



Minutes for Public Meeting of the Odyssey Board of Directors

Date: February 27, 2020

Location: OCS Lower School 2nd Floor Multipurpose Room

In Attendance: Treasurer George Hantzandreu (GH), Elias Rigas (ER), Anamaria Anagnostou (AA), Erin Allard (EA), Rodrigo Torres (RT), Eva Jannelli (EJ).

Absent: Alise Moen, Sandra Johnson

Minutes taken by AA

1. Call to Order by GH at 6:46 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Executive Session – ER made a motion to go into Executive Session. AA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Executive Session entered at 6:46 p.m.

- Discussion regarding qualifications for job – 29 Del. C. § 10004(b)(1)

AA made a motion to move out of Executive Session. EA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Regular Session entered at 7:41 p.m.

4. Standard Order of Business

- Public Comments (attachment 1):
 - Tami Soltow re: Good of the School – Board needs to do its duty for the good of the school;
 - Katie Manley re: OCSEA / Staff – meeting with Board was helpful and good steps forward;
 - Niki Tantalou re: Immersion Program – There is a divide in the school and it is not created by Greek staff. Greek staff needs an opportunity to voice concerns.
 - Michael Roussos re: Immersion Program – Research shows that immersion programs have total effect on learning ability of students.
 - Lakia Belcher re: Immersion Program – Special Ed background. Her son took to Greek program. He enjoys learning. Appreciates passion of teachers. Need to mend bridges and heal.
 - Miki Phillips re: Immersion Program – Need to work towards enhancing Immersion program which is part of the mission of the school. That's why we brought our kids here.
- Non-AHEPA Nominating Committee Report (ER)
 - Accepting applications for teacher representative.
- New Business
 - Discussion of Out-of-State Travel Request – Denise Parks presented list of Out of State Travel (attachment 2). EA made a motion to approve out of state travel as presented by Denise Parks. RT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.



- Discussion of Initial Formal Review (attachment 3) – Riccardo Stoeckicht presented timeline for formal review and addressed information. DoE requested additional information by March 6, 2020 regarding Santora investigative audit, other financial information, Board minutes, rent agreement with Pettinaro and Greek Staff housing and relationships with vendors and AHEPA. AM and another board member will review and approve prior to submission.
- **Update on Second Formal regarding 1(a) and 1(b)** by ER Non-AHEPA majority has been addressed and Non-AHEPA nominating committee. Meeting Monday, March 2, 2020 with Doe and CSAC to review and address the two conditions. Series of meetings and deadlines for review meetings and public comments as to whether we are meeting those conditions.
- **Discussion and potential approval of Communication Plan** (attachment 4) ER presented recommendations as part of DoE First Formal Review to be more transparent and better communicate with OCS community. Working with DANA to perform studies, focus groups with parents and staff to develop a plan. Board and administration will work together to implement the plan for better communication. ER provided examples from Plan for implementation. Cost of implementation is minimal to get started. May have other costs associated as Plan grows. Need committee to oversee implementation. ER made a motion to approve Communication Plan as presented. EJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Discussion of Immersion Program enrollment** (Attachments 5, 6) Denise Parks and Dr. Marina provided commentary on thoughts on immersion program.
 - Denise Parks reiterated the positive productive meeting held with Administration, Board and union representatives. Expansion is not an if, but a when. Board should make an informed decision based on available data.
 - Dr. Marina again commented on constructive discussion with Board regarding expansion. Latest research shows United States is expanding the use of immersion programs. OCS needs to be on the forefront of the immersion revolution. Immersion will provide a different direction to enable a student and teachers to work together to grow educational benefits.
 - Board members each presented their thoughts on the growth of the immersion program. All agree expansion of the Immersion Program will happen. Conversations have been ongoing, but has not moved passed Board discussions. While we need to move forward with Immersion Program, we need to be mindful and transparent in our actions and involve OCS Board members, administration, staff and parents. Decisions need to be based on facts and what is best for the school and its mission. We all need to work together.
 - Denise stated the information presented to community regarding Immersion Program was incorrect for current term. There was confusion regarding choice statement. Working to improve clarification.



- EA made a motion to approve expansion of immersion program from 2 classes to 4 classes in 2021-2022 school year beginning in kindergarten and to form a committee to implement decision for expansion of immersion program. RT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Discussion and appointments of Officers – Board needs a President, Vice President and Secretary through June 2020. George Hatzandreou is current Treasurer.
 - **Office of President** - AHEPA Board members do not have a nominee to present. Discussion regarding AHEPA / Non-AHEPA terms. AHEPA Board members may recommend non-AHEPA member.
 - AA (AHEPA Board member) nominated Elias Rigas (non-AHEPA Board member) for office of President of Board of Directors of Odyssey School. GH 2nd. ER witnessed first-hand the immensity and intensity of Board President Joe Wolcott. When school does good, everyone is happy; when there is bad news, everyone knows. It is a difficult position for individual, family, friends and school. We need everyone's support to work together and not undermine the decisions made so we can move forward. Open our arms and hearts and work together. Board pledges support.
 - ER accepts nomination with the support of the Board, School and Parents. Motion passed unanimously.
 - **Office of Vice President** - (Non-AHEPA Office) ER nominated Erin Allard. RT 2nd. ER accepts conditionally with support of entire school. Being a Board member is a lot of work and we need everyone's help to move school forward. Motion passed unanimously.
 - **Office of Secretary** – tabled to March meeting.
 - Discussion regarding qualifications for job – EA stated that in terms of contracts and renewals that are coming up for review, we are reviewing evaluation process and information and will be making decisions soon.
5. Good of the School – a lot has been presented for Good of School this evening.
That concludes the general business of the meeting. Move into Executive session.
6. Executive Session – EJ made a motion to go into Executive Session. AA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Executive Session entered at 8:51 p.m.
- Discussion of potential real estate transaction – 29 Del. C. § 10004(b)(2)
 - Discussion regarding potential litigation – 29 Del. C. § 10004(b)(4)

AA made a motion to move out of Executive Session. ER 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Regular Session entered at 9:59 p.m.

GH made a motion to authorize the following individuals with authority to sign or authorize contracts, checks, deposits and funds through the approved protocol procedures: President, Elias Rigas and Vice President, Erin Allard. RT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.



Public Relations firm contract is ending. There was discussion regarding a month-to-month agreement with Public Relations Firm until proposals may be reviewed.

7. Adjourn GH moves to adjourn. EA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anamaria Anagnostou

Acting Secretary

