



Odyssey Charter School
Nurturing a Lifelong Love of Learning

OCS Board Bytes

May 2020

Dear Odyssey Community,

Welcome to the first edition of the OCS “Board Bytes” – a monthly newsletter to provide information on Board activities and events.

In this edition, you will find information about:

- **Formal Review Status**
- **Head of School Survey**
- **Board Committee Status**
- **Board Member Training**
- **OCS Virtual Olympics**
- **Food Drive**
- **Introduction to Board Members**

Please feel free to reach out to any of the Board members with your comments and questions at:

ocs-board@odyssey.k12.de.us

We look forward to our journey together. Odyssey Charter School is a choice school - thank you all for choosing to be a part of our charter school community.

**Sincerely,
Elias and the Board**

Barley Mill Plaza
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DOE Formal Review:

- **DOE and the State Board of Education voted unanimously to conclude February’s formal review without further action.**
- **The only probation condition remaining is No.2 regarding the “recovery” of \$93K**

As we reported during the last board meeting and in prior communications, the Board has been continuously working with the Charter School Accountability Committee in connection with the satisfaction of the probation conditions imposed upon Odyssey last summer and the more recent formal review initiated by the Department of Education this past February. Consistent with the unanimous vote of the CSAC at the last public hearing, the DOE, Secretary of Education Bunting and the State Board of Education have concluded the February formal review with no further conditions imposed upon Odyssey.

Additionally, we received formal letters from Secretary Bunting, advising Odyssey that probation conditions 4 and 5 have been satisfied. Odyssey has a deadline of June 30, 2020, to satisfy the last remaining probation condition. Probation condition No. 2 concerns "recovery" of approximately \$93K, that the DOE deems to have been spent in a manner "inconsistent" with the Odyssey's charter. Namely, approximately \$91k of Odyssey funds were used to support the creation of the proposed Ithaka Early Learning Center, which the Board, at the time, believed would have become a long term preschool tenant on our campus, contributing to Odyssey's operating budget, supporting other campus improvements and overall benefiting our K-12 students.

In discussions with the CSAC, the Board proposed several ways of bringing new funding to our school in an effort to "recover" the funds by way of new fundraising. In response, the CSAC committed to addressing the OCS Board’s proposal with the DOE. The CSAC further proposed that funds be withheld from the Odyssey’s next year’s state budget in satisfaction of probation condition No. 2. The Board is committed to working with the CSAC and the DOE to address this one remaining probation condition and moving beyond the formal review. As always, we thank you for your support and encourage everyone to get involved to make Odyssey the best school we can be for our kids.



Head of School Survey:

- We started the search process for a new Head of School.
- In the meantime, we formed a Transition Team comprised of our Deans, Instructional and Spec. Ed. Leads, and Business Office to ensure a smooth transition and administrative support and guidance for our teachers, staff, students and our families.
- This week, please keep an eye out for an email with survey about what you would like to see in a Head of School. Your opinion matters!

Board Committees Status:

- Thank you to all who have expressed an interest in working on Board committees.
- Board committees are essential to the effectiveness of the Board and best interests of Odyssey.
- At present, the committees and working groups are:
 - Committees:
 - Search Committee for the Head of School
 - Fundraising and Grants
 - Diversity and Inclusion
 - Immersion Expansion
 - Compliance
 - Working Groups:
 - Facilities and Construction
 - Greek Program
 - Communications

Board members are in the process of reaching out to those who expressed interest. The OCS website will be updated in the next few days with more information about the committees.

Board Training:

In April, some of the Board members completed the Financial Responsibility Training required for all new Board Members by the DOE. More recently, the Board members, together with Odyssey's Transition Team, also participated in a *Succession Planning and Distributed Leadership* workshop on Friday, May 1st with the Delaware Association for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA).



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Virtual Olympics

AHEPA and the Odyssey community are coming together to support all Odyssey athletes and raising wellness and health awareness while bringing in funds to benefit our amazing school and supporting out students.

