installed.