



Odyssey Charter School
Town Hall Meeting

7/31/19

Executive Summary

The following summary reflects the questions and responses from the July 31st Town Hall meeting hosted by OCS Board and Administration. This executive summary is as an overview of the evening's conversation for informational purposes and is not intended to serve as a transcript.

Q: (submitted via email)¹ Will OCS record and post the 7/31/19 Town Hall meeting for the community?

A: The Board and administration will provide an executive summary and provide to the OCS community. The Board is in conversation with the IT department to use an app such as Facebook Live to stream future town halls.

Q: (submitted via email) ORIGINAL: In many of the letters from the teachers to the CSAC, they expressed a dissatisfaction about the lack of supplies. Can you please explain what the process is of how teachers are allocated supplies? Who should they approach if they need more supplies and what is the process if they need more supplies? How is the budget allocated for supplies and who decides how to prioritize the money for supplies?

A: Reviewing the CSAC letters, we do not see supplies dissatisfaction noted. It has, however, been discussed in public comments at Board meetings. All teachers receive an allotment of supplies at the beginning of each school year, including curricular materials and classroom supplies. In addition, each content area department submits requests that are reviewed and approved by administration. Midyear supply requests are typically directed to building-level admin assistants and administrators. Budget for supplies is created by school leadership with input from staff and based on historical need and approved by Board. Ultimately, it is the Head of School's responsibility to review supply requests and determine approval/denial based on overall school needs.

In addition, all teachers currently receive a \$100 stipend in addition to all funding outlined above to spend at their discretion to support student needs in their classrooms. Programs such as DonorsChoose provide additional support streams for our classroom initiatives.

Comment: Board President Joe Wolcott states that four Board members (Joe Wolcott, Elias Rigas, Anamaria Anagnostou, Michael Kirifides) are present tonight but it should not be considered a public meeting of the Board. There are limitations as to how the Board can operate during such an informal meeting (i.e., no votes, no school

¹ All questions submitted by email are reproduced here verbatim. No edits or changes were made to the questions submitted by email.



business). Mr. Wolcott notes that after the Town Hall, all Board members are available for questions and community members are invited to send an email to the addresses listed on the website for future questions/comments.

Q: (submitted by email) How much money was made at the festival? How much of it was prophet [sic]? Was it successful? Why did you charge money for parking?

A: The June 2019 Carnival raised \$6835.38 in gross revenues and, after expenses, \$2810.38 in profit. We believe the carnival was a success as a community endeavor and end-of-year celebration for the students, their families, and our staff. While not at the level of fundraising as last year, this contribution to the school is meaningful and appreciated. Many dedicated staff members contributed their time and efforts to insure that the second annual carnival was enjoyed by all who attended. None in attendance were part of the carnival committee and thus cannot comment on the parking fee.

Q: (submitted by email) I'd like to know what the plan from the Admin is for fundraising. Do they plan to hire a Director of Development? If not, how do they plan to handle it? Since I believe Tami's letter said that AHEPA was unnecessary, does the teachers union plan to create a fundraising effort?

A: Any amount of fundraising is a success, and there are many ways to contribute to fundraising efforts. The Board is in communication with union leadership to identify community-wide fundraising opportunities. Everyone has a role in fundraising for the school.

At this time, there is no plan to hire a Development Director. Procedures last year (committees) showed that there is a need for a person to devote all efforts to fundraising. However, the Board is not, at this instant, looking to move forward with such a position. There is an opportunity to create a position such as this again.

This is important work. We welcome anyone who takes initiative. We need millions of dollars to create the world class facilities to support the world class teachers here at the school. (Elias Rigas)

Q: Is there a place where people can have automatic deductions taken out if they want to contribute to the school?

A: On the website at <http://capital-campaign.odysseycharterschooldel.com/>

We are also looking to add Board members with fundraising experience to the Board as a core competency, as some members are precluded from fundraising due to their professions.

Q: Over \$100,000 was said to be pledged at the AHEPA gala. How much has been received at this point?



A: Approximately \$52,000.

Q: The capital campaign would be effective if all parents were asked to contribute \$100/student/year. We need to charge students to participate in sports, particularly at the high school level. Why doesn't OCS charge for middle/high school sports?

A: We are in conversations to charge a nominal fee for our student athletes to participate in sports. The philosophical reason we have not charged historically is to be inclusive in participation, reducing barriers to entry, and build our fledgling middle and high school programs. The administration is in conversation with the athletics department to develop a reasonable structure to align with many other middle and high school programs to support athletic teams and events.

Q: How is high school enrollment?

A: Although we cannot be specific with numbers until after the September 30th count, we see solid demand and retention in our high school program.

Public Comment: Many families prefer to write one check for fundraising rather than sell candles, cookie dough, etc. throughout the year. This may be a beneficial option for the school.

Public Comment: We are just a baby school. We need time to grow. Our family is here for the academics, not the sports programming.

Q: Is the Board considering appealing the Department of Education's conditions, or is the Board accepting them?

A: In state code, there does not appear to be a clear path for judicial review. There may be other ways to appeal. The Board has not engaged in conversation as to whether it will appeal or not.

Q: Should we expect the Board to move forward with DOE's conditions?

A: The compliance committee met last week and is meeting this week to determine next steps. The conditions will be discussed, and the Board, with committee input, will decide how to move forward.



Q: Will you fill Abby and Laura's seats on the Board?

A: There are two nominating committees to decide how to move forward. Discussions are happening now.

Q: With probation, how will progress toward conditions be communicated?

A: There will be reports at Board meetings. Working with administration, we will determine what, if any, other options are available.