- The 30-day challenge is from May 5, 2020 – June 5, 2020
- Cost: Only \$25 per entry or \$50 per family
- What you get: cool prizes!
- How: Register and donate online at <https://www.velocitypayment.com/client/delaware/odysseycharter/index.html>
- Use the online form to log your runs, pushups, curl ups and plank times here: <http://bit.ly/2W1jqZt>

Food Drive

The OCS Board of Directors is sponsoring a “Give what you can - Take what you need” Food Drive. Drop off your donations on Thursday, May 21 and on Friday, May 22 (10AM - 4PM) in the small gym (by the IS cafeteria).

- Suggested items: non-perishable food items such as cereal, canned goods, pasta, kid friendly snacks.
- If you know someone in need of food, please feel free to come by on Friday, May 22 (10 AM-4PM) and take a bag of food, or contact us if you have any specific needs. Everything leftover will be donated to the Food Bank of DE.
- If you would like to volunteer to help, or need additional information, please contact Eva Jannelli eva.jannelli@odyssey.k12.de.us



Introduction to the Board Members:

Board Structure: 6 non-AHEPA and 5 AHEPA Directors

Current State

6 out of 6 non-AHEPA Directors in place

3 out of 5 AHEPA Directors in place



Elias Rigas

President, Non-AHEPA

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Elias Rigas serves as a Division Chief in Vehicle Technology Directorate at the U.S. Army Futures Command, Army Research Laboratory. Elias has spent over 30 years in the public sector working in management of research and development programs for next generation technologies for the U.S. Army. He holds a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering with a Minor in Business Administration from Northeastern University. Elias is the parent of 3 daughters who are OCS students.



Erin Allard

Vice President, Non-AHEPA

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Erin has spent the last 15 years of her career at the intersection of partnerships, strategic expansion, risk management, and governance in the finance and technology, or "fintech" sector. Through a variety of leadership roles, primarily with publicly traded, highly regulated financial institutions, she has served on several risk management, credit and lending, program prioritization, and management operating committees. In her current role as VP and Head of Banking Operations and Product for Green Dot Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Green Dot Bank, Erin focuses on banking enterprise partnerships, bringing to life innovative payments products and services in a regulatory compliant manner, and maintaining an operating framework ensuring safe and sound banking practices. Previously, Erin spent several years at The Bancorp, a Wilmington-based sponsor



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bank. Her most recent role at The Bancorp was Managing Director, Credit Sponsorship, where she was responsible for the business line strategy, risk management and regulatory controls for a new business line. Other roles included the CEO's Chief of Staff, VP of Strategic Initiatives, and VP, Platform Sales; Erin was also a founding member of the company's Women's Initiative Network (WIN). Earlier in her career, she led partnerships for a commercial real-estate lending firm, and worked with Carnegie Mellon University's award-winning Red Team, a consortium focused on autonomous vehicle development in coordination with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Erin attended the University of Pittsburgh and University of Pennsylvania. A Wilmington resident, she and her husband are the parents of two sons; a first grader at Odyssey, and an incoming kindergartener.



George Hantzandreu, BS
Treasurer, AHEPA appointee
George.Hantzandreu@odyssey.k12.de.us

George Hantzandreu is currently Treasurer of the Odyssey Charter School Board. In 2001, Mr. Hantzandreu received his B.S. in Finance from the University of Delaware, as well as a double minor in Economics and Management Information Systems. He is currently a IS Coordinator with New Castle County where he supports and maintains multiple applications and projects. Mr. Hantzandreu has also served as President and Treasurer of AHEPA, the founding organization of the Odyssey Charter School. Mr. Hantzandreu helps out at his family run business, Libby's Restaurant. He resides in Wilmington, Delaware, along with his wife and daughter.

Anamaria Anagnostou is a Fiduciary Specialist with The Bryn Mawr Trust Company of Delaware ("BMTCDE"). As a Delaware Trustee, BMTCDE, serves as a Delaware trustee and provides fiduciary services to high net worth clients, companies and alternative business entities. BMTCDE is an independent trust company and markets a full suite of Delaware Advantage products and services. Before joining BMTCDE in 2018, Anamaria was a paralegal with over 25 years of experience in the areas of



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Anamaria Anagnostou

Board Member, AHEPA appointee

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Trust and Estate Planning, Litigation and Real Estate. Anamaria is a graduate of Ursuline Academy and Goldey Beacom College, where she received MBAs in both Marketing Management and Business Administration. Anamaria is currently working towards attaining the designation of Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA).

