



OCS Board Bytes

Dear OCS Community,

We hope this finds you well as we enter into our final summer month. As a community, we continue to work together to move OCS forward, and we appreciate your participation and support. Members of the Board have partnered with teachers, staff, administration, and others in the OCS community on several fronts to assess and finalize reopening models, continue progress with the Head of School search, and other important areas.

In order to ensure your voice is heard, please continue to respond and provide feedback to the various surveys that will continue to be circulated, as they provide valuable feedback in the decision-making process.

Please read on for updates on the various committees and initiatives that the Board focused on in July.

As always, please feel free to reach out and share your perspective with us at any time.

Elias and the Board

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SCHOOL REOPENING

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

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the serious work of the OCS Reopening Working Groups this summer. The various working groups, focused on Health & Wellness, Academics & Equity, and Operations & Services, as well as an Oversight Committee, have been meeting every week working to define options for reopening.

NOTE: The 7pm Board Meeting on Thursday, 8/6 will be focused primarily on the recommendations of the Odyssey Charter School Reopening Oversight

Working Group regarding plans and options for reopening the school this fall.

If you would like to make a public comment (limited to 3 minutes), kindly let Valerie Caras know at valerie.caras@odyssey.k12.de.us and we will work to accommodate all the requests. Use the subject "Board Public Comments" in any email requesting time to make comments at the Board meeting. The Board typically allocates 15 minutes in total for public comments but to make sure our community has an opportunity to be heard on this important subject we will be as flexible as possible on time allocation.

The Board Meeting on August 6 will focus on plans and options for reopening the school this fall.

LOWER SCHOOL DEAN OPENING

In July, Odyssey posted the Lower School Dean position. We received several applicants, with a focus group of Board members and administrators assessing the candidate pool. Interviews with top candidates will be conducted in early August, with a goal of extending an offer during the month of August.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION INTEREST GROUP

Board Leads *Helen Anderson / Eva Jannelli*

- Met on July 14th and all the subcommittees – mentoring, faculty diversity, curriculum, student groups, staff development, outreach, event planning, and inclusion - updated their progress.
- One chair from each of these subcommittees will represent the group in the DE& I committee
- The chair persons worked with the Deans to finalize the faculty representatives in the Equity Practitioner Program (EPP) with The 4th Dimension
- Food Pantry: Paula Lowe and Eva Jannelli transitioned the food drive into a food pantry that is now in building 22. It will be open once a month during the summer. However, families in need of food can contact either one of us at eva.jannelli@odyssey.k12.de.us and paula.lowe@odyssey.k12.de.us and they will be happy to meet them at the school or deliver food to them.
- We hope that all these efforts will lead us to foster an environment that will elevate diversity, equity and inclusion at Odyssey.

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Board Leads Elias Rigas/ Erin Ellard

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, has begun the nationwide search for the permanent Head of School and has mapped out the following timelines:

- May 27th – June 10: K12 met with key stakeholders to provide input about the expectations and responsibilities that helped shape the position description, selection, and interview process
- July 7th: Formally launched the search on various platforms with the deadline of August 30th.
- July 31: Initial Head of School candidates and prospects presented to the Search Committee. Will continue to bring prospective candidates to the Search committee every other week.
- Early September: K12 will interview the top candidates and present the strongest candidates to the Search Committee for discussion.
- Early September: The Search Committee and K12 will evaluate the candidate pool and the Committee will determine whether to move forward with the current candidate pool or extend the deadline
- Mid-Late September: If the Search Committee moves forward with the identified candidates, they will interview 4-8 candidates and then advance 3-5 candidates to the performance task stage
- Early October: The slate of 3-5 candidates will complete a performance task (90-day plan) and debrief their submission during an interview with the full Search Committee
- Mid – Late October: 1-2 finalists advance to the be interviewed by the full Board and the Search Committee
- Late October – Early November: approval of final offer
- New HOS is announced, ideally by November 1st.

In parallel, the Board is interviewing candidates who applied for the interim Head of School position that was posted earlier this summer. While conducting the interim HoS search, in addition to assessing the strength of candidates, other factors including the timing of the permanent HoS search, the budgetary impacts of potentially having two leaders simultaneously, as well as reopening impacts are being considered. The Board will continue to communicate updates to our Odyssey community.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Board Lead Alisa Moen

Next Meeting: Monday, August 17th, 2020 at 10:30 -11:30

Click [here](#) for Zoom Meeting information.

- Met on July 28th:
- The committee is seeking a co-chair. If interested, please contact Alisa Moen at alisa.moen@odyssey.k12.de.us
- OCS received notification of a \$5,000 grant award from DuPont for the Girls Grow Green (open to all 7-12 students) initiative this fall. Special thanks to Melissa Tracy for leading that effort.
- OCS anticipates receiving funding from the University of Delaware's Horn Entrepreneurship program to enable students to participate in certain K-12 initiatives.
- Update from the PTO on school supplies project - successful so far; the group is considering offering this sale again in the fall or once a reopening scenario has been determined.
- Update on used uniform sale – this was a success and raised approximately \$3,000.

FOOD PANTRY

Board Lead Eva Jannelli

Food Pantry: Co-leads Eva Jannelli and Paula Lowe transitioned the food drive into a food pantry that is now in building 22. It will be open once a month during the summer. However, families in need of food can contact either one of us at eva.jannelli@odyssey.k12.de.us, paula.lowe@odyssey.k12.de.us and they will be happy to meet them at the school or deliver food to them.

SIGNAGE WORKING GROUP

Leads Eva Jannelli/Riccardo Stoeckicht

Signage working group has been meeting and working on finalizing bi-lingual outdoor signs for the campus. The group is designing and identifying locations for indoor signage.

COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP

Leads Maryann Yarram/Eva Jannelli/John Nicholson/ Erin Allard

We are seeking 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

IMMERSION EXPANSION COMMITTEE

Board Leads Anamaria Anagnostou/ Valerie Caras

- Next meeting:
 - Monday, August 10th at 8 am with weekly meetings every Monday at 8 am.
- Met May 15 and August 3. Participants included Board members, administration, teachers and parents. Focus was primarily on reopening needs.
- Material and regular communication will be sent to parents so they are comfortable and clear on virtual Greek learning.
- 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 have regular group discussions to ease the anxieties of parents of new and returning students of the Greek Immersion Program.
- The Immersion Program is an integral part of the Odyssey core goals and mission. It is imperative that everyone at Odyssey (Board, Administration, Teachers and staff) is able to speak intelligently about the values of the program
- Once school begins, meetings will focus on the plan for future growth.

Board Meetings have been scheduled for August 4, 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13, 2020 at 7am and 7pm.

BOARD MEETINGS

There are a series of Board meetings set up the week of August 3rd as placeholders primarily to block times to conduct interviews for potential Interim Head of School candidates and to set aside times to discuss budgetary and school related plans as needed.

August 4, 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13, 2020 at 7am & 7pm Teleconference Meeting

View the [Agenda and How To Join](#)

Note: August 6, 7pm meeting will be devoted to discussing OCS' Reopening Oversight Working Group recommendations.

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