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Odyssey Charter School
Board Meeting Minutes
Upper School Library
January 7, 2013
5:30 – 9:00PM

Board Members present George Chambers, George Rhigos, Chris Grievas, Kate Klemas, Marylou Strauss, Ted Nannas, Dimitri Dandalos, Jennifer Ballas. Headmaster Dr. Nick Manolakos,Carolyn Parmer – Mundy Farm Project Coordinator, Lisa Goodman Esq., Douglas Herschman Esq., Mrs. Lisa Kerrigan and Mr. Contompassis

5:30 PM The meeting was opened with Board President George Chambers issuing a call too order and leading the Pledge of allegiance.

George Chambers proceeded to introduce people in attendance. Dr. Nick T. Manolakos presented the Headmaster’s report focusing on parental concerns regarding the enrollment process, lack of clarity around location for next year’s expansion and general parental concerns about need for communication improvements on web site.

Dr. Manolakos announced the new monthly schedule for Saturday morning Coffee with the Headmaster Program Dr. Manolakos also explained that the scheduled dates were to follow monthly Board meetings so that additional time could be spent with parents in the community explaining the latest updates on the development plan and to generally make himself available for parental concerns

5:40 PM The treasurer’s report was presented by Ted Nannas. Dimitri Dandalos questioned line items relating to expenses incurred for work by Mundy Farm contractor DayStar Sills at a cost of approximately \$90,000 to date. He wanted it again noted for the record that this firm has no contract yet with the school for the development project. George Chambers and Ted Nannas explained that these expenses were not the final bill for services rendered by Daystar Sills associated with Mundy Farm to date. Chambers also discussed some issues related to the historical review board meeting with New Castle County and expenses associated with the ground penetrating radar contractor to help the school prepare for the historic review board meeting (HRB). Mr. Chambers noted that Odyssey may have to reschedule the HRB meeting with land-use if the report is not back from the archaeological survey company.

School parent Lisa Kerrigan again asked a number of questions about the Mundy Farm project. She was especially concerned about conflicting communications from the school and wanted to know if our plans are still accurate and on time. George Chambers presented an overview of the milestones for the project and Mrs. Kerrigan asked follow-up questions about the location for the to six grade program should the facility not be ready.

It was also explained that there was a high likelihood that Odyssey will be exploring other options to meet its ability to accommodate an expansion into this sixth-grade. At this time it was explained that the board will be discussing those options and other employment related questions in a closed executive session starting at six o'clock this evening. Chambers explained that we should have a good idea of our next steps and land on a specific option for our school by the middle of February. Chambers again reiterated that we are looking at local buildings available and explained the modular classroom options for the back area of St. Thomas School.

5:50 PM Chambers reiterated that the board has not wavered from the commitment to offer a sixth-grade next year. Another parent stated that it is clear there will be a sixth-grade; however the uncertainty around the accommodations is causing many concerns particularly among the fourth and fifth grade parents. He specifically asked if we have developed Common Core State Standards developed for the curriculum for our focus areas of math and science. Dr. Manolakos explained that we follow the state standards and that the state (and our school) is transitioning to the new common core state standards (CCSS) curriculum. He noted that is essentially up to the new grade level teachers to unpack the standards and develop specific strategies and activities that they will use to teach these standards, and thus compose the curriculum, for the upcoming middle school.

Chambers also added that we will offer a complete sports, music, and Greek language arts program. He reiterated that he feels the board is making good decisions and wants to maintain positive communications with our parent community.

6 PM Chambers explained that our current footprint, meaning which classes show up where, is under discussion for tonight, and we will be working through in closed session discussions immediately following this open meeting

Chambers explained that on April 15, 2010 Odyssey Charter School was given the opportunity to expand. He reviewed the models for the success of our school and spoke about future decisions regarding purchasing curricula off-the-shelf curriculum. Chambers asked if it was the mission of Odyssey for K-5 to develop its own curricula for the Greek program or seek to purchase one already compiled for grades K-8. Dandalos explained that much work has already been expended in this area, that is part of the new yet to be adopted Strategic Plan for Odyssey. He expressed hope that under Dr. Manolakos the school staff will continue to develop and expand the curriculum as the middle school grades are added on.

6:05 PM motion to enter close session by Kate Klemas. Motion second by Mary Lou Strauss