As a member of the Greek Community of Wilmington, Delaware, Anamaria plays an active role in her church and her Greek heritage. She is a member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church which produces the Annual Greek Festival. Anamaria can be found during the festival at the Loukoumathes (honeyballs) booth. Anamaria is an active member of the Daughters of Penelope having held its highest regional office of District Governor and is a founding Board Member of the Daughters of Penelope Education Foundation for New Jersey and Delaware.



Eva Jannelli

Board Member, Non-AHEPA Greek Program Teacher

Eva.jannelli@odyssey.k12.de.us

Eva Mentzelopoulou Jannelli is a 5th grade Greek Language teacher and 6th grade Greek Art teacher at the Odyssey Charter School. In addition, she leads the Middle School Greek Art Club. Eva's academic experience spans Europe and the US, and she is currently continuing studies at UD. Eva has been working at Odyssey since 2010, however her ties with the school go back to its inception. Eva welcomes the opportunity to help guide and support the mission of a school that has been so close to her heart for so many years. Eva lives in North Wilmington with her husband. She has two sons.

Sandra Johnson

Board Member, AHEPA appointee

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Sandra has over 20 years of experience in financial and treasury services. She manages a team of 20 plus employees that focus on fortune 500 companies' global financial activities. She is also a license minister with a strong background in youth mentorship programs. Sandra has a MBA with a concentration in Accounting and a



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Master of Arts in Christian Leadership from Liberty University. She is a connoisseur in conflict resolution and people affiliation. Sandra has a daughter that is a freshman at OCS, which drives her passion to see OCS continue to offer extraordinary education to its diverse student body.



Rodrigo Torres
Board Member, Non-AHEPA
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Rodrigo brings extensive corporate finance experience in addition to strong analytical thinking and problem-solving skills to the Board. Rodrigo is a Senior Finance Executive, with an undergraduate degree in Aeronautical Engineering and an MBA from Yale University with extensive work experience at a Fortune 100 global company. Throughout his career, he has successfully led many multi-functional teams, consistently building consensus and creating shared goals despite conflicting agendas. Born and raised in Brazil, Rodrigo looks forward to advancing the school's mission of developing an academically strong and culturally aware student body, well poised to become future society contributors. Rodrigo has been part of the OCS family since 2017 and is currently the parent of a 2nd grader in the immersion program.



Alisa Moen
Board Member, Non-AHEPA
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Alisa, is a corporate governance attorney and renowned thought-leader in the field of compliance and risk management, brings extensive Board experience. Driven by her deep commitment to the advancement of our school's academic and social mission, Alisa's skills in consensus building, corporate governance, fundraising, and business-forward strategies add significant value to our board. Alisa has been part of the Odyssey family since 2011 with four children educated at OCS from K-8th grades; currently she has children in 8th, 6th and 1st grades.



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Maryann Yarram
Board Member, Non-AHEPA Teacher
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Maryann has been with the Odyssey family for 10 years now. She first entered the Odyssey family as a parent when her daughter started first grade here. She then became a staff member when her son joined Kindergarten. During her 8 years as a staff member, she wore many hats – as a homeroom teacher, team leader, student advisor, testing coordinator, and currently as an interventionist. She had the privilege of working with students from grades 3-8 over the course of her career at Odyssey. Prior to entering the world of teaching, she worked as a journalist and was an assistant to a leading human rights advocate in India.

She is currently finishing her EDD dissertation at Wilmington University. She is also a recipient of the Harvard Club of Delaware scholarship to attend the Harvard School of Education 2020 summer program - Improving Schools: The Art of Leadership.

She hopes that she can transform her love for Odyssey Charter School and the potential the school holds to a meaningful future for all of our collective well-being.

Vacant
Board Member, AHEPA appointee

Vacant
Board Member, AHEPA appointee

Please feel free to contact any of us directly with your suggestions and questions.

