

Minutes for Public Meeting of the Odyssey Board of Directors

Date: December 14, 2022

Location: Odyssey Conference Room and Teleconference

Start Time: Public Meeting at 6:07 PM (live and via zoom, see below invite)

Attendance: President Anamaria Anagnostou (AA), Treasurer Helen Anderson (HA), Recording Secretary Ken Przywara (KP), Paul Brooks (PB), Valerie Caras (VC), Georgia Halakos (GH), Eva Jannelli (EJ), Elias Rigas (ER) Absent: Vice President Erin Allard (EA), Jessica Inskeep (JI), Kristin Tuner (KT)

Agenda¹

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Standard Order of Business
 - Public Comments
 - None, some emails have been forwarded to the board, but nothing public.
 - Previous minutes for October
 - **Motion** to approve minutes for November 16th and December 6th as presented.
KP 1st and PB 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
 - Head of School Report – Elias Pappas
 - Goals
 - Parent Advisory Council – Meeting yesterday, planning another open house. Starting an application pop-up event to assist parents to apply.
 - Walk-throughs to monitor the progress of driving our culture to promote student success. To confirm that behavioral management systems are in place and being utilized.
 - We All Teach Literacy - by focusing on literacy in all aspects of instruction, we promote better problem solving and critical thinking skills. We are also promoting writing instruction.
 - Grant Submissions
 - We have received almost \$1,000,000 in grants this school year
 - We are working on more submissions

¹ All agenda items are potential action items for which a vote may be taken.



○ Culture Focus

- Next parent camp will be January 23rd focusing on the Middle and Intermediate school families
- Next executive council will be in January
- Chat-n-chews continue to be successful and excellent suggestions
- More culture events are being planned
- Community circle and other processes are being
- We have been selected to collaborate with the DOE to help improve behavior management in schools through restorative practices and community circle. We are the only charter school selected.

○ Lower School – Hrysoula Davis and 3 lower school representatives

- Celebrating joy after the Thanksgiving break
- The Winter Concert will be in The Blue Box Theatre this year
- Rudra Vasavada, 1st Grade Immersion – In Greek math we are learning how to solve problems with different strategies, in Greek language we are practicing Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer for the concert. We are learning about celebrations and folk tales in other cultures.
- Deekshith Manikandan, 1st Grade Fles – We are learning about how people celebrate holidays around the world, their traditions, and this helps us understand our own.
- Pranvi Sharma, Kindergarten Fles – I love learning Greek and about the holidays around the world, and that not everywhere they have Santa Claus.

○ Intermediate School – Mr. Cohen

- Focusing on safety, we reduced the times of early dismissals. This enables students to enjoy a full day of instructional time, and remains flexible for genuine needs.
- Increasing after school and during school programs, like karate, YMCA, art, and science. Coming this winter, we will add yoga.
- Bank at School partnered with Artisans Bank, so students can visit a real bank, or deposit on Wednesday. Eight-five new bank accounts help develop financial awareness at a young age, with weekly deposits.
- The AAA Safety Patrol has 19 leaders attending to posts and safety
- The dress code policy is in full swing
- We are fully staffed, having finally found a music teacher



- Middle School – Adrienne Rodriguez and
 - The Art Club visited the Delaware Art Museum and the band showcased various holiday classics at their recital
 - The Middle School Student Council is spreading joy with their 8 Days of Christmas fundraiser with dress up and down days
 - Greek students will carol throughout the buildings on the 20th
 - Piloting mid-term and final exams this year
 - Middle school basketball team is undefeated 1-0
 - Justin Hutchful, Eighth grade – Greek culinary allows us to bring the culture, beliefs and foods together. We have improved our cooking and prep skills. We also get to share our heritage and learn of food, traditions, and activities of other cultures. We also brought back the Gingerbread Workshop, which challenged us, but we also learned to apply our culinary skills with festive gingerbread construction.
- High School – Ashley Lipson and
 - Second interims have been completed with mid-terms in late January
 - College acceptances, 35+ so far, are coming in from Penn State, Temple, Michigan Tech, Drexel, U of D, Del State and Neumann
 - Students have reported over ½ million dollars in merit based aid
 - The Snow Ball will be January 20th, semi-formal dance open to all grade levels, dinner dance, after mid-terms at the Claymont Ballroom
 - School Choice is still open, with admitted students being welcomed in February
 - Talha Ghumman - Is recognized for his volunteer service. His outstanding support of our hydroponic lab. With his support, we have donated thousands of pounds of fresh produce this year.
- Feedback response
 - We have hired a campus security officer for our front entrance
 - Seasonal event calendars will help share cross-school information on happenings and important events.
- Curriculum Instruction and Assessment
 - CIA coaching is continuing
 - We are hosting the DE Charter School Network Conference January 13th with over 500 representatives expected. We will host sessions on restorative practices
- Transportation
 - Nov busses were 99.998% on time for 928 routes
 - We are looking for additional drivers



- Student Services – Dr DeMayo
 - The ELL team led the PLCs for faculty across the four schools focused on best practices for English language acquisition for Multi-Lingual Learners MLL
 - MTSS - Kindergarten continues to work on social-emotional space and learning. Lower and Intermediate schools are progressing as well.
 - We are working with staff and reviewing the new code of conduct
 - Spec Ed department is working with the U of D to implement research on intervention best practices students who need direct instruction. Sign offs will be sent home.
 - Small group learning to assist students with decoding challenges
 - NCC Virtual Family resources for students with disabilities - 1/13 Benefits and Social Security, 2/2 College night, March Transition Fair, 4/20 Alternative to Guardianship, 5/18 Special Needs Healthcare
- Information Technology
 - Expanding the digital signage throughout campus
 - Copier contracts have been completed
 - New technology for reproducing large format documents like blueprints
 - New exterior Wi-Fi access points for the Lower School is pending lift rental
 - Laurel School District donated 166 used Wi-Fi access points to improve our wireless network
- Facilities
 - Welcome back to Jon Stewart
 - We are preparing for winter heating season
 - Parking lot lighting is being repaired
 - Exterior door estimates are being gathered
 - Building 26 get the ventilation system upgrade in the near future
- Food Service
 - Please complete your meal benefit form, this is an annual form
 - Thanks to the department for the Thanksgiving holiday meal, and today's holiday meal
- Fund Raising
 - OCS Annual Appeal copy has been prepared, coming in the new year
 - Our social media campaign on Facebook and Linked In continues to gain traction with more followers monthly
 - Giving Tuesday netted \$700 which will be matched for \$1,400



- Human Resources
 - Recruiting event scheduled for March 28th on campus
- Safety and Security
 - OCS car tags have been distributed to ease control and entry
 - A safety and security hut will be coming soon
- Board Approval
 - Middle school art trip to The Brandywine Art Museum on Jan 6th
 - Tenth Grade trip to Washington, DC, The Holocaust Museum, in January
 - Ms. Bonnet – School Climate and Culture Conference in Atlanta in June
 - a. **Motion** to approve travel as presented. KP 1st and PB 2nd
 - b. Approved unanimously
- Greek Program – Dr. Ioanna Lekakou
 - All Greek classes have set aside time to expand cultural awareness. Sharing winter celebration and customs from global cultures and celebrations.
 - Greek program will participate in all the schools winter programs
 - Students in the Greek programs shared holiday greeting with our partner schools in Greece
 - Next month, at the board meeting, we will celebrate the 25 students who passed their Ellinomatheia exams
 - We are building a collaboration with Greek schools in the US. The first will be the Socrates Academy in North Carolina who will visit us in March.
 - We are announcing our collaboration with the Biden School of Education at the University of Delaware. We will host a speaker next month.
- Financial Report – Jeff Koss
 - Monthly finance report November
 - Preliminary budget revenues of \$41,376,294, with 76.8% collected
 - Expenses are at 46% of budget, which is where we were last year
 - High school elevator and entrance design proposals are being sought
 - Exploring funding options for further capital expense
 - **Motion** to approve monthly web report. KP 1st and PB 2nd
Approved unanimously

4. Committee Reports

- Citizens Budget Oversight Committee
 - No meeting in December, will meet in January
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Eva Jannelli
 - Thanks to all who volunteered and donated to the outreach program for the fourth OCS food drive.
 - Our food pantry is restocked as well



- Immersion – Annamarie Anagnostou
 - Meeting second Wednesday of every month to help grow the Greek program
 - Finance Committee – Jeff Koss
 - Next meeting will be in January
 - Fundraising Committee – Georgia Halakos
 - Next meeting will be in January
 - Accountability Committee
 - We continue to gathering candid feedback will provide us data on what our action plans will be and what we need to address
 - Safety and Security – Evan Winokur
 - No update at this time
 - Strategic Planning Committee – Elias Rigas
 - We are reaching out to planning organizations for guidance
 - Kick-off will be in 2023
 - PTO Report -
 - Holiday sale in the old lower school for kids to shop
 - Breakfast with Santa is this Saturday
5. Old Business
- None
6. New Business
- Dress code discussion – We discussed the importance of layering. Students are allowed to wear OCS sweatshirts and sweaters. Hoodies are not allowed. Clothing donations have been made available to the nurses/councilors for students in financial need. The OCS patches are available for properly colored outerwear. Spirit wear from any year is allowable for spirit wear days.
7. Good of the School
- None
8. **Motion** to Move to Executive Session - KP 1st and PB 2nd
- Approved unanimously 7:26 PM
9. **Motion** to Adjourn KP 1st and PB 2nd
- Approved unanimously
 - Meeting adjourned 8:20 PM



NOTE: These Agenda Items may not be considered in sequence. Pursuant to 29 Del. C. § 10004(e)(2), this Agenda may be changed to include additional items, including executive sessions, or to delete items that arise at the time of the meeting.

Initial Agenda Posted: December 6, 2022 at www.odysseycharterschooldel.com/

Odyssey Zoom is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: OCS Monthly Board Meeting - Public Session

Time: December 14, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88489803681?pwd=T0c1UE9peTk4aytZckpjeUhmQXFEZz09>

